



University of Florida Comprehensive Master Plan, 2005-2015
Conservation Study Committee

Facilities Planning & Construction, 226 Stadium
March 17, 2005
1:00 –3:00 PM

AGENDA (times are approximate)

1:00	I. Welcome and Introductions	Information
1:03	II. Adoption of Agenda	Approval
1:05	III. Adoption of Minutes	Approval
1:10	IV. Definitions and Guiding Principles	Approval

The Conservation Study Committee previously approved definitions and guiding principles for Conservation Areas, Green Space Buffers and Urban Parks. These were subsequently presented to the Master Plan Steering Committee, that suggested modifications as presented below. At this time, the CSC is being asked to approve these changes.

Conservation Areas: In accordance with a Conservation Land Management Plan and policies of the Campus Master Plan, this land use category identifies areas on campus that shall be preserved and managed to protect natural features including topography, soil conditions, archaeological sites, plant and animal species, wildlife habitats and wetlands. Allowable uses in Conservation areas include natural habitat preservation, water resource protection, teaching and research activities and nature parks. Stormwater facilities and utility conveyances shall be allowable on conditions of minimizing and mitigating any impacts.

Green Space Buffers: In accordance with policies of the Campus Master Plan, this land use category identifies areas on campus that shall be maintained as buffers to provide set-back, vegetative screening, fencing and/or other means of separating adjacent land uses. Such buffers may be designated adjacent to non-university properties, designated Conservation Areas, roadways or major utility infrastructure. Stormwater facilities and underground utility conveyances shall be allowable within a Green Space Buffer on conditions of minimizing and mitigating any impacts.

Urban Parks: In accordance with policies of the Campus Master Plan, this land use category identifies areas on campus that shall be maintained as Urban Park resources to provide vital green spaces within built areas and connections between built areas. Urban Parks may be designated at significant existing or proposed gardens, greenways, lawns and plazas. Stormwater facilities and underground utility conveyances shall be allowable within Urban Parks on conditions of minimizing and mitigating any impacts.

Guiding Principles for the management of outdoor spaces on the campus, designated as Conservation, Urban Park and Green Buffer land uses are as follows:

1. *Protect significant environmental resources and habitats including wetlands, water bodies, rare plants, heritage trees, and Federal or State listed species;*
2. *Pursue a policy of zero net loss of biodiversity;*
3. *Provide, at a minimum, zero net loss of campus-wide conservation acreage from that designated in the 2000-2010 campus master plan;*
4. *Provide opportunities for people to ~~interact with~~ access and experience conservation areas, green buffers and urban parks adjacent to already developed areas of campus;*
5. *Provide opportunities for conservation areas, green buffers and urban parks to be utilized for teaching and research purposes;*
6. *Provide appropriate places for people to congregate or move through;*
7. *Provide buffers or other transitional features between conservation areas and built environments; and*
8. *Be consistent with conservation land management strategies that are appropriate to each area's resources and location.*
9. *Address policies for the appropriate allowance of utilities and stormwater facilities.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The Conservation Study Committee approves the definitions and guiding principles as amended.

1:25 V. West Woods Land Use Designation Develop Recommendations

The forested lands located along SW 34th Street north of Radio Road currently contain 1.8 acres of designated Conservation Area, also described in the 2000-2010 Campus Master Plan as Preservation Area 20. The area is primarily upland with a small wetland resulting from parking lot and roadway stormwater runoff. The 2000-2010 Campus Master Plan identifies most of the adjacent area, both wooded and built, as the site of future housing. Staff anticipates that the 2005-2010 Campus Master Plan will retain this recommendation. At this time, the Conservation Study Committee is being asked whether the existing 1.8 acres should remain in Conservation land use, or be changed to the new Green Space Buffer. The primary difference will be whether a Conservation Land Management Plan is adopted for the area.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The Conservation Study Committee approves changing the future land use designation for the area known as West Woods from Conservation to Green Space Buffer.

1:45 VI. Conservation Areas for Creeks, Sink Holes and Ponds Approval

In addition to large tracts of conservation lands, the University of Florida campus also contains smaller water features that are integrated with the built environment on campus. While these areas do not have the same management needs as larger tracts, they still require careful consideration particularly with regard to water resources. In general, management strategies will be similar for these various creeks and water bodies. Staff is recommending that these water features and a twenty-five foot buffer around them be included in the Conservation Area future land use, except where encroachment already exists. The buffer would be measured from the surveyed wetland (water) edge as it exists in 2005 mapping data. Furthermore, staff recommends that the Conservation Land Management Plan develop one set of management strategies that apply to all Conservation Area creeks on campus, and one set of management strategies that applies to all Conservation Area sink holes and water bodies on campus. Water features that exist in larger named conservation areas may have additional specific management strategies that relate to the larger natural area in which they exist. The water features recommended to be included as Conservation Areas are:

Sinkholes/Water Bodies

Graham Pond, Dairy Pond, Ocala Pond, and Gator Pond

Creeks

Diamond Creek, Jennings Creek, Tumblin Creek, and Hume Creek

Of these areas, only Graham Pond, Diamond Creek, Jennings Creek and Tumblin Creek are currently contained within a Conservation Area. Additional landscaped or lawn open spaces around these water features may be designated as Green Buffers or Urban Parks on the Future Land Use map, and will be brought to the CSC at a later time for review and approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The Conservation Committee approves the inclusion of the following water features and a 25-foot buffer around them to be included in the Conservation Area Future Land Use designation: Graham Pond, Dairy Pond, Ocala Pond, Gator Pond, Diamond Creek, Jennings Creek, Tumblin Creek and Hume Creek. Additionally, the CSC requests that the Conservation Land Management Plan include a set of management strategies for all Conservation Area sink holes and water bodies on campus; and a set of management strategies for all Conservation Area creeks on campus.

2:25 VII. Conservation Boundary Adjustments Approval
▪ **Solar Park Pond East and Newins-Ziegler Sink**

At the recent CSC meetings, members discussed and approved redesignation of boundaries for 15 Conservation Areas. The Conservation Study Committee is being asked to approve boundary adjustments for two remaining areas at this time. The areas are summarized below.

Area	Preservation Designation, 2000-2010	Conservation Land Acreage, 2000-2010	Recommended Conservation Land Acreage, 2005-2015
Solar Park Pond East	Wetland Preservation (W6)	0	3.3
Newins-Ziegler Sink	Preservation Area 17	0.9	1.1 (+.2)

(NOTE: Acreages include water bodies) Committee Members are encouraged to visit the sites prior to the meeting and to view maps and data at the website http://www.facilities.ufl.edu/cp/clmp_plans.htm. Members that attended the January meeting, should have received the draft CALM Plan maps and data on a CD. If you did not receive the CD and have trouble accessing the webpage data, please contact Erik Lewis at 392-1256 or etlewis@ufl.edu.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The Conservation Study Committee approves the Conservation area boundary modifications as presented for Solar Park Pond East and Newins-Ziegler Sink.

2:55 VIII. Confirm April 7 from 1:00-3:00 for next meeting Approval

3:00 IX. Adjourn