

Campus RainWorks Challenge Video Transcript for University of Florida Design Team

Text: "Awareness," "Aware of water," "Ownership," "Own our impact," "Sustainability," "Ability to improve," "Community," "Unity in one voice," "Voice," "Give water a voice," "A collection of influential voices on campus."

Dr. Mark Clark: Lake Alice is our stormwater retention basin. It is the permitted basin to manage all of the stormwater runoff from the majority of campus, and that actually creates a bit of a conundrum because Lake Alice is also a water conservation area and it's a primary feature on campus that people like to look at. We have a lot of wildlife here.

Text: The State of Florida has progressive stormwater regulations yet there is no treatment required upstream of Lake Alice.

Text: The University of Florida has set water quality standards of their own, to try to protect the quality of Lake Alice for aesthetic purposes and natural habitat function.

Dr. Mark Clark: We don't have any infrastructure upstream to manage stormwater right now, but that's one of the things we need to do. And we need to do it in a way that's not the conventional approach, but more of a treatment train approach. And that's why we're looking at low impact design and low impact development techniques to try to infiltrate the water and improve the water quality."

Narrator: The UF campus stormwater basin can benefit from LID tools and sustainable infrastructure, but how can we implement these features and what steps are needed to move forward? How can we convince other departments and colleges to support stormwater management? Can these ideas be not only helpful, but feasible as well?"

Anna Prizzia, Director of the Office of Sustainability: I do think that in order for us to walk the talk in terms of sustainability and be a leader for sustainability in higher education, we do need to be willing to be at that leading edge of technologies and to be at the leading edge of new types of management.

Narrator: Our design combines the efforts of students, teachers, and professionals coming together, sharing ideas, and working as a group to solve the stormwater issues and help set a new standard on our campus. To manage stormwater better and instill a new direction, our team has created a master plan that manages stormwater sustainably, educates the users about stormwater, and promotes innovative techniques. The site is located at the central campus lawn and student union. With a redesign of the Reitz student union building already underway, our master plan can serve as an extension of that development and instill innovative LID tools and green infrastructure throughout the lawn. Redesigning this space must encompass users' input. Our team set out to determine who the users are, how they are using the space, and what they would like to see improved. Using discussions, posters, and hands-on interactions, we learned what routes students take, their favorite vistas, and how they perceive the space.

Text: We all have compelling arguments for managing storm water, but if we come together then we can have a great impact on campus. Our efforts will serve as a collective voice that proves to have significant impact, not only to our campus environment, but the people who share its common interests.