

Case Study

# Sacramento State University



## Details

Location: Sacramento, CA

Products Installed:  
Performance UltraTile® - 400 SF  
Bounce 2 - 1,500 SF

## Project Needs

- Custom Logos
- Durability
- Turf with a tight nap, resulting in high performance

## Product Benefits

- No Infill Required
- Ergonomics
- Acoustics

# Unusable Space at Sacramento State Transformed Into Functional Turf Area

Sacramento State University, located in Northern, Calif., offers 7 academic colleges with 58 undergraduate majors. In keeping with the campus' rugged outdoor environment, Sacramento State offers opportunities for adventure both indoors and out. The school's state-of-the-art recreation and wellness center, known as The WELL, exists for the benefit of students and the greater Sacramento community.

"The WELL was built six years ago and is a 150,000-square-foot facility that offers student health, outdoor education, a recreation facility, and climbing wall," said Jason Blessinger, Assistant Director of Fitness at Sacramento State. "When the building was constructed, the architects included some weird spaces that were non-usable outdoor areas." More specifically, an area outside of the fitness center had access issues, and members could not go in and of these doors.

"Our goal was: How can we use this space more effectively?" said Blessinger. "We were looking at enclosing it, which would have cost over \$2 Million dollars and was too expensive. The administration thought this space would never be used." During this time, the nationwide trend towards functional training was also starting to have an impact on the university. "We started creating other areas in the building for

non-traditional exercise space, things like TRX and boxing, and it was getting used," said Blessinger. "Our customer base was asking for more non-traditional exercise space."

As a result, Sacramento State transformed the previously non-usable outdoor area outside The WELL into a functional turf space. Having had good success with Ecore Athletic Bounce 2 surfacing in their GroupX room, the university began working with Ecore Athletic & Fitness Regional Sales Manager, David Sides.

Sides suggested installing TurfX and Performance UltraTile®. TurfX features a 35mm thick system comprised of a 25mm turf surface layer field united to a 10mm ShockPad. This surface's thatch support system eliminates the need for infill, making it the perfect training turf. TurfX is also highly customizable, with options for logos, agility drills, or other designs, and is available in seven different colors.

"We got our logo in it," said Blessinger. "It looks really cool. The logo enhances this space from the outside in. We don't have turf anywhere else in our building, so to be able to offer an alternative exercise space is great. Members do sprints, agility work, roll tires, and perform outdoor work in this area."

In addition to these activities, this new functional fitness space offers small group classes, featuring bells, bags, ropes, and sports agility. "It's an awesome space to use for classes, because we're not blocking off part of a weight room to do it, or actually having to be on a field," said Blessinger. "It's a really cool place."

The TurfX is surrounded by Ecore Athletic's Performance UltraTile, a 2-foot by 2-foot by 1-inch tile. This surface's patented "ultra" wear layer on a molded base allows it to surpass the noise and shock absorption qualities of other fitness floors. Sacramento State installed the Performance UltraTile to "follow the line of the building, which is kind of curved," said Blessinger. "It looks functional, and you won't trip over anything." That's because the Performance UltraTile provides a nice transition between it, the TurfX and existing surfacing in the WELL.

The school is very happy with the results of its new training space. "We have over 5,000 people a day come into our building," said Blessinger. "The University has 32,000 students, and there is nothing else around, so it's highly utilized. Flooring and equipment gets used very frequently, so we look for stuff that will last."

