Element 9:

Recreational Facilities and Open Space
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9. Recreation and Open Space Element

(In previous reports, Recreation and Open Space was Element 8. Under FL BOG Chapter 13, Recreation and Open Space is now Element 9. Goal, objective and policy numbering reflects the new Element number order. The former Element 9, General Infrastructure, is included in this report as Element 7, General Infrastructure and Utilities.)

Recreation Facilities

In response to program expansion initiatives bringing a full four-year undergraduate student body to campus and support for implementation of on-campus student housing, the development of new campus recreation facilities becomes an even more important component of the USFSM 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan. The emphasis in this Plan on sustainability further underlines the essential role quality campus open space plays in establishing a healthy, inviting campus setting of memorable places that engage the University community on a daily basis. The plan proposes development of recreation and athletics facilities over the ten-year planning period to include:

• Informal play field/open space at the proposed residential quadrangle
• Multi-purpose intramural play fields (two) located west of the proposed housing, on the north edge of the existing campus boundary
• Softball field (one) at site of the intramural play fields noted above
• Boat House and dock for rowing and sailing teams and recreational use in cooperation with Manatee County on the north end of the Crosley Estate property
• Existing jogging path and walk network expanded throughout the campus with links to Bay Shore Drive and Uplands Boulevard properties to the south and to the bay front at the north side of campus/Crosley Estate
• Pool complex at the proposed Housing/Dining/Recreation facility area (existing Hilton Garden Inn) for recreational use
• Recreation Fitness Center and supporting locker facilities expansion

The projected program for the USFSM 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan is based on the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) standards and USFSM projected enrollment.

Campus as Botanical Garden/Arboretum

A key addition to the USFSM 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan is the University’s envisioning the “Campus as Botanical Garden and Arboretum.” This initiative recognizes the potential of the campus landscape to contribute to establishing an environmentally healthy setting that supports the educational and social experience, and physical health of students, staff and visitors. Additionally, it acknowledges the commitment of the University to contribute to the education and enrichment of students through the overall campus setting as well as the classroom. Finally, it is an acknowledgement of the University’s commitment and vision as a campus presence for generations to come.
Conservation and Naturalized Open Space Areas

Two of the three existing conservation easements would be impacted by parking implementation proposed in the USFSM 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan. Modification and expansion of existing East Lot 1 (to the north of the Rotunda) would impact the two conservation areas located north of the campus entry drive and main building (SMC). The Plan proposes mitigation measures be taken for the disturbed areas as noted in Element 8, Conservation. The larger preserved conservation area located south of the campus entry drive is maintained in total as a proposed no-development area. The plan identifies additional areas for preservation and designation as un-developed campus open space, including the west edge of campus adjacent to the Crosley Estate. Efforts to implement and strengthen vegetative corridors connecting these areas support the intent to establish visually and physically contiguous open space links across campus and to the Bay front.

Goal

The Recreation and Open Space goal of the USFSM 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan is to provide enhanced recreational options for the campus community in a diverse open space environment that links the campus and the larger host community environment.

Summary of Objectives and Policies

Objective 9.1: Provide recreational facilities and open space to meet campus community demand through the coordinated use of public and private resources.

Policy 9.1.1: The University shall seek to establish a private donor program for the purpose of contributing to the development and maintenance of on-campus recreation and open space facilities and shall coordinate the distribution of these funds with other public University funding sources.

Policy 9.1.2: The University shall coordinate with campus organizations, Lifelong Learning Academy, and public/private off-campus organizations to investigate and seek expanded opportunities for generating income through campus facility rentals and programs at the campus.

Policy 9.1.3: The University shall coordinate with host communities and agencies to explore shared or swapped recreation/open space development, maintenance, and/or use of facilities to better serve the University and local populations.

Objective 9.2: Provide increased facilities to serve on-campus recreation, physical education, and intercollegiate athletic demands.

Policy 9.2.1: The University shall increase recreation facilities to meet on-campus recreation, physical education, and club sport activities within the 10 year planning time frame. The proposed improvements to recreation and open space facilities are identified in Figure 9-1, 10-Year Recreation Facilities and Open Space Framework.
Policy 9.2.2: The University shall establish a basis for level of service (LOS) standard for the provision of recreational space, such as the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) standards, as a means to ensure that the future recreational needs of the campus community are adequately met.

Objective 9.3: Provide increased opportunities for on-campus access to varied, high quality open spaces.

Policy 9.3.1: The University shall establish a hierarchy of campus open spaces including: the pedestrian corridors, quadrangles, plazas and courtyards within the 10-year planning time frame in partnership with the capital building and infrastructure improvements program as shown in Figure 9-1, 10-Year Recreation Facilities and Open Space Framework and as identified in Element 4, Future Land Use and Element 11, Capital Improvements.

Central Quadrangle—Continue to implement Central Quadrangle improvements in order to provide a physical setting that provides a quality collegiate atmosphere and identifiable place-making campus center. The overall resulting character will be of a strong formal east west axis connecting the main campus building to the Crosley Estate site and bay front beyond, framed by a naturalized, informal landscape of mature trees and enhanced understory within a framework of developing architectural edges, terraces, and strong diagonals extending to the southwest and north east. While tree planting to shade walks is a priority, overall planting design shall include informal massing of diverse plant material to establish stronger and more interesting spatial definition and provide greater aesthetic interest.

Residential Quadrangle—With implementation of new housing program proposed on the north edge of campus (Hilton Garden Inn site), the University shall begin to establish a second major campus quadrangle and north-south axial relationship to the main campus building and, long range, proposed academic edges flanking the south end of the quad. The Residential Quad, through judicious building placement, will provide inviting, humane outdoor living spaces appropriate to the climate of west central Florida, with programmatic opportunities for informal recreation/play field, leisure pool, outdoor dining, and shaded seating and gathering space.

Corridors—Two primary pedestrian corridors are proposed – continued development of the East West Mall and phased creation of a new North-South Pedestrian Mall, establishing a visual and physical framework for organizing the pedestrian dominated campus, providing a hierarchy of spaces and activity, and connecting academic, housing, and recreational functions. These primary corridors are supported by secondary walks and landscaped roadway corridors.

Corridors shall be enhanced with shade through tree planting, or other means such as trellises, shade structure, or building arcades. Implementation of new corridors shall be phased in coordination with adjacent building development or redevelopment or as independent projects ahead of development.
Terraces and Courtyards—Encourage inclusion of adjacent plazas/terraces and/or interior courtyard spaces in new buildings or closely clustered groups of buildings when and where appropriate.

Policy 9.3.2: The University shall affirm a belief that naturalistic parklands are necessary to the quality of urban life and that the institution seeks continuity with the natural communities and processes that support human life. The University will protect and enhance campus open spaces—including designated conservation and naturalized open space areas.

Policy 9.3.3: The University shall maintain densities and intensities for the development of its campus (as established in Element 4, Future Land Use), including sites for infrastructure, academic, housing, and support space, which maximize permeable campus land and the retention and creation of meaningful open space.

Objective 9.4: The University endorses a campus open space planning approach that envisions the entire campus as an ecologically appropriate “Campus as Arboretum/Botanical Garden.”

Policy 9.4.1: The University shall initiate a USFSM Arboretum/Botanical Garden to include all campus open space, with a priority placed on documentation and enhancement of the Central Quadrangle and establishing a searchable inventory data base of all campus trees.

Policy 9.4.2: The University, in recognition of the value of trees to the campus the University, shall initiate measures to protect, manage, and increase the number of trees and quality of the campus tree stock. (See Element 8, Conservation.)

Objective 9.5: Coordinate with the host communities to promote provision of adequate recreation and open space off-campus to serve the community living in the context area and to ensure continuity of campus open space resources within the larger regional open space system.

Policy 9.5.1: The University shall seek to establish procedures and assign responsibilities for regularly scheduled coordination meetings with the Sarasota and Manatee County Parks and Recreation Departments, and the Manatee County Convention and Visitors Bureau (as stewards of the Crosley Estate), relative to the provision of recreational facilities. The University shall pursue inter-local agreements or memoranda of understanding that may be necessary to ensure that parks and recreational facilities will be available to meet the future needs of the University.
2010 Campus Master Plan Update – Sarasota Manatee

Date
October 2011

Element 9
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Figure 9-1
10 Year Recreation Facilities and Open Space Framework