

**RECREATION & OPEN
SPACE**

80

8.0 RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

Six categories of open space identified in this Campus Master Plan — multipurpose open space, athletics, special purpose landscape, recreational open space, courtyard/plaza, and campus gateways—are integral to our strategic goals of enhancing the FIU experience and fostering mission-aligned engagement and partnerships. These spaces are vital components of our urban design and open space framework for each campus. To conserve natural resources and support our sustainability objectives, development encroachment on these areas is discouraged. Multipurpose open spaces enhance pedestrian connectivity and contribute to environmental sustainability by providing continuous natural areas with native trees that mitigate the heat island effect and create wildlife corridors.

The 2035 Master Plan Update underscores the need for additional on-campus recreation facilities and the preservation of open space to support these functions. At the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, where land is at a premium for academic uses, recreational activities are constrained to the western edge, posing challenges to expanding on-campus recreational facilities. These limitations underscore the need to pursue off-campus joint use facilities to maintain our commitment to student engagement, success, and wellness, essential for keeping students connected to the University and active in both intercollegiate and intramural activities.

Modesto A. Maidique Campus

Currently, the majority of recreational facilities are located at the western edge of campus. In response to increased neighboring development, negotiations with Miami-Dade County for possible joint use of Tamiami Park should remain an ongoing resource for additional recreational facilities – which it already relies upon for student use.

These properties are key for satisfying demand for both recreational and academic/research facilities. In addition to active recreation,

improved open space that promotes easy access and campus movement is critical. FIU will continue to work with the Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department regarding the recreation and open space needs for both the University and Miami-Dade County.

Campus outdoor space should be enhanced with proposed new event and food-truck plazas, upgrades to historic and heritage open spaces, and quadrangles as well as the protection of specimen trees.

Proposed Facility Expansion

ATHLETICS			FLOORS
07B	INDOOR TRAINING FACILITY	47,666 SF	1
32A	STADIUM UPPER BOWL EXPANSION	103,600 SF	1
34A	NORTH FIELD REC SUPPORT BUILDING	3,600 SF	1
71	ACQUATIC CENTER	16,242 SF	2
RF1*	TRACK & FIELD BUILDING*	43,448 SF	1

RECREATION			FLOORS
33B	REC CENTER EXPANSION EAST	29,973 SF	2
58E	EAST VILLAGE REC CENTER	26,370 SF	2
72	EAST VILLAGE POOL HOUSE	885 SF	1
73	PANTHER RESIDENCE HALL POOL	1,400 SF	1

Project square footage and height are shown for preliminary planning purposes and should be confirmed with FIU.

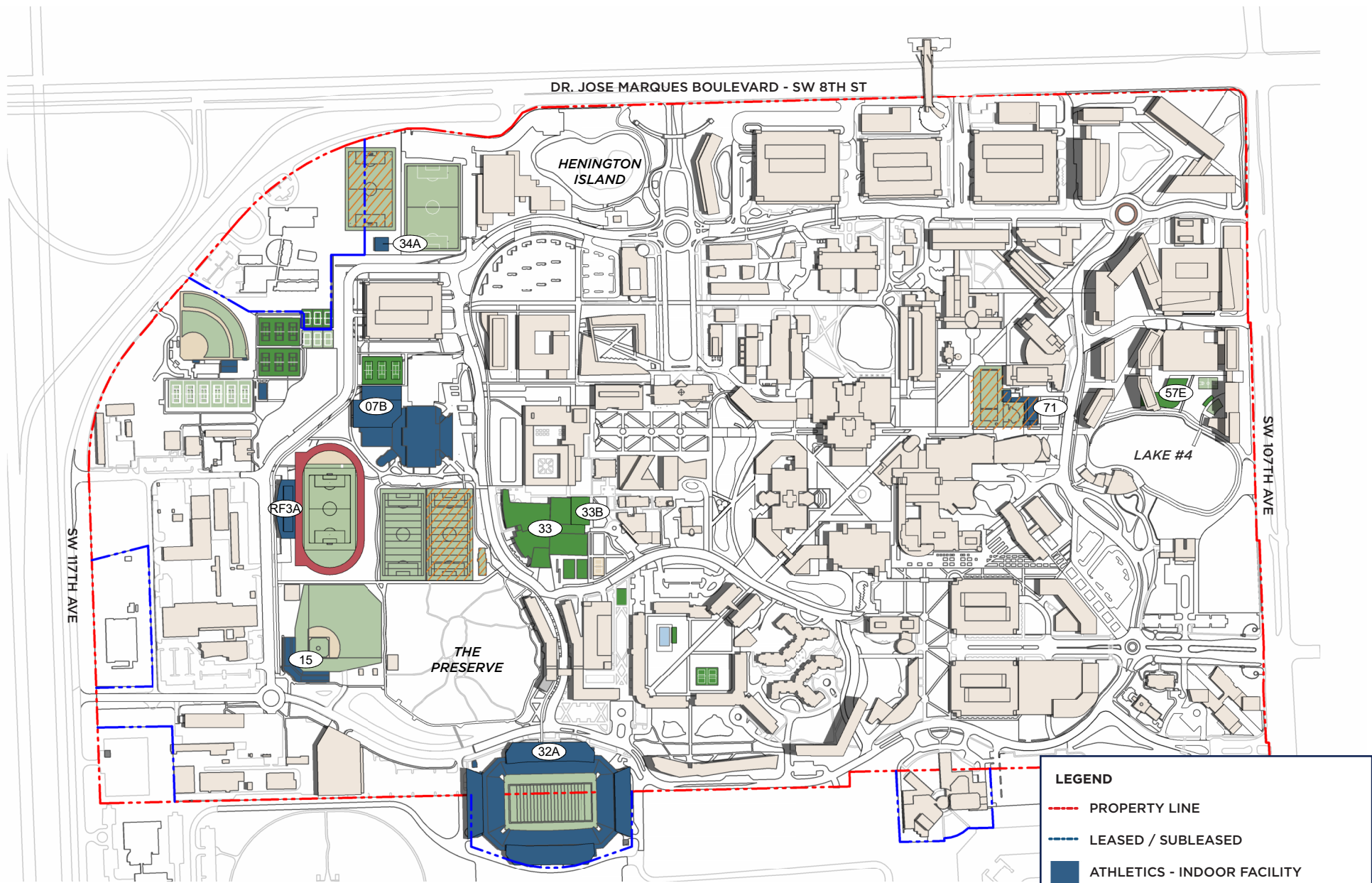


FIGURE 8.1a - MMC 2035 PLAN - ATHLETICS & RECREATION

LEGEND

- - - PROPERTY LINE
- - - LEASED / SUBLEASED
- ATHLETICS - INDOOR FACILITY
- ATHLETICS - FIELD/COURT
- RECREATION - INDOOR/OUTDOOR
- SHARED ATHLETICS & REC
- FIU BUILDING

GOAL

Protect, enhance, and develop adequate recreation facilities and open space amenities to serve projected student enrollments, aligning with our strategic goals to foster a vibrant FIU experience, support holistic student wellness, and enhance community engagement.

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Objective 1.1 Meet Demand for Quality and Quantity of Recreation Facilities:

Coordinate public and private resources as necessary to ensure the timely and efficient provision of recreation facilities to meet projected needs.

Policy 1.1.1 UNIVERSITY-WIDE

Utilize campus roadways and paths for planting trees that not only provide shaded connections between destinations but also support our strategic goals of enhancing the FIU experience and promoting environmental resilience through continuous wildlife corridors.

Actively assess and respond to student needs for on-campus recreational fields and facilities, ensuring alignment with our strategic objectives to enhance student wellness and engagement. Recreational fields displaced by

new construction will be replaced either on FIU property or through strategic partnerships with the community.

Policy 1.1.2

Ensure that adequate open and recreation space is provided beyond Miami-Dade County standards. Utilize guidelines and criteria set forth by either FIU peers or NIRSA Standards for large urban universities.

Policy 1.1.3

Phase development of open space improvements consistent with 14.0 Capital Improvement.

Policy 1.1.4

Renovate and improve roadways to incorporate Floridas DOT standards for bike lanes and lane dimensions. Connect to bicycle and pedestrian routes developed by host communities. Promote bicycle, pedestrian, and mass transit connectivity between the University community and recreational facilities. When possible, future development of surface parking should provide shaded canopy structures or photovoltaic panels to shade cars and pedestrians.

Policy 1.1.5 MODESTO A. MAIDIQUE

Strengthen public venues in special purpose landscape areas and near water.

Policy 1.1.6

To address the needs of the projected student growth and lack of developable land on campus, investigate FIU expansion to Miami-Dade Youth Fair and Exposition property to house needed recreation facilities.

Policy 1.1.7 ENGINEERING CENTER

No recreation or support facilities are planned on this campus.

Policy 1.1.8 BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

Cluster new and relocated athletic fields and facilities in the southern portion of the campus. Additional multi-purpose fields, tennis courts and basketball courts should be located south of the MAST Academy.

Policy 1.1.9

Preserve multi-purpose, pedestrian, open space and bike paths along Biscayne Bay. Strengthen the character and quality of informal open space, and consider easements for connecting to the waterfront trail and views with campus partners.

Policy 1.1.10

Strengthen public access to the bay. Develop a park along the central waterfront, near the dock.

Objective 1.2

Develop Signature and Sustainable Open Space:

Protect and enhance present open space resources to support our strategic goals of fostering a vibrant FIU experience, enhancing environmental sustainability, and promoting community engagement. This objective underscores our commitment to creating dynamic, usable, and sustainable campus environments that facilitate connectivity, academic success, research opportunities, and holistic well-being.

FIU is proud to be a recognized member of Tree Campus USA, a status it has maintained annually since 2010, aligning with our strategic goals of enhancing sustainability and fostering an engaging learning environment as part of the FIU experience. Committed to effectively managing its tree canopy and reducing heat islands, FIU actively integrates these efforts into the curriculum and research activities within the College of the Arts, Sciences, and Education, promoting interdisciplinary research and educational excellence. FIU is enhancing its sustainable maintenance practices and operations, paving the way for the establishment of an educational arboretum. This initiative furthers our commitment to environmental stewardship and educational innovation.

The potential to transform the MMC campus into an arboretum would involve several

curated landscapes with tree collections associated with institutional disciplines, located near their respective building entrances and plazas. Trees with functional uses associated with specific disciplines on campus are proposed for future planting. This association of campus trees enhances discipline identity and supports experiential learning, while providing shade, extending wildlife corridors, and creating inviting spaces through the addition of signature landscapes.

Future plantings should be clustered to provide a continuous dense canopy and incorporate native groundcover. With over 200 existing tree species on campus, an Arboretum Plan for FIU would assure responsible stewardship of campus heritage trees, accelerate the impact on research and innovation, and celebrate the international diversity of the FIU community.

Policy 1.2.1 UNIVERSITY-WIDE

Select sites for infrastructure and academic support facilities that strengthen the viability and character of campus open space.

Policy 1.2.2

Maintain densities and intensities for the development of the campus which maximize the retention of open space. These densities and intensities are established in 4.0 Land Use Element.

Policy 1.2.3

Maintain the Campus Master Plan figure-ground relationships and urban design framework for the purpose of designating and creating high quality and diverse landscaped open space.

Policy 1.2.4

Protect designated landscaped open spaces from development and create an interconnected framework of malls, quadrangles, courtyards, plazas, and open spaces, enhancing the FIU experience by integrating high speed WiFi connectivity and electrical outlets. Promote digital connectivity in open spaces, so they will become, versatile areas for collaborative work in a sustainable environment.

Policy 1.2.5

Create, enhance, and maintain new and existing primary entry points into campus with identifiable, signature campus gateways that incorporate native plantings and trees (see 16.0 Landscape Design Guidelines Element).

This page has been left intentionally blank

Policy 1.2.6**MODESTO A. MAIDIQUE**

Coordinate any development within the Preserve, as indicated by Table 14.2: Capital Improvement Plan, with the most recent development study of the Preserve, ensuring alignment with our strategic goals to enhance the FIU experience and support mission-aligned engagement. Development within the Preserve will be carried out with sensitivity to the existing wooded areas, incorporating eco-friendly buildings, pathways, seating areas, interpretative displays, and amenities that enhance the natural setting and support biodiversity. This approach not only preserves but enhances the habitat for existing species and utilizes their natural characteristics to foster a sustainable environment.

The Preserve will continue to serve as a vital resource for teaching, research, and outdoor recreation, in line with our commitment to creating immersive educational experiences and promoting wellness. Recommendations from past design charrettes conducted by FIU, along with recent modifications, provide a strategic framework for leveraging the Preserve to support these multidisciplinary educational and research activities

Policy 1.2.7

Maintain and enhance streetscapes along SW 8th Street and SW 107th Avenue to brand the campus perimeter and to provide additional pedestrian and vehicular separation (see 16.0 Landscape Design Guidelines Element).

Policy 1.2.8

Develop distinctive and branded entrances from SW 8th Street, SW 107th Avenue and SW 117th Avenue into campus. Provide a heightened level of detail according to their hierarchy. Follow recommendations in 16.0 Landscape Design Guidelines Element.

Policy 1.2.9

Create a GreenWay that links the small ponds within the academic core and to the campus boundaries (refer to 16.0 Landscape Design Guidelines Element).

Policy 1.2.10

Enhance and preserve the Reagan House site landscape. Improve pedestrian access as roadways are developed in the southeast quadrant of campus. Coordinate a high quality landscape setting with the proposed chapel and park pavilion.

Policy 1.2.11

Coordinate with Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces for the joint utilization of open space to meet recreation and open space needs.

Policy 1.2.12**ENGINEERING CENTER**

Enhance existing open space along SW 107th Avenue with additional streetscaping and the creation of a campus gateway.

Policy 1.2.13

Enhance open space bordering West Flagler Street with the creation of a campus gateway and streetscape.

Policy 1.2.14

Create an enhanced transit stop with one articulated and one regular bus stop with covered seating and landscape along SW 107th Avenue to allow for enhanced connectivity to public transportation.

Policy 1.2.15

Utilize existing open space to form an interior quadrangle around which to organize future academic and research facilities.

Policy 1.2.16

Establish north/south pedestrian spine to connect Flagler, existing buildings and potential development, to the north.

Policy 1.2.17

Preserve setbacks and open space around the Wall of Wind to provide protection from research activities.

Policy 1.2.18

BISCAYNE BAY CENTER

Protect environmentally sensitive and bayfront open spaces from development encroachment. Strictly enforce future placement of buildings, parking, infrastructure, and other man-made improvements consistent with the land use plan. Coordinate with Campus Development Agreements.

Policy 1.2.19

Renovate the original campus quad and develop new quads, courtyards and plazas throughout campus that enhance adjacent campus buildings.

Policy 1.2.20











Enhance key symbolic campus open spaces to the north and south of Academic One and Two/Wolfe University Center and to the east of the Conference Center (see 16.0 Landscape Design Guidelines Element).

Policy 1.2.21

Highlight the GreenSpine with sensitively constructed walkways and appropriate plant materials (see 16.0 Landscape Design Guidelines Element).

Policy 1.2.22

Create courtyards, outdoor rooms and gathering spaces in all new development adjacent to the BayWalk as transition points to public open space along the bay.

LEGEND	
	PROPERTY LINE
	LEASED / SUBLEASED
	QUADRANGLE
	ATHLETICS/RECREATION/ OPEN SPACE
	SPECIAL PURPOSE LANDSCAPE
	PEDESTRIAN PATH
	PLAZA
	POTENTIAL ARBORETUM EXHIBIT
	POND/LAKE
	FIU BUILDING

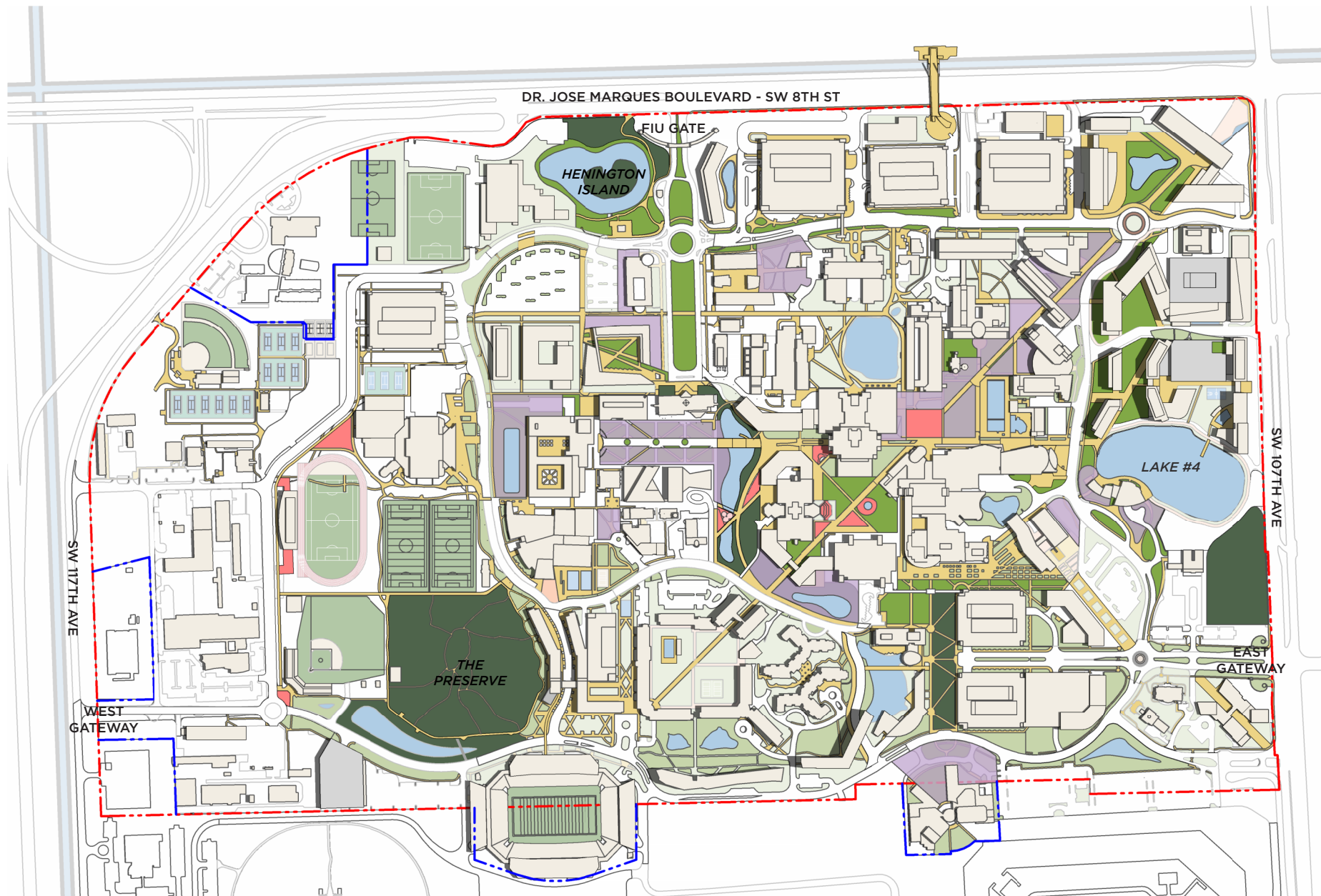
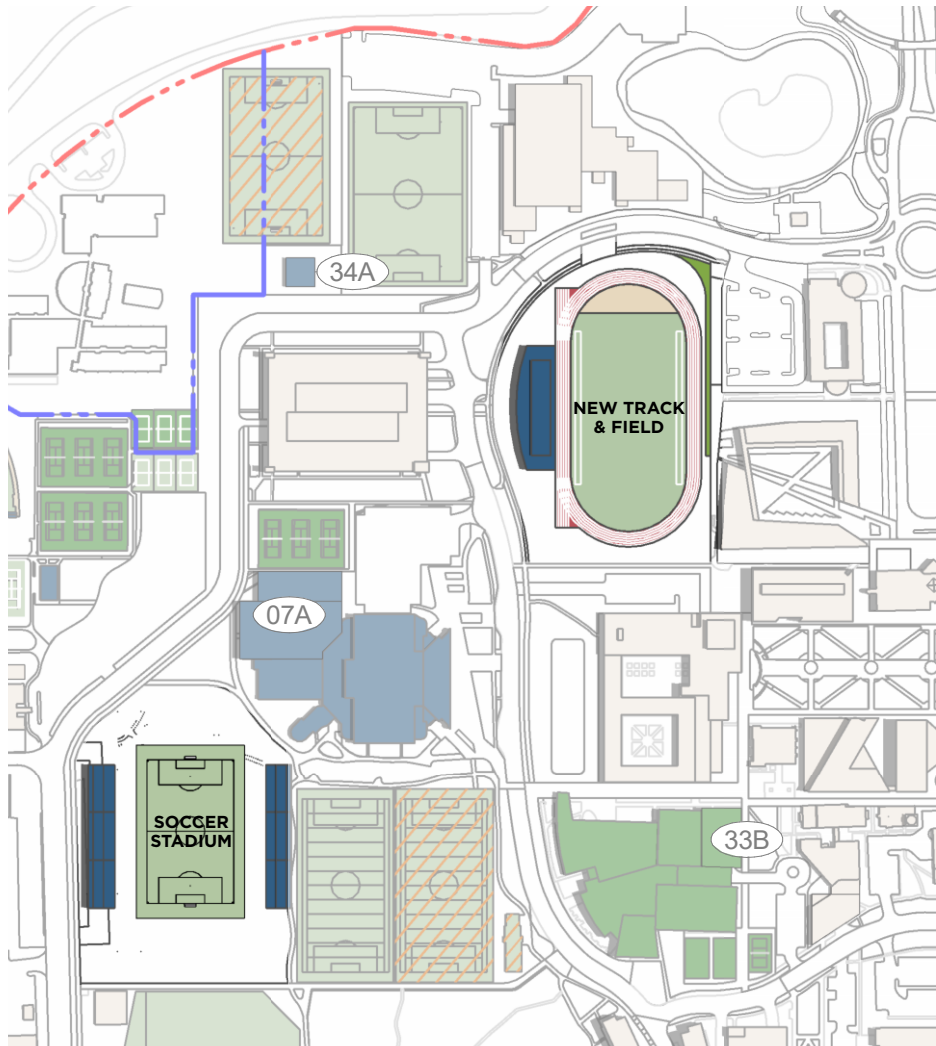
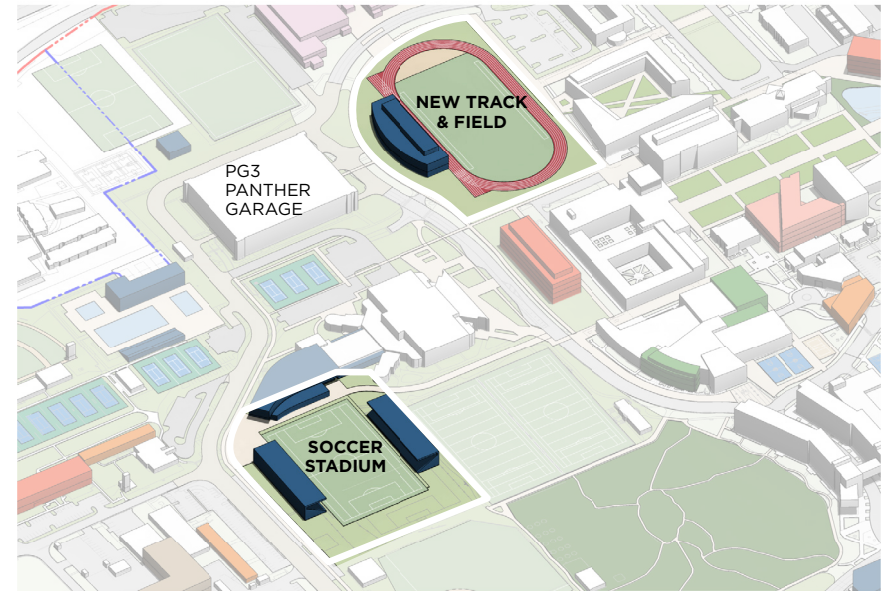


FIGURE 8.1b - MMC 2035 PLAN - OPEN SPACE CONCEPT





TRACK AND SOCCER STADIUM TEST FIT - PLAN DIAGRAM



TRACK AND SOCCER STADIUM TEST FIT - 3D DIAGRAM



An alternative site for a track and field location, separate from a soccer stadium facility was explored in this study. The track located north of the FIU Ocean Bank Arena provides capacity for the existing soccer field site to integrate a new indoor training facility and accommodates field events and standard turning radii at the ends of the track, as well as reduced scheduling conflicts between events.

FIGURE 8.1c - MMC TRACK & FIELD SITE TEST FIT

This page has been left intentionally blank

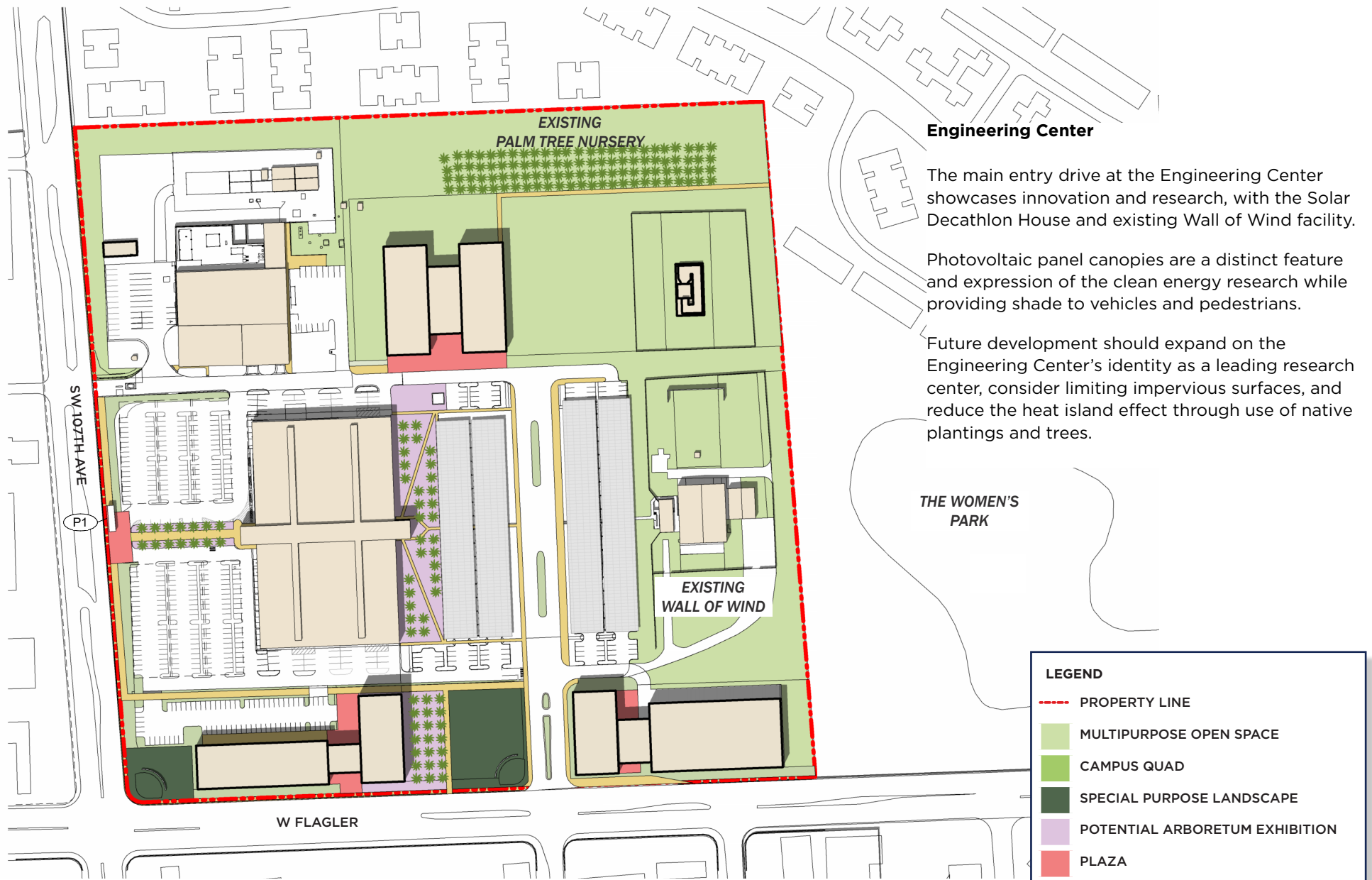


FIGURE 8.2 - EC 2035 PLAN - OPEN SPACE CONCEPT





Biscayne Bay Campus

Aligning with our 2030 strategic goals, the campus master plan update proposes a north-south circulation spine enhanced with Mangrove demonstration plantings and shade trees, designed to support pedestrian-oriented, multi-modal circulation and underscore our commitment to environmental sustainability. This spine also integrates special demonstration plantings that showcase our leading-edge campus research, furthering our mission of research excellence.

The design prioritizes native plantings and minimizes ornamental lawns, reflecting our dedication to natural resource conservation. The strategic clustering of new and relocated athletic fields and facilities in the southern portion of the campus, including multi-purpose fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts near the MAST Academy, aims to enhance student engagement and wellness, aligning with the FIU experience.

Additionally, easements for connecting to the waterfront trail and improving views are planned to enhance the quality and character of informal open spaces, fostering community connections and mission-aligned engagement. The development of a park along the central waterfront near the dock will enhance public access to the waterfront, promoting community integration and making the campus a focal point for collaboration and public engagement.



FIGURE 8.3 - BBC 2035 PLAN - OPEN SPACE CONCEPT

