



# REBOUND AT THE REC

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the landscape of recreation and wellness for much of the last two years. The Recreation Center faced capacity and membership restrictions, mask policies, suspension of programs and adjustments to our traditional offerings. Out of those challenges, innovative opportunities were created to engage our valued members: virtual and pre-recorded fitness classes, intramural esports leagues, team building activities, 10K training programs and more.

We have no doubt that students were ready to return to in-person programs and services for the 2021-22 academic year. This was evident based on the amount of engagement we received

## FACILITY UTILIZATION

### By the numbers

In fall 2019, the last full semester before COVID-19, the Rec Center welcomed members 457,659 times between the main facility and Williams Village Rec Center. Seventy-two percent of the

student body utilized our facilities and there were 25,529 unique visitors. Fall 2020, during the height of the pandemic, was a completely different story. We welcomed members just 87,346 times to our facilities with 27 percent of the student body reached and 8,883 unique visitors.

After we returned to traditional programming in fall 2021, we saw our facility numbers begin to increase once again. Students were ready to be back, and it showed. Members of our campus community came through our doors 384,626 times, 63 percent of the student body utilized our facilities and we had 22,876 unique visitors. Figure 1 shows the fluctuation of total facility access between fall 2019 and fall 2021.

### By student experience

Before the pandemic, Brennan, president of the Men's Club Hockey Team and a member of ROTC, used to frequent the Rec Center six to seven times per week, sometimes for as long as two to three hours each day. However, during the pandemic his visits became less frequent. Brennan reported only coming to the Rec Center once or twice a week, depending on the current guidelines/mask rules and whether our ice rink was open. If he could find a place to work out where he did not have to wear a mask, he would go there. However, when we announced our return to in-person programs, Brennan shared that he was "pumped."

Fast-forward to fall 2021 when many COVID-19 restrictions were lifted on

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These numbers were by far the lowest the climbing gym had seen, but they rebounded so well during the 2021-22 academic year that Outdoor Pursuits sold more climbing gym passes and welcomed more climbers than ever before. In fall of 2021, 2,104 passes were sold and the rock wall had 20,552 visits. Figure 3 illustrates how climbing gym pass sales and utilization shifted throughout the pandemic from fall 2019 through fall 2021.

**By student experience**

Kieran, a first-year student and Outdoor Pursuits (OP) employee, was a high school student when

unable to play, practice or compete in person during the 2020-21 academic year. With the start of the 2021-22