

Georgia Tech ReCreate

Date: October 17th, 2025

To: Brian Smith, Senior Director of Campus Recreation for Georgia Tech

From: Dev Sharma, Connor Case, Ishaan Kothari, Sneha Jaiswal

Subject: Campus Recreation Infrastructure

1. PURPOSE

Our group aims to enhance and renovate recreational facilities at Georgia Tech to promote student health and well-being. By improving these facilities, we seek to support the Eight Dimensions of Wellness and align with Georgia Tech's commitment to fostering wellness and holistic student development. Assume that Georgia Tech is not implementing the renovation of recreational facilities in Georgia Tech.

2. SUMMARY

Our project's problem statement and focus is about how we can improve recreational activities and facilities at Georgia Tech. Before the start of the 2025-2026 academic year, Georgia Tech's facilities for recreational activity have worsened and been underdeveloped. First we provide research that showcases the importance of physical recreational activities for both students and campuses. Then we identify three specific facilities that require improvement (Peters Parking Deck, Stamps Field, Re-turfing, Campus Recreation Center Renovations), providing detailed information and budgets on how these may be improved, and how those improvements would benefit students.

3. INTRODUCTION

For new students, learning to navigate college can be challenging and stressful. As discussed by Andre et al. (2017), recreation, especially outdoor recreation, can help reduce that stress (p. 17). Students involved in outdoor recreation have more friends, less social anxiety, and increased social support (Andre et al., 2017, p. 17), all of which can help make their transition to university life easier.

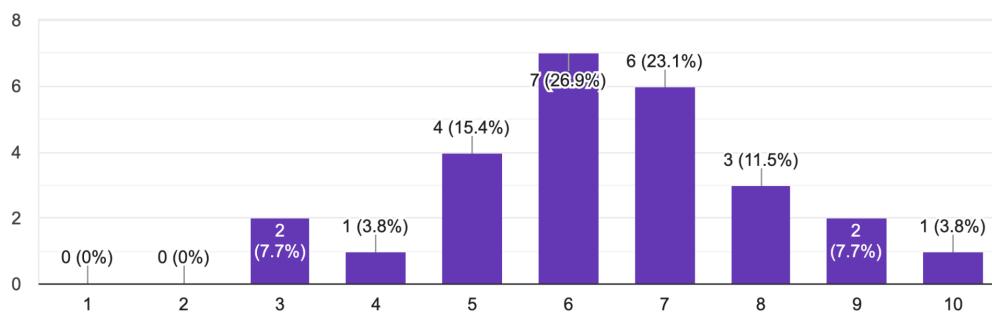


Figure 1 – How would you rate the current condition of Georgia Tech’s recreational facilities? (26 responses)

In addition to helping with stress, it has been shown that participation in campus recreation is directly correlated with student academic success (Andre et al., 2017, p. 19). Organized campus recreation programs, like college recreational sports (sometimes referred to as intramural sports), allow for “out-of-classroom” learning. In their article *The College Recreational Sports Learning Environment* Haines and Fortman discuss Astin’s 1999 theory of student involvement, which describes how a student’s environment influences their development (2008, p. 55). Astin had come to the conclusion that students achieve learning only after “committing time, physical, and psychological energy” (Haines and Fortman, 2008, p. 55), which supports Haines and Fortman’s findings that the more engaged a student is with campus recreational sports, the greater their potential for learning due to “the physical and psychological energy expended in participation, the intergroup relations that take place, and the communication necessary to compete as a team”

(Haines and Fortman, 2008, p. 58). The result of this learning caused by participation in recreational sports includes personal growth in various life skills, an appreciation for diversity, increased comfort in various social interactions, and better communication and leadership skills (Haines and Fortman, 2008, p. 58).

Besides benefiting students in the many ways discussed above, improving campus recreational infrastructure has benefits for the university itself. One of them is that the use of campus recreation facilities is correlated with student return and retention as shown in Miller and Croft's (2022) study that highlights that “the respondents agreed that their return to the university was due to the sense of belonging created from involvement in recreation center activities ($M=1.96$, $SD =1.03$)” (Miller and Croft, 2022). This is important to universities as “revenue from tuition and fees (after excluding institutional grant aid to students) is the single largest revenue source for the private nonprofit college sector and a close second to state funding for public higher education” (Kelchen et al. 2021). Furthermore, student retention is important for colleges because “auxiliary revenues come from sources such as housing and dining, hospitals, athletics, and other on campus activities that are not directly tied to instruction, research, or student services” (Kelchen et al. 2021). This is why it is in the best interest of colleges to make movements towards retaining their students.

As can be seen in Figure 1, a sample of 26 Georgia Tech students rated the current condition of Georgia Tech's recreational facilities an average of 6.38 out of 10, which points to an obvious room for improvement. In this proposal, we suggest various projects that, if enacted, will help Georgia Tech students with their mental and physical health, and will help with Georgia Tech's student return and retention.

4. PROPOSED PROJECTS

Our project can be broken into several smaller, yet extensive, sub-projects. These sub-projects are focused on the specific areas of campus that require renovations and improvement. Through preliminary primary research conducted via a [Google Form](#) survey (see Section 8.1 for the form), we were able to identify key locations and facilities that students felt required attention, as shown in *Figure 2*.

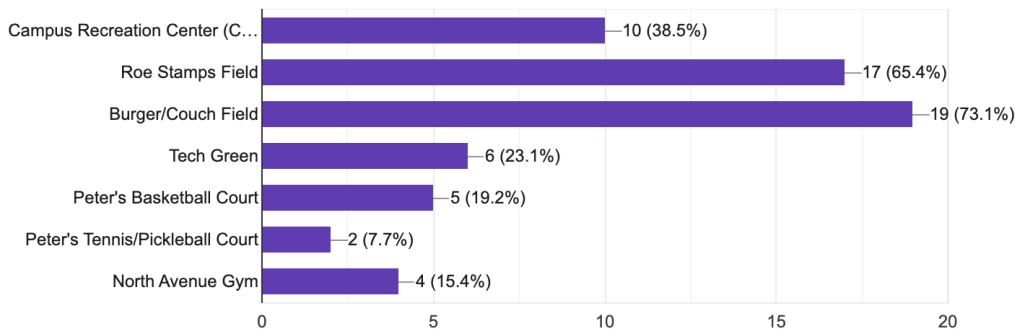


Figure 2 – In your opinion, which recreational area(s) should be prioritized for renovation or improvement?

Georgia Tech offers a wide variety of recreational spaces designed to meet the needs of all students and community members. For the scope of this proposal, however, we focused on improving the most frequently used fields and facilities, as identified in our research shown in *Figure 3*. We recognize that improvement is not a one-time goal but an ongoing process. Georgia Tech remains committed to maintaining recreational spaces that are inclusive, safe, and accessible for everyone. Once the proposed renovations are completed, we recommend conducting further assessments to identify and prioritize additional recreational areas that are aging or in need of repair.

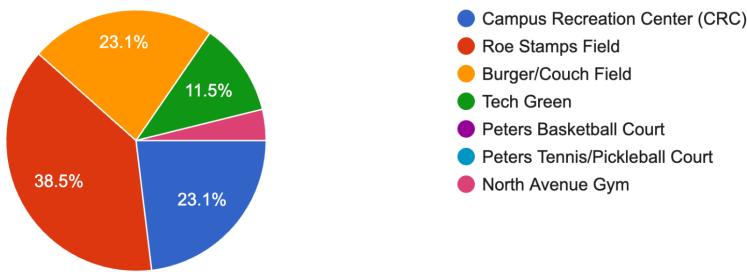


Figure 3 – Which of the following recreational spaces do you use most often?

4.1 Burger/Couch Field

Burger and Couch Fields are popular recreational spaces that host a wide range of activities, including soccer, football, ultimate frisbee, and volleyball. The fields are also used weekly by the archery club and frequently reserved by registered student organizations such as Christian ministries and Pilates groups. In addition, they serve as a convenient and scenic spot for running, making them one of the most heavily trafficked outdoor areas on campus. Unfortunately, because these fields are located on low-lying ground, rainwater often accumulates and fails to drain for several days, leaving the surface saturated and muddy. The high volume of foot traffic further accelerates wear and tear, as illustrated in *Figure 4*. To address these issues, we propose two solutions, one permanent and one temporary.



Figure 4 – Muddy grass at Couch/Burger Fields

- 1. Permanent - Improve Drainage Infrastructure:** One solution is to install a modern subsurface drainage system beneath Burger and Couch Fields. This would involve adding perforated pipes, gravel layers, and drainage channels to direct excess water away from the field and into existing stormwater systems. By improving water flow and reducing standing water, the fields would remain usable shortly after rainfall, minimizing closures and long-term damage to the turf. The estimated timeline for this project would be about 4-6 months.
- 2. Temporary - Reduce Usage of the field:** While temporarily limiting access to Burger and Couch Fields would restrict recreational space on campus, it would allow the grass to recover and the soil to stabilize. By scheduling periodic rest periods—especially after heavy rainfall or large events—the grass could naturally regenerate, reducing compaction and preventing further deterioration. During this downtime, maintenance crews could also perform minor repairs, reseeding, and aeration to improve long-term field quality without requiring a major construction project. The timeline for this project would be periodical.

4.2 Peters Parking Deck

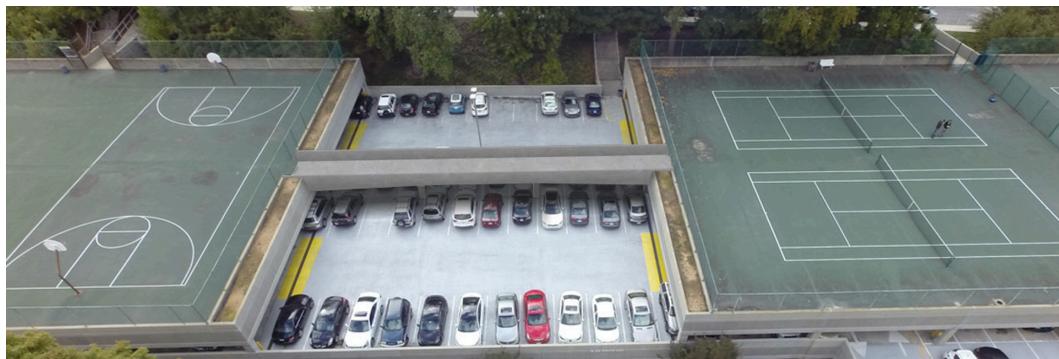


Figure 4 – Peter’s Parking Deck before renovations

The Peters Parking Deck basketball courts are a popular recreational space for students but currently lack adequate lighting and court maintenance. We propose installing overhead lighting to allow for safe nighttime use and creating a contingency plan to maintain the courts. In addition, Peter's parking deck needs benches (as can be seen in Figure 4) so students can have somewhere to sit as they rest or wait on the courts. These renovations aim to increase accessibility, safety, and overall usability of the space.

4.3 Stamps Field Re-turfing

Stamps Field serves as a central hub for intramural sports, club sports practices, and recreational use. However, the current turf has deteriorated over time, increasing the risk of injuries and reducing play quality (seen in numerous submissions from our primary research). We propose re-turfing Stamps Field with new, high-quality artificial turf that provides better shock absorption and durability. This improvement will enhance safety for students and extend the lifespan of the field.

4.4 Campus Recreation Center Renovations

The Campus Recreation Center (CRC) is a cornerstone of student fitness and wellness, yet several areas require upgrades to meet current demand and safety standards. Based on student feedback, we propose the following improvements:

- Rock Climbing Wall: Update handholds, improve safety padding, and expand climbing routes for all skill levels.
- Badminton Facilities: Replace damaged nets, provide new rackets, and restock birdies for consistent use.
- Replace worn out basketballs.
- Replace older rowing machines and ensure proper spacing and ventilations.

These renovations would modernize the CRC's facilities, promote student engagement in fitness, and ensure that all recreational activities can be enjoyed in a safe, well-maintained environment.

5. BUDGET

Our budget consists of three parts: Peter's Parking Deck, Stamps Field Returfing, and CRC renovations/equipment. *Disclaimer: AI was used to help search for costs, but was verified independently.*

5.1 Burger/Couch Field

Item	Cost (sourced)	Estimated total
Subsurface strip/French drains (field)	~7,500–12,000 LF @ \$6–\$9/LF (field examples)	\$45,000–\$90,000
Post-install grass rehab (topdress + aerate + seed)	Light sand topdress + core aeration + rye overseed for recovery	\$4,500–\$9,450
Total Estimated Cost	—	\$50,000–\$99,450

We estimate that this project takes approximately 9-12 weeks. First contractors will need 2-4 weeks to perform a site survey and to finish the design, followed by approximately 3-6 weeks for installation/construction. Finally, the grass will need 4-6 weeks to start regrowing in the areas of construction.

5.2 Peters Parking Deck

Item	Unit Cost (sourced)	Quantity	Estimated Total
LED Floodlights (equipment)	\$246.36–\$621.88 per fixture	18 fixtures	\$4,434.48–\$11,193.84
Electrical Installation (per fixture)	\$250–\$525 per fixture	18 fixtures	\$4,500–\$9,450

Trenching/Conduit allowance	\$5–\$12 per linear ft (100 ft = \$500–\$1,200)	1 allowance	\$500–\$1,200
Benches & Seating	\$547.86–\$939.93 per bench	10 benches	\$5,478.60–\$9,399.30
Contingency (10–20%)	GA precedent: 10% common; use 10–20% for early scope	—	\$1,491.31–\$6,248.63
Total Estimated Cost	—	—	\$16,404.39–\$37,491.77

We estimate that this project will require approximately 5-9 weeks to be completed. Initially, 2-4 weeks will be needed for surveys and design, followed by another 2-4 weeks of electrical installation, followed by 1 more week for the bench installation.

5.3 Stamps Field Re-turfing

<i>Cost Item</i>	<i>Unit Cost (range)</i>	<i>Estimated Total</i>
Artificial Turf Material (total area: 180,000 sq ft)	\$3 to \$7 per sq ft	\$540,000– \$1,260,000
Installation & Site Prep	\$2 to \$4 per sq ft	\$360,000– \$720,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$900,000– \$1,980,000

We estimate the re-turfing of Stamps Field to require 5-7 weeks. After an initial survey and design confirmation (2-3 weeks), the turf can be installed in approximately 3-4 weeks.

5.4 CRC Renovations and Equipment

<i>Item</i>	<i>Unit Cost (sourced)</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Estimated Total</i>
Badminton Rackets (sets of 4)	\$59.99	6 sets	\$359.94
Shuttlecocks	\$58.00	4 tubes	\$232.00
Badminton Nets	\$79.99	6 nets	\$479.94
Kilter Board	\$6,926.00	1 unit	\$6,926.00

Basketballs	\$49.99	25 units	\$1249.75
Rowing Machines	\$990.00	2 units	\$1,980.00
Total Estimated Cost			\$11,227.63

We estimate that this project will take approximately 2-5 weeks to accomplish, depending on how long it takes to source the equipment. Assuming equipment is sourced within 1-4 weeks, it can be delivered and set up in approximately 1 week.

6. CONCLUSION

Georgia Tech has received tons of praise and accolades for the amazing job it does at helping students find their passions and excel in the work force, but there needs to be an equal investment in students well-being as their academics. One meaningful step towards this requires improving recreational infrastructure. As shown from our research and student survey responses, the current recreational facilities do not meet the needs of the campus community.

Overcrowding, flooding, outdated equipment and worn out fields give students fewer opportunities for physical activity which is directly linked to mental health, social engagement and student retention, all of which should be top priorities for the college. Implementing our proposed projects of improving drainage at Burger and Couch Fields, lighting and seating upgrades at Peters Parking Deck, returfing Stamps Field, and renovating the CRC are all important in helping Georgia Tech create safe, accessible and engaging recreational spaces.

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8. APPENDIX

8.1 Primary research Google Form

Campus Recreation

This form is designed to gauge interest in Georgia Tech Recreation and campus facility use. The goal is to collect input from students on how they use recreational spaces and identify which areas could benefit most from renovation.

Note: This survey is not affiliated with Georgia Tech Campus Recreation. It is part of a student project.

d3v.shar@gmail.com [Switch account](#) 

 Not shared

* Indicates required question

General Information
Gain personal affiliated information.

What is your current year at Georgia Tech? *

- First Year
- Second Year
- Third Year
- Four Year
- Other: _____

Are you involved in Intramural or Club Sports *

- Yes
- No

Recreational Space Usage

How often do you use recreational spaces at Georgia Tech? This includes Peters * Tennis/Basketball Courts, Campus Recreation Center, Stamps Field, Burger/Couch Field, Tech Green, etc.)

- 0 times a week
- 1-2 days a week
- 3-4 days a week
- 5-6 days a week
- 7 days a week

Which of the following recreational spaces do you use most often? *

- Campus Recreation Center (CRC)
- Roe Stamps Field
- Burger/Couch Field
- Tech Green
- Peters Basketball Court
- Peters Tennis/Pickleball Court
- North Avenue Gym

Do you use these spaces as part of a Registered Student Organization (RSO), * club, or team—or individually?

- RSO / Club / Team
- Individually
- Both

If you participate in a club or organization that uses recreational spaces, please list which one(s):

Your answer

Perception and Barriers

Do you ever feel discouraged from using recreational spaces at Georgia Tech? *

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes

If yes or sometimes, please explain why.

Your answer

How would you rate the current condition of Georgia Tech's recreational facilities? *

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

In your opinion, which recreational area(s) should be prioritized for renovation or * improvement?

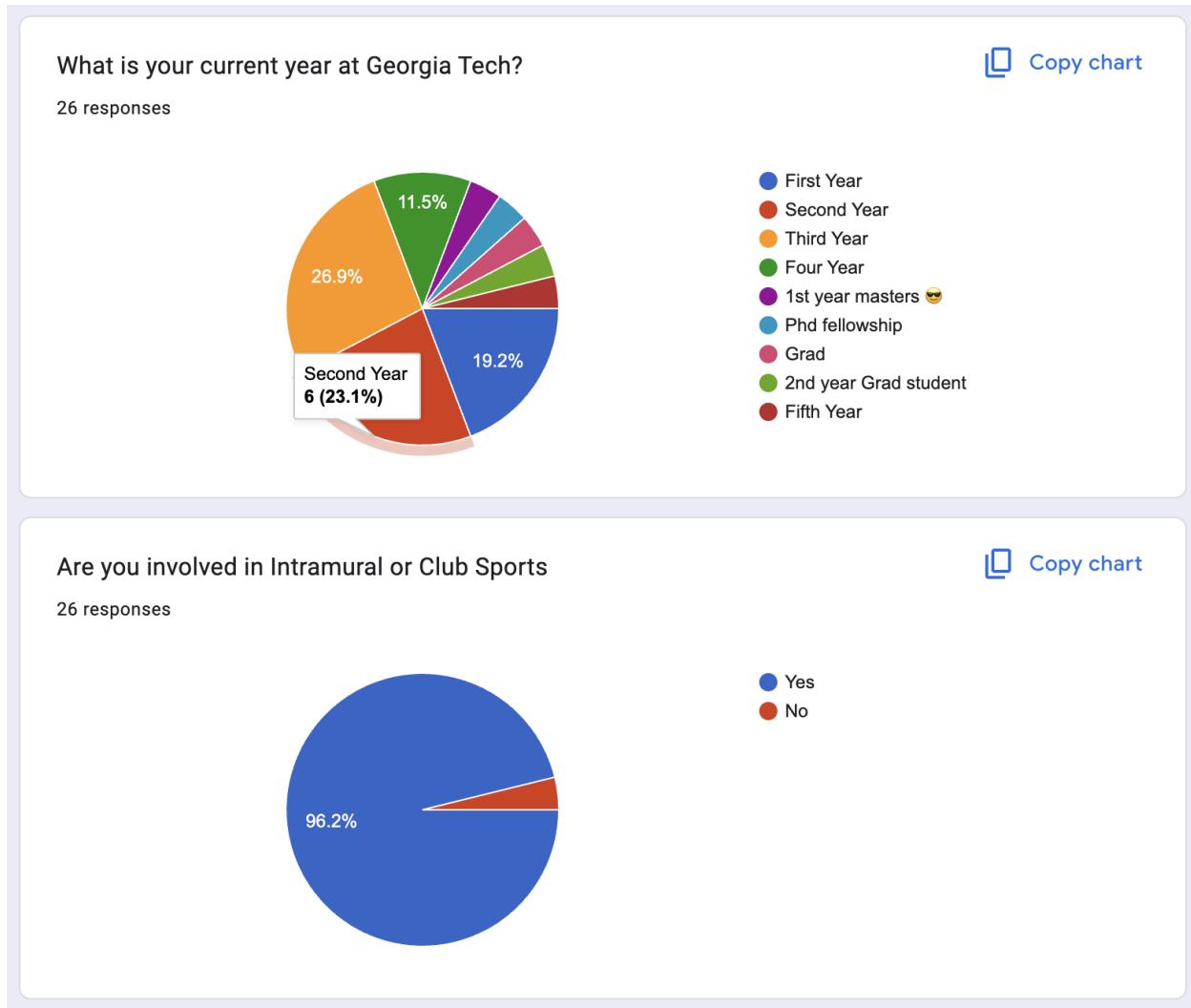
- Campus Recreation Center (CRC)
- Roe Stamps Field
- Burger/Couch Field
- Tech Green
- Peter's Basketball Court
- Peter's Tennis/Pickleball Court
- North Avenue Gym

Submit

Clear form

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

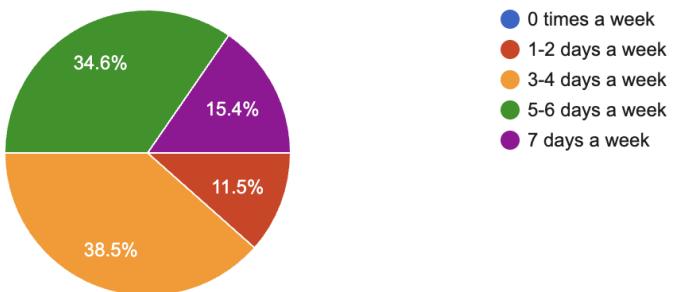
8.2 Primary research Google Form results



How often do you use recreational spaces at Georgia Tech? This includes Peters Tennis/Basketball Courts, Campus Recreation Center, Stamps Field, Burger/Couch Field, Tech Green, etc.)

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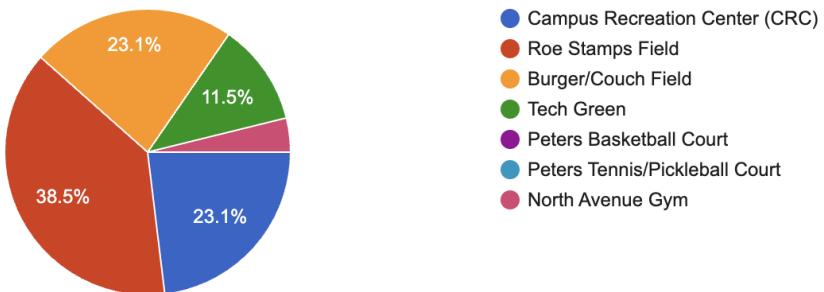
26 responses



Which of the following recreational spaces do you use most often?

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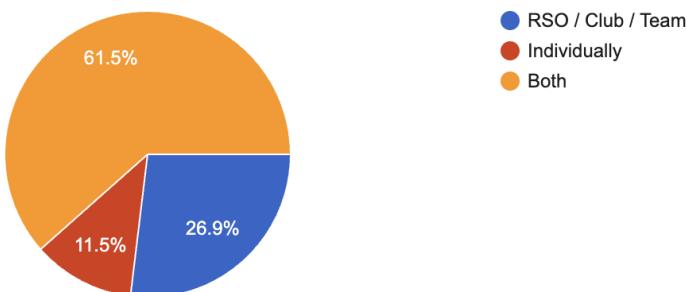
26 responses



Do you use these spaces as part of a Registered Student Organization (RSO), club, or team—or individually?

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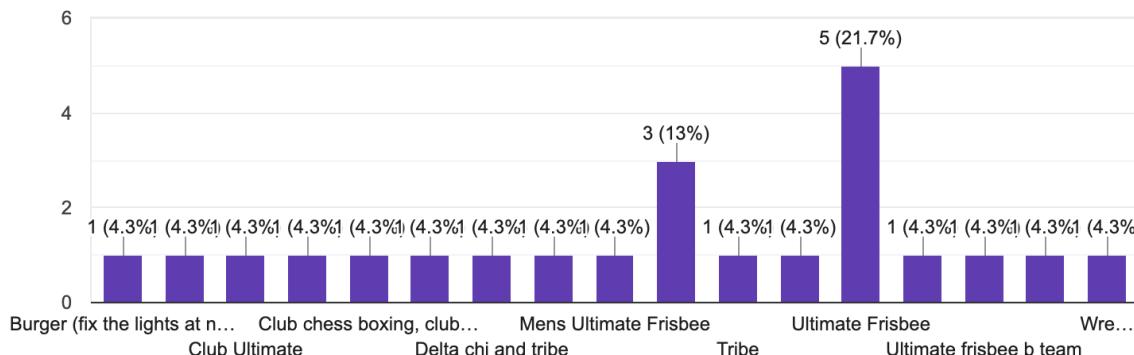
26 responses



If you participate in a club or organization that uses recreational spaces, please list which one(s):

[Copy chart](#)

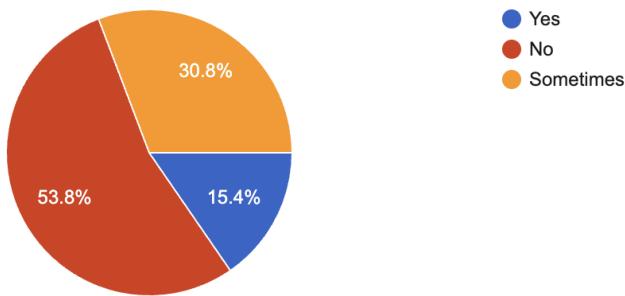
23 responses



Do you ever feel discouraged from using recreational spaces at Georgia Tech?

[Copy chart](#)

26 responses

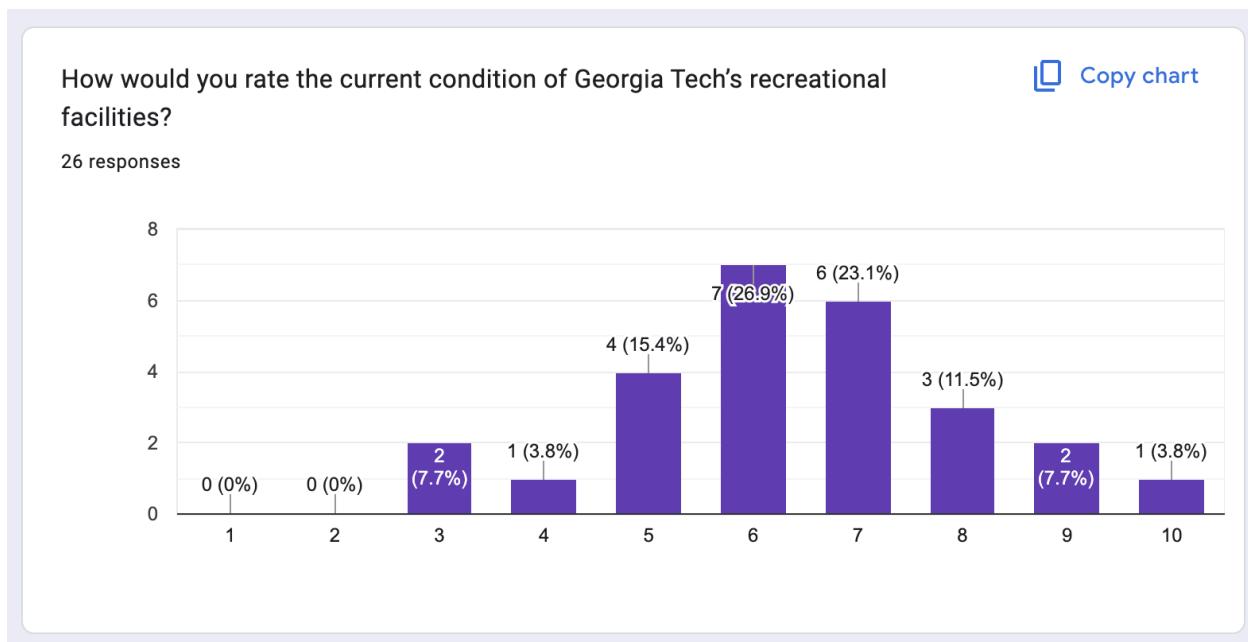


If yes or sometimes, please explain why.

11 responses to the above question:

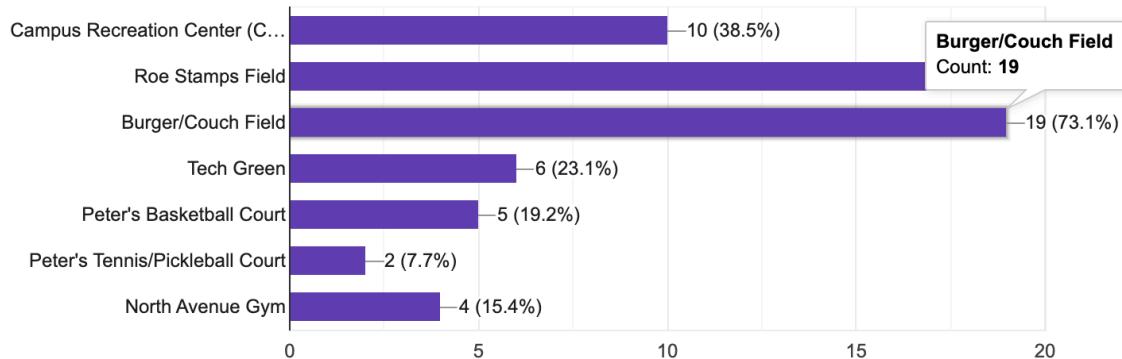
- “They can be crowded”
- “Too busy, filled with people. Fields are flooded or super super muddy”
- “Busyness”

- “Sometimes the guys hooping are too good.”
- “When the CRC is really crowded and I want to use the machines to work out”
- “Too many non GT students on stamps. And they are really awful”
- “The gym is often overcrowded. Stamps has no convenient entrances”
- “Have issues with people on fields who have not reserved it (this is not too often, usually folks are pretty cool about it)”
- “No space”
- “People so many”
- “When they’re full with practices”



In your opinion, which recreational area(s) should be prioritized for renovation or improvement? [Copy chart](#)

26 responses



8.3 Pricing Sources for Burger/Couch Field

Pricing Sources:

- Drainage
 - Strip/French drains: $\$6\text{--}\$9/\text{LF} \times \sim 7,500 \text{ LF} = \$45\text{k}\text{--}\$67.5\text{k}$ (Sports Field Management, 2008)
 - We are estimating up to \$90k to account for cover spacing, drain layout density, soil quality, and variability of access.
- Grass rehabilitation
 - Aeration: $\$0.10\text{--}\$0.35/\text{ft}^2 = \$5,760\text{--}\$20,160$ at $\sim 57,600 \text{ ft}^2$ (Angi, 2025)
 - USGA-spec topdress sand: $\$105/\text{yd}^3 \times 45 \text{ yd}^3 = \$4,725$ (Luxury Landscape, n.d.)
 - UGA overseed: $8\text{--}12 \text{ lb}/1,000 \text{ ft}^2 = 12 \text{ bags} \times (\$77.50\text{--}\$118.78 \text{ each}) = \$930\text{--}\$1,425$ (UGA Turf, 2020; LeBallister's, n.d.; Home Depot, n.d.)

- A \$6k–\$12k allowance covers a light recovery pass. This value leans higher if the contractors decide to go heavier on aeration or if multiple topdressings are chosen.

8.4 Pricing Sources and Budget Calculations for Peter's Parking Deck

Pricing Sources:

- LED fixture prices (equipment).
 - \$246.36 for a 300W sports/stadium LED flood (single unit) (The Home Depot, 2025).
 - \$621.88 per unit for Lithonia DSXF2 (Fromm Electric, n.d.).
 - Alternative: \$661.94 per unit for an EXO commercial floodlight (Grainger, n.d.).
- Electrical installation from Atlanta contractors.
 - Replacing existing outdoor floodlights: \$129–\$299+; new floodlights with new boxes and wire: \$250+ (TE Certified, n.d.).
 - Average light-fixture installation in Atlanta: Low: \$189; Average: \$338; High: \$525 (Reliable Heating & Air, n.d.).
- Trenching/conduit (baseline for new runs).
 - \$5–\$12 per linear foot, with an average of \$400–\$1,200 per 100 linear feet (Angi, 2025).
- Lights per court
 - Typical outdoor basketball layouts use 4 or 6 fixtures per full court (Sports Venue Calculator, 2025).
- Benches (Atlanta/nearby retail).
 - \$547.86 for a 6' commercial bench without back (The Home Depot, n.d.-a).

- \$889.21 for a 6' diamond bench with back (The Home Depot, n.d.-b).
- \$649.00 for a 5' backless teak bench (Atlanta Teak Furniture, n.d.).
- Contingency (Georgia references).
 - Include a 10% contingency line item for approved cost overruns (Georgia Office of Planning and Budget [OPB], n.d.). For project type baselines, use 5% for new construction, 10% for renovation, 15% for historic restoration (Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission [GSFIC] & OPB, 2001).

Budget Calculations:

- Lighting (equipment + install): $18 \times (\$246.36 - \$621.88 + \$250 - \$525) = \$8,934.48 - \$21,643.84$; + trenching \$500–\$1,200 → in table as \$9,434.48–\$21,843.84.
- Benches: $10 \times \$547.86 - \$939.93 = \$5,478.60 - \$9,399.30$.
- Contingency: 10–20% of the construction subtotal; table shows the ranges applied to \$14,913.08–\$31,243.84.

8.5 Stamps Field Returfing

The estimated square feet for each football field at stamps field is 45,000 square feet (100 x 50 x 9). Stamps field can be turned into 4 football fields. This means there is around 180,000 square feet of turf on the stamp field.

Pricing Sources:

- Area / configuration (Georgia Tech).
 - Turf Field #01 is listed as the size of a regulation flag football field (100 yds × 50 yds) (Georgia Tech Campus Recreation, 2025a).
 - The Roe Stamps Turf Fields can be lined for four flag football fields (Georgia Tech Campus Recreation, 2025b; Georgia Tech Conference Services, 2025).

- Unit costs
 - For synthetic turf, a top-quality field replacement generally runs about \$5–\$10 per square foot (The Motz Group, n.d.-a).
 - Cost components often break out as
 - turf carpet \$3–\$6/ft² (The Motz Group, n.d.-b)
 - ground prep \$1–\$2/ft² (The Motz Group, n.d.-b)
 - base rock \$1–\$2/ft² (The Motz Group, n.d.-b).
 - A separate industry guide provides cross-checks and additional \$/ft² benchmarks for full field projects (Sports Venue Calculator, n.d.-b).

8.6 CRC Renovations and Equipment

Pricing Sources:

- Badminton equipment
 - Manufacturer 4-player set at \$59.99 (Franklin Sports, n.d.).
 - Shuttlecocks: \$58.00 per tube for Yonex Aerosensa 50 (JoyBadminton, n.d.).
 - Net: \$79.99 for a Rec League badminton net set (DICK'S Sporting Goods, n.d.-b; see also DICK'S Sporting Goods, n.d.-a for category pricing confirmation).
- Climbing equipment
 - Kilter Board: \$6,926.00 for the 7×10 Full Ride (no lights) from Setter Closet (Setter Closet, n.d.).
- Basketball
 - \$44.99 for Wilson Official Encore Basketball (Wilson Sporting Goods, n.d.).
- Rowing
 - \$990.00 MSRP for Concept2 RowErg (Standard Legs)

- With volume pricing, \$940.00 each (Concept2, n.d.).