

## **Recreation Fee Proposal:**

**Proposal:** Starting Fall 2025, we're excited to introduce a Recreation Fee of \$4 per credit hour to students attending the Olympia campus. This small investment, applied each quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer), will significantly enhance the mental and physical health resources available to the Evergreen student body. This proposal seeks to help create a healthier campus community!

**Rationale:** At Evergreen, we believe that student health is the cornerstone of development, retention, and success. Mental and physical well-being are crucial for learning and growth. That's why we want to increase and improve our recreational opportunities and programs as a fundamental part of Student Life. A Recreation Fee will help Evergreen students embrace a healthier, more vibrant campus experience!

**Current funding model:** The operation of the Costantino Recreation Complex (CRC) is currently funded by Services and Activities Fees and the college operating budget. Since 2019, operational support for the CRC has been reduced by 45% and the open hours reduced by over 50%. In addition to fewer hours to access the CRC, the menu of programs and services has decreased due to the inability to provide adequate staffing, spaces, and equipment.

Implementing a \$4 per credit hour fee would bring Evergreen into alignment with the other public four-year colleges and universities, all of which have a dedicated Recreation Fee and/or Athletic or Facilities fee. Estimated revenue from fees would generate an additional \$400, 000 which would provide the opportunity to build CRC Operations back to hours and facilities that are more consistent with industry standards in terms of hours, access, and equipment. The additional revenue would also allow for programs, spaces, and services more responsive to our students' diverse interests.

### **Specific Enhancements associated with the fee:**

- Significant Increased hours of operation, returning to full-day access M-F and as well as half-day Saturday hours.
- A dedicated Aquatics Director to provide pool access throughout the day (early morning to evening), as well as swimming and lifeguarding classes.
- Large increase in hours of on-campus student employment opportunities.
- A student lounge space with kitchenette for students to relax, study, and play games, which could also host official programs such as meetings, movie and/or video game nights.
- Broad increase in recreational activities and offerings such as drop-in games and activities.
- Streamlined space reservation, equipment check-out and activity registration through an online Recreation portal.

- Wider range and newer options of equipment to check out, including specific gear (e.g., tennis and/or pickleball racquets), yard games such as Badminton, Spike ball, and Outdoor equipment for hiking, camping, and even watercraft.
- Space enhancements, such as privacy film on pool windows, and cleaned/painted lockers.
- Access to Outdoor Climbing Wall.
- Refurbished indoor and outdoor Racquet sport spaces for Pickleball, Tennis, Racquetball, and Wally ball.

**Associated impact of no dedicated fee:** The Student Wellness, Recreation, and Athletics team of student and permanent staff have tried to be as creative as possible to provide access to recreational spaces and activities. It is not possible to have only part of the CRC open or to place any further limits on access and activities.

The impact of no additional fee would be to continue the status quo with operations. Efforts would continue to provide access for seven hours a day, 5 days per week, and 4 hours on Saturdays. There would likely be unplanned closures due to staffing and facility issues, and access to the pool would need to be discontinued. Facilities and equipment would continue to fail and further reduce options for engaging in activities to promote healthy physical and mental well-being.

**Future increases to the Recreation Fee:** Beginning July 2026, Evergreen may make an inflation adjustment to the recreation fee to sustain student services, wages and benefits paid from the fee. The recreation fee will only adjust to the rate of annual increase in the college S&A fee as recommended by the S&A Board and approved by the college Board of Trustees. The rate of increase may not exceed an increase of 4% annually. Any adjustment to the recreation fee rate will be announced in May and take effect in July with the start of the fiscal year.

**Summary:** When it comes to providing access to the CRC and programs, there is an “operational threshold” required to keep a facility open. Evergreen has been operating at or below this threshold for several years and this is no longer sustainable, or good for our students.

Evergreen has been investing in ways to attract and support students through academic, professional, and student life initiatives. The college has a demonstrated commitment to the health and vitality of our students, and in student life. There is an opportunity to increase the quality of the student experience through making additional investments in the creation of spaces on campus for students to find fun activities, comforting spaces, and a sense of community outside the classroom.