

An architectural rendering of a large, modern recreational sports facility. The space is characterized by a high ceiling with a wooden slat design and large glass railings. A prominent feature is a wide, curved staircase with a glass railing and a red base. People are shown running on a track, walking on the stairs, and standing in a group on the ground floor. The overall atmosphere is bright and open.

University of Wisconsin-Madison - Madison, Wisconsin

# Recreational Sports Master Plan

DFD Project #13D3P | FINAL REPORT



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Kahler Slater**  
experience design

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

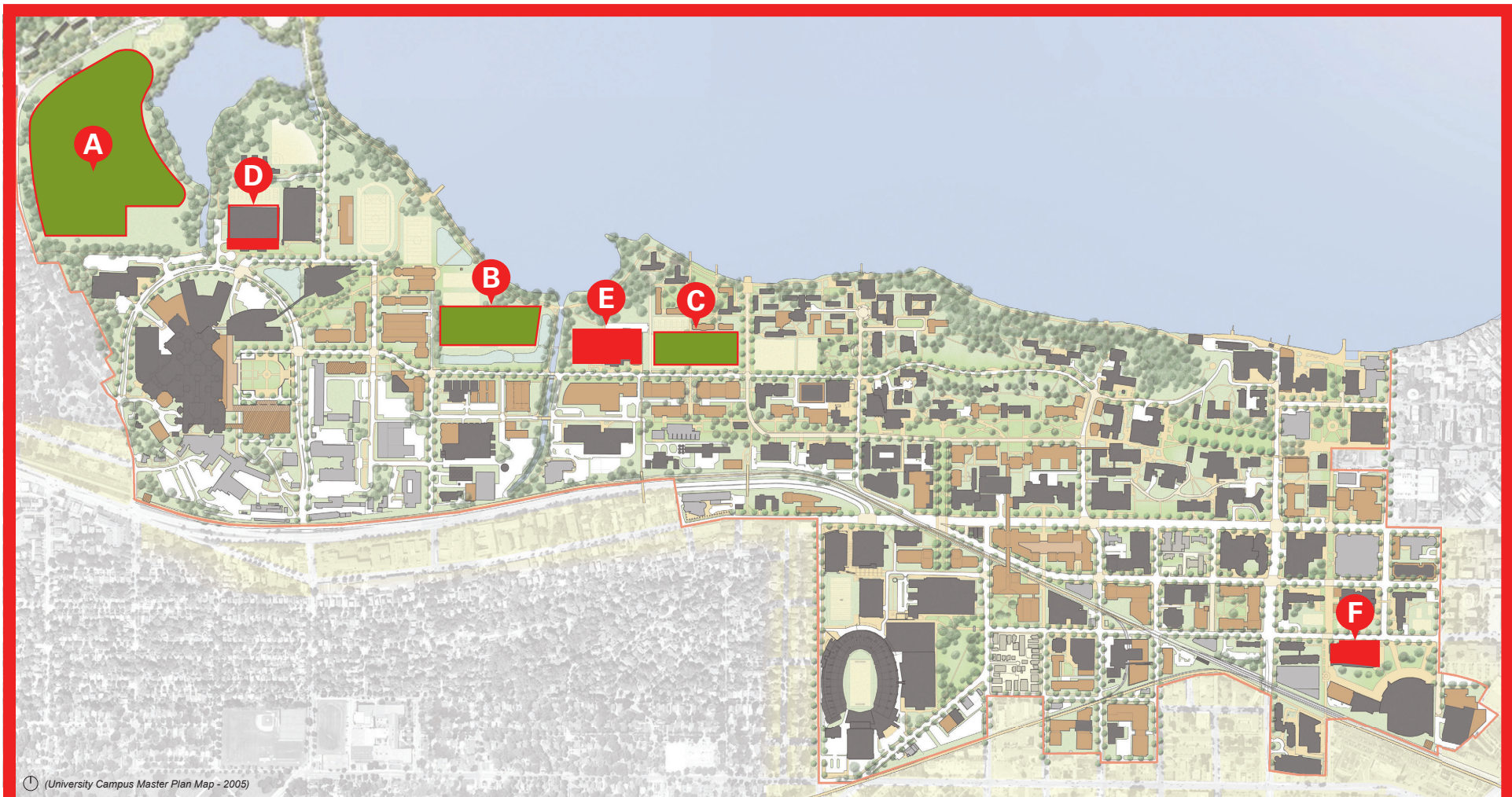
Kahler Slater was originally retained by the University of Wisconsin – Madison (UW) in 2006, and again in 2007 to identify and quantify the recreational space needs on campus. That study resulted in a proposed recreation building expansion at the Natatorium and is outlined in a report document dated June 2008 (DFD #05J2N).

This Master Plan process started with and built upon the June 2008 study which concluded that the Natatorium site would be the location for the new recreation facility. For this study, the SERF, Nielsen Tennis Stadium, University Bay/Far West Fields, Near West Fields, and Near East Fields were also included. This allows for maximum future flexibility so all students, faculty and staff have access to recreational facilities.

The Recreational Sports Master Plan's goal is to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the current and future health and wellness needs for students at UW. This study also documents the existing facilities available and how the facilities are meeting the needs of these programs.

This report outlines the process Kahler Slater and this committee used to quantify the size, determine the location and quantify the costs for new recreational facilities, both interior and exterior, at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.





(University Campus Master Plan Map - 2005)

#### New or Rehabilitated Recreation/Athletic Fields

- A** University Bay/Far West Fields
- B** Near West Fields
- C** Near East Fields

#### New or Rehabilitated Recreation/Athletic Facilities

- D** Nielsen Wellness Center and Tennis Stadium
- E** Natatorium
- F** South East Recreational Facility

## THE NEED

UW Rec Sports identified deficiencies in the current recreational facilities and fields available to UW students they want addressed. Available facilities are considered by students as inadequate for desired current and future programming. They also determined that the recreational facilities are severely inadequate compared to peer universities.

The current facilities are outdated, overcrowded and are in need of extensive repairs and deferred maintenance due to failing infrastructure. Existing facility assessment reports and deferred maintenance lists are included in the appendix.

The Kinesiology department currently resides in the Natatorium. Their facilities are also outdated and are in need of an overhaul. The plan calls for the department to be relocated within the new Natatorium.

It is Rec Sports vision to enhance the UW-Madison experience by providing students, faculty and staff with top quality programs, services and facilities. The master plan includes designs to renovate and/or reconstruct most of the indoor and outdoor recreational facilities at UW-Madison.







U-Bay Fields



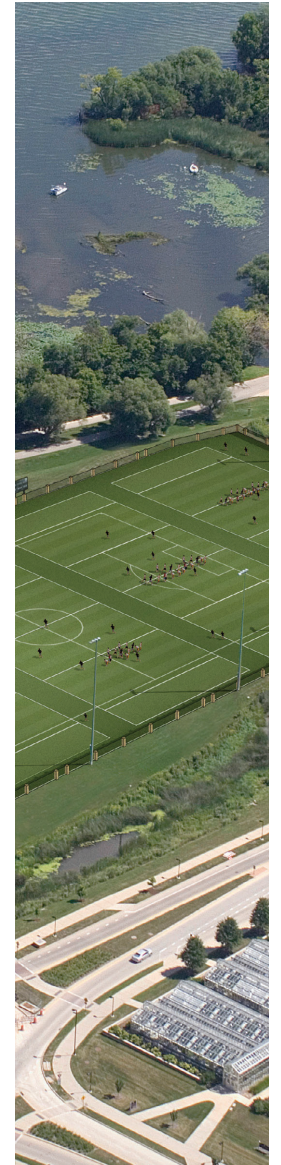
SERF



Near West Fields



Natatorium



Near East Fields



## CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the addition to the Natatorium (2008 study) is no longer a viable option for the increased programmatic needs of Rec Sports. The Study Committee chose to construct a new Natatorium and SERF, on their existing sites. An addition of a wellness facility is to be added to Nielsen Tennis Stadium. University Bay/Far West Fields, Near West Fields, and Near East Fields are to be renovated, including combinations of natural and synthetic turf.

Currently, the Shell is used almost extensively by Rec Sports. It houses an indoor track, basketball/volleyball courts, ice rink and locker facilities, and fitness space. The future of the facility is undetermined so Rec Sports has decided to relocate its program space elsewhere on campus.

### Outdoor Fields

The master plan reviewed multiple options for University Bay/Far West Fields, Near West Fields, and Near East Fields. Versions with varying amounts of synthetic turf, which expands playability throughout the year, were explored at each site. Fields included in the plan are:

#### University Bay/Far West Fields

- (2) synthetic turf soccer fields
- (2) synthetic turf lacrosse fields
- (2) natural turf rugby fields
- (2) natural turf softball fields
- (1) natural turf baseball field
- (2) shelters, including concessions and restrooms
- Walking/jogging path surrounding all fields
- New lighting to maximize playability

- Fencing around the synthetic turf fields

#### Near West Fields

- (4) synthetic turf flag football fields
- (1) championship soccer field (overlaid)
- Decorative fencing with brick piers surrounding all fields
- New lighting to maximize playability

#### Near East Fields

- (4) synthetic turf rec soccer fields
- (1) championship soccer field (overlaid)
- Decorative fencing with brick piers surrounding all fields
- New lighting to maximize playability
- Bleacher seating for spectators

Lighting the fields was determined to be necessary to allow for use later into the day, which dramatically increases the amount of students who can participate in outdoor rec sports activities.

### Natatorium

- 470,900 SF total
- 385,000 SF of recreation space
- 44,900 SF of fitness space
- (6) multi-purpose rooms
- 32,000 SF turf gym
- (12) basketball/volleyball/badminton courts
- (6) racquetball courts
- 85'x200' recreational ice sheet
- 4-lane running/walking track - 4.5 laps/mile
- 8-lane 25 yd. pool
- Recreation/exercise pool
- 81,900 SF of Kinesiology

At the beginning of the master plan process,

alternative sites for the Natatorium were suggested by the design committee, but it was determined by FP&M that the only appropriate site is where the building currently resides. This required the design team to explore multiple options of how to fit the required program on the site. This included options which explored retaining existing portions of the current building, and options which demolished the existing building and built new. A building height limit of 60' - 65' was determined by FP&M, which eliminated multiple options. In the end, it was determined that a new building supplied Rec Sports with the most future flexibility, given the amount of program which needed to be included on the site.

Through the master plan process, it was determined that the competition pool and diving well will not be included in the future plans for the facility. The pools included are for recreational purposes.

The Natatorium houses both Rec Sports and Kinesiology. Between the two, at the heart of the design, is the shared lobby / lounge. All users of the building enter through this shared space, providing a social hub for the building and campus neighborhood. The wood clad ceiling extends the space outside, creating a covered entry courtyard along Observatory Drive.

The exterior includes natural materials which complement many of the surrounding structures. Buff colored brick, terracotta paneling and limestone are composed together to break down the larger volumes of the building.

### South East Recreational Facility (SERF)

- 259,200 total building SF
- 233,000 SF of recreation space
- 35,500 SF of fitness space
- 26,200 SF of aquatic space
- (9) multi-purpose rooms
- (9) basketball/volleyball/badminton courts
- (6) racquetball courts
- 3-lane running/walking track - 7 laps/mile
- Existing 63 meter pool renovated

Like the Natatorium, alternative sites for the SERF were suggested by the design committee, but it was determined by FP&M that the only appropriate site is where the building currently resides. Multiple options, both renovation/addition and new were studied. Once again, it was determined that a new building supplied Rec Sports with the most future flexibility, given the amount of program which needed to be included on the site.

The new SERF is completely re-planned and re-stacked to maximize efficiency and visual openness on a tight urban site. The entry lobby is open to the fitness and track levels above, showcasing much of the activity in the building to all who enter.

On the exterior, the gymnasium volume, which includes 9 basketball/volleyball/badminton courts, becomes the visual focus of the building. Clad in alternating glass and translucent panels, the volume provides a light and delicate aesthetic. This counters the current design of the SERF, which many see as a dark, windowless box, and provides life and activity along Dayton St.

The pool at the SERF was subject to much debate during the master plan process. The design team produced multiple options based off of the following overall concepts:

- Keep the existing pool and its enclosure, and build a new rec sports facility connected to and around it.
- Keep the existing pool vessel but build a new enclosure surrounding it to simplify the construction process.
- Keep the existing pool, but build a new enclosure surrounding it to simplify the construction process and raise the roof to accommodate for new diving platforms at the east end of the space. The pool was originally designed for diving to be located in that end.
- Build a new 50m competition pool and diving well, with dive tower as part of a completely new facility.

At the conclusion of the master plan process, it was determined that the best solution for Rec Sports and the students would be to keep the existing pool vessel and build a new enclosure around it. Diving platforms would not be added at this time, but could be in the future in some form.

### Nielsen Wellness Center and Tennis Stadium

- 47,300 SF addition total
- 20,250 SF fitness space
- 3,500 SF multi-purpose studio
- Renovated Tennis Stadium lobby and court viewing.
- Upscale locker rooms including individual uni-sex changing rooms.
- Tournament locker rooms accessible from U-Bay fields.

Rec Sports has a desire to partner with a health care provider to provide a new health and wellness facility to serve both employees of the health care provider and students, faculty and staff at UW. An addition to Nielsen Tennis Stadium was determined to be a great location for the facility.

The Wellness Center is designed to be visually open both within the facility and to the exterior. Fitness activities are separated from the street by a delicate glass facade, maximizing daylighting and activating the adjacent streets. The butterfly roof above the entry provides spatial variation within the fitness center, and is inspired by the folded roof planes of the existing Tennis Stadium.

### Referendum

At the conclusion of the master plan process, Rec Sports put forth a \$223 million proposal that included the Natatorium, SERF, and Near East & West fields for referendum in March of 2014. The remaining portions of the master plan will be implemented at a later date with outside, private gift and program revenue funding sources.