

University Recreation & Wellness FY24 Annual Report

Significant Accomplishments

FY24 saw a number of significant accomplishments achieved by University Recreation & Wellness (RecWell). Below are four categories with a sampling of accomplishments: Putting Students First; Innovative Programming/Meeting Community Needs; Creative Collaborations/Maximizing Resources; and Infrastructure (facility projects & department-wide initiatives).

Putting Students First

Students and their development is a significant focus for the department. In FY24, we sent seven student officials to the NIRSA National Basketball tournament, an unprecedented achievement. Prior to this year, the highest number of student officials performing in the same tournament was five. Esports students, specifically Terps Esports Overwatch, had a successful year winning their first national title in the National Esports Collegiate Conference (NECC).

RecWell collaborated with a student to submit a grant request to the Student Facilities Fund to build an indoor bouldering space (redesigning racquetball courts). The grant request was successful in the amount of \$246,400 and the indoor climbing space will be constructed in FY25. This is an example of capitalizing on the creativity and drive of our students working to enhance the recreation experience for their peers.

RecWell is lucky to work with some amazing students. One of our facility supervisors, Alexa Stimpson, won the Wilson H. Elkins Award and is one of the outstanding UMD students honored to be a member of the Maryland Medallion Society.

Innovative Programming/Meeting Community Needs

In terms of internal programming, the department introduced micro-adventure trips to expand the interest base in outdoor adventure programming, expanded the personal training staff to be able to accommodate more clients, and launched the Terrapin Social Sports program to increase participation during the summer months.

Playing host to several large events increased RecWell's visibility and reach as a premier recreation department. The list includes: NIRSA Regional Basketball and Flag Football Championships; Facility Tours for the national Athletic Business conference held in Baltimore; TerpThon, Hackathon, Technica, and the Pow Wow, a native gathering where people from various tribal backgrounds celebrate culture and life.

The department also hosted another highly successful RecWellcome in August to introduce new (and returning) students to the broad offerings of the department. Beyond events, the department continued to implement a diverse range of recreation and wellness opportunities including indoor and outdoor pickleball, skateboarding, development of indoor bouldering, bringing a golf simulator online, and Esports opportunities.

Creative Collaborations/Maximizing Resources

FY25 saw a number of collaborative programs with significant impact. The department, in collaboration with Intercollegiate Athletics, Resident Life, Fox Network, and others on campus, hosted FOX Big Noon Kickoff on La Plata Beach in November 2023, the first time UMD hosted a College Game Day. This collaboration involved a quick turnaround from request to production and required many complex production components. Overall the event was a successful event for UMD on a national scale.

RecWell also collaborated with Intercollegiate Athletics for use of outdoor field space which increased hours for club sport practices and participation for intramural sports. With limited outdoor field space, this collaboration is vital to expanding opportunities for both Club Sports and Intramural Sports participants.

In line with our focus on wellness, the department collaborated with colleagues in the University Health Center and with divisional assessment leaders on the Wellbeing Improvement Survey for Higher Education Settings (WISHES) – a national initiative “that provides colleges and universities with timely and actionable data to adapt and improve institutional norms, structures, and processes to enable all students to thrive and flourish.” The survey was conducted with RecWell student employees, a random sample of student employees within the Division of Student Affairs, and a random sample of other undergraduate students.

For the RecWell student employees, we added four questions to the standardized survey instrument to gauge levels of agreement with statements about RecWell living its value of inclusion, the degree to which student employees understand the mission of RecWell and their role in that mission. Results will be discussed in the departmental review self study report.

Infrastructure (facility projects & department-wide initiatives)

Facility projects are always necessary and often overlooked – this year, one of those is difficult to miss: the “glow up” of the Eppley Recreation Center (ERC) with new color for all columns in the building, reimaged design of the window wrap for “The Shell” training area, addition of Maryland flag motif designs under main stairwells enhancing the visual appeal to the lobby space, creation of visual storyboards of photos in the main office conference room, student board room, and throughout the main office. Outside of the ERC, the team also installed visual storyboard banners at the entrance to Reckord Armory gymnasium. This project was spearheaded by the **Creative Services** team in conjunction with the Associate Director for Facilities.

The Golf Course Range Building has been converted to a golf simulator space made possible in part by a donation by a Friend of the Golf Course. The space serves golf course patrons, Intramural Sports and Club Sports participants.

One project still in progress, scheduled to be finished soon, is the installation of Thrive 450 Outdoor Fitness Equipment apparatus near Prince Fredrick Hall/Mowatt Garage.

Not as visible to visitors, but critical to RecWell operations, two large projects were completed: Natatorium and pump room renovations.

Issues & Challenges

Issues and Challenges from FY24 revolved around finance related concerns, and there is no doubt these will be present for the foreseeable future.

Increasing costs of salaries/wages/benefits, cost of materials, competing priorities for funding, costs of new/renovated facilities for programs, as well as changing enrollment patterns, are all putting stress on our student fee funded model of operations. The ability to keep up with the increased costs with student fee increases is becoming questionable, given the factors mentioned above. The ability to increase revenue generated from other sources, particularly during the summer when on-campus students have become scarce, has been a priority for the department for a number of years - with limited success.

- Increases in student wages, as well as full-time staff salary increases, are taking a considerable amount of any available requested fee increases. When State/System/Bargaining Agreement increases salaries outside of the student fee timetable, it puts a strain on our ability to set-aside funds for renewal and equipment replacement until such time (if it happens) fees can catch up with the increases. This is particularly a problem at the University Golf Course (UGC), which has very limited student fee support (approx. \$70K), an amount that has not increased for many years. The costs of golfing at the UGC are already at the top of the range for its competitors within the region, so fees cannot be increased further without seeing a drop in rounds played.
- Costs of materials for equipment replacement, or facility renewal projects, are outpacing the ability to keep up. Facility renewal plans made just a few years ago are already seeing actual numbers doubled (or more) from estimated costs. This makes any attempt at fiscal planning for future costs very difficult. Pressures from the University Chief Financial Officer regarding set asides compound this issue.
- External pressures regarding University and Divisional priorities impact the ability to get student fee increases as needed. Huge university expenditures for IT and utility infrastructure, along with construction/renewal needs for various DSA departments are all putting pressure on the amount of funds available for recreation-related spending. This will remain a large issue well past FY24.
- Cost of new construction has essentially precluded any thoughts of a South Campus Recreation Building, or a new field complex, as it has become unaffordable without substantial increases in student fees. Finding an affordable space for a growing Esports program is high on the list of departmental priorities, but has continued to be a challenge.

Goals for 2024-2025 Academic Year

Departmental goal creation/alignment per direction of DSA - first section as reference; goals follow in second table. Links are included for strategic commitments and inclusive excellence areas for full definitions.

Background

<u>DSA Strategic Commitments</u>	<u>Inclusive Excellence Areas</u>
We put students first We invest in our people We create caring and inclusive communities We thrive as one division We align practices with values We strengthen our foundations	Recruitment & retention Infrastructure Learning & development Culture, climate, & community building

Goals for FY25

Goal	DSA Strategic Commitments Alignment (list)	Inclusive Excellence Area (Primary)
Departmental Review Process: RecWell will complete the self-study portion by October 2024 and conduct the external review by May 2025	We put students first We invest in our people We create caring and inclusive communities We align practices with values We strengthen our foundations	Infrastructure
SA IT Transition: RecWell will implement new SAIT security, client services, and procurement policies by May 2025	We thrive as one division We strengthen our foundations We align practices with values	Infrastructure
Learning Outcomes: RecWell will implement two learning outcomes in the student personnel area by May 2025	We put students first We align practices with values	Learning & Development
Transition to Elevate/Workday: RecWell will complete the process on the timeline set forth by UMD.	We align practices with values We strengthen our foundations	Infrastructure

Construct and open a new Indoor Bouldering Wall by the end of fall 2024.	We put students first	Infrastructure
Install flooring in the “weights” half of the East Gym in order to increase usable square footage and diversify offerings in respective weight room spaces by the beginning of the fall 2024 semester.	We put students first We align practices with values (stewardship and innovation)	Infrastructure
Collaborate with Terps After Dark to expand Active Terps Sleep Well campaign (during the TAD timeframe)	We put students first We create caring and inclusive communities We align practices with values	Culture, climate, & community building
Expand Terrapin Exercise Referral Program (T.E.R.P) to include additional campus partners by the end of FY25.	We put students first We create caring and inclusive communities We align practices with values	Culture, climate, & community building

Departmental information points for VPSA Council

In addition to the programmed engagement opportunities, RecWell offers informal recreation opportunities for those who wish to engage in physical activity in a less structured environment. RecWell facilities were open 349 days in FY24. Usage and demographic information appear in the tables below.

Table 1 RecWell Usage by Semester

	FY24		FY23		FY22		FY21		FY 20	
	Overall	Unique Users	Overall	Unique Users	Overall	Unique Users	Overall	Unique Users	Overall	Unique Users
Summer	73,649	7,560	70,753	6,136	38,272	4,002	n/a	n/a	65,882	6,440
Fall	364,970	22,318	431,588	22,316	284,604	20,517	73,726*	5,764	344,073	22,214
Spring	398,739	21,805	429,931	21,451	366,360	19,174	89,343	6,525	184,262	21,820
Guest passes	12,552**		12,212		8,082		0		11,149	
Total Usage	849,910		944,484		697,318		163,069		605,366	

*Total includes Summer 2020 (Aug 3-Aug 30)

**Guest pass totals include alumni/faculty/staff day passes.

During the Spring 2024 semester

- 20,182 different *students* entered RecWell facilities at least once
 - 85.50% of them were undergraduate students (17,257)
- Student use by gender
 - Unique student users
 - Male: 11,447 (56.71%)
 - Female: 8,674 (42.97%)
 - Non-Binary: 61 (0.30%)
 - Overall student participation: 370,984 visits
 - Male: 253,462 (68.32%)
 - Female: 116,954 (31.52%)
 - Non-Binary: 568 (0.15%)

Student Demographics by race (Spring 2024)

Table 2 RecWell Users by Race FY24

	% of RecWell Student Users	% of UMD students
African American / Black	11.75%	12.62%
Asian	32.38%	27.67%
Hispanic / Latino	8.35%	9.87%
American Indian / Alaska Native	0.08%	0.09%
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.06%	0.05%
Two or More	4.59%	4.44%
Unknown	5.63%	6.17%
White	37.16%	39.09%

Program Highlights

The **Adventure Program** experienced a complete change in staff with Meghan Loughry being promoted to Assistant Director and hiring new staff for the three coordinator roles (Anna Hisnanick-Bike Shop; Corrie Fenn-Climbing Wall and Challenge Course; Sam Shrestha-Adventure Trips & Camps). A few other highlights include: Offering micro adventure trips to appeal to more students as they are shorter in duration; piloting an adventure camp in summer 2024; and, increasing unique participant numbers by limiting the number of trips one could sign up for at once – allowing more students the option to sign up.

Fitness created a monthly student staff development plan with a wide variety of topics. A few examples are: professionalism & interpersonal competence, non-positional leadership, developing purpose, and emotional intelligence in the workplace. Students appreciate the learning opportunities beyond the skills of their particular jobs. Our group fitness program offers a schedule that is one of the highest number of weekly offerings in the BIG and we served 4,599 unique participants in group fitness classes in FY24. There were a number of challenges faced by the fitness area with one that has an impact on participation – Fusion, our scheduling system, does not allow for waitlists. Therefore, if someone cancels their registration for a class, there is no notification to others that there are available spaces.

Within the **Intramural Sports** program, staff established a Unified Sports league in partnership with Special Olympics Maryland and in FY24, offered a one-day Unified Bocce event in the fall before expanding to offer full Unified Basketball and Bocce multi-week leagues in the spring. As in years past, Intramural Sports excelled in student development with a group of five students being selected for BOTH the National Flag Football and National Basketball Tournaments, with two additional students qualifying for the National Basketball Tournament, totalling seven students being recognized for their excellence at the national level. In addition, Fauz Adeyinka was named an All-American Basketball and Flag Football Official. Following the success of several semesters of offering women's night, the program saw an increase in women's participation by 11.29%, making women 29.12% of unique program participants, the highest rate of play in 20 years.

Once again, the **Club Sports** program was popular and active; highlights include:

- 47 Active Sport Clubs and 4,717 participants
- 31 clubs are recognized as offering co-educational opportunities, 7 are exclusively for men, and 9 are exclusively for women. First full year for Cricket and Roundnet as new sports.
- 3829 club athletes (not unique) traveled nearly 90,000 miles to 32 different states, plus Spain. Clubs made 185 vehicle rentals (totally nearly \$40,000) plus another 28 airport pick up rentals for trips. 8 bus rentals (spent just under \$50,000) and booked over 100 flights. Clubs prepared for these trips by practicing 127 times per week, or over 265 hours per week (yearly average).
- Giving Day was incredibly successful as well:
 - \$114,615- Total raised through Giving Day- matches & donations.
 - 881 unique donors
 - 14th on general leaderboard
 - 9 of top 20 DSA Organizations were club sports
 - 37/47 clubs participated

The **Aquatics and Safety** Program area grew in FY24 with the formal addition of the athletic training program, moving from a contract program with the University of Maryland School of Medicine to being administratively supervised by Natalie Taylor, Associate Director for Aquatics and Safety and medically supervised by physician staff in the University Health Center. Some highlights for the Aquatics and Safety Program include:

- Combined the Pool Operator and Head Lifeguard student positions into a single Aquatic Supervisor position. Creates a single student leader and streamlines operations for students and professional staff.
- Scuba participation grew by 40% from the fall to spring semester.
- Free student swim lesson participation grew by 25% from FY23 to FY24.
- 7% increase in event coverage from FY23 to FY24 by Athletic Trainers.
- Club participants in Athletic Training Clinic usage increased by 10% in FY24.
- Intramural Sport participants in Athletic Training Clinic usage increased by 53% in FY24.
- Scott Fleischmann (Aquatic Supervisor) was nominated for the Maryland Medallion Society and Model Citizenship Prize/Elkins award.
- Continued partnership with UHC and Dr. Deu has allowed for quicker patient care at the health center.
- Hosted a Terps ExCeed Program student in an Athletic Training internship.
- Started a durable medical equipment (DME) lending program through the AT clinic to support students in need.
- One UMD AT shadow student from FY24 was accepted into Towson University's Graduate Athletic Training Education program.
- First AT shadow student from 2020 graduated with his MS and passed his Board of Certification (BOC) exam. He will begin employment at Howard University this summer.

The **University Golf Course** had another busy and successful year. Total number of rounds played by students has increased by 30% over the past three years and the number of student memberships sold has increased nearly 50% since FY22, with 226 memberships in FY24. Some membership highlights:

- Student memberships account for 41% of all memberships sold in FY24.
- FY24 continued in the trend of most student memberships for a fiscal year.
- 28 Fac/Staff members have signed up for payroll deduction.
- 76.7% of non student memberships are renewing members with 23.3% being new members for this golf season.

Golf programming has also had a number highlights:

- The PGA Junior League (Youth) continues to be a popular program and success for the golf course. We started our Junior program from scratch about six years ago. We now have one of the most active and sought after programs in the area. Most of the junior programs are full within the first hour that registration is open.
- Continued supporting the PGA Hope Clinic, a program for veterans that uses golf to help them stay active and find a community outside their respective branch of service. Our program is one of the most active programs in the Mid Atlantic region.
- Continued a 12-week program with Elizabeth Seton High School and a two-week introduction to golf program for MLK Middle School – Working with our local community is of major importance to the golf course.

Esports continues to grow as a program within RecWell. FY24 was another successful year with four students securing external internship opportunities in esports related fields. We appointed two new coaches, and celebrated key competitive achievements, including two NECC (National Esports Conference) Nationals Finals appearances, winning the 2024 BIG Esports Conference Championship (Overwatch), and multiple Mideast NECC Championships. Our program ranked #9 in the Peak Big 10 Program and qualified for the CECC Commissioner's Cup. Sergio Brack, our Director for Esports was nominated for the Program Director of the Year at the Esport Scholars Awards.

The **Student Personnel** program continued to support over 1000 student employees. One area student personnel staff are paying attention to are demographics as we noted that our percentage of white student employees is significantly higher than campus demographic proportions, e.g. 48.69% of RecWell employees and 39.52% of campus population. We have also started to note the demographics for promotions of student staff to supervisor positions and although promotions still favor white students somewhat, the proportion of non-white students being promoted more closely mirrors campus demographics. A few student personnel program highlights:

- National Student Employee Appreciation Week – we celebrated this event by distributing food to students several times throughout the week in various locations, collected “student employees of the year” from professional staff overseeing student personnel, and encouraged students and professional staff to attend the DSA Student Employee Celebration
- RecWell bestows two annual awards: the Kehoe-Kessler Award (furthering wellness on campus) and the Student Employee Scholarship. The Kehoe-Kessler Award winner was Neolafar Madani, a graduate student working toward her Masters in Public Health and heavily involved with the SKY Wellness at UMD. The Student Employee Scholarships were awarded to Andrea Morales (Adventure Program) and Nobukazu Sawai (Esports).
- Student development funding: the department invested \$1,958 on student development funding, largely supporting students in expanding their professional capacities. Funding assisted one student who is an education major attend the EdTech conference in New York City where they learned new ways to use technology to enhance learning. We sent a number of Intramural Sports supervisors to NIRSA region 1 conference and the NIRSA national conference to expand the students’ professional networks and knowledge of collegiate recreation. Finally we covered the cost of one of our Group Fitness instructors to become certified to teach pilates to expand their repertoire and to fill a need within the department.
- Alex Franklin, Coordinator for Student Personnel is a co-lead in creating the DSA Supervisors of Student Employees Initiative to increase development and learning opportunities for student employees across the Division.

Three additional items within the program area should be mentioned. RecWell supported four graduate student-specific events during spring 2024: Pickleball Tournament, Climbing & S'Mores (graduate student and families), Driving Range and Happy Hour, and a Pool Party (graduate students and families). The department heard from graduate students that they would like more programming specifically focused on their demographic and the department responded. Finally, a program with incredible continued success is focused on the community: TerpQuest Camp. We continue to see record numbers of registrations with 150 children/week and registration typically fills up within 24 hours of opening!

Support Unit Highlights

Member Services staff were responsible for over \$2.2 million in goods and services through the point-of-sale system. This number is an increase of approximately \$200k in revenue from last year. RecWell's membership numbers also increased in FY24 from the previous year with nearly 400 additional memberships from faculty/staff, alumni, dependents and spouses, and affiliates and 350 more non-registered student memberships. However, even with this increase from last year, the department is still well below faculty/staff membership numbers from pre-covid. The ERC has always been a location where faculty, staff, alumni, and students bring their friends and colleagues to visit. In FY24, RecWell sold a total of 12,552 guest passes (approximately 300 more than were sold in FY23), including alumni/faculty/staff day passes.

In FY24, the **Information Technology** staff successfully integrated RecWell systems with Microsoft InTune, managed ServiceNow for DNCA tracking and coordinated laptop replacements and retirement of over 30 computers. Additionally we implemented a new ticketing system with the DSA ITASM workgroup, and onboarded new professional staff. IT staff actively contributed to the Student Affairs IT Transformation Committee (SAITTC) working to streamline IT services throughout the division.

In addition to their extensive work with the facility "glow up" mentioned earlier, the **Creative Services** team began offering Media Days to Club Sports, Esports, and Fitness program participants and student employees. These events have proven to be great mentorship opportunities for our student photographers both in terms of direct photography experience and photoshoot management skills with forward-facing customer interactions. Three media days were held, 665 final photos were edited and posted, all staffed by three to five student employees gaining valuable creative services skills.

Supporting the University's strategic initiative of Investing in our People, RecWell's **Human Resources** area tracked \$40,262 in professional development funding with 22 total staff attending in-person or virtual conferences, including seven attending the NIRSA annual conference and nine attending the B1G Recreation conference. Three staff members were supported financially for completing certifications and classes online. RecWell leadership understands that our work would not be possible without our colleagues, both professional and student staff. Investment in their development is investment in our success.

Appendix A – Physical Plant

Excellent stewardship is critical to the operation of University Recreation & Wellness so that safe, clean, and inviting spaces are available for recreational activity at the University. The department is entrusted with 400, 872 square feet of indoor recreation facility space as listed below:

Eppley Recreation Center & Outdoor Aquatic Center	258,000 sq. ft.
Ritchie Coliseum	51,000 sq. ft.
Reckord Armory	28,800 sq. ft.
University Golf Course buildings	32,773 sq. ft.
School of Public Health Building (shared)	24,226 sq. ft.
Severn Fitness Center (shared)	1,597 sq. ft.
Regents Drive Garage Studios	1,794 sq. ft.
Bike Shop & Club Studio (Cole Field House)	2,682 sq. ft.

RecWell manages 192 acres of outdoor recreation space, including: the artificial turf fields, LaPlata Beach, lawn space adjacent to the ERC outdoor pool, turf volleyball court at Washington Quad, the Engineering Fields, Fraternity Row Field, the Chapel Field, and the University Golf Course (UGC). Most acreage is at the UGC:

- 26 acres of fairways
- 6 acres of greens
- 4 acres of tee grounds
- 12 acres of native area
- 55 acres of rough
- 70 acres of forest

Supervisory Org Chart



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS UNIVERSITY RECREATION & WELLNESS

Jay Gilchrist
Director

