Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan
Visioning Input Compilation

October 2023

Report Overview

This report is a compilation of the participant contributions of three vision workshops, two virtual and one in-person as part of the Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan (WMP) project with the University of Florida (UF). These workshops were conducted from mid September to early October of 2023 as a step in drafting the WMP. The purpose was to gather input from community stakeholders on their vision for Lake Alice and the watershed three years and ten years out.

An overview of the project, major project elements, and timeline is included below as well as an explanation of the workshop methodology, process and participants.

Background information is provided in the report, as it was in each of the workshops, in the areas of:

- Lake and watershed: water, plants, animals, ecosystem
- User interactions, resources, and cultural heritage
- Lake and watershed management: construction, operation, maintenance, policies, administration

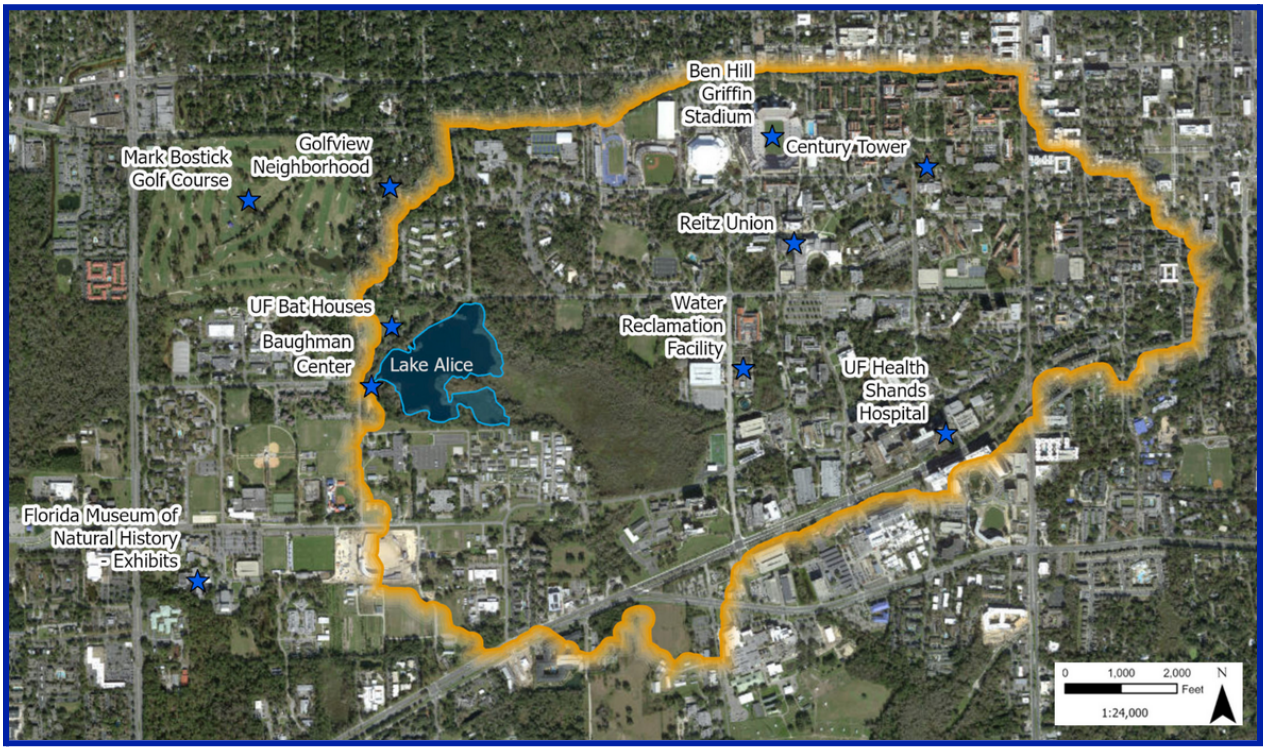
Participant contributions for the 3-year and 10-year vision are included along with pictures from the in-person workshop.

Lake Alice WMP Project Overview

The Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan project is an initiative to develop a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (WMP) that includes the lake, creeks, wetlands, and stormwater infrastructure within the watershed. This WMP is being created to identify and make recommendations on uses, users, policies, water quality, water quantity, vegetation, climate resiliency, and funding. It will also address current construction operations, maintenance requirements, and future stormwater needs. You can visit the project website here**.**

The Lake Alice Watershed is approximately 1,000 acres, primarily on the main UF campus. It has significant topography and impervious area (hard surfaces) that was developed over more than 100 years. Absent a comprehensive stormwater management framework, maintenance efforts have largely addressed immediate needs and problems.

Map of Lake Alice watershed



The Lake Alice WMP project is overseen by a Project Team of 6 UF administrators plus leads from the consulting team, with guidance from a 29-member Steering Committee; the roster of members is provided on the project website here. The Consultant and Engagement Team includes a multi-discipline, multi-firm team that includes: engineers, scientists, public engagement professionals, geotechnical experts, and surveyors.

The Lake Alice WMP major elements are briefly described below. The visioning effort is being used to collect input from community stakeholders that will be used to guide development of the watershed management plan. This report is a compilation and analysis of the raw input received from in-person, virtual, and online surveys. All of the received vision data was analyzed by sorting it into common themes that can be used to draft a holistic watershed vision statement.

Data Inventory

- Gather available data and input from experts via technical exchange workshops and staff focus groups
- Data analysis and write-up for WMP

Long-Term Watershed Vision

- Prepare background information
- Round 1: Gather community input on the watershed vision; compile and analyze results, report

Stormwater Modeling

- Inventory stormwater and update 2017 campus model

- Evaluate chokepoints, erosion, sedimentation
- Model future conditions

Corrective Intervention Recommendations

- Draft prioritization criteria
- Round 2: Gather community feedback on prioritization criteria from the Steering Committee and community; use results to prepare technical memorandumPrepare ranking of identified flooding and erosion areas
- Conduct targeted site visits; develop concept costing

Watershed Management Plan

- Write data and literature review
- Write stormwater modeling report
- Draft WMP
- Round 3: Gather community feedback on draft WMP; use results to shape final WMP

The major project elements timeline is depicted below. These time frames are estimates and may shift throughout the project.

Visioning Workshop Methodology

The workshops provided a project overview and detailed information by topic area. Participants answered the workshop question: **Imagine you are standing near Lake Alice. What do you see, hear, and feel? What is different from today? 3-years from now? 10-years from now?**

For the two virtual sessions, each being an hour in length, participants provided their responses on a Google Jamboard. Each Jamboard had space for 3-year and 10-year vision elements. Participants anonymously typed their responses on Jamboard sticky notes and placed them in either the 3-year or 10-year space. Virtual sessions were facilitated by members of the Engagement Team and Consultant

Team. The Consultant Team provided an overview of the project, timeline, major project elements, and background information for each of the topic areas below:

- Lake and watershed: water, plants, animals, ecosystem
- User interactions, resources, and cultural heritage
- Lake and watershed management: construction, operation, maintenance, policies, administration

Time was dedicated to question and answer before participants individually brainstormed their response to the vision workshop question. Once participants were done brainstorming they were given the option to leave the meeting or stay and read other's ideas.

The in-person workshop was held at the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' Straughn Professional Development Center from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM on October 4, 2023. Participants were not required to register, but were requested to sign-in. The workshop was an open format in which participants could visit at any time and stay as long as they wanted over the two and a half hour period.

During the in-person workshop, the Project Team and Consultant Team greeted guests and guided them to a mapping exercise to complete first in which they were asked to place a dot(s) on the area they most liked to visit around the Lake or in the watershed. The Project Team and Consultant Team then guided participants to a space on the wall to read through a project overview and background information for each of the topic areas noted above. They were able to interact with participants and answer any questions they had. Participants then answered the vision workshop question on sticky notes and placed them in either the 3-year column or 10-year column. As part of the in-person workshop, participants could either draw or write their responses to the vision workshop questions.

The information below includes content provided to participants along with their detailed input. The detailed input is generally presented as written, with minor edits for spelling and punctuation.

Visioning Workshop Overview

Community stakeholders were invited to one of three vision workshops from mid-September to early October of 2023. An online survey was also provided for anyone to contribute to with the same information and questions as in the virtual and in-person workshops. To encourage survey completion, yard signs directing people to the survey were placed around campus for multiple days twice between the end of September and early October. The survey was closed mid-October. This report is a compilation of all input received from in-person, virtual, and online surveys. The data will be analyzed to identify vision areas that will be used to draft a watershed vision.

Participants

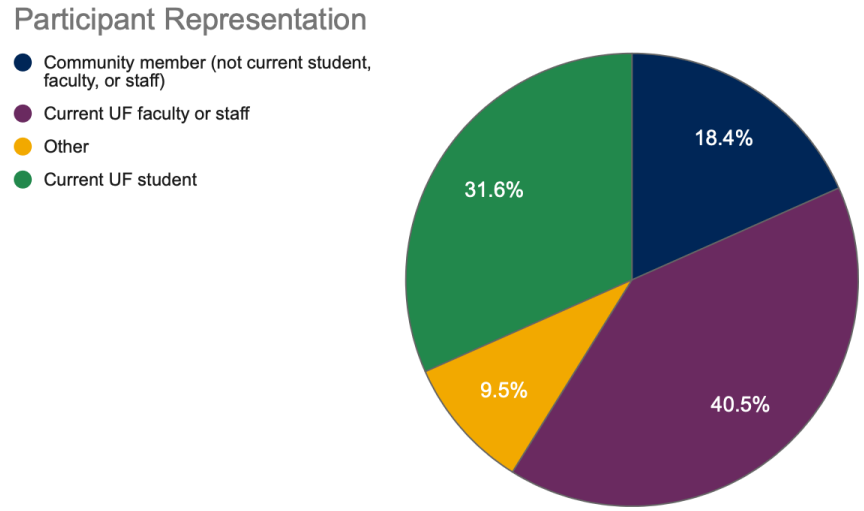
Participants were required to register for the virtual workshops and requested to sign-in for the in-person workshop. There were a total of ***73 registered participants*** for the virtual workshops and ***26 participants*** that signed-in for the in-person workshop. For the online survey there were ***57 individual responses*** provided. The online survey did not require respondents to provide their name, therefore, there is not a way to determine if input was duplicated between different formats. All participants,

whether from the virtual or in-person workshops or from the online survey were asked to select the category that best represented them.

Below is a graph showing the breakdown of the participants and their representation.

If participants answered "*other*", they were asked to describe their representation. Below is a list of submitted answers:

- Alumni Advisor for Alpha Gamma Rho
- Consultant
- Current faculty and former government employee
- Frequent visitor
- Government employee
- Graduate of UF and friend of the community
- Professor Emeritus
- Retired UF faculty



Background Information

Below is the background information provided to participants for the workshops and online survey for each of the topic areas. At the virtual workshops, the Consultant Team provided a verbal overview of this information. At the in-person workshop, participants read this information silently. At each of the workshops, participants were given the opportunity for questions and answers before brainstorming.

Lake and watershed: water, plants, animals, ecosystem

- Plant communities in the natural areas are primarily freshwater marsh, bottomland forest, mesic hammock, and upland hardwood forest
- Approximately 450,000-500,000 bats inhabit bat houses
- There is a variety of wildlife on campus and in the natural areas

- Invasive and exotic plants exist in the watershed and cover 3/4 of the lake
- Watershed is impaired for dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, bacteria
- Lake is impaired for phosphorus and mercury in fish tissue
- Lake level is stable (controlled by drainage wells)

User interactions, resources, and cultural heritage

- Most of the lake is inaccessible for users, as are the creeks elsewhere on campus
- Teaching, learning, and research
- Recreation, walking, running, picnicking, meditation
- Baughman Center: Special events, milestones
- UF bat houses
- Tailgating

- 99% of faculty, staff, students, and Trustees agreed that protecting Lake Alice and other campus water features should be a management priority and identified Lake Alice as a personally significant place
- Cultural resources exist around the lake and natural areas from the indigenous Deptford Culture, Alachua Tradition People, and Potano Tribe

Below is a compilation of the input received from the virtual, in-person, and online survey for the Lake Alice and watershed vision.

Participant contributions: 3-year vision

What do you see, hear, and feel? What is different from today?

- A better functioning water runoff system/process, both above ground and subsurface water
- A boardwalk built on water
- A comprehensive plan for watershed restoration exists
- A comprehensive protect and preserve plan for Lake Alice
- A greater portion covered by water
- A plan for recreational use of the lake exists
- A more diverse fish population that is supported by a healthy benthic community
- A natural lake that has benefited from the removal of invasive exotic plants and campus-wide removal of invasive exotics
- A plan to consolidate/better define all the management roles (i.e. who is in charge of what)
- A third bat house
- A revitalized lake at Florida's flagship university
- A university position responsible for ensuring the maintenance of a healthy Lake Alice ecosystem
- Able to see more of the lake. Access to more areas away from the road
- Accessibility of Lake Alice trails and recreation areas is improved and such information is easily found by public
- Accommodations in place for those who are non-ambulatory or have other physical conditions that may prevent access
- Active nature tours and discussions introducing the flora and fauna
- Add a donation box(es)

- Additional sustainability signage discussing the importance of the Lake Alice watershed
- Algae
- All good as is
- All UF staff are educated about protocols, and come to understand their importance. Maintenance becomes easy, routine, celebrated
- Allowance of green areas for deer and other wildlife
- An expanded Field and Fork garden area
- An improved view of the Lake from Museum Road
- Any development is only to enhance the ecosystem - biodiversity, resilience, water quality
- Area is used for teaching
- Awesome farm growing fresh veggies, good signage for the area
- Barriers to keep tailgaters from parking on and possibly eroding the lake banks
- Bat houses remain
- Beneficial insects supported; biological controls used for pests/disease vectors (i.e. landscape immunity)
- Better access transportation
- Better bike lanes and a hiking path that circumnavigated the entire Lake Alice
- Better general understanding by UF community of the interconnected waterbodies on UF campus (all within Lake Alice Watershed)
- Better interpretive signage
- Better leveraging of biodiversity info in BioGator (https://biogator.org/) supported by UF Office of Sustainability
- Better maintenance of trails and boardwalks around Lake Alice
- Better maintenance of trails and boardwalk to make them more accessible and useable
- Better walking paths and lighting throughout campus conservation areas in Lake Alice Watershed
- Better water quality, less trash
- Biodiverse vegetation (trees, shrubs, grasses)
- Birds, alligators, fish, etc.
- Birds, gators and other wildlife abound
- BMPs for fertilizer application on campus should not be separated from the watershed
- Braille interpretations included on all signage
- Bring back the fireflies
- Build on a contemplative aspect of lake - a place of peace, quiet and reflection, possibly aided with a little signage re history and restoration management plan
- Calm, tree dense area
- Calm soothing space with clear water surface
- Camphor trees are removed and replaced with appropriate native species
- Campus bioblitz - annual tradition, maybe a part of homecoming week? Might already be happening through the Florida Museum
- Campus plantings focus on native species and especially, native species that attract pollinators and feed wildlife
- Campus-wide landscaping that has eliminated water intensive plant material and replaced it with attractive xeriscapes
- Centralized teaching/learning resource, more like NATL
- Check out web cams explore.org to see how they can be used - the people watching are incredibly passionate
- Clean, clear water
- Clean up trash in areas like the Digital Design Wetlands!
- Clean water
- Cleaner surface water
- Clear invasive vegetation to open up views
- Clear stormwater/water quality permitting for the lake (conflicting permitting currently)
- Clearer water with fewer invasive plants

- Clearly defined, protected walking paths for pedestrians
- Connect efforts with those of Field and Fork to appreciate and steward natural ecosystems on campus
- Connect UF with Campus Nature Rx network and highlight Lake Alice and surrounding green space as essential resources
- Connect with campusnature.com for information on how universities make nature accessible and draw students into activities - include art, writing, music as part of the programming
- Conservation area should be maintained at the same rate as today (more land, not less)
- Consider how the existing golf course can be incorporated into UF's natural areas
- Consider the educational opportunities for people who visit the lake (stormwater management, vegetation, wildlife, people's behavior)
- Consider the lake's seasonal interests and therapeutic value to students
- Consider ways to increase and connect the various Lake Alice teaching-research efforts
- Conversion to a wetland park that provides water treatment, park access, and wildlife habitat similar to Sweetwater Wetland Park
- Cultivation of edible native flora + display for visitors to learn about these native plants. An extension of the student/co-op gardens
- Create (and maintain) baseline data for water quality, current users (including proximity, and access for pedestrians and through the bus stops)
- Create easily accessible/findable maps so people can see what is available
- Creating a model for a sustainable holistic clean water management system from precipitation, drainage and aquifer recharge
- Creeks and other wetlands managed to control invasives and enhance biodiversity
- Creek restoration and littoral edge restoration
- Damage to Lake Alice has been halted and most areas on campus that produce damaging runoff have been remediated
- Decision makers on campus recognize that Lake Alice being a "stormwater pond" doesn't mean it has to be treated like a Walmart parking lot swale
- Development of an exhibit at the Florida Museum on the history, biodiversity, cultural diversity, challenges of LA
- Development of trails and other amenities is limited to prevent further disruption of the ecosystem
- Designated recreational area(s) to protect/keep people at safe distances from vegetation such as exotic plants, wildlife, etc.
- Diesel buses and buses powered by methane gas are no longer in operation; buses and UF-affiliated vehicles are all electric. Any visitors to the lake don't have to breathe exhaust
- Different types of bird houses
- Diversity: bowfin, turtle, Submerged aquatic vegetation, plants
- Dredging the lake is considered, but moves forward only if it will do less harm than leaving toxic soils in place
- Easily accessible info (signs, app?) about how Lake Alice watershed has changed over past 150 years; leverage maps in UF digital libraries
- Educating the public with signage
- Education signs about the native and invasive plants

and wildlife spotted at Lake Alice
- Education about migratory birds
- Educational components overviewing ecosystem services
- Educational material shared with the public on management approach
- Efforts to protect wildlife along Mowry (too many dead animals along the road now
- Either clear the man made islands so gators can use as intended or create new ones
- Elevated dock around lake, walking areas to prevent gator/turtle/human interaction
- Endorse celebrating Marjorie Carr
- Engage with Greek groups about conservation of Lake Alice considering how much they value it
- Engage with Greek life, other undergrad orgs to conduct e.g. creek cleanups
- Enhance and maintain the stormwater water quality and storm surge capabilities
- Enhanced biodiversity - management brought back species that have disappeared
- Enhanced grounds keeping and overall maintenance
- Established management plan
- Everyone has a Lake Alice story - a leitmotif for many people
- Evidence of a collaborative-community approach to respecting, managing, and maintaining Lake Alice for ecological value, alongside the stormwater function (e.g. Sweetwater Park)
- Existing green spaces on campus are permanently protected
- Existing walks and activity along the lake are great - increase signage with QR codes to websites, podcasts to educate on what people are seeing so they can be better engaged
- Expanded boardwalk and trail network
- Feel the heat of the sun or the wind's breeze
- Fewer invasive species
- Fewer non-native, invasive plants. Better management of the natural areas
- FFL™ would like to use Lake Alice as a demonstration site to teach folks from around the state.
- Field and Fork continues to thrive
- Find ways to capture the Lake Alice identity and share it with the community
- Fishing is allowed and encouraged
- Fishing remains off-limits to the public/only for approved research purposes
- Flood waters aren't bringing trash and debris with floating garbage present on the surface after a strong rain event
- Flora changes from increased temperatures
- Focus not only on maintaining what habitat and biodiversity there is now, but also on restoring habitats lost from this watershed
- Focus on nutrient runoff into creeks from sports field
- For bats, native landscaping and gardens
- Framework is in place to record and monitor biodiversity
- Free of non-natural, chemical pesticides and herbicides that have been banned from use on campus
- Gators swimming around catching fish
- Get rid of Ardisia, (I've seen it mostly behind Lake Alice field)
- Get rid of invasive plants such as Ardisia
- Get rid of the invasive Arrows (Syngonium podophyllum, Colocasia esculenta, Xanthosoma sagittifolium)
- Greater research opportunities for UF students

- Green stormwater infrastructure/nature based solutions as the standard for new building projects
- Hear more birds in the morning
- Hear the birds chirping and the leaves in the wind
- Hear the chatter of people, the hum of cicadas, or the calls of birds
- High levels of sediment from construction
- Highlight the unique and rare species, ecosystems, etc in the area. This can help add value to the area
- Hoping that I see a healthy lake that provides a peaceful spot on an otherwise busy campus
- Hold concerts to bring more nature and art installations to campus to encourage people to "imagine" connections with nature
- Honor and recognition for Marjorie Carr for her role in establishing Lake Alice as a wildlife sanctuary in the 60's
- I can see a beautiful reflection on the water surface
- I can see fish and turtles through the waters, and see a great variety of waterbirds
- I could see an effort to remove organic mucks to restore a natural lake bottom capable of serving as habitat for aquatic macrophytes for lake health
- I hear birds but no cars or buses
- I feel the breeze and air
- I feel relaxed, peaceful, and intrigued by the nature around me
- I see a variety of fish
- I see gators!
- I see green and other colors like yellow, orange. There is a lot of vegetation and beautiful scenery
- I should be able to see and feel the contrast from the urban area (i.e., biodiversity)
- Identify current and historical sources of pollution and make this a priority action item in the development guidelines
- Identify future stakeholders from the education community (who will/and in what capacity) use the area for class activities. I will vote yes for using it for Biophilic Design
- Implementation of improved regulations on fertilizer/pesticide use for surrounding areas to reduce runoff into watershed
- Improved air quality
- Improved mosquito control in swampy areas (like the Golfview "swamp.")
- Improved water quality
- Improved water quality as usage of internal combustion engine vehicles decreases and usage of fertilizer/herbicides/pesticides/fungicides minimized
- In his State of the Campus address to faculty senate, Pres Sasse mentioned alumni identify Lake Alice as the most memorable location on campus - Keep that importance to alumni
- Inappropriate behaviors are not allowed near Lake Alice (fireworks, loud concerts, parking)
- Inappropriate buildings - on flood plains- have been removed, enhancing campus ability to prevent flooding
- Increase size and areas that can be used for leisure and lake viewing
- Increase programming on nature based therapy offerings for students, faculty and staff
- Increased temperatures
- Increased visibility from as many sides as possible. When it is out of sight, it is out of mind
- Information at the big points that are part of the watershed (Lake Alice, Normal Hull). Places people wouldn't expect to be part of the watershed
- Information is available online and on-site to educate the public

- Informational signs about Lake Alice Biodiversity, with info to find out more on-line and how to contribute (eBird, iNaturalist, etc.)
- Informational signs about Lake Alice, drainage, usage, ecology, cleaning process, etc.
- Initial exotic/invasive vegetation eradication has been completed. The landscaping of natural areas is complete and designed to prevent streambank erosion and other disturbances that can reintroduce non-desirable species
- Intentional study area (Elevated platforms)
- Interpretive events for the general public
- Invasive plants
- Invasive plant removal team
- Invasive plants are mostly removed
- Invasive species are removed, with the help of UF students, staff, faculty, and the community
- Invasives are removed: animals and not just plants
- Invasives reduced
- Interpretive signage
- It would be cool to install a real-time water quality and water level monitoring station in Lake Alice where data on the lake could be shared with the UF community
- Keep human activity in the lake along the edges
- Keep trail free part of Lake trail free - setup web cams for people to watch wildlife activity
- Keep undeveloped land for wildlife and pollinator gardens
- Lake Alice "clean ups" or new projects proposed and executed by involved community members!
- Lake Alice is simultaneously a conservation area and a storm water drainage facility. Those seem to be inherently conflicting roles. How can we emphasize the former role while minimizing the latter?
- Lake Alice looks like a healthy vibrant ecosystem with healthy wildlife, no invasive species and greatly improved water quality
- Less algae
- Less algae bloom
- Less flooding into the Museum Rd and Village Dr intersection
- Less invasive plants
- Less turbid lake benefiting from upstream measures that have eliminated fertilizer runoff resulting in the end of manatee starvation and restoration of oxygen levels downstream
- Less vehicle traffic on Museum Road (perhaps this would encourage more wildlife to live at the lake
- LID standards and requirements
- Littoral vegetation
- Littoral zone planting to stabilize the banks of Lake Alice
- Lots of algae, traffic
- Low Impact Design at buildings and roads and paths upstream for stormwater attenuation during or right after rain events
- Maintain same degree of cover
- Maintain vegetation around the lake in a way that is better for wildlife - not pruning of trees that are favored perching spots for wildlife - observe how wildlife uses the lake!
- Maintenance of trails near lake Alice (trash removal)
- Management of vegetation to enhance native species growth and enhance animal biodiversity
- Maps showing where drainage system is sending water
- Markers in/around ground, celebrate ground waters flowing to Lake Alice
- Methods for redirecting the large alligators that hang out on the Mowry Road sidewalks to safer areas (for themselves and humans)

- Migratory birds have returned to the trees around the lake
- Minimally intrusive boardwalk, at most, to increase access and appreciation, but not turning it into a theme park
- Modern boardwalk with lights + seating
- More access to educational opportunities
- More alligator bellows
- More animals, less algae
- More attention to water quality and lake health
- More areas for parking bikes!
- More art and engagement in arts, citizen science, birding and other nature-based therapy activities
- More biodiversity
- More bird life, wildlife
- More birds, perhaps some bird houses
- More bird species in, around the lake
- More boardwalks and trails
- More boardwalks more wetlands with pedestrian areas
- More cars and noise pollution
- More easily available info at lake about how it's important to teach and research on campus
- More educational signage about water flow and pollution around LA
- More migratory birds with restoration of Lake
- More native birds
- More native vegetation (aquatic and terrestrial)
- More nature paths and boardwalks to view additional, currently inaccessible areas of Lake Alice
- More obvious presence (signage, activity, etc.) of student groups helping to improve habitats in watershed
- More people gather at this natural magnet for the University
- More permeable parking areas, closer to the lake and marsh, including designated scooter parking
- More public access
- More seating and add restrooms to the site
- More seating areas
- More seating to enjoy the view
- More trails and guided hikes available for students
- More waterside walking access (as long as it does not harm the lake)
- More way for students to connect to nature
- More wildlife
- More wildlife and wildlife protection (habitat, nesting areas, etc)
- More wildlife cameras/data collection
- More wildlife in and around the lake
- Mowed grass surrounding the lake has been burned and is turned into second succession habitat
- Native plants, but also model plantings after Sweetwater's efforts to enhance water quality by using specific plants
- Natural looking stormwater conveyance to the lake using materials that are robust and require minimal maintenance
- Natural swimming pool
- Near-term management and aesthetic decisions that would increase visibility of the lake, and improve water quality based on shoreline management practices
- Need data on the nutrient levels of the reclaimed water and a better understanding of the amount of nutrients that may get to Lake Alice through the use of reclaimed
- Need to strike a balance between recreational infrastructure and habitat quality (i.e. how much impervious surface is needed for walkways, piers, etc.)
- Nesting platforms for birds
- New bat house
- New trash receptacles like they have in bear habitats that prevents raccoons from emptying trash cans we have now
- No boats on the lake

- No people fishing, because the law is being enforced
- Non-invasive boardwalk going around more of Lake Alice with information about the lake and the project and what people can do to maintain the watershed and keep it clean
- Notice people hanging their hammocks between trees
- Notice the balance of naturalistic processes and human activities
- Notice the number of runners, bikers, and walkers traversing around it
- Nutrient load is decreased and water is cleaner and tannic
- Nutrient load into Lake Alice, or concentration of nutrients in tributaries would be nice to have
- People are more respectful of wildlife
- People caring for the land, enjoying the space, using in appropriate ways to educate and thrive
- People enjoying the lake for its natural value, with only minimal development (boardwalk, kiosk, 1-2 covered shelters)
- Plant more trees along waterways to provide shade
- Plant native Arrows (Pontederia cordata, Sagittaria latifolia)
- Porta potties for the football tailgators along the lake
- Presence of imagery of art in Harn Museum related to campus landscapes
- Protected by a standing, trained hazardous waste response and containment team
- Provide learning and research opportunities for UF students (add stormwater monitoring devices, make data available, etc.)
- Providing habitat and appropriate plant material to attract and provide food and homes for wildlife will pay huge impacts
- Public outreach materials about nature to guide visitors near parking areas and trails - in all accessible areas
- Quit calling Lake Alice a stormwater pond, forever
- Recreation programming
- Rebuilding green natural space
- Reduced algae mats
- Reduction in invasive species, reduced algae bloom & poor water quality
- Reduction of sedimentation and runoff because of best management practices
- Restore lake waters and education locals/students/alums about increased health and biodiversity in the lake
- Revitalized lake benefiting from a year round campus-wide ban on the use of petrochemical fertilizers, replaced with plant source fertilizers
- Restoration based on use of native plants, historical records, etc.
- Same if not more conservation area to protect
- See better signage for trails/easy to follow trail map
- See more vegetation to strengthen banks of the lake to filter and add oxygen to water runoff
- See the bat houses
- Short courses on the watershed, available to current students and alumni/visitors on occasion
- Signage showcasing actual uses alongside large-scale statistics and graphs showing how the watershed helps both people and the environment for educational purposes
- Signage throughout watershed about current and past biodiversity, non-native species, and how to report observations
- Signage to identify the aquifer paths
- Signs, podcasts, conferences, and

opportunities for students to publish also have made UF a leader in the Campus Nature Rx network
- Still see the Lake's ecosystem teaming with life and activity, both ecological and urban
- Stronger enforcement of littering laws. There's trash along the University Garden Boardwalk, as well as graffiti
- Stronger enforcement of "no fishing" policy (people fish right beside the signs prohibiting this)
- Some hardscape is being converted to wetlands that helps filter the waters
- The algae has been eradicated
- The boardwalks are newer/better maintained
- The campus is used for plein air painting, because its natural beauty is compelling
- The campus sanctuary remains intact for its plants, animals, and people
- The islands are cleared so that alligators can sun in a protected space
- The islands that block views of the lake removed
- The Lake and watershed can be used by extension faculty and staff to educate others from around the state in best practices
- The same animal biodiversity
- The same stormwater treatment
- The same vegetative habitat
- The same vegetative habitat
- The same view
- The sidewalks use permeable material and have a designated bike lane on museum road
- The third bat house has been rebuilt
- The perimeter has been established and development kept at bay
- THE WATER IS CLEAN! :)
- THE WATER IS CLEAN
- The water quality and stormwater drainage are improved
- The watershed management plan is implemented. All administrators, and the BOT support it
- There are great opportunities to provide boardwalks around the lake providing recreation and educational opportunities
- There should be wildlife such as birds, I love bird watching
- Three years from now improving water quality should be a major outcome
- Thriving ecosystem to support area wildlife and provide important flood mitigation purposes
- Traffic has been restricted and there is less constant flow of traffic on the road across from the bat houses
- Trash cans and port-a-potties appear for the tailgate Saturdays
- "Trash" receptacles are almost entirely replaced with compost collection and recycling. Amenities within watershed discourage use of single-use plastics
- Trees and other flora are planted to enhance resilience to extreme weather events, both around Lake A and across the watershed
- Trees, vegetation
- Trees have been planted by students and locals and there are projects for planting submerged aquatic vegetation underway
- Try to keep human impact and walkways in the undisturbed areas to a minimum to provide nesting spaces and protected areas for wildlife
- UF actively patrols and tickets fishing in lake/ taking of species
- UF and community members able to engage in quiet observation, reflection, meditation, and personal restoration in a safe, relaxing setting around the lake

- UF converts to a low-traffic, walkable campus
- UF has established a Lake Alice Water management Board that monitors and controls (issues permits) for all development that affects Lake Alice
- UF joins the Gainesville Water Quality Partnership
- UF uses public nightly enjoyment of Bat houses to spur Lubee interest
- UF stops over fertilizing, which produces runoff into the lakes
- UF stops overwatering and causing pollution
- Understanding of how changes in vegetation and landscaping around the lake may affect the lake. Examples could be tree removals, vegetation alterations for utility right of ways, removal of natural vegetation for camellias, etc.
- Upstream treatment of storm water to eliminate silt from entering the lake
- Upstream water containment
- Updated signage about the flora and fauna along the lake
- Updating tree mitigation plans to have more protection during construction projects, more silt barriers etc.
- Upstream issues are being managed so that it reduces the need for direct action at the lake itself (nutrient loading, water pollution, sedimentation)
- Use lake as natural UF centerpiece to inspire others for multi-disciplinary restoration volunteer activities to involve student life
- Use upstream containment for local reclaim watering
- Volunteer opportunities would be great to involve people in Lake's improvements
- Walk onto the gator overlook
- Walkable/bikeable path all the way around lake alice
- Water and pollutants coming from surrounding roads and lands are held upstream; the City and DOT do their part
- Water conversation
- Water quality is on way to recovery
- Water quality shows measurable improvement
- Watershed Ordinance for current/future development impacting LA Watershed. Look for planning codes that adopted rules around aquifer recharge zone
- We are here because of the water (UF moved to Gainesville for water source) celebrate Lake Alice!
- We stop removing alligators from the population, and address limiting/eliminating human-wildlife conflicts caused by bad human behavior
- Webcams established and observations of the wildlife are part of a vigorous and growing curriculum
- Webcams in areas that are currently inaccessible
- Wildlife abounds
- Wind in trees - similar as today
- Would be useful to get a sense of what the current plant/weed management plan is
- Would find attractive a vista of native aquatic plants serving as habitat rather than nuisance monocultures
- Would love more benches and seating areas near the lake
- Would love to see more wildlife like birds

Participant contributions: 10-year vision

What do you see, hear, and feel? What is different from today?

- 3 year changes are maintained
- A healthy lake and peaceful and beautiful surrounds
- A nationally recognized bird sanctuary
- A natural gem that highlights the highest standard of stormwater management, using an ecological lens
- A recreational and educational waterfront park with stormwater management
- Access to different area of the lake
- Access to the Lake Alice watershed has been increased to provide and encourage use
- Able to see more of the lake
- Access to more areas away from the road
- Access to the lake is not as restricted to UF students
- Addition of new bat houses
- Additional interpretive information regarding the lake and its role in the watershed
- All good as is
- All invasive species are removed
- All invasive plants are removed
- All of 3-year items in action
- Alumni and researchers talk about how Lake Alice was an influential outdoor classroom area that shaped their understanding of the natural world and science
- Amphitheater or tiered outdoor classroom
- An interpretive trail on the perimeter of the lake
- Animal biodiversity that hasn't been seen in more than 20 years
- Annual symposium on research and teaching related to Lake Alice
- Aquifer injection wells end!
- Around Lake Alice tributaries that are campus waterways have been daylighted/resurfaced and have signage and maps showing the connection to the lake
- Artificially constructed vertical flow wetlands atop the lake, basically acting as stormwater treatment
- At night the fireflies, not seen for decades, embroider the night sky with light
- Awards for stormwater management project execution
- Bat houses are bigger and newer
- Bat houses are protected and populations are stable or growing
- Because of the established perimeter, the lake and wildlife are thriving
- Better communicated best practices for wildlife management
- Boardwalk around more of the edge
- Cars are limited to fewer days and hours
- Cleansing biotopes vegetated with native species to filter rainwater
- Community members and students of all ages have an understanding of water issues throughout the state because of the example and education provided
- Connections and clear information/education for visitors that ties together the food organic garden, bats and native pollinator landstaples and good decisions for H20 cans
- Continued commitment and guaranteed preservation and protection of Lake Alice
- Continued/improved shoreline and upland watershed management for water quality and habitat
- Continuing to clean up pollution
- Continuous monitoring prevents re-establishment of invasives and ensures natural veg is regenerating
- Controlled eutrophication in the exposed lake
- Creek conveyances designed to slow velocity of storm water with

meandering route and vegetation
- Creek systems are returned to a more natural state
- Creeks that have been channelized are restored to their natural states (meandering, shallow, without trash)
- Debris and sediment from construction residue and runoff
- Disrupted ecosystems
- Easy transportation to and from the lake. Maybe a bike rental service or a bus that stops there
- Educate community on its importance
- Either injection wells are closed off OR stormwater entering wells in aquifer meets drinking water standards/springs level water quality
- Enhance and maintain the stormwater water quality and storm surge capabilities
- Enhance educational efforts about human-wildlife coexistence and keep large alligators
- Enhanced stormwater management throughout campus. Make our stormwater ponds, wetlands, and conveyances amenities and training opportunities
- Enhanced trails for exploring natural areas
- Enhanced trails to enjoy deeper look into the conservation area
- Establish connections with CWC to provide therapy opportunities for students
- Established native plantlife, attracting pollinators and native birds
- Exceptional water quality
- Exotic and invasive vegetation is removed to the greatest extent possible from natural areas. Natural areas are spaces that now expose students to valuable and diverse habitats
- Features like boardwalks etc. have been added carefully so as to retain the feel
- Fewer invasive species as native flora/fauna are encouraged/cultivated/protected. Community helps with this, like annual Air Potato Round-Up
- Fewer non-native animal species
- Fifield lot is reconditioned as a trailhead for lake walk with trees, picnic areas
- Filters for the drainage going into the lake
- Fish glinting in its depths with new clarity to the waters
- Fishing remains off-limits to the public/only for approved research purposes
- Flagship stormwater treatment park with dedicated bike lanes
- For natural areas: less than 5% invasive and non native veg
- Fourth of July fireworks at the lake. Seating and grassy areas all the way around to enjoy the show
- Fully connected pervious/natural paths through the entire watershed with educational signage on the ecosystem/its importance
- Fungal species well documented and educational outreach includes their contribution to Lake A ecosystems!
- Further progress with restoration
- Good erosion control methods when constructing storm drain infrastructure
- Goodbye golf course pesticides/fertilizer usage, no golf course OR best managed for supporting ecological health
- Greater cover of marsh grass relative to woody vegetation
- Guided interpretation trail that loops lake and marsh. Discusses vegetation, fauna, and watershed characteristics, trail should provide access to marsh areas not visible now
- Harmony woods is protected

- Have a view around the lake so you can't see any buildings (hide the Dental Tower and other HSC buildings somehow)
- Healthy water quality - an example of responsible stewardship and restoration
- Hear as little evidence of road noise, campus noise as possible, screened by native vegetation, and an area that people can appreciate the natural components, rather than human-built
- Hear fall migrant birds in higher abundance because the lake provides an ecological oasis
- Hear nesting colonies of wading birds that have returned to the Lake. Last colonies were destroyed when Facilities inappropriately trimmed edge vegetation in the 70's
- Higher connectivity between Lake Alice and nearby CALM areas
- I hear less traffic and more water, birds, foliage in the wind
- I may see less wildlife if they lose their habitat
- I see a cleaner lake that has benefited from a switch to landscape designs with rain retentive depressions, more absorptive plantings, reduced hardscape surfaces, more water features and increased tree canopy
- I see a lake that is part of a water management design with features of Sweetwater Wetlands Park, including accommodation for major rain events
- I see a lake receiving less runoff because, campus-wide, hard pavement and sidewalks have been reduced or replaced with permeable material
- I see/hear more aquatic birds, similar to Sweetwater Wetlands
- I see less vegetation if development continues on current trajectory
- I want to see the greenery and perhaps a dock
- I will see a monorail or self-driving electric shuttle transporting students, faculty and visitors to and from well-contained commuter parking lots at the periphery of campus
- I would like to feel much the same as I do now, and too many “improvements” can jeopardize that. The Baughman Center turned out well, but more of the same might not work
- I would not see or hear gasoline vehicles. All UF fleets will be electric or solar powered. A campus wide phase out of vehicles that emit combustion products (carbon monoxide, heavy metals), leak motor oil and leak antifreeze, all which pollute the watershed, will be completed
- I would really like to have a tall viewing platform, like the one in Paynes Prairie visitor center to have a better look and feel of the lake
- IFAS buildings modernized, made to feel more like a campus. Low Impact Development connections to Lake Alice
- In addition to Lake Alice, incorporate water quality monitoring and low cost DIY sensor approaches (already being developed on campus) to monitor stormwater system
- In the watershed as a whole - the ponds and sinkholes should feel/function more like a campus amenity
- Include more courses on nature based therapies and promote sustainable usage of the green spaces
- Increased upstream water storage through green infrastructure (e.g., bioswales)
- Increase usage by the public both quiet and recreational sports
- Increase educational efforts to facilitate wildlife protection
- Increased recreational access
- Interactive spaces

- Interpretation signs in different languages for foreign students/families
- Invasive species are under control and natural veg thrives
- Inventory of all terrestrial and aquatic species has been completed
- Keep dense vegetation around the lake to protect wildlife
- Keep more trees on stream banks to provide shade and keep water temperatures lower
- Keep surrounding areas undeveloped and cleaner
- Lake A area is idyllic and a site of community connection; people come for picnics and are more educated about how (not) to interact with Florida wildlife
- Lake Alice area allowed to progress through ecological succession, not "preserved" for false ideal of pristine/pre colonial nature
- Lake Alice is the favorite gathering point and natural experience at the university. It is the Wild and Natural Heart of the campus
- Lake Alice's importance as a major UF landmark should be fully recognized and protected
- Lake Alice is a changing environment; used to be 1 ha pond -> 18 ha -> 33 ha of lake and marsh. Allowed to mature -> more habitat most suitable for biota including humans
- Lake Alice is used as a resource for extension to highlight best management practices for Florida ecosystems. Award-worthy management of natural resources
- Lake Alice needs to be celebrated by the broader UF/GNV community. The best way to build ownership of the lake is to get more people to love it (festivals, events, art shows etc.)
- Lake Alice south improvements for casual recreation
- Lake powered by GRU, a more sustainable, cleaner energy source that uses less fossil fuels and doesn't burn general trash to generate electricity, thus limiting pollution in precipitation
- Larger trees, even more forested with native plants
- Leave area undeveloped - manage for maximal biodiversity - the lake is a unique resource that can be a huge draw if UF protects it and manages it to keep it intact - and educate about this fantastic resource
- Less algae
- Less invasive plants
- Less traffic areas and more for exploration
- Lighted gazebos on land with seating and wheelchair ramp access
- Long boardwalk through marshy and swampy portions of water
- Looks very marsh and less lake
- Lots of spaces for native birds, insects, all the creatures that make up a thriving ecosystem!
- Low impact development across campus
- Low impact development network connecting environmentally important areas
- Maintain or improve wildlife corridors connecting wetlands and creeks on campus. Less alligators having to cross streets
- Maintenance of island as roosting habitat for birds
- Make view of Lake Alice pure green space with no buildings - find ways to eliminate views of buildings like HSC Dental Tower
- Manage Lake Alice for biodiversity - return of species like purple gallinules and five-lined skinks
- Manage waterway for wildlife - keep boats off of lake
- More animals, less algae

- More boardwalk/trail access through the basin marsh and forested areas
- More boardwalk/viewing opportunities on other parts of the lake
- More extensive wheelchair accessibility - a boardwalk and level sidewalks
- More fish
- More general education on wildlife using the lake and around the lake!
- More open natural spaces around the eastern side of the lake/marsh
- More parts of the watershed are protected and left in a natural state
- More people use Lake Alice
- More traffic noise due to uncontrolled growth of population and buildings
- More wellness walks including forest bathing for staff and faculty
- Mostly undeveloped shoreline, but free of invasives
- Native plants that filter water
- Native vegetation replaces non-natives, and relies on local rainfall and nutrients
- Nearby paved parking is removed (west of Lake Alice)
- New courses are developed and use the area (biodiversity-related courses, water management courses, climate change courses, and more)
- New/remodeling project policy, recurrent funding, and projects addressing upstream stormwater have decreased the amount of runoff and erosion in/near lake
- Nitrogen, phosphorus, etc. will all be at sustainable levels. Lake Alice will not experience any harmful algae blooms
- No Ardisia in natural areas or anywhere really
- No concern that Trustees or other political figures will attempt to develop Lake Alice, or pursue projects that can damage the natural function
- No expansion of automobile transport along southern and Eastern edges
- No loss of land in conservation areas - THIS is crucial!
- No people fishing
- No/very limited invasive species
- Outdoor classrooms
- Outdoor classroom areas for UF students, but also for local High/Middle School students
- Outdoor classroom area where different departments can hold lectures/outdoor events
- Outdoor workshop areas
- Overall footprint of Lake Alice + conservation area retained
- Parking lots and hardscape have been transformed into natural gardens with involvement from many departments and colleges on campus
- Part of what draws people to UF is the balance we have always maintained between nature and progress
- Pier/walking area
- Pesticides and fertilizers are minimized or eliminated across campus
- Plant growing zones change due climate change
- Pocket trails ADA accessible
- Potential loss of animal wildlife - decline of fish, and macro-invertebrates
- Privately owned Greek lots retain the bundle of rights that come with that ownership
- Rather than UF continuing to deny its role in destroying the lake, UF becomes a steward of the environment
- Really clear and healthy lake
- Recovered connection between Lake Alice and Lake Alice South
- Recreation and education, protection, and research around the lake
- Redevelopment at the trails, the Hume field turned into a well-designed park with green infrastructure and

served as a great educational site for the public
- Regular events and engagement with the cultural importance of Lake Alice area
- Restore/revitalize channelized creeks
- Restore unique habitats that are no longer present on campus, such as the stream habitat of "Crapper Creek" south of O'Connell Center (now Graham Woods)
- Rising water levels
- Signage with a contact number or webpage address to instruct people on how they can help with the overall conservation and protection effort
- Signs for bugs, insects (showing good or bad)
- Signs for plants (pond cypress, taxodium ascendens), with what leaf and nuts look like
- Signs for the animals (little egret, egretta garzetta), with what they eat and sound they make
- Signs for the plants and wildlife you can see on the trails or by the water
- Solar panel grid near bank
- Still no fishing or boating
- Stormwater treatment cells (like Sweetwater)
- Students, faculty and staff using the lake as an amenity, not an inconvenience to drive around
- Substantial boardwalk improvements that make LA accessible
- Survey of all current plants and animals in Lake Alice and the watershed to collect information about what is invasive, info about microclimate, population affected by the watershed
- Systems at the entrances to Lake Alice that filter the incoming water of harmful debris and trash and collect it, where it is then properly taken care of
- Systems that collect water overflow and clean it to make drinkable water
- Techniques used and show students how it works
- The bat house stays the same and the field is covered like a greenhouse
- The deep water injection wells are plugged, or we are assured, in perpetuity, that the water entering the aquifer is clean
- The extension of wetland filtration areas means the injection into the aquifer has stopped
- The islands are cleared so that alligators can sun in a protected space
- The Lake Alice watershed management plan is shared, and becomes a model. Because UF is essentially a closed system, progress can be monitored
- The Lake's and the watershed's 2000+ year history is known by all, including histories of Indigenous peoples who lived in the Lake A/North Central Florida region
- The Lake, and the watershed, understood by everyone using campus--where does water drain from, and to? Everyone knows how to protect the watershed, and water
- The public is boating on the lake
- The same animal biodiversity
- The same in a sense of undeveloped area
- The same stormwater treatment
- The same view
- The water quality is clearly more noticeable
- The watershed has served an important purpose as hurricanes and torrential rains have a path to go
- There are some historical markers around the lake that mention the Native American presence around the lake in millennia past
- This area is still a central feature on campus, drawing folks to use it in support of their well-being
- Three times as many students now enjoy the tranquility and paths and bikeways make it accessible

- Thriving local species of flora, fauna, and wildlife; reduced/eliminated invasive species
- Traffic pattern changed to route on Hull Road - Lake Alice road becomes pedestrian and bicycling
- Trail that circumnavigates the lake, including areas that are not currently accessible on north side
- Treatment wetland is used to educate students on sustainable alternatives to conventional water treatment and its benefits to wildlife and general ecology
- Tree canopy maintained
- UF and the watershed are recognized as a national example of how to ecologically manage campus stormwater and create a robust conservation network on a campus
- UFPD actively patrols lake access
- Use flow of water from around the watershed going to Lake Alice to generate clean energy. Dams that water can flow through that spins automobile and produces electricity while also filtering out trash
- Waterfront park, public transportation only on Museum Road, EV bus buzzing
- Water quality is much improved
- Water quality is pristine. Incoming water is no longer impaired. Water is treated with a treatment wetland prior to discharge to the lake
- Water quality meets standards
- Webcams so we can visit remotely
- Well-funded department who is “in charge” of Lake Alice
- Wetlands filter water and handle flooding
- With the work of the community I see a successful planning effort
- XR/AR equipment to show how Lake Alice used to look like and, what it looks like in a storm condition