Georgia State University  
Division of Student Affairs  
Recreational Services

Mission Statement

The Department of Recreational Services promotes healthy life-styles through exceptional recreational programs, services, and facilities.

Vision Statement - The Department of Recreational Services will be the leader in recreational programs among urban universities serving a diverse student body.

Executive Summary

Recreational Services manages three primary facilities: Student Recreation Center, Indian Creek Recreation Area, and Panthersville Recreation Complex.

The Student Recreation Center, a 161,112 sq. ft., 4-level multi-purpose recreational facility opened in 2001. A cornerstone of the downtown campus, the facility has been a huge success since opening 12 years ago. There are nearly 2,000 entries per day during the week. The Georgia State University Foundation financed the $33-million project. Students pay a portion of their mandatory student fees to cover debt retirement and support programming. Faculty, staff, and graduates of Georgia State University have the opportunity to purchase a membership.

Program areas include fitness, instructional clinics, aquatics, intramural sports, sport clubs, and outdoor recreation. The facility includes top-of-the-line selectorized weight equipment, cardio-respiratory equipment, free weights, gymnasium space, indoor track, and an aquatics center. Additionally, the facility offers racquetball and squash courts, climbing wall and bouldering cave, and a game room. Services include fitness assessments, personal training and nutrition consultations. Instructional clinics in martial arts, yoga, dance, and sport instruction are also available. Touch-the-Earth is an extensive outdoor recreation program, offering a wide variety of outdoor experiences from a weekend hike in the North Georgia Mountains to life-changing experiential excursions across the country as well as abroad. A complete outdoor rental center is also available for all of your outdoor equipment needs.

Indian Creek Recreation Area, located 16 miles from campus, encompasses over 15 acres of beautiful hardwoods and gently rolling terrain and offers the Georgia State community a newly renovated Lodge used for meetings, retreats, and social events; a large outdoor swimming pool and kiddie pool; over ½-acre Event Lawn; Picnic areas, Sand Volleyball Court, and Team-Building Ropes Course.

Panthersville Recreation Complex is located 12 miles from campus and includes 2 large lighted fields (used for intramural sports competition, sport club practices, and special events), sundeck, restrooms, and parking areas.

The department is managed by 16 fulltime professional and support staff, 13 custodial/maintenance staff, and over 150 part time student employees. The department operates with a $2.7-million annual budget with nearly 50% of the operating revenue from student fees.
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Annual Department Major Events/Traditions

- Steamboat Springs Colorado Ski Trip – student, faculty and staff participation.
- Day in the Rec - a fun-filled day of activities bringing together faculty, staff, and students to encourage GSU community spirit.
- Panther Welcome – collaborative effort within the Division of Student Affairs to welcome new students.
- Golf tournament – nearly 100 players participate each year.
- Kaiser Permanente Corporate 5-K Run/Walk – team Georgia State with over 200 participants join 15,000 runners/walkers for this annual event which routes through the GSU campus.
- Intramural Events - Texas Hold-Em, IM Golf Tournament.
- Polar Bear Plunge – annual “Plunge” into the chilly Indian Creek Pool held each February.
- Cemetery Walk – fitness walk and tour of Atlanta’s Historic Oakland Cemetery offered each year at Halloween time.

Major New Initiatives Implemented Within the Last Five Years

- Technology-based student employee training – using interactive technology to train department student assistants.
- Achieving Green Building Initiative (GBI) Green Globe certification and being awarded 3 Green Globes (out of a possible 4) recognizing overall environmental performance and sustainability efforts made by the department. The first existing Recreation facility in the nation to receive Green Globes certification.
- Transition of Game Room with addition of Wii games and elimination of fees.
- Replacement of all 10 year old cardio equipment and new HD TV’s in Exercise Room.
- New Program Initiatives - Pilates, Panther F.I.T. (an in-house group fitness training for students, 2013), PAWSitive Nutrition, Metabolic testing and internships (collaborative effort between Division of Nutrition and Fitness Center), March Madness, Racquetball exhibitions with professionals from Wilson Sports, Weekend golf trip, Dinner, Dialogue and Diversity (collaboration program with Intercultural Relations), Combine Challenge (collaboration with Athletics), Broad base cholesterol screening with Lipids Don’t Lie, Cooking class education including Sweetheart of a Meal, Pasta Gone Wild, Dining on Little Dinero, Dance Show Extravaganza, Try-Me Week, Adventure Race the Concrete Campus, Panther Welcome Week Pool Party, National Recreational Sports and Fitness Activities, Ride for the Cure.
- Zumbathon - a cardio-based program that brings large numbers of participants together annually for a mass Zumba workout in the main gym.

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