

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
2012 Campus RainWorks Challenge Winner**

University of Florida, 1st Prize, Large Institution

The University of Florida, located in Gainesville, Florida, was awarded first prize among large institutions in EPA's first-ever Campus RainWorks Challenge competition. The competition was created by EPA to inspire the next generation of landscape architects, planners, and engineers to develop innovative green infrastructure systems that mitigate the impacts of urban stormwater while supporting vibrant and sustainable communities.

The goals of the team's design plan were:

- To improve campus stormwater infiltration to allow for stable ecosystem conditions and improved water quality before stormwater runoff reaches Lake Alice, which drains directly into the Floridian Aquifer.
- To create an attractive, functional central campus space that provides both an opportunity for stormwater mitigation and an opportunity to raise awareness on campus about water resource sustainability.

The team's design plan centers on the redevelopment of Reitz Lawn, an 11-acre open area and pedestrian corridor on campus, which is bracketed by a central gathering place on one end and the student union on the other. The plan incorporates a number of green infrastructure design elements, including: two stormwater collection pools, rain gardens and bioswales, a green wall, green roof, and campus garden. Modeling of the bioswale component of the design plan shows that the bioswales can manage a 1-year and 100-year storm without flooding.

The team's plan was unique among the entries received in seeking student input into the proposed design. The team displayed an information kiosk at the university's student union, where team members surveyed students to identify major pedestrian routes through the proposed design area, learn more about how students currently use the proposed design area, and solicit opinions on potential design elements.

In January 2013, the team presented the plan to University of Florida architects and facilities staff for consideration as a component of the university's "Reitz Redesign" efforts.