

13.0

CONSERVATION

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To appropriately manage native vegetative communities and wildlife habitats, campus expansion at FIU will adhere to local, state, and federal regulations, aligning with our strategic focus on environmental resilience. Where practicable, our efforts will conform to various agency guidelines and emphasize the use of native vegetation. We will strive to avoid or minimize wetland impacts and establish upland buffers adjacent to wetlands, implementing mitigation strategies where unavoidable impacts occur. Where possible, undeveloped upland habitats will be preserved in their natural state, protecting biodiversity and supporting the health and wellness of our campus communities.

Natural resources are present at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Engineering Center, and Biscayne Bay Campus [Figures 13.1, 13.2, and 13.3]. These resources, many of which are protected, will continue to be preserved to support the environmental and educational goals of FIU, integrating with our commitment to sustainability and research innovation. Parcels will be assessed for their ecological value and potential for protection or development, ensuring that our development is not only sensitive but also strategically aligned with our mission to enhance natural resources alongside academic and infrastructural growth. To minimize adverse impacts to local air quality and maintain existing good air quality conditions, FIU will manage its stationary sources of air discharges through






an organized preventative maintenance and inspection program. Points of discharges such as boilers and laboratory flues will be inspected regularly to ensure that their operations are within applicable regulatory standards. Implementation of preventative maintenance of stationary sources will reduce the probability of unexpected releases of air pollutants as well as establish a reliable management tool. It is also recommended that FIU follow the nine landscape principles of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program as detailed by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Miami-Dade County provides landscape assessments as part of its Landscape Irrigation Rebate Program. In addition, upgraded fixtures by FIU may qualify for rebates when certified by the Miami-Dade County Water Conservation Program.

Where possible, less hazardous materials will be substituted for more hazardous materials. The purpose of this replacement is to reduce the potential for more serious accidents affecting the environment, reduce the generation rate of hazardous waste on campus, and reduce the volume of hazardous wastes contributed by the University to landfills elsewhere. It is an objective of the University to minimize hazardous waste accumulation points on campus and implement a system of Best Management Practices to safely manage these locations.

Potential Arboretum Exhibitions - MMC

Key ID	Exhibit Name
01	Education
02	Biomimicry
03	Medicinal
04	Research
05	Social
06	Food & Crop
07	Ordeal
08	Literature
09	Int'l Relations
10	Therapeutic
11	Sacred
12	Musical
13	Honors

LEGEND	
	PROPERTY LINE
	POTENTIAL ARBORETUM EXHIBITION
	SPECIAL PURPOSE LANDSCAPE
	EXISTING TREES
	FIU BUILDING

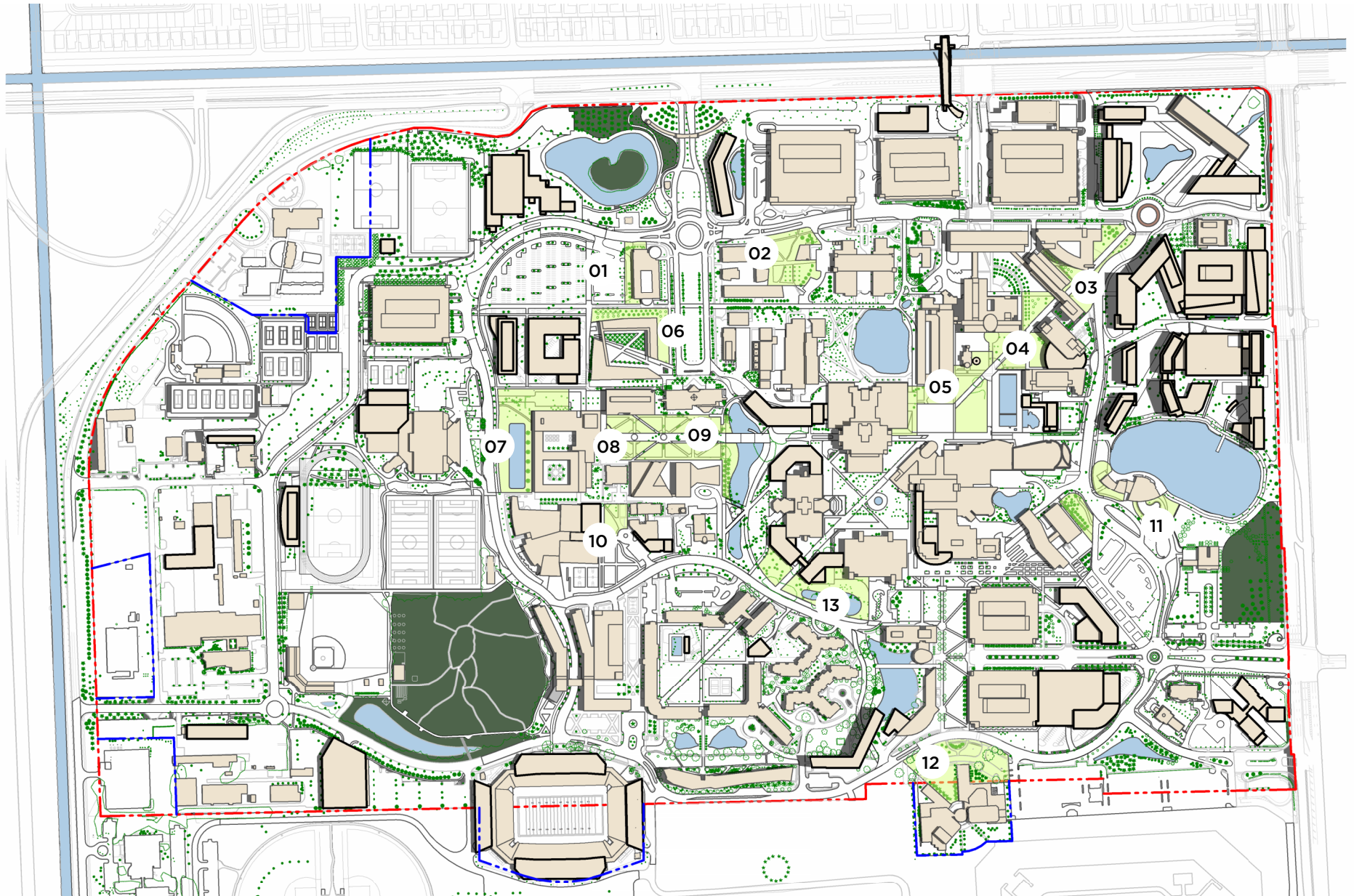
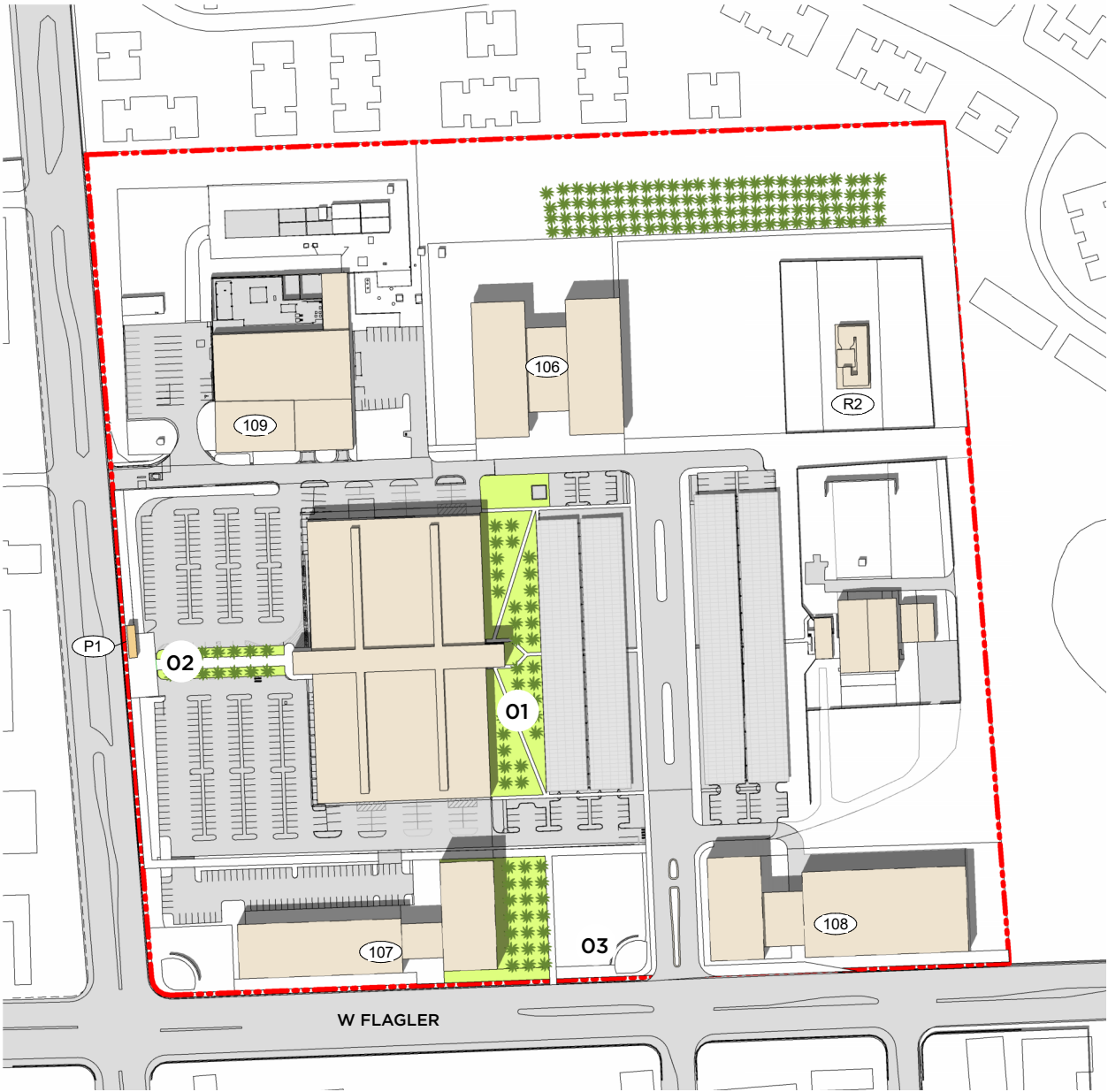


FIGURE 13.1 - MMC 2035 PLAN - CONSERVATION

Engineering Center

Conservation at EC proposes to allow for continued research activity that avoids negative impacts to existing natural resources including the palm tree nursery, central campus greenspace and perimeter landscape buffer against neighboring areas.



Potential Arboretum Exhibitions

Key ID	Exhibit Name
01	Biomimicry, Computation
02	Environmental Engineering
03	Construction

LEGEND

- - - PROPERTY LINE
- POTENTIAL ARBORETUM EXHIBITION
- ✿ EXISTING TREES
- FIU BUILDING

FIGURE 13.2 - EC 2035 PLAN - CONSERVATION

Biscayne Bay Campus

Wetland and mangrove restoration must be carefully planned to accommodate future research facilities and boardwalks before excavating land for wetlands and planting mangroves.

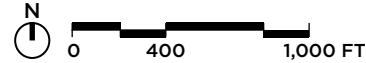


Potential Arboretum Exhibitions

Key ID	Exhibit Name
01	Gastronomy, Hospitality, & Ecotourism
02	Hispanic & International Heritage, Welcome
03	Events, Initiation, Lifelong Learning
04	Medicinal, Therapeutic, & Wellness
05	Coastal and Marine Affairs, Beach Ecology & Forests
06	Altered Reality, Scholarship, Book Arts, Communications
07	Conservation



FIGURE 13.3 - BBC 2035 PLAN - CONSERVATION



GOAL 1

Conserve and enhance existing natural resources and ecosystems at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus.

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

**Objective 1.1
Implementation and Management of Natural Resource Policies: Implement and manage natural resource policies through use of appropriate University faculty and staff.**

Policy 1.1.1

The University shall endeavor to develop a resource of knowledgeable FIU experts to oversee issues relating to development and conservation of University natural resources. It shall be the task of the individuals to oversee the implementation of the coastal resource management policies defined in the Conservation Element of this Campus Master Plan. It shall also be the task of those individuals to review these policies and prepare any necessary additional policies, guidelines, procedures, and implementation schedules within one year of the adoption of this Campus Master Plan. The adopted Campus Master Plan shall be amended as necessary to incorporate those guidelines, procedures, and implementation schedules.

The University shall provide an administrative staff person of the FIU Department of Environmental Health and Safety to serve as

Environmental Coordinator to manage these activities. The Environmental Coordinator shall periodically review proposed University improvements and activities to ensure University compliance with the policies defined in the Conservation and Coastal Management Elements of this Campus Master Plan. The Environmental Coordinator shall also periodically review host community, state, and federal conservation and coastal management policies to ensure University compliance with these policies.

Objective 1.2

Maintain, Protect, and Enhance Natural Resources:

Maintain and enhance existing natural resources on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus.

FIU is proud to be a recognized member of Tree Campus USA, a status it has achieved annually since 2010. It is committed to effectively managing its tree canopy, expanding engaged teaming within the College of the Arts, Sciences and Education, and fostering heat island reduction. In concert with increasing the sustainable maintenance and operations of its campuses, FIU supports opportunities to become an educational arboretum. As curriculum and research are directly linked to existing trees and vegetation, augmented planting is identified, and funding is established, an arboretum can be identified and approved for accreditation.

Policy 1.2.1

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

The University shall review, on an annual basis, the state, regional, and Federal regulations and guidelines governing the designation and delineation of environmentally sensitive lands. These regulations and guidelines include, but are not limited to, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Should changes in regulations or guidelines result in the designation of portions of the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and/or Biscayne Bay Campus as environmentally sensitive lands, the University shall modify existing policies or develop new policies to protect these sensitive lands and incorporate those policies into the Campus Master Plan within three months of the identification of the environmentally sensitive land.

Policy 1.2.2

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

The University shall survey the precise locations of native vegetative associations prior to the construction of any buildings, roadways, pathways or other developments that may impact these vegetative associations. Prior to final site planning, the University shall identify those areas to be impacted and determine if minor changes in the proposed locations of roads or buildings can minimize impacts on these areas.

Policy 1.2.3

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

In order to protect native vegetative communities, the University shall endeavor to provide for a development buffer of at least 25 feet between conservation areas (Figure 13.1, 13.2, and 13.3) and construction projects, including but not limited, to buildings, roadways, pathways, and recreation facilities.

Policy 1.2.4

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Consistent with requirements of Chapter 24 of the Code, prior to development or redevelopment activities, the University shall remove all prohibited and controlled invasive plant species from natural vegetation all areas and from landscaped areas. Priority shall be given to removing exotic invasive species from those native vegetation associations indicated in Figures 13.1 and 13.3. Removal of exotic species shall be carried out in a manner that minimizes impacts to native vegetation areas. Where necessary, areas from which exotic invasive plants have been removed shall be replanted with appropriate native plant species.

Removal of exotic invasive species from natural vegetation areas and from landscaped areas shall be carried out quarterly during the first year and yearly thereafter, unless monitoring activities indicate that more frequent removal is necessary.

Policy 1.2.5

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS:

To help curtail their further spread into mangrove areas and other natural vegetation areas on campus, the University shall continue a program of removing large stands of Australian pines. Removal of Australian pines shall be carried out in a manner that minimizes impacts to native vegetation associations. Areas from which Australian pines have been removed shall be re-vegetated in a manner consistent with the 16.0 Landscape Design Guidelines Element of this Master Plan. The use of native plant species in the landscaping of these areas shall be encouraged. The choice of native plant species shall be consistent with those recommended by FIU Facilities Planning and Construction and Landscape Architect staff. In no case shall those plant species listed in the Miami-Dade County Prohibited Plant Species List be used in any University landscaping or enhancement planting.

Because the removal of Australian pines may result in soil disturbance and provide colonization opportunities for other invasive/exotic plants, replanting of landscape vegetation shall immediately follow the removal of Australian pines. A timetable for removal of Australian pines shall be determined by Facilities Management.

Policy 1.2.6

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

An administrative staff person of the FIU Department of Environmental Health and

Safety shall establish a protocol for monitoring the establishment and spread of invasive/exotic plant species. Monitoring activities shall be carried out quarterly. If monitoring activities indicate that invasive/exotic species are becoming re-established, they should be removed using the methods outlined in 16.0 Landscape Design Guidelines Element Policy 1.5.4.

Policy 1.2.7

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

The University shall use native plant species in restoration/enhancement planting of native vegetative communities. The use of native plant species in general campus landscaping shall be encouraged. The choice of native plant species shall be consistent with those recommended by the University's Environmental Studies staff, Fairchild Tropical Gardens staff, or other individuals or agencies competent in the selection, use, and maintenance of vegetation native to south Florida. Where restoration or enhancement planting is instituted, the species chosen shall be those that are naturally found in the particular vegetative community being restored or enhanced.

Policy 1.2.8

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

The University shall use native plant species in new development, and where root systems are compatible, extend native vegetative communities up to buildings.

**Objective 1.3
Maintain and Enhance Existing Wetland and Aquatic Natural Resources:**

Maintain and enhance current wetland, littoral zone, and aquatic natural resources. For the Biscayne Bay Campus, also see Goals, Objectives, and Policies in the Coastal Management Element.

Policy 1.3.1

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

The University shall prepare and implement a plan to enhance the ecological and aesthetic values of campus lakes, aligning with our strategic goals to promote environmental resilience and sustainability. This plan includes grading lake shores to establish littoral zones, planting native littoral vegetation, and minimizing or eliminating the use of fertilizers to prevent eutrophication, thereby supporting our commitment to maintaining biodiversity and enhancing water quality. In areas where littoral zones are impractical, we will plant native groundcovers or shrubs to serve as buffers, further protecting our lakes. The use of phosphate-containing fertilizers around these lake areas will be prohibited, reinforcing our efforts to preserve vital ecosystems and ensure clean water resources, which also supports our focus on health and innovative environmental technologies.

Policy 1.3.2

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS:

Maintain at least a 25-foot buffer zone between future planned buildings, ancillary structures, access roads, mangrove areas and other natural areas, slated for preservation (see Figure 13.3).

Policy 1.3.3

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS:

Protect and enhance existing shallow-water communities and seagrass beds in the waters of Biscayne Bay fronting the campus by reducing the impacts of stormwater runoff to these areas.

Policy 1.3.4

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS:

Protect the shoreline stabilization project carried out by the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) in 1989 and 1991. Mangrove fringe should be widened in strategic areas.

Policy 1.3.5

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS:

Complete ongoing mitigation programs and protect new and ongoing mitigation programs.

Objective 1.4

Campus Setting and the Natural Environment:

Create an aesthetically pleasing, tropical educational setting through planting of xerophytic vegetation, using native species where possible, which will link natural areas on campus and provide for a harmonious transition from developed to natural areas.

Policy 1.4.1

MODESTO A. MAIDIQUE CAMPUS:

Use native vegetation to link natural areas on campus. This should be made consistent with objectives of the 3.0 Urban Design Element.

Policy 1.4.2

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Strongly encourage the use of native xerophytic plant species for use in general landscaping and in the creation and enhancement of wildlife habitat. Limit the use of exotic species in general campus landscaping. Use of native species will reduce landscape water demands, will reduce seed sources of potentially invasive exotic species, and provide a natural setting that is indicative of a tropical environment.

Policy 1.4.3

The University shall endeavor to prevent any harm to its natural campus environment from construction activities. Any damage occurring

will be repaired to its former state by those responsible parties.

Policy 1.4.4

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS:

The Environmental Coordinator shall, in cooperation with Oleta River State Recreation Area personnel, develop a plan to link mangrove areas in the northeast portion of campus with the Oleta River State Recreation Area by means of littoral zone vegetation (along the shoreline) or by plantings of strand vegetation immediately behind shoreline stabilization structures (see Figure 13.3). The Environmental Coordinator shall also encourage Oleta River State Recreation Area personnel to develop a plan for removal of Australian pines from the portion of the Oleta River State Recreation Area adjacent to Biscayne Bay Campus.

Objective 1.5

Protection of Listed Species:

Protect federal, state, and local listed species and their habitat from negative impacts of University activities.

Policy 1.5.1

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

During the initial planning phase of any physical changes to either campus, the University shall perform a census of wildlife and plants in the area to be affected. Plants or animals identified in the “Florida’s Endangered

and Threatened Species”, which is updated annually by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, or otherwise afforded protection by the host communities and local, state, and federal agencies, shall be noted. Protection plans for listed species shall be formulated consistent with those of the host communities and appropriate local, state, and federal agencies.

Policy 1.5.2

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

University personnel shall, when encountering listed species, follow procedures and seek consultation with the appropriate agencies as identified in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Wildlife Methodology Guidelines (1999).

Objective 1.6

Minimize Impacts of Campus Operational and Maintenance Activities:

Establish University-wide policies to minimize the impacts of campus operational and maintenance activities on water quality, and to identify hazardous material sources and reduce their negative impacts.

Policies should include the review of cleaning products used inside buildings and safe alternatives.

The University should also implement a plan to transition from gas-powered facilities carts to electric carts on all campuses.

Policy 1.6.1

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

To limit negative impacts of campus activities on soils, wetlands, hydrology, and hydroperiod, the University staff coordinator shall, on an annual basis, review existing and proposed University activities for compliance with the surface water policies of the South Florida Water Management District.

Policy 1.6.2

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

The University shall continue to test stormwater runoff and groundwater quarterly for compliance with standards set by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the South Florida Water Management District, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Failure to meet relevant standards for stormwater runoff shall result in an assessment of probable causes and the production and implementation of a plan to improve the quality of runoff or groundwater.

Policy 1.6.3

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS:

The University shall continue monitoring and logging of results of sampling and analysis of petroleum tanks and their associated wells that are housed in the Central Utilities compound.

Policy 1.6.4

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

The University shall continue to monitor water quality in the lakes, canals, and mangrove areas on each campus on a quarterly basis. Should the water quality fall below the standards set by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the South Florida Water Management District, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an assessment of probable causes of pollution shall be performed and a plan developed and implemented to limit the point and non-point sources of pollution.

Policy 1.6.5

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

The University shall maintain a record of types and amounts of hazardous, toxic, and medical wastes that are generated within the University and a record of hazardous, toxic, and medical waste that are collected by the Environmental Health and Safety Staff. The University shall also maintain a record of the types and amounts of hazardous, toxic, and medical waste that waste disposal companies collect. Records shall be kept of the name of the waste disposal companies and the name of the driver for each pick-up. The University shall review hazardous and toxic materials and reduce their use whenever possible.

Policy 1.6.6

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Handling, data records, storage, and disposal requirements for radioactive waste generated at Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus and the Engineer Center shall be in compliance with local, regional, state, and federal regulations.

Policy 1.6.7

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

At present, all hazardous materials for both campuses are handled under four EPA Hazardous Waste Generator numbers. The University should investigate the possibility of operating under more than one number to ensure compliance with requirements associated with satellite collection areas.

Policy 1.6.8

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Eliminate the use of synthetic chemical pesticides and herbicides in landscape maintenance and minimize or eliminate impacts on water quality.

Objective 1.7

Maintain and Enhance Air Quality:

Establish a program to maintain high air quality standards on campus, both within and outside of buildings and parking structures.

Policy 1.7.1

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

The University shall monitor both indoor and outdoor air quality, as necessary. Outdoor sites to be sampled should include parking lots and congested intersections. Failure to meet air quality standards accepted by the State of Florida shall result in an assessment of probable causes and the production and implementation of a plan to improve and maintain air quality.

Policy 1.7.2

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Minimize emissions of air pollutants from and within buildings on campus through the installation of appropriate filtering devices on fume hoods and by minimizing the storage and use of volatile and hazardous materials in campus buildings.

Policy 1.7.3

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Determine potential impacts on air quality before construction of parking structures. Design parking structures to facilitate rapid ingress and egress of vehicles to minimize idling time, and design such structures to maximize air flow through them and eliminate pockets of stagnation where levels of pollutants can build up.

Policy 1.7.4

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Encourage and facilitate non-polluting transportation alternatives on campus including pedestrian and bicycle access. Sidewalks should be designed to facilitate and encourage foot traffic between buildings, and to maximize accessibility.

GOAL 2

Minimize resource utilization to conserve and appropriately use energy while prohibiting campus procedures that have adverse environmental effects.

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Objective 2.1

Water Conservation:

Establish measures that reduce water utilization.

Policy 2.1.1

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

FIU shall conserve water and reduce chemical use through the use of Florida Friendly Landscape design principles, which include but are not limited to:

- Drought tolerant and native plant materials;
- EPA WaterSense certified irrigation fixtures;
- Zoned irrigation systems;
- Moisture sensors, rain switches and EPA WaterSense certified smart controllers;
- Drought tolerant ground cover;
- Canopy trees; and
- Soil amendments and mulch to enable soils to retain moisture.

Policy 2.1.2

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Retrofit existing campus buildings with water-saving devices. Requires that EPA WaterSense certified fixtures and other water-saving devices be installed in all future buildings.

Policy 2.1.3

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

If feasible, expand the use of filtered wastewater (“reclaimed water”) for landscape irrigation.

Policy 2.1.4

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

FIU will promote Florida Friendly principles through the use of drought-tolerant landscape species, the use of irrigation systems that conserve the use of potable and non-potable water supplies, and restrictions on the amount of lawn areas. FIU will adhere to Miami Dade County’s year round landscape irrigation rules as outlined in Section 32-8.2. Permanent year round landscape irrigation restrictions and utilize weather based smart controllers to maximize water savings from irrigation.

Objective 2.2

Solid Waste Recycling and Resource Conservation: Support a culture of reducing waste, recycling, and reuse.

Policy 2.2.1

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

A general recycling program for paper, aluminum, glass, etc. shall be instituted and recycling goals for proportions of materials recycled established. All entities on campus (including food vendors/cafeterias, etc.)

should be required to subscribe to this program and compliance with the program should be monitored on a regular basis. Work toward establishing this policy at Modesto A. Maidique Campus has been initiated by the Environmental Studies Program, and further efforts in this regard should be coordinated with it. See Element 9: General Infrastructure for additional recycling program goals, policies and objectives.

Policy 2.2.2

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

State, regional, and local standards for waste management shall be reviewed at least annually. Solid waste management on all campuses shall be in compliance with state, regional, and local standards.

Policy 2.2.3

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

The University shall contract with a licensed recycling contractor to provide for the collection for recycling, at minimum, of paper, aluminum, plastic, glass, and paper. Separate refuse containers, as called for by the recycling contractor, shall be made available in all buildings, courtyards, open space areas, etc. on all campuses.

Policy 2.2.4

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Where feasible, recycled paper products shall be purchased for University use, including those used in food service.

Objective 2.3

Energy Conservation and Efficiency:

Develop a program to conserve and appropriately use energy including implementation of the Climate Action Plan (a responsibility as a signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment) and strategies to meet USGBC standards to target LEED Gold or equivalent as a minimum requirement.

Policy 2.3.1

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Retrofit existing buildings with energy-conserving lighting fixtures. Require all new buildings to be equipped with energy efficient lighting devices. Design new buildings to take maximum advantage of available natural lighting.

Policy 2.3.2

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Where feasible, buildings on campus shall be fitted with devices to automatically reduce energy use in rooms and buildings not in use, including programmable thermostats for air conditioners and sensors that automatically turn off lights.

Policy 2.3.3

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Expand opportunities on campus for renewable energy sources, including use of photovoltaic panels. Consider developing a program for retrofitting PV panels on existing buildings during re-roofing projects.

Policy 2.3.4

UNIVERSITY-WIDE:

Provide energy conservation design in new and renovated buildings per USGBC LEED Gold criteria as minimum level of performance.

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