

**GOAL 1: To maintain a commitment to the protection of its ecosystems and natural lands of significant environmental importance to ensure that these resources are protected for the benefit of present and future generations, while accommodating the continued development and expansion of the campus's built environment.**

**OBJECTIVE 1.1: To ensure that the UCF Department of Landscape and Natural Resources will continue to oversee and review the conservation element of the Campus Master Plan and to designate environmentally sensitive lands for protection based on state and regionally determined criteria.**

**POLICY 1.1.1:** As established by the adoption of this Plan, the University shall maintain, in a natural state, all of those sites identified as Conservation on the Conservation Map (Figure 13-1). New areas shall be considered for potential designation as Conservation Areas based on documented conservation values, e.g., presence of imperiled or vulnerable species or natural communities or other features of state, regional, or local concern, because of declines or vulnerability to further losses of those species. Consistent with the Future Land Use Element, except for minimal structures and improvements necessary to ensure safe access and essential support functions, there shall be no construction in these areas except pursuant to an amendment to this Plan adopted in accordance with all applicable state and local requirements.

**POLICY 1.1.2:** The University shall continue to use the Future Land Use designation of "Conservation Easement" for the purposes of environmental protection of natural lands that are set aside in perpetuity pursuant to a recorded conservation easement. This designation will allow very low- impact for recreational and educational uses such as hiking, non-motorized boating, bird watching, horseback riding, fishing, primitive camping, nature study or other low-impact uses that are not in violation of recorded conservation easements.

**OBJECTIVE 1.2: To conserve, manage, appropriately use, and protect native vegetative communities and wildlife habitat, and to maintain the natural areas within the campus as a system of interconnected wetlands and upland preserves, as shown on the Conservation Map (Figure 13-1).**

**POLICY 1.2.1:** The University shall continue to coordinate with appropriate state and regional environmental agencies, such as the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Florida Forest Service (FFS), to manage designated Conservation Areas appropriately. The scope of the work shall include, but is not limited to:

1. a Geographic Information System (GIS) database that includes digital overlays depicting the location of vegetative communities and management units within designated Conservation Areas;

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2. digital overlays depicting documented locations of imperiled or vulnerable species of plant communities (e.g., ranked as G1-G3 or S1-S3 by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory);
3. a land management plan that includes management and restoration techniques;
4. a monitoring and evaluation schedule and a description of compatible uses;
5. implementation of UCF's Weed Management Plan, detailing the methods for the removal and control of invasive, exotic plants in the designated Conservation Areas; and
6. development of specific guidelines to ensure the protection of the Arboretum.

**POLICY 1.2.2:** The University shall use Florida-friendly plant species in landscaped areas. . In cases where non-invasive, exotic plants are used to enhance the landscape, plantings shall be limited to those non-invasive species that are able to withstand periods of drought and which require little fertilization and limited use of pesticides.

**POLICY 1.2.3:** The University shall remove all non-native invasive plants (whether grasses, shrubs or trees) listed as Category 1 invasive species by the "2013 Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Invasive Species List" from the campus grounds. Limited use of Category 2 invasive species may be used in landscaped areas where there is limited chance of spread into adjacent natural lands. The Department of Landscape and Natural Resources will periodically survey campus lands for the presence of such species and will properly remove and dispose of these exotic species as defined in UCF's Weed Management Plan. If the exotic species fall within a Conservation Easement, approvals and/or permits for removal will be obtained from SJRWMD.

**POLICY 1.2.4:** The University shall manage established buffers, termed Riparian Habitat Protection Zones (RHPZ), of at least 50 feet of upland areas adjacent to identified on-campus wetland areas. These buffers will be maintained to protect required buffer plantings and will be managed for invasive, exotic species that may impact these areas. Where feasible, the buffer will be widened to better conserve wetland function.

**POLICY 1.2.5:** Prescribed burns of selected preserved areas of fire-maintained native habitats (i.e., sandhill, upland pine, pine flatwoods, etc.) shall be conducted periodically as conditions allow. Such activities will follow well-accepted ecological guidelines for prescribed burning, comply with all applicable regulatory guidelines, and include direct coordination with the UCF Administration, UCF departments of Facilities Planning and Construction, Landscape and Natural Resources, Facilities Operations, and Environmental

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Health and Safety ,the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service; and the Orange County Fire Department. The Department of Landscape and Natural Resources will be responsible for conducting and coordinating the prescribed burn program. When conducting prescribed burns in conservation easements, SJRWMD approval will be obtained.

**POLICY 1.2.6:** The University shall continue to protect and conserve imperiled and vulnerable plant and animal species, including threatened and endangered species, and species of special concern, as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Ch. 68A-27, F.A.C. Rules Relating to Endangered or Threatened Species, and federal and state management policies relating to the protection of threatened and endangered species, and species of special concern.

The University shall coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to maintain and manage gopher tortoise populations located within the campus' natural areas and designated Conservation Areas (Figure 13.1). Upland preservation areas may serve as gopher tortoise relocation sites until the carrying capacity has been reached for that specific parcel (as defined and permitted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission). Silt fencing will be installed to prevent re-located tortoises from entering nearby roadways and help them adapt to their new relocation site. The University shall explore the future protection of upland habitats to serve as a gopher tortoise relocation and management site.

**POLICY 1.2.7:** University personnel shall, when encountering listed species, follow procedure and seek consultation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**OBJECTIVE 1.3: To restrict activities that may threaten the habitat and survival of imperiled and vulnerable habitat (such as wetlands) and plant and animal species (Threatened, Endangered, and Species of Special Concern as defined by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission).**

**POLICY 1.3.1:** Any proposed development adjacent to a designated Conservation Area shall be carefully sited and integrated into the existing landscape to have minimal visual and environmental impact on the area. Landscape treatment shall preserve significant existing vegetation to allow a gradual transition from developed areas to undeveloped areas to preserved areas. The existing vegetation shall serve to buffer proposed development in order to maintain the natural and undeveloped character of the area. Biological and hydrological impacts to designated Conservation Areas shall be avoided or minimized.

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**POLICY 1.3.2:** Before any encroachment into a designated buffer (as defined in Policy 1.2.4, above) is authorized and a plan of development is approved, the University shall review all available environmental and economic options (including the costs of mitigation). If this review indicates that encroachment into the buffer is the only viable option, then the University shall pursue all reasonable efforts to minimize and mitigate any unavoidable impacts. A permit shall be obtained from the SJRWMD if proposed improvements are within a District conservation easement.

**POLICY 1.3.3:** Copies of land development criteria and standards that reflect the policies contained in the adopted Campus Master Plan shall be provided to design consultants and appropriate University staff. The University shall standardize the construction review process to ensure adherence to appropriate Master Plan policies.

**POLICY 1.3.4:** In order to consider the feasibility of plant or animal species relocation elsewhere on the campus, the University's Facilities Planning and Construction director shall provide the Department of Landscape and Natural Resources with four (4) weeks minimum written notice of the pending development of an undeveloped natural vegetation site.

**POLICY 1.3.5:** The University shall continue to require the use of best management construction practices, including the use of soil stabilizers, silt screens, surface moisture applications, and other techniques to reduce the impact of development activities.

**POLICY 1.3.6:** During the initial planning phase of any physical changes to the campus, the University shall perform an environmental assessment and census of wildlife and plants in the area to be affected. Plants or animals identified in the "Official Lists of Endangered and Potentially Endangered Fauna and Flora in Florida," which is updated annually by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, or otherwise afforded protection by the host communities and state and federal agencies, or ranked as G1-G3 (critically imperiled globally, imperiled globally, or vulnerable globally) or S1-S3 (same, but assessed as state scale) shall be noted. Protection plans for those identified species shall be formulated consistent with those of the host communities and appropriate state and federal agencies prior to construction activities.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1.4: To conserve, appropriately use, and protect the quantity and quality of regional water sources.**

**POLICY 1.4.1:** The University shall require that appropriate methods of controlling soil erosion and sedimentation, as outlined in the University's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, be applied to help minimize the destruction of soil resources during site development. Actions are taken to fulfill each of the



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five (5) Stormwater Management Program's Minimum Control Measures that UCF is required to implement as outlined in our Phase II MS4 NOI with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Compliance is monitored continuously by UCF, and reported on biennially to the FDEP.

- Public education is promoted through various different platforms, such as brochures stocked at the kiosks in our natural areas and information on our website. Signs are also posted along environmentally sensitive areas and on the stormwater curb inlets to inform citizens that stormwater flows into a waterway and dumping is not permitted.
- Volunteer clean-up events and our adopt-a-pond and adopt-a-road programs involve the public in stormwater pollution prevention and awareness.
- Our underground stormwater infrastructure is being mapped so that we can detect and eliminate illicit discharge in a more timely manner.
- Construction site stormwater runoff is controlled through BMPs that are predetermined by the contractor and approved by UCF. Since 2011, these BMPs have been monitored monthly for proper maintenance by UCF.
- Landscape and Natural Resources runs a street sweeper to prevent pollution from entering waterways. Storm drains and baffle boxes are inspected and maintained by the UCF stormwater coordinator for debris build-up. Good housekeeping measures include natural pesticides and fertilizers used where possible. Records are kept for each application. Stormwater ponds are maintained by a contractor and monitored by UCF.

Landscape and Natural Resources shall be responsible for updating the NPDES permit and coordinating NPDES activities.

The University shall minimize stormwater-borne pollutants generated as a result of University operations and maintenance practices through adherence to General Infrastructure Element policies (see section 2.9).

**POLICY 1.4.2:** The University shall use reclaimed water, sourced from the Iron Bridge Treatment plant in Seminole County, for irrigation.

**POLICY 1.4.3:** The University shall explore every opportunity to plant native wetland species around existing and future ponds on campus throughout the planning period.

**POLICY 1.4.4:** The University shall continue to monitor and test raw well water, destined for potable use, on a daily and monthly basis per DEP requirements.

The University shall continue to monitor and test treated potable water on a daily and monthly basis per DEP requirements.

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The University shall continue to monitor Lake Claire for compliance with existing surface water quality standards. The Department of Landscape and Natural Resources will monitor for parameters identified under the University's NPDES program. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety will monitor Lake Claire for human health-based water quality criteria.

**POLICY 1.4.5:** The University shall continue to implement a comprehensive water conservation program, to include:

1. the use of treated waste water effluent for an expanded campus irrigation system and chilled water system make-up water;
2. the use of automated timers and other irrigation flow-monitoring mechanisms;
3. Florida-Friendly<sup>®</sup> landscape treatments for new building construction and new campus common areas;
4. the use of low-flow and low-flush fixtures in new building construction as appropriate; and
5. implementation of the water conservation plan submitted by the University to the SJRWMD, which is a basis for issuing the University's consumptive use permit.

**POLICY 1.4.6:** The University shall not undertake activities on campus that would contaminate groundwater sources or designated recharge areas unless provisions have been made to prevent such contamination or otherwise provide mitigation for such activities so as to maintain established water quantity and quality standards.

NOTE: Details concerning the physical operation of the University's potable, wastewater and stormwater systems are found in the General Infrastructure Element (Section 2.9).

**POLICY 1.4.7:** The University shall continue to maintain and update the University Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan. The University shall inspect and maintain all petroleum storage tanks to prevent oil discharges from occurring and to prepare the University to respond in a safe and effective manner to mitigate the impacts of discharge to navigable waterways.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1.5: To maintain or improve existing air quality on campus.**

**POLICY 1.5.1:** The University shall continue to participate in and consider those programs that will maintain or improve existing air quality on campus lands. Such programs include: the area apartment shuttles, the on-campus black and gold-line shuttles, participation in local transportation management associations, LYNX connections, and the promotion of bicycle and pedestrian circulation improvements. This includes the development of bicycle paths that would connect to existing Orange and Seminole County networks to accommodate faculty, staff, and student access. The Parking and Traffic and Master Planning Committees, along with designated University departments (such as Landscape

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and Natural Resources and Sustainability and Energy Management)) shall hold joint annual meetings to evaluate this subject.

**POLICY 1.5.2:** The University shall reduce mobile sources of air pollution through Transportation Element policies designed to discourage dependence on personal automobiles as the primary transportation mode on campus, and to encourage alternative modes of transportation on campus (i.e., public transit, bicycles, etc.) and alternative fuels as means of vehicular power (e.g., solar cells, hydrogen fuel cells, bio-fuels, and hybrids).

**POLICY 1.5.3:** The University shall minimize emissions of air pollutants by minimizing the storage and use of volatile and hazardous materials in campus buildings, as established by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety.

**POLICY 1.5.4:** The University shall determine the potential impacts on air quality before construction of parking facilities. Parking structures shall be designed to facilitate rapid ingress and egress of vehicles to minimize idling time, and to maximize air-flow through them to eliminate pockets of stagnation where pollutant levels can build up.

**POLICY 1.5.5:** The University shall continue to comply with its Air Operating Permit 0950015-009-AO. The University shall monitor and maintain records, provide compliance testing, and maintain stationary combustion equipment and pollution controls to ensure emissions are within permitted parameters. The University shall meet federal and state air quality regulations prior to construction of stationary combustion equipment.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1.6: To maximize on-campus reclamation of hazardous materials and consumer products.**

**POLICY 1.6.1:** All University buildings shall be designed with facilities to accommodate collection, storage, and disposal of recycled materials.

**POLICY 1.6.2:** The University shall coordinate on-campus recycling programs with those of local government in regard to materials collected and disposal/collection procedures.

**POLICY 1.6.3:** The University shall provide on-campus facilities for the collection and storage of hazardous materials used in University operations as required by federal, state, and local regulations.

**POLICY 1.6.4:** The University shall implement academic programs that promote awareness of environmental impacts of resource recycling.

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**POLICY 1.6.5:** The University shall continue to enforce hazardous materials handling and storage procedures per the recommendations of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety.

**POLICY 1.6.6:** The University shall use only licensed and permitted hazardous waste transportation and disposal companies.

**GOAL 2: To maintain a commitment to the conservation of its energy resources to ensure that these resources are protected for the benefit of present and future generations, while accommodating the continued development and expansion of the campus' built environment.**

**OBJECTIVE 2.1: The University shall continue to implement a variety of existing programs and conserve the use of energy on the campus through the Department of Sustainability and Energy Management.**

**POLICY 2.1.1** Energy-conserving fixtures, air conditioning, and lighting systems, as well as and other building-specific energy use and management techniques, shall continue to be a required element of all new buildings constructed on the campus.

**POLICY 2.1.2:** Where feasible, existing buildings shall be retrofitted with energy conservation lighting fixtures.

**POLICY 2.1.3:** UCF's Department of Sustainability and Energy Management shall serve as the University's principal advisor and approval authority for ensuring that the standards and practices for design, construction, and operation of all UCF facilities are consistent with LEED practices.

### **A. Executive Summary**

From the conservation element analysis in the Master Plan approved in January 2003 by the UCF Board of Trustees, the following sub-elements were included: Air Quality, Surface Water Quality, Underground and Above Ground Tanks, Toxic Waste and Hazardous Materials, and Surface and Groundwater Hydrology. Additionally, a section on natural areas was included. This data and analysis section captures the conservation efforts accomplished or needed to achieve the objectives and goals of the Conservation Section of the Master Plan.

The UCF campus contains an abundance of significant natural resource areas, many of which are protected from future development. Areas of interest include the Arboretum, Lakes Lee and Claire, as well as an extensive forested wetland system within the southeastern portion of the campus, which ultimately outfalls into the Little Econlockhatchee River. This campus was designed around a cypress wetland system located at the center of the campus adjacent to the Student Union. The majority of the campus development activity is concentrated in concentric rings around this cypress stand, protecting much of the natural features and beauty of the campus margins, especially on the north and east boundaries of the campus..

Natural areas provide not only habitat to substantial wildlife populations, but also offer attractive campus assets and recreational opportunities. The preservation of both the quantity and quality of these resources is vital to the function of these resources and to ensure the continued attractiveness of the campus.

The University has independently developed conservation strategies for wetlands, floodplains, mitigation sites, water quality, etc., as the need has arisen over the last twenty years. Currently, there are approximately 337 acres of natural uplands and wetland habitats preserved in perpetual conservation easements to the St. Johns River Water Management District. There are approximately 539 additional acres of natural areas on campus that currently have verbal commitments for long-term preservation. These additional acres include upland and wetland areas and wetland buffers. In addition, the campus contains an extensive network of stormwater ponds. These areas, in combination with the large area occupied by wetlands that, for the most part, cannot be developed, constitute a large percentage of the land occupied by the UCF campus.

The University developed a long-term strategy for the management of these natural lands. Objectives for this land management plan include:

1. conserving biodiversity within the myriad of upland and wetland communities on-site;
2. implementing monitoring methods to capture the habitat changes through time;
3. developing approaches to capitalize on the research and educational opportunities afforded by these lands;

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4. improving the recreational opportunities and aesthetic benefits of natural lands; and taking measures to ensure the maintenance of a viable interconnected network of natural lands in perpetuity, incorporating ecological principles of connectivity, and avoiding further fragmentation where possible.

To initiate this plan, the University used the following steps. UCF:

1. developed a detailed map of existing conservation lands that depicts natural communities of uplands and wetlands, as well as stormwater ponds and lakes.
2. determined what level of protection for their lands is currently in place, i.e., owned by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), conservation easements in place, verbal commitments from UCF Administration, jurisdictional wetlands, etc.;
3. identified those lands necessary for active use by the Arboretum, for stormwater storage, and connectivity (both hydraulic and dispersal);
4. mapped the extent of habitat occupied by, and suitable for, protected species.
5. defined management strategies suitable for an urban setting, including prescribed fire and mechanical management;
6. mapped the regional linkages of natural communities off of the UCF campus
7. assigned a leader to develop and maintain the conservation strategies needed to accomplish identified goals;
8. organized a committee that includes representatives from UCF Administration, UCF ecologists, environmental interest groups, Arboretum personnel, recreation specialists, planners, and others as appropriate, to outline issues and prepare maps of the overall conservation strategy; and
9. prepared a comprehensive Land Management Plan.

#### **B. Surface Water Quality**

Although formal water quality monitoring is not required by a specific regulatory agency, the departments of Landscape and Natural Resources and Environmental Health and Safety, have initiated the informal testing of water quality in campus surface waters and compilation of data by students. Data was collected over a 12-month period, beginning in 2007.

The University of Central Florida's water features include 12 constructed stormwater ponds, two natural lakes, and several other natural wetland and stream systems. These water bodies are monitored regularly by Department of Landscape and Natural Resources staff and volunteers to observe the health of each surface water feature. Periodic measurements of pond and lake systems include dissolved oxygen, temperature (both air and water), acidity (pH), conductivity, and turbidity (Table 1).



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**Table 1: Average Water Quality Data for UCF Water Bodies. Most pond samples were taken at pond outlets. Values represent averages of values from a variable number of sample dates, ranging from 20 to 29 sampling events.**

Surface water body	pH	Cond. (µs)	D.O. (mg/L)	NH4 (mg/L)	NOx (mg/L)	Total N (mg/L)	DRP (mg/L)	Total P (mg/L)
1D Pond	7.56	236	7.71	0.072	0.004	0.489	0.012	0.019
2HEX Pond	7.23	186	8.38	0.132	0.052	0.601	0.011	0.015
2H Pond	7.17	211	9.41	0.133	0.087	0.675	0.011	0.017
3A Pond	8.05	223	9.09	0.081	0.091	0.619	0.011	0.031
4L Pond	7.10	228	7.37	0.112	0.265	0.495	0.011	0.027
4M Pond	7.49	159	7.45	0.058	0.013	0.425	0.012	0.015
4R Pond	7.30	160	8.70	0.077	0.003	0.449	0.012	0.012
Bonneville Creek	6.99	129	7.15	0.125	0.077	0.580	0.012	0.020
4B2 pond	6.97	176	5.27	0.128	0.074	0.598	0.017	0.026
Lake Claire	7.37	145	7.76	0.049	0.003	0.457	0.012	0.009
Lake Lee	7.29	118	7.62	0.054	0.010	0.392	0.012	0.010
PGH Pond	7.47	220	8.17	0.056	0.005	0.658	0.014	0.024
W5 Stream	6.90	149	6.09	0.075	0.034	0.474	0.021	0.019
W9 Stream inlet	6.62	328	4.30	0.129	0.633	0.672	0.024	0.025
W9 Stream outlet	6.82	144	6.27	0.067	0.009	0.509	0.024	0.011

### C. Summary of UCF Natural Areas Surveys

A Natural Areas Annual Report (SEE APPENDIX B) is prepared to summarize results from compliance monitoring and also includes biological surveys of plants and animals, student research projects, compliance reports, and general field operations that are performed each year. An executive summary is provided below on the key factors captured in the 2013 report.

#### Invasive Species

The Department of Landscape and Natural Resources updated the UCF Weed Management Plan (APPENDIX C) identifying nuisance plant species in the natural lands. All plants list by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council 2013 List are monitored, mapped, and chemically treated yearly. Most of these invasive, exotics are being properly managed and are stable or decreasing in coverage.

#### Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals

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All listed planted and animal species that are observed during annual compliance monitoring and general field observations are documented, mapped and reported annually in the Natural Areas Annual Report (APPENDIX B).

#### Monitoring

Vegetation monitoring is completed twice a year, in June and December, for compliance monitoring required for environmental permits with the St. Johns River Water Management District. A total of thirty nine (39) vegetation plots are located in the natural areas, and data collected is also used for habitat evaluation and restoration research.

#### Compliance

Currently the Department of Landscape and Natural Resources is reporting on two mitigation projects and one wetland restoration consent order with the St. Johns River Water Management District. These reports are summarized in the Natural Areas Annual Report (APPENDIX B).

#### Gopher Tortoises

Gopher Tortoises and their burrows are surveyed and monitored periodically by the Landscape and Natural Resources department using staff and students. A tortoise burrow survey conducted in 2009 showed there was a total of 47 gopher tortoise burrows within the sampling area. A follow-up survey in 2011 showed that the number of gopher tortoise burrows had increased to a new total of 50 burrows and most recently, a 2013 survey indicates an even higher increase, with 78 burrows recorded. Using the FWC gopher tortoise density equation, data from the most recent survey indicates that there are approximately 0.66 tortoises/acre within the sampling area. According to the FWC the tortoise capacity is two (2) tortoises per acre. The current gopher tortoise density is below the FWC standard, and therefore tortoises found at other locations within UCF boundaries may be relocated to these natural areas if needed for mitigation.

### **D. Environmental Health and Safety**

#### 1. Underground and Above-ground Tanks

The University has a number of above-ground storage tanks associated with diesel generators, lubricant oil, motor vehicle oils, and used oils. The University's regulated diesel generators have double-walled above-ground fuel tanks, with containment as large as 4,500 gallons. The oil and used oil storage tanks are double-walled, ranging from 250 gallons to 1,000 gallons. The University remediated and closed several old underground storage tanks in the 1990s as well as the 140,000 gallon, above-ground heating oil tank in 2003. The current fuel island was installed in 1995 at the Facilities and Safety compound. This underground tank has a capacity of 20,000 gallons and is FDEP-compliant.

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The University continues to maintain and update its Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan. The University inspects and maintains all petroleum storage tanks to prevent oil discharges from occurring. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety provides training to prepare University personnel to respond in a safe and effective manner to mitigate the impacts of discharge to navigable waterways.

2. Hazardous Materials and Waste (received from representatives of the UCF Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)).

By virtue of its academic and research activities, the University is a user of hazardous materials. All such materials are carefully monitored and regulated such that there is no indication of any prior or current toxic waste problems on the campus property.

Environmental Management within EHS is responsible for ensuring the University's compliance with local, state, and federal environmental laws and regulations. Areas covered include hazardous materials storage, hazardous waste management, environmental assessments, site remediation, the investigation and cleanup of contaminated media on state-owned property, storage tanks, environmental health, and regulatory monitoring to track changes to environmental regulations as they relate to environmental compliance.

EHS is responsible for the safe and legal disposal of all hazardous chemicals and wastes generated by the University. Various campus departments, particularly those involved in engineering, science, or health-related research, generate hazardous waste. EHS contracts with licensed and permitted contractors for final disposal of these wastes, after they are collected, profiled, and safely characterized at the Laboratory and Environmental Support Building.

Hazardous material inventory is maintained by laboratory managers and shop managers. The EHS Chemical Safety and Security Coordinator oversees the inventory training, auditing and outside agency reporting.

The UCF Laboratory and Environmental Support Building was built in 1989 at a cost of \$214,500. Its original size was 1,824 gross square feet. A laboratory addition of 200 square feet was completed in 1994, and an additional 4,500 gross square feet was added in 2009. The expansion provides storage space for additional materials and waste associated with new research efforts and increased amounts of laboratory space on campus.

#### **Air Quality**

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) provides monitoring, recordkeeping, and compliance testing in accordance with Air Operating Permit 0950015-009-AO. The University maintains stationary combustion equipment and

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pollution controls to ensure emissions are within permitted parameters. The University obtains construction permits for new, stationary combustion equipment.

#### **E. Energy Sustainability and Maintenance and Operations Requirements**

##### **Background**

To help reduce growing energy costs, promote sustainable energy practices, and help protect our environment, the University of Central Florida has created an extensive energy policy. The policy will be reviewed periodically, with a goal of continual improvement, as public awareness, management techniques, and technology change. The policy will be updated periodically by the Department of Sustainability and Energy Management. The department welcomes comments and suggestions on this policy, and requests that input be submitted to [www.energy.ucf.edu](http://www.energy.ucf.edu).

##### **Maintenance**

It is the intent of the departments of Facility Operations, Landscape and Natural Resources, and Facilities Planning and Construction to adopt and incorporate all aspects of the University of Central Florida's Energy and Sustainability Policy into the ongoing maintenance operations programs within Facility Operations and Landscape and Natural Resources. These programs will include modification and renovation to existing buildings or structures, routine maintenance, preventive maintenance, and capital renewal. Incorporation of this policy will enhance the effective and efficient use of all resources needed for operations.

##### **Operations**

All UCF buildings and facilities, regardless of the sources of funding for their operation, will be operated in the most energy-efficient manner, without endangering public health and safety, and without diminishing the quality of education, research, and service. The University's previous Master Plan Goal, using the 2005-2006 fiscal year, was to reduce energy consumption by 20% in existing Educational and General facilities as a baseline through the 2011 calendar year. This target was met at 22.4% reduction, with a 22% electrical cost increase stated in December 2008. With evolving energy-efficient technologies, evaluation of alternative generation means, and utilizing the best practices set forth by the ASHRAE standards, the University seeks to have a 15% reduction through 2019. With a ~~20%~~ 15% reduction in energy consumption, UCF will save more than 18 million kWh annually, resulting in cost avoidance in excess of \$1.6 million per year (using FY 2012 -2013 energy costs). Additionally, attainment of a 15% reduction in energy consumption will result in annual carbon dioxide emissions being reduced by approximately 145,000 tons annually. Together, attainment of these goals will both enhance our efforts to achieve energy sustainability and significantly improve our environment.

### **Indoor Environmental Conditions**

To maintain reasonable comfort and lower energy expenditures, the University has established the following standard for cooling, heating, humidity control, and ventilation rates.

#### **OCCUPIED HOURS**

- When cooling, normal building temperature setpoints will be 74° F, and upon request, can be lowered, but not below 70° F. When heating, normal building temperature setpoints will be 68° F, and upon request, can be raised, but not above 70° F.
- Thermostat set points for corridors and large common spaces will be set at 78° F when cooling and 68° F when heating.
- Outdoor air ventilation will be set at ASHRAE 62.1 guidelines or such other higher limits as prescribed by state law or regulations.

#### **UNOCCUPIED HOURS**

- When cooling, normal building temperature setpoints will be 82° F (or HVAC OFF), and upon request can be lowered, but not below 78° F. When heating, normal building temperature setpoints will be 60° F (or HVAC OFF), and upon request can be raised, but not above 68° F.
- Intermittent operation of the A/C system during humid weather conditions on weekends and holiday periods will be permitted to maintain indoor relative humidity control.
- Thermostat setpoints for corridors and large common spaces will be set at 78° F when cooling and 68° F when heating.
- Outdoor air ventilation will be shut OFF. HVAC system start-up will begin 30 to 60 minutes prior to occupancy in order to flush accumulated air contaminants prior to occupancy.

These rules may be relaxed, as necessary, if special operating conditions, such as scientifically critical areas, so require.

Data processing and server rooms are to be conditioned to within 10% of the maximum recommended space temperature, as stated by the original equipment manufacturer. All new data centers located within the range of the central chilled water distribution loop shall have dedicated chilled water fan coil units to provide adequate space conditioning. If a new data center is not located within the chilled water loop, the space shall be conditioned utilizing a dedicated direct expansion unit without ventilation.

All exterior windows and building doors will be kept closed when cooling systems are operating.

### **Indoor Lighting**

All members of the University community should assume responsibility for turning off lights when leaving a room. Lighting levels inside buildings will always be maintained at an appropriate level in order to ensure security. All lighting, except what is required for security purposes, will be turned off when buildings are unoccupied, such as at the end of the workday. Housekeeping will turn lights back on only for the time actually required for custodial work.

All indoor lighting will be fluorescent or LED type, unless an exemption is specifically authorized for designated low-usage fixtures. All indoor lighting levels will be surveyed and recorded. The lighting levels will be adjusted to the appropriate Illumination Engineering Societies (IES) recommendation for the given task being performed in the space.

Occupancy sensors will be installed in all offices, classrooms, conference rooms and utility rooms to reduce and/or turn off lights in unoccupied areas. New energy-saving fixtures, lamps, and ballasts will be used to replace existing, less efficient lighting wherever appropriate. Existing incandescent lamps for general-purpose lighting will be phased out, and future incandescent lamps will not be installed unless exempted for extremely limited and specialized tasks. Personal desktop task lights should be fluorescent or LED type.

### **Outdoor Lighting**

Outdoor lighting levels will always be maintained at an appropriate level in order to ensure security. Outdoor illumination will be high pressure sodium, metal halide, LED, or fluorescent type, with the efficacy of the lighting system being no less than 85 lumens per watt. Outdoor lighting shall be dark-sky compliant, as indicated by manufacturer. Low wattage landscape and step lighting is exempted from the dark-sky requirement. The average lighting level will be 2 foot candles (FC), and the minimum lighting level will be 1 FC. Purely decorative lights beyond reasonable display lighting, inside or outside, will not be used anywhere on campus.

### **Convenience Appliance Use**

Portable electric heaters and fans are prohibited in UCF facilities, unless specifically required by occupants because of medical conditions, failure of the building heating, ventilating or air conditioning systems, or when building heating, ventilating or air conditioning systems cannot be adjusted to achieve minimum comfort levels within the provisions established by the indoor environmental conditions requirements. If a member of the campus community feels that a space heater is necessary for adequate warmth, this may indicate that the central heating system needs repair. Facilities Operations and Sustainability and Energy Management should be notified through the work order system if the central cooling or heating system is incapable of meeting comfort requirements.



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All staff and faculty members are requested not to use personal refrigerators. Departmental refrigerators should be located in common areas, eliminating the need for individual units in personal offices. All other personal appliances, such as coffee pots, clocks, radios, and all other peripheral office items should be kept to a minimum and turned off or unplugged at night and during weekends and holidays. UCF community members are asked to take personal responsibility for turning off and unplugging all appliances when not in use.

#### **Office Equipment**

All faculty, staff, and students should turn off personal computers when they are to be left unoccupied for extended periods of time. Additionally, all personal computers shall be configured to engage automatically low-power sleep mode in times of inactivity. Directions for implementation of this procedure are available at [www.energy.ucf.edu](http://www.energy.ucf.edu). All peripheral computer items should be left in the OFF position until needed. Computers should be shut down over the weekends, evenings, and holidays.

All new office equipment must meet or exceed the Energy Star ratings for high efficiency operation. Remaining legacy equipment should be replaced with energy-efficient equipment as funding becomes available.

#### **Monitoring of Energy Consumption**

Energy conservation programs will be most successful if progress is monitored on a regular basis. Most buildings on campus have metering devices installed. Meter readings can be used to track utility consumption to locate problem areas, as well as to determine if conservation goals are being met.

Additionally, each member of the UCF community has the opportunity to view on-line energy consumption data for specific buildings on campus through the Open Energy Information System. Each new building on campus will include a monitoring system which can be viewed on the Open Energy Information System. The Department of Sustainability and Energy Management will maintain appropriate monitoring of all energy consumption throughout the campus.

#### **Space Scheduling**

Scheduling of all spaces on campus is controlled through the Space Resource Allocation Office. During the weekends and holiday periods, there is an opportunity for significant reduction in energy consumption on campus by setting back comfort settings. Buildings which are not occupied should be placed into a set-back mode. In the set-back mode, lighting levels are reduced to minimal safety levels, and set points for cooling, heating, and ventilation systems are adjusted to a less energy-intensive level.

The Space Resource Allocation Office shall strive to consolidate classes and meetings to only core campus locations, especially during weekends and holiday periods. Classroom and meeting assignments should be made in such a way as to maximize the use of a few buildings, while leaving the majority of buildings unoccupied and available for set-back conditions.

### **Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs), as defined by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct), include any dedicated, flexible-fuel, or dual-fuel vehicle designed to operate on at least one alternative fuel. Alternative fuel vehicles come in a variety of vehicle models, such as sedans, pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles, vans, shuttle buses, medium-duty vehicles (such as delivery trucks), heavy-duty buses, and heavy-duty trucks. As vehicles are purchased, the University is required to purchase a new vehicle fleet with at least 75% being AFV. When replacing existing fleet vehicles or adding to the fleet, the University shall seek out alternative fuel, flex fuel or hybrid fueled vehicles. The Department of Sustainability and Energy Management will maintain a list of appropriate vehicles which meet the State of Florida mandates for such purchases. The list can be found at [www.energy.ucf.edu](http://www.energy.ucf.edu).

### **Awareness and Education**

The Department of Sustainability and Energy Management will foster and support the establishment and continued growth of heightened energy awareness on campus. Educational publications, promotional materials, updated websites, and programs for faculty, staff, and students will keep the entire UCF community involved in the ongoing efforts of energy conservation. The department shall solicit and evaluate feedback from faculty, staff, and students to monitor the effects of energy conservation efforts. Training on new energy management concepts and programs will be provided, as necessary.

The Department of Sustainability and Energy Management will maintain the Energy Sustainability Plan, and notify the UCF community when significant changes occur. Suggestions for additional energy saving initiatives can be submitted at [www.energy.ucf.edu](http://www.energy.ucf.edu).

### **Building Construction and Renovation Requirements**

#### **Background**

As a leader in higher education, the University of Central Florida has made a commitment to being excellent stewards of environmental resources. The construction of new facilities, renovation of existing facilities, and continued maintenance operations must demonstrate high standards of environmental stewardship. Therefore, the

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requirements outlined below represent the minimum acceptable standards for any UCF facility in order to achieve desired levels of energy stewardship.

#### **Implementation**

It is the responsibility of the architect/engineer (A/E) to insure the requirements established within the “Construction Requirements” of the Energy and Sustainability Policy are achieved. It is expected that the A/E be both knowledgeable of, and in full compliance with, the “Construction Requirements.” The A/E should contact the Department of Sustainability and Energy Management to review these requirements and to address any questions.

The A/E should identify and make recommendations to incorporate construction design, techniques, products, or other design or construction-related methods and principles which will further enhance operational sustainability and reduce energy consumption of the construction project. The A/E will forward any recommendations to the Department of Sustainability and Energy Management, which will then coordinate a review with the Vice President (VP) and Associate Vice President (AVP) of Administration and Finance, the Director of Facilities Planning and Construction, the Director of Landscape and Natural Resources, the Director of Environmental Health and Safety, and the Director of Facilities Operations to determine which recommendations, if any, will be incorporated within the design.

At the completion of schematic design, conceptual design, 50% construction document and 90% construction document phases, the A/E will provide UCF with a comprehensive report detailing the accomplishment of the “Construction Requirements” within each phase of the design process. In preparing the report, the A/E will follow the format provided by Facilities Planning and Construction.

The A/E will forward the report to the Department of Sustainability and Energy Management, which will coordinate a review of the report with the VP and AVP of Administration and Finance, the Director of Facilities Planning and Construction, the Director of Landscape and Natural Resources, the Director of Environmental Health and Safety, and the Director of Facilities Operations. Where the report is incomplete or the “Construction Requirements” are not fully incorporated within the design phase, the A/E will (at their cost) complete the report and make revisions to the design phase being reviewed, incorporating any missing items in the “Construction Requirements.”

All new construction shall be registered with the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and meet a minimum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating, utilizing the NC 2.2 rating (or the most current). Once the project is completed, it must receive a minimum of Silver certification.

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Furthermore, the following LEED credits are required (not optional), as they have been identified as crucial to meeting UCF's goal to construct more energy-efficient and sustainable buildings:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Credit SS 6.1  | Stormwater management, rate, and quantity           |
| 2. Credit SS 6.2  | Stormwater management, treatment                    |
| 3. Credit SS 7.2  | Heat island effect, roof                            |
| 4. Credit WE 1.1  | Water efficient landscaping                         |
| 5. Credit WE 1.2  | Water efficient landscaping                         |
| 6. Credit WE 3.1  | Water use reduction 20%                             |
| 7. Credit WE 3.2  | Water use reduction 30%                             |
| 8. Credit EA 1    | Optimize energy (minimum 5 points must be achieved) |
| 9. Credit EA 3    | Additional commissioning                            |
| 10. Credit EA 5   | Measurement and verification                        |
| 11. Credit IE 1   | Carbon dioxide monitoring                           |
| 12. Credit IE 7.1 | Thermal comfort                                     |
| 13. Credit IE 7.2 | Thermal comfort, permanent monitoring               |

The remaining credits needed to achieve the Silver rating will be determined by the design team for each project, and approved by the Department of Sustainability and Energy Management.

Facilities Operations plays a vital role in the implementation and maintenance of the standards and practices established by the Energy and Sustainability Policy. Inclusion of these standards and practices for design and construction specified within the policy will ensure attainment of energy and sustainability standards throughout the process of building modifications or renovations performed as minor projects or Facilities Improvements projects. The use of proactive, routine maintenance, preventive maintenance and capital renewal programs will enhance and continue the benefits derived from energy and sustainability practices incorporated by this policy.



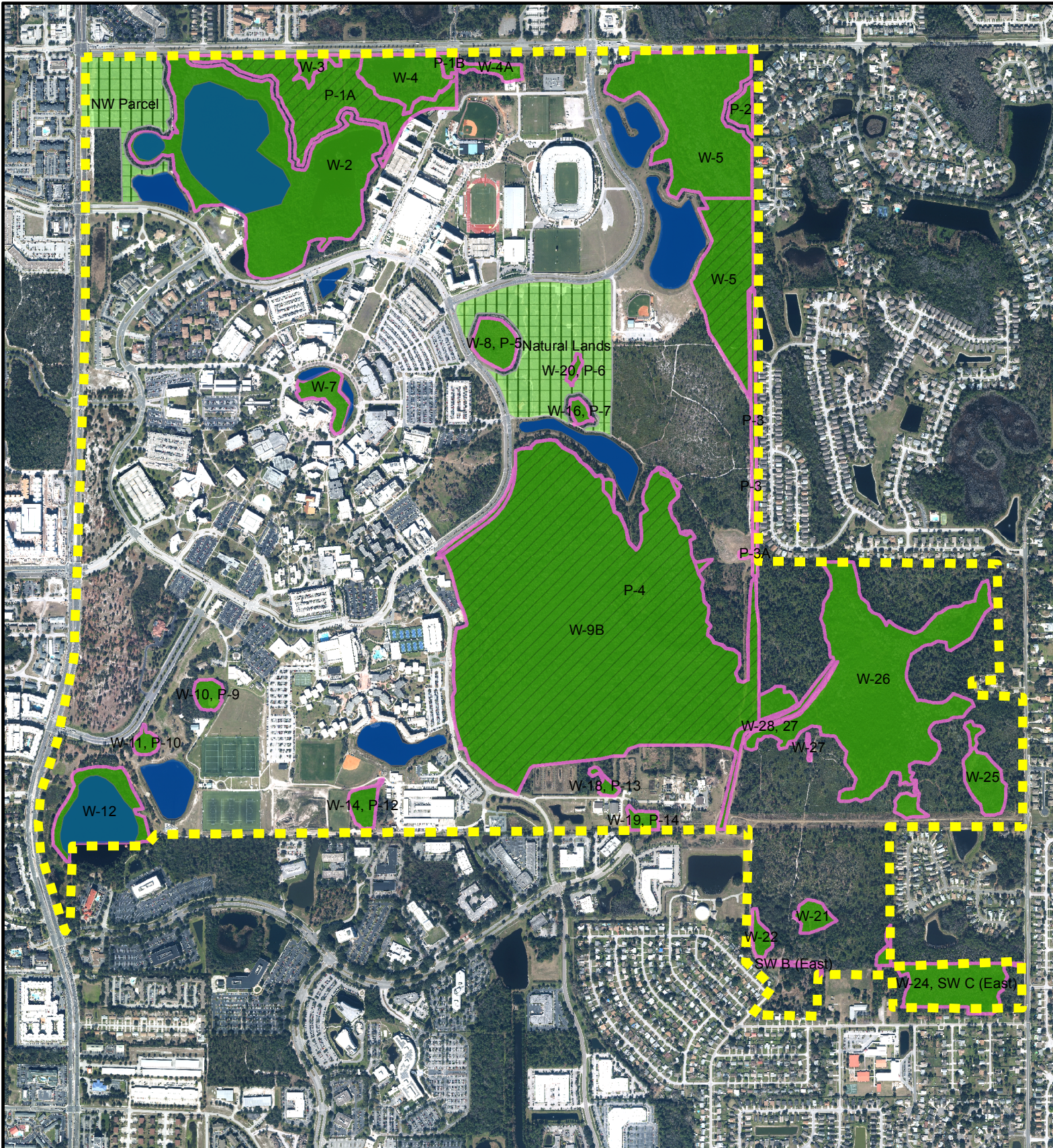


Figure 13-1

# Conservation

Comprehensive Master Plan Update  
**University of Central Florida**  
 Orlando, Florida  
 2015-2025

## Legend

- Upland
- Conservation Easement
- Wetland
- Lakes & Ponds
- Boundary



All maps are diagrammatic and conceptual. The various areas shown are approximate and not to survey accuracy. The intent of these maps is to illustrate general areas of existing or potential use.

Rev. 20141120

