Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan

Draft Recommendations Feedback

Workshop Location, Reitz Union Room G330
March 6, 2024

FIND A SEAT NEXT TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW VERY WELL

PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS SIT AT DIFFERENT TABLES

UF | UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Agenda, 9:00 - 12:00
8:50 Pre-meeting gathering time, arrival
9:00 Welcome & Agenda Overview
Project Review
Draft recommendations feedback: Part 1
Draft recommendations feedback: Part 2
Next Steps
12:00 Adjourn

Workshop Aims:

- Brief review of the project and vision.
- Build shared understanding and collect feedback on recommendations.
- Create a learning environment.
- Continue to build relationships between members.

Meeting Roles

- **Steering Committee:** Use your technical, scientific, institutional, historical, and community knowledge and expertise to provide feedback to Consultant Team and inform Project Team decisions.
- **Project Team:** Use your expertise and experience to provide feedback to the Consultant Team.
- **Consultant Team:** Provide and clarify technical information related to recommendations.
- **Facilitation Team:** To guide the group through a process of capturing feedback and to be content neutral.

Group norms to guide our work together

1. Be ready to participate
2. Ask questions when needed
3. One speaker at a time
4. Be mindful of air time

Parking boards:

Issues flip - identify issues not in our agenda to be handled outside of the workshop

Actions flip - to capture any action items that come up during the meeting or any decisions made

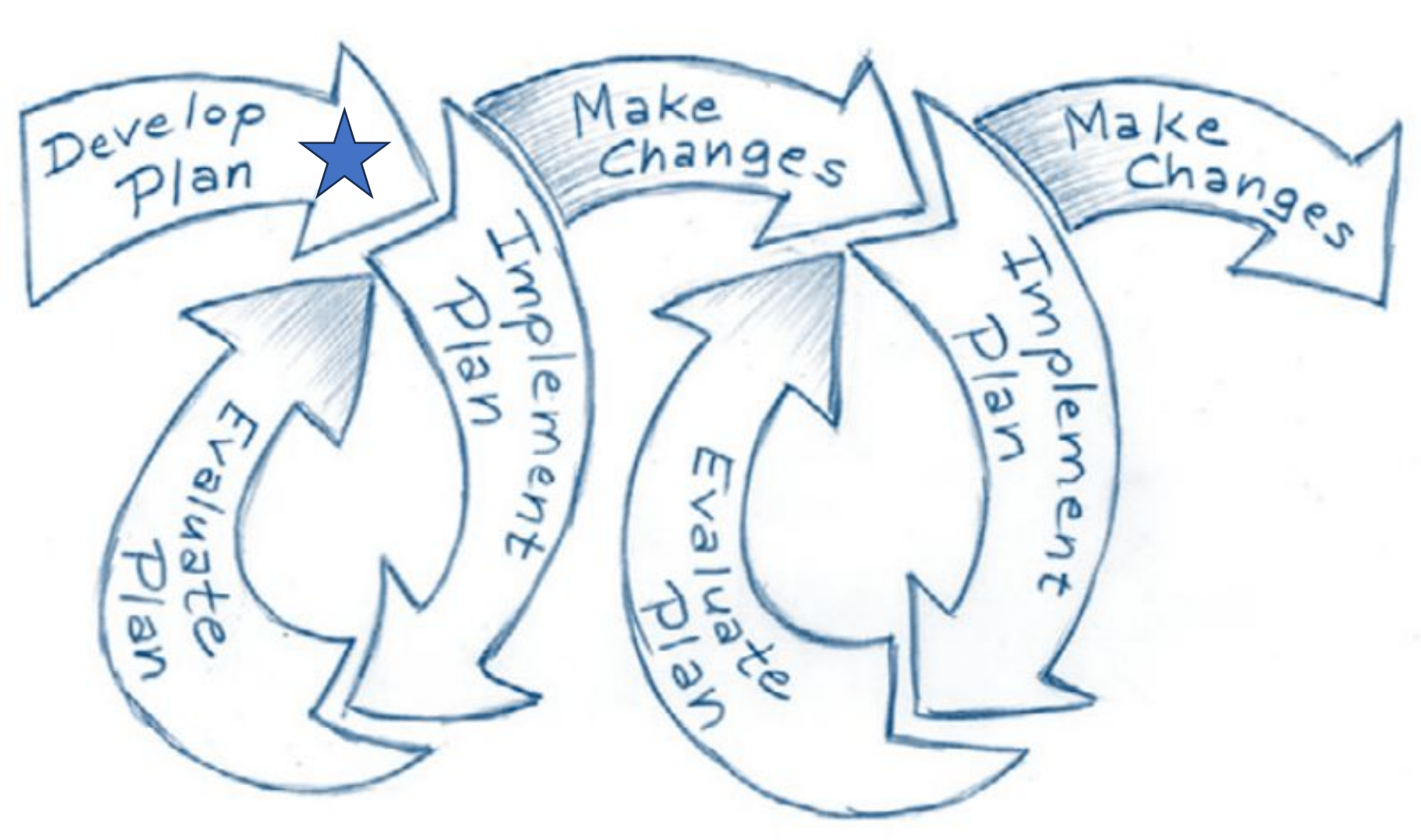
Group check-in

Name

Affiliation

One of your hopes for this session today?

Watershed Management Planning Cycle

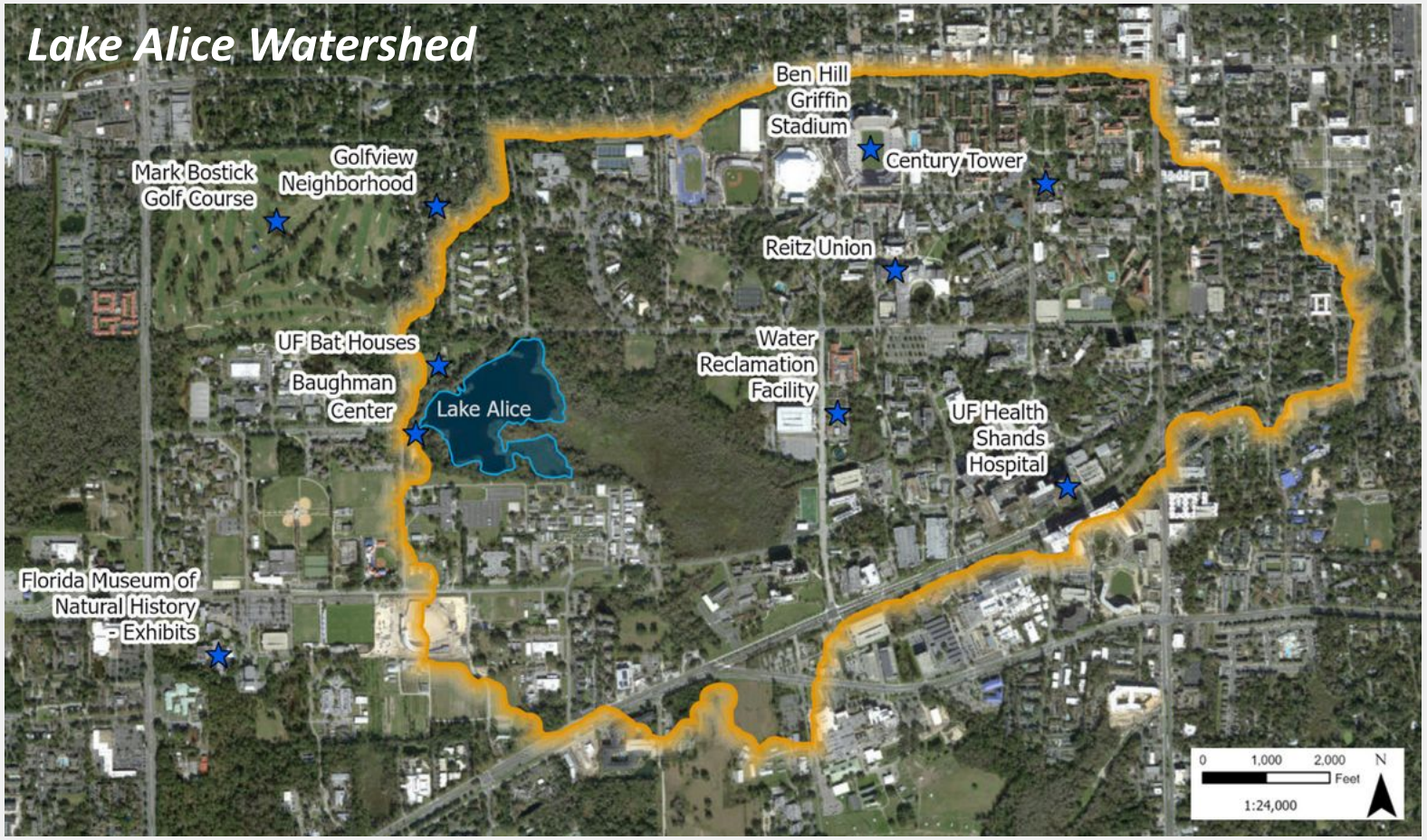


Source: Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters, Environmental Protection Agency

Project overview

Watershed Management Plan goals

- Holistic framework for stormwater management of the lake, creeks, wetlands, and stormwater infrastructure
- Define uses, users, and policies
- Evaluate current stormwater design requirements, operation, and maintenance
- Provide recommendations for future watershed management as campus development continues: water quality/quantity, vegetation, climate resilience, stormwater, funding



Project Tasks and Status

Page 3 in Briefing Book

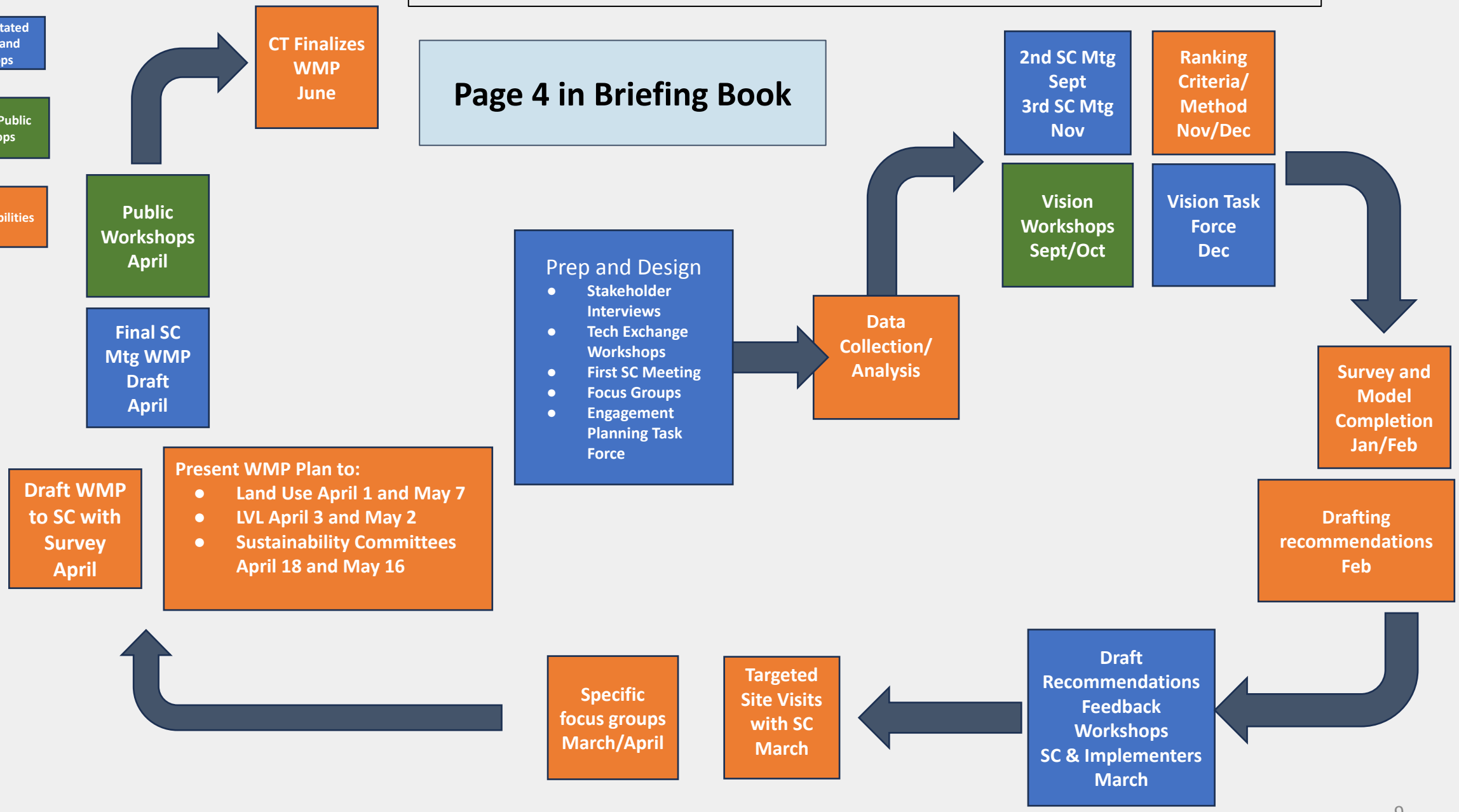
Data Collection and Analysis	Vision	Stormwater Modeling	Corrective Intervention Recommendations	Watershed Management Plan Draft
Status: • SC and PT interviews • Completed Technical Exchange Workshops • Completed staff and regulator focus groups • Literature review • Data collection and analysis • Design plan and permit review • *Targeted site visits*	**Status:** • Completed vision workshops • Identified themes and subthemes of vision • Vision statement creation and adoption by PT	**Status:** • Stormwater model refinement needs identified • Stormwater updated • Survey complete • *Modeling design storms* • *Identifying flooding and erosion problem areas*	**Status:** • Received feedback on ranking criteria • *Ranking flooding and erosion problem areas based on model results* • *Developing conceptual projects to address 3 flooding and 3 erosion areas*	**Status:** • *Developing recommendations based on data collection and vision* • *Being drafted based on collected information, literature review, and previous studies*

Overarching Lake Alice WMP Development Process 2023 - 2024

Legend

- SC/PT Facilitated Meetings and Workshops
- Facilitated Public Workshops
- CT Responsibilities

Page 4 in Briefing Book



Vision process

Vision Question: Imagine you are standing near Lake Alice. What do you see, hear, and feel? What is different from today?

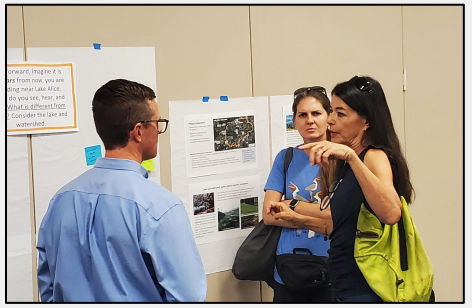
Combined 3-yr and 10-yr sub-themes

Grouped sub-themes into overarching themes

SC/PT Feedback on themes and subthemes

Vision Task Force developed 4 overarching vision statements

Project Team provided further feedback and adopted final vision



- Three workshops held + online survey: two virtual, one in-person
- Participants contributed a total of ***575*** responses to the workshop questions
- Majority of participants were UF faculty, staff, and students

Final Vision Statements

Page 5 in Briefing Book

Highlight what stands out to you and what you want to keep in mind as we review the recommendations.

Environmental Conditions and Stormwater Management

Lake Alice is the heart of campus and symbolizes the University's dedication to environmental stewardship. The lake and watershed are inextricably linked to successful stormwater conveyance and treatment on campus and provide vital ecosystem services. Incorporation of green stormwater infrastructure, low impact development, and best management practices will reduce flooding, erosion, and sedimentation that impacts the University's assets and the natural environment. A visible, successful, and celebrated stormwater system will further the University's educational mission by telling the stormwater story while showcasing a commitment to innovation and excellence.

Recreation, Access and Accessibility, and Education

Lake Alice and the Conservation Areas provide a unique network of natural spaces integrated within the built environment of campus. This proximity offers consistent connection to nature and recreational opportunities that further the University's academic mission and enhance well-being. Increasing accessibility, passive recreation, and intentional programming in and around these areas raises awareness and appreciation for the watershed and University while promoting natural discovery.

Conservation and Biodiversity

The extensive natural areas on campus are an integral part of the university and community experience. The protection and enhancement of these areas are essential to foster biodiversity, protect wildlife habitats, and expand connectivity. These ecologically diverse communities provide a living laboratory for outdoor learning and best management practices for urban stream ecology and wildlife movements.

Organizational Accountability, Collaboration, and Responsiveness

The University of Florida strives to have well-maintained buildings and a vibrant landscape that is functional and well-used. Extending this standard to all natural areas and stormwater features requires clear coordination, communication, and a responsive organizational framework. Stormwater management is a critical component of preserving and enhancing the campus experience and image. Successful management depends on assigned responsibility and funding that ensures necessary projects and upgrades can be made. Endorsement of an adaptive watershed management plan with dedicated, recurring funding acknowledges the ongoing nature of watershed stewardship.

Share in pairs

- Find someone at your table to partner with
- Share one item you highlighted with your partner ***(4 minutes)***
- Pick a reporter to be prepared to share one highlighted item with the whole group

Draft Recommendations Feedback

Draft Recommendations and Feedback Process

1. Draft recommendations developed by CT
2. Feedback from SC/PT on recommendations related to capital improvement projects
3. Feedback from implementers (UF Administration Leadership) on recommendations related to process improvement
4. Survey to SC, PT, and Implementers with all recommendations to receive feedback
5. Specific focus groups
6. WMP drafted

Five Draft Recommendations

A. Yulee Stormwater Park

B. Creek Step-Pool Stabilization

C. Lake Alice South Stormwater Wetland

D. Graham Woods

E. Dispersed Low Impact Development

Feedback Part 1: Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges, Opportunities

6 rotating poster rounds

- Break into small groups, rotating every ***5 to 7 minutes***
- ***Round 1:*** read recommendation in briefing book, discuss as a group, write responses on flip. **(7 minutes)**
- ***Rounds 2-5:*** read recommendation in briefing book, read responses on flip, ***star **** any you agree with or **question mark**, add any new thoughts/ideas. **(5 to 7 mins each)**
- ***Round 6:*** rotate to starting poster, review responses, ***underline significant items to report out to the whole group (using a different color marker).*** **(5 minutes)**
- **10 minute break**
- Whole group report out and reflection

Recommendations on Pages 7-11 in Briefing Book

Feedback Part 1: Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges, Opportunities

Draft recommendation:	
Part 1: SWCO	
What are the <u>strengths</u> of this recommendations?	***What are the <u>weaknesses</u>?***
What are the <u>challenges</u>?	***What are the <u>opportunities</u>?***

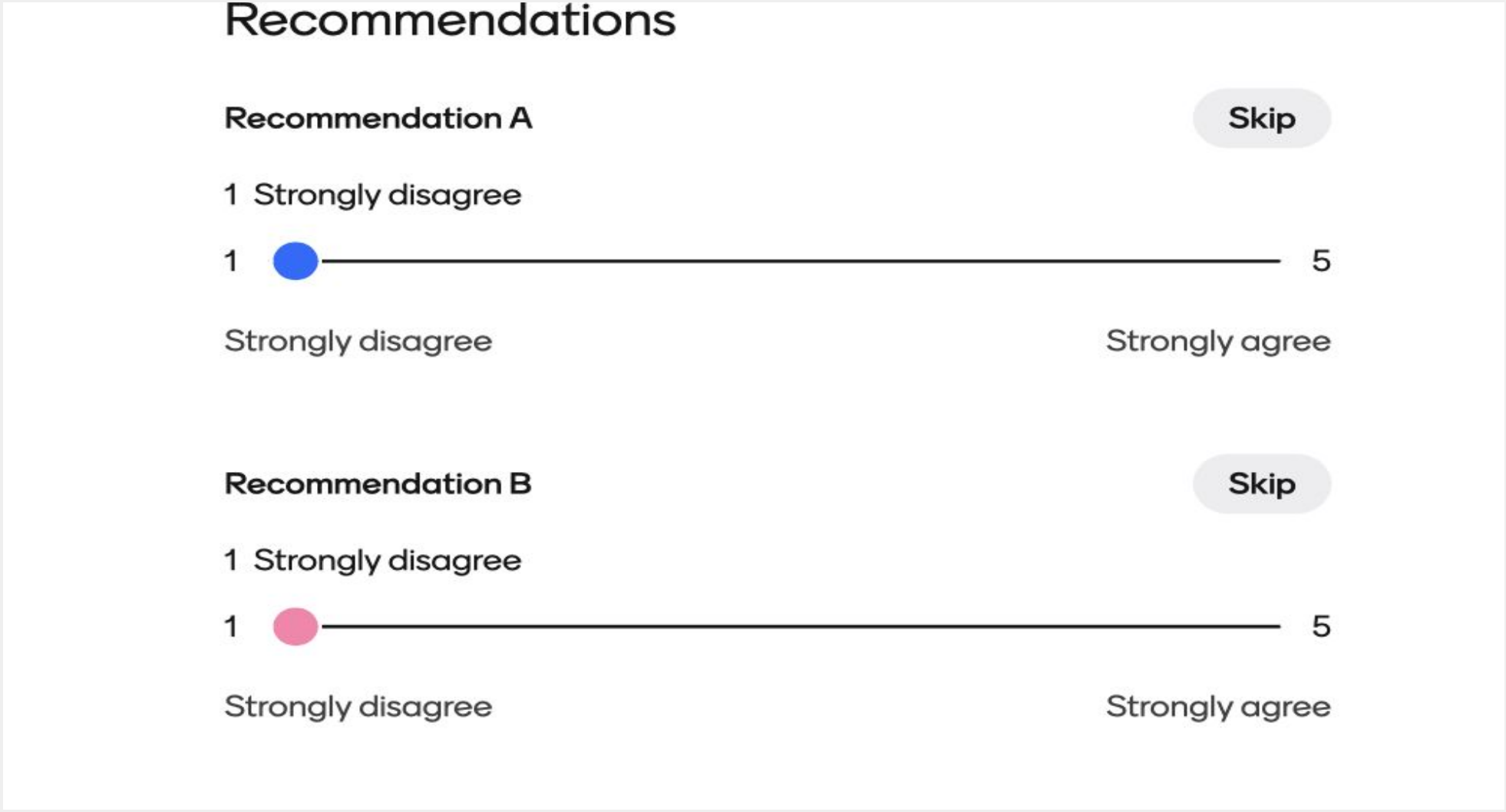
Report Outs

- Tell us your recommendation
- Report out the significant items you underlined
- Questions of clarity from the group or consultants?

Level of Agreement Scale

Level of Agreement	
1	Strongly disagree - Don’t support at all
2	Slightly disagree - Don’t like but will support
3	Somewhat agree - Support with reservations
4	Agree - Support with a minor point of contention, good enough
5	Strongly agree - fully support

Level of agreement: Mentimeter



Next Steps

- Survey for feedback on additional project and process recommendations
- Targeted site visits
  - What day of the week works best?
  - Late March
- Next Steering Committee meeting
  - April 9th
    - ***10:00 - 12:00 pm, via Zoom***
- April public informational workshops
  - April 25th in-person
    - ***4:30 - 7:30 pm***
    - ***No registration required***
    - ***Straughn Professional Development Center***
  - April 30th online
    - ***12-1 pm***
    - ***Registration required***
    - ***Zoom***

Group check-out:

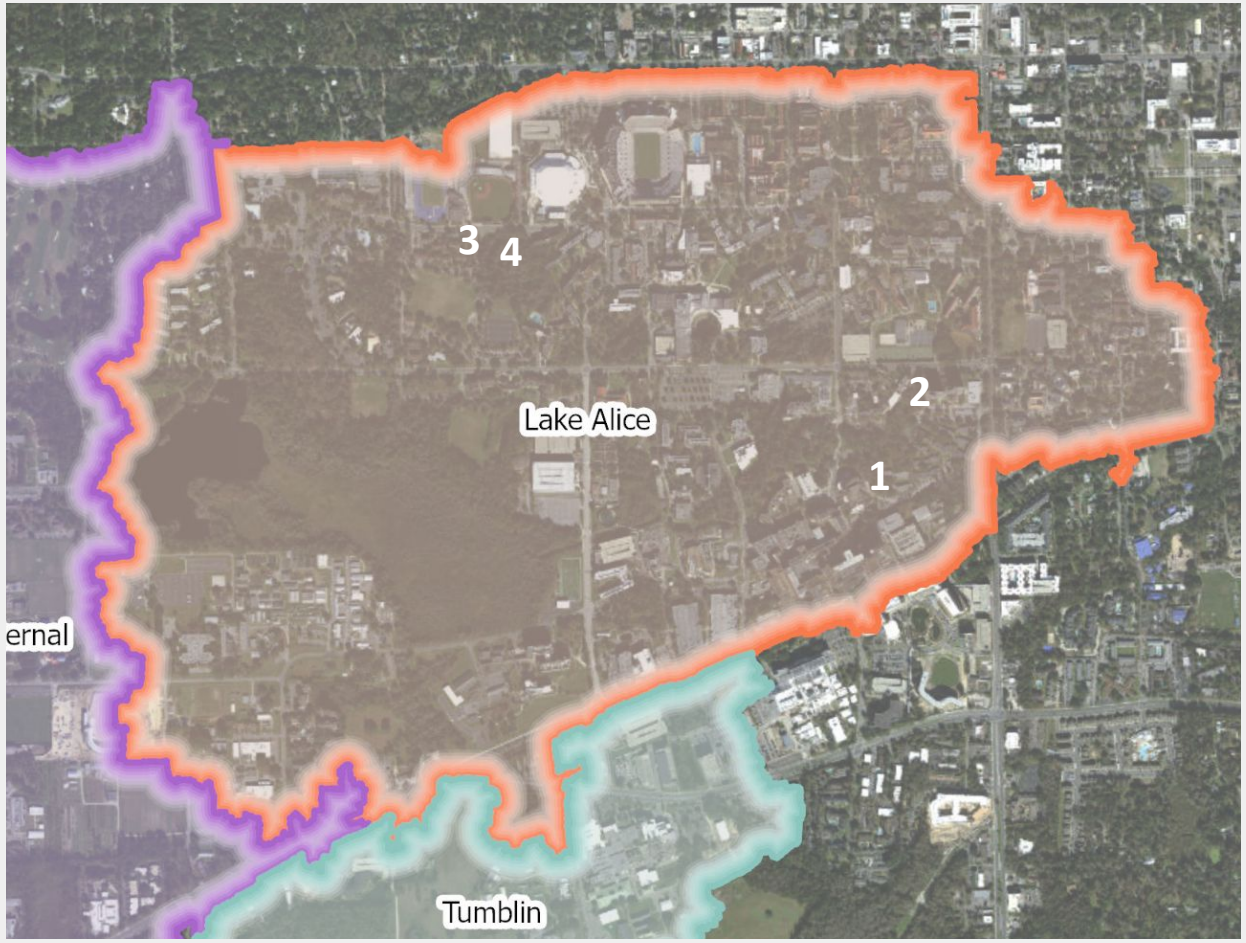
What are one or two words that come to mind that summarizes your experience today?

Appendix

Special Note: Critical Technical Projects

PT directed consultant team to proceed with critical, urgent technical projects

1. Diamond Creek Erosion
2. Jennings Creek Headwall Separation
3. Keys Complex Erosion
4. Graham Woods Erosion



Current UF Lake Alice Policies

Allowable Uses (some may require approval)

- Passive recreational use *on the land*
- Pets permitted on land if leashed/under control
- Research and data collection
- Vegetation management
- Stormwater maintenance

Restrictions

- No swimming or wading
- No camping
- No hunting or fishing
- No boating
- No feeding alligators
- No harassing wildlife
- No damage or collection of vegetation
- No littering

IAP2 Core Values (adopted by PT)

The Project Team, Steering Committee, and consulting team are committed to reflecting the following Core Values in our engagement for this project:

Community engagement…

1. Is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Includes the promise that the stakeholder contributions will guide the decision.
3. Promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Provides participants with the information they need to participate in this project in a meaningful way.
7. Communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

Source: Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation, www.iap2.org

IAP2 Code of Ethics (adopted by PT)

The IAP2 Code of Ethics is a set of principles that guide us in work of equity-centered engagement. For this project, the Project Team, Steering Committee, and consulting team hold ourselves accountable for these principles and strive to hold all participants to the same standards.

1. **Purpose**. We support public participation as a process to make better decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of all affected stakeholders and meet the needs of the decision-making body.
2. **Role of Practitioner**. We will enhance the public's participation in the decision-making process and assist decision-makers in being responsive to the public's concerns and suggestions.
3. **Trust**. We will undertake and encourage actions that build trust and credibility for the process among all the participants.
4. **Defining the Public's Role**. We will carefully consider and accurately portray the public's role in the decision-making process.
5. **Openness**. We will encourage the disclosure of all information relevant to the public's understanding and evaluation of a decision.
6. **Access to the Process**. We will ensure that stakeholders have fair and equal [equitable] access to the public participation process and the opportunity to influence decisions.
7. **Respect for Communities**. We will avoid strategies that risk polarizing community interests or that appear to "divide and conquer."
8. **Advocacy**. We will advocate for the public participation process and will not advocate for interest, party, or project outcome.
9. **Commitments**. We ensure that all commitments made to the public, including those by the decision-maker, are made in good faith.
10. **Support of the Practice**. We will mentor new practitioners in the field and educate decision-makers and the public about the value and use of public participation.

Source: International Association for Public Participation, www.iap2.org

Level of engagement adopted by PT: Involve

Involve because we *will* be gathering input early in the process, then feedback later.

Engagement goal: To work directly with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Engagement promise: We will work with stakeholders to ensure their concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed, and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced decisions.

Source: Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation, www.iap2.org

Engagement objectives

Share information

1. Provide participants with understandable and relevant technical information, definitions, and timelines.
2. Provide participants with background information related to the lake and this project, including University policy and related regulatory information.
3. Clearly convey the University's commitment to jointly developing a feasible plan and implementation timeline, and advancing improvements.

Collect input and feedback

4. Gather meaningful input and insights on critical priorities that are central to the project.
5. Gather substantive feedback on key alternatives and options.

Educate and coordinate

6. Build community understanding of the issues and needs, and support for short- and long-term watershed opportunities and solutions.
7. Create opportunities for participants to listen to and learn from each other.
8. Coordinate project engagement and learning efforts with related UF and community projects.

Key Community Stakeholders

Users
Regular, active visitors to Lake - Bat House, Ficke Gardens, University Gardens and lake shore
Photographers
People who tailgate near LA
outdoor users (Amanda)
Baby Gator- Staff & Parents
People having events at the Baughman Center
Students with disabilities who want to access LA - Disability Resource Center
Students and faculty with classes, research, and similar at LA/watershed
Faculty teaching, research at Lake Alice (sciences, DCP)
Leaders of nearby acad units that interact w/LA; Unit Leaders: Dr. Gunter/Dr. Kopsell/Dr. Loria/Dr. Triplett
Students in classes, research at LA

Housing residents and businesses that abut LA or are nearby
Fraternity houses near Lake Alice or draining into Lake Alice
Fraternity Row - Adjacent to Fraternity Wetlands
AGR - Fraternity
Sorority Row residents - area drains to LA
Student residents near LA (Cory Village, etc.)
Fraternity Residents
Field & Fork Garden - Students & Faculty (Anna Prizzia)
Baughman Ctr leadership
Key UF committees and groups
UF Faculty Senate
Lakes, Vegetation & Landscaping Committee
Steering Committee
Project Team
Student Senate
Infrastructure Council
CALM Plan Steering Committee

Key Community Stakeholders

Active community members
Howard and Lisa Jelks, environmentalists, neighbors
Margaret Tolbert, artist, environmentalist, neighbor
John Moran, environmentalist, photographer
Erika Henderson, Alice's Friends, UF staff
Alice's Friends (Christine Housel)
Golfview Neighborhood Assn
Jim and Sibet Grantham, neighbors
Rod McGalliard, neighbor
Doug Soltis - FLMNH

Environmentally focused student groups and organizations
Ethnobotany Garden group
Green Greeks Florida - Registered Student Organization
Student Government - Gators Going Green
UF UnLitter
Forestry Graduate Student Organization
UF Students for New Urbanism
GREBE Audubon Campus Chapter
UF Wildlife Society
Society of Photography for Wildlife Conservation
OUTdoors
UF Wetlands Club
OAC - Unregistered Student Club
ROTC members doing drills, etc. at LA
UF Greek Community
Greek Life Leadership