

## UT closing Sutherland, Golf Range apartments

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The University of Tennessee today announced plans to close its Sutherland and Golf Range graduate and family student apartment complexes May 31, 2010.

"The demand for university-provided graduate and family housing has declined over the years," Ken Stoner, executive director of UT housing, said in a statement.

"As we looked at our options for renovating this property, the current advantage of rental rates would be lost, putting us in direct competition with the private market."

The Sutherland Apartments are 40 years old, and the Golf Range Apartments are 50 years old.

The university said 627 of the adjacent complexes' 780 apartments are currently rented.

The university determined renovations would be too costly due to outdated electrical and plumbing systems. It could cost in excess of \$80 million to develop a new housing complex on the site to meet current codes and competitive standards, UT said in a statement.

Graduate and family students have chosen to live in the apartments because of inexpensive rental rates and its proximity to campus. Residents were notified of the decision Wednesday.

"We will certainly assist to make sure that our students have information available over the next 15 months for exploring other options that will best suit their needs," Stoner said in the statement.

The university will relocate the Golf Range Preschool and Toddler program, UT said.

In the last six years, UT has closed or reallocated other graduate properties, including Woodlawn Apartments in 2003; Taliwa Court in 2004; and Kingston Apartments in 2006. Laurel Avenue Apartments reopened in fall 2008 after renovations to meet the demand for undergraduate housing.

The 40-acre property could be used for student recreation fields, UT said, because of its proximity to campus, connection to Third Creek Greenway and availability of utilities.

Among its peer institutions, UT ranks last in availability of outdoor space for student recreation.

More details as they develop online and in Friday's News Sentinel.



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