

Sportsplex

Gulfport, Mississippi



Location: Gulfport, Mississippi
Type: Infill
Year Design: 2008
Status: Planned
Size: 250 Acres
Contact: Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company or the City of Gulfport



The Gulfport Sportsplex, deemed “the South’s finest” is located just off Interstate-10 on 250 acres of city owned land. It is home to recreational and athletic facilities, including world class soccer, baseball, softball fields and the Gulf Islands Water Park. The Sportsplex was a densely wooded area before the city annexed the land in 1995 and began construction on the current sports facilities. The development of the Sportsplex is the result of planning department master plan survey conducted in '95, in which citizens of Gulfport desired a multi-purpose recreational complex to provide a variety of recreational activities for Gulfport area residents, as well as generate tourism revenue. Future construction plans include the addition of four more soccer fields and four more junior baseball fields, which are to be modeled after iconic major league baseball fields. Plans also include an eight court tennis complex, an outdoor amphitheater, walking, biking and skating trails, an environmental nature center, a children’s playground, and an overnight parking area for RV’s.

The DPZ design conference master plan seeks to make the Sportsplex site the center of activity for north Gulfport. Thus, the master plan builds on the existing and planned facilities noted above and aims to maximize the value and visibility of the property by adding a healthy mixture of civic, commercial and residential uses.

Planned hotels will give Sportsplex visitors a place to stay, while the addition of national and local retailers, a mixture of restaurants, well-structured civic space, and indoor/outdoor recreational amenities will create a real sense of place for visitors and Gulfport residents alike. The town center and square creates a civic focus to the site and will be complemented by a diversity of users living, working and playing at the Sportsplex. This will keep the area active when sports events are not taking place and create a great addition to the City of Gulfport.