

Wakulla Environmental Institute

Establishing a Destination Center in Wakulla County

TCC Board of Trustees Workshop
February 20, 2012

The Wakulla Institute

Where Ecology, Education and Economic Development Meet

Catalyst for Regional Tourism Industry

- ❖ Eco-based tourism
- ❖ Family-based tourism
- ❖ Civic/ Ecology/ Science partnership
- ❖ Activity-based recreation

First steps:

- ❖ Relocate TCC Wakulla Center
- ❖ 5-8 classrooms



Tallahassee Community College
Center for Workforce Development
444 Appleyard Drive Tallahassee, FL 32304
(850) 201-8760



Tallahassee Community College
extends its support in
developing the state-of-the-art
Wakulla Institute

History

- Strategic Assessment of the Proposed Wakulla Environmental Institute
 - ▶ Study conducted by MGT of America in February 2011
 - ▶ Report reviewed relevant demographic, educational and economic data
 - ▶ Presented challenges to development, programmatic opportunities

History

- Strategic Assessment of the Proposed Wakulla Environmental Institute
 - ▶ Key Findings
 - The success of the Wakulla Environmental Institute will only be attainable with TCC's engagement of business and community partners
 - Suggested types of programs and models we might adopt, as well as expansion of Green Academy
 - Institute of Ecotourism in Sedona
 - Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center
 - National Conservation Research Center

Current Programs in Wakulla County

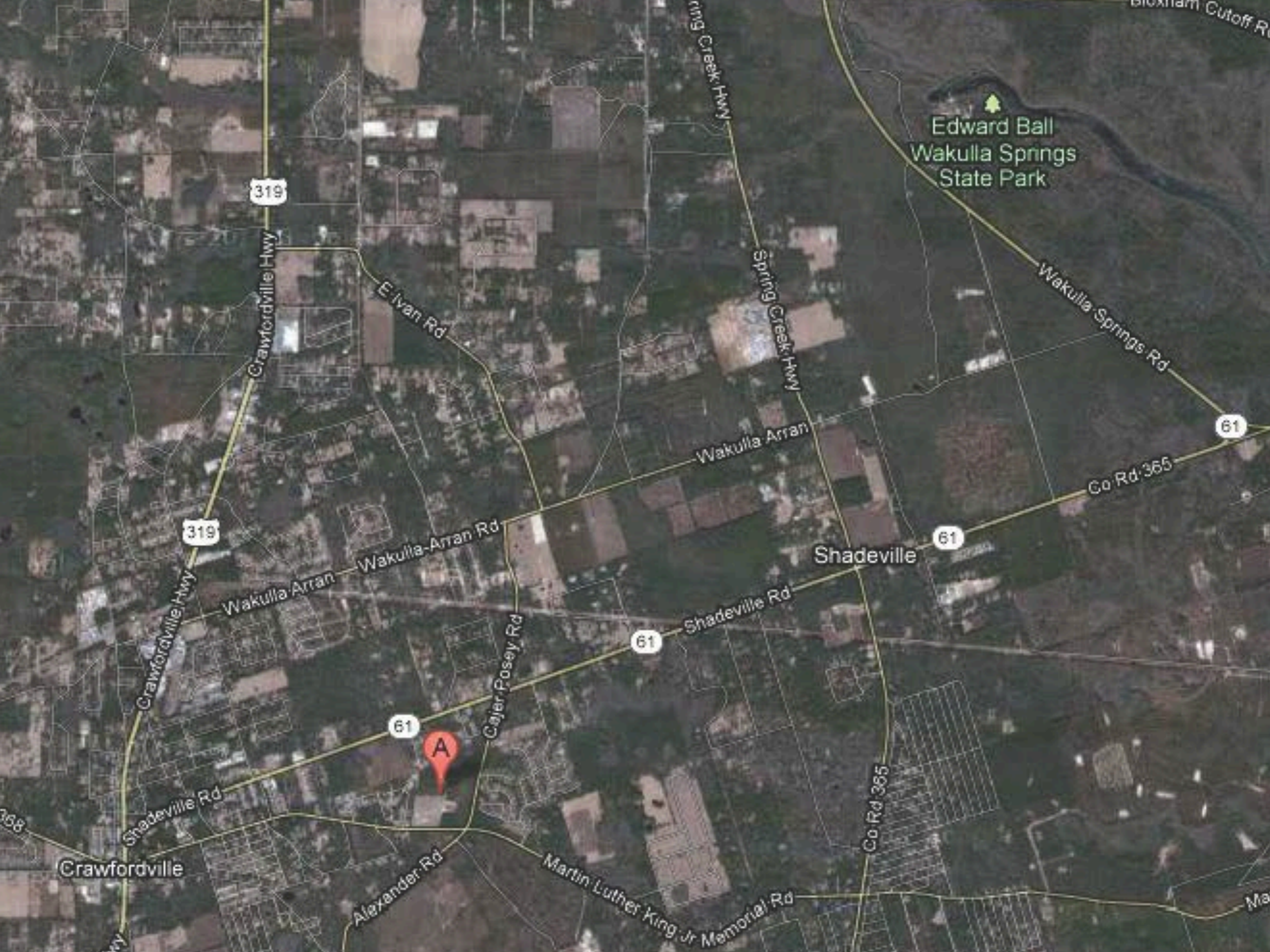
- Certified Green Guides Program
- Tech @ Night
- Manufacturing Essential
- Medical Front Office
- Conversational Spanish
- Home Health Companion
- Community Ambassador Training
- Green Construction
- Solar-Thermal Hot Water Fundamentals
- FPERT Testing
- After School Tutoring for K-12 students

Institute Models & Location

- Models considered for the Institute
 - ▶ Florida Public Safety Institute model
 - 1,500 acres
 - Housing, dining, training
 - ▶ E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center model
 - ▶ Land gift

Institute Models & Location

- Donation of Land to the College
 - ▶ July 2010
 - ▶ Develop educational institute dedicated to understanding and preserving the ecology and environment



Edward Ball
Wakulla Springs
State Park

319

Crawfordville Hwy

E Ivan Rd

Spring Creek Hwy

Wakulla Springs Rd

61

Co Rd 365

Wakulla Arran

319

Crawfordville Hwy

Wakulla Arran

61

Shadeville

Shadeville Rd

61

61

A

Cajal Posey Rd

Shadeville Rd

Co Rd 365

Crawfordville

Alexander Rd

Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Rd

Ma

E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center

- Visit to Center included TCC administrators, trustees, TCC Foundation members, and workforce and government leaders in Wakulla County
- Modern, open and expansive classrooms
- Separate museum facility
- Dining facility onsite, no housing

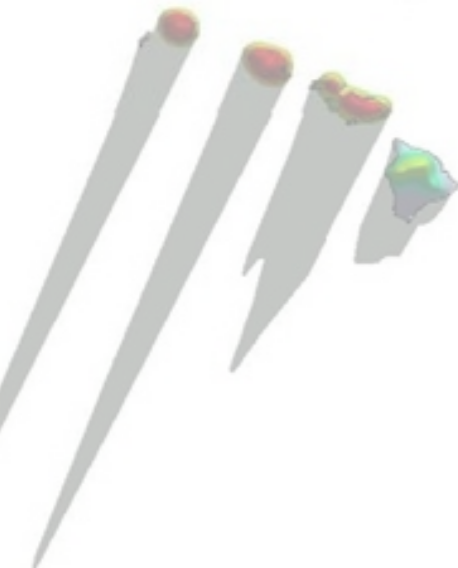
E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center

- Funding mostly from private donations, foundations and local support
- Maintenance and operations now provided by local school districts
- Extensive land management and restoration costs
- Narrow revenue stream

Biodiversity Hotspots
In the Continental U.S. and Hawai'i

The Florida Panhandle is one of the five richest biodiversity hotspots in North America

BioScience Magazine (October 2008)



Map adapted from *Parsons, R.* *The Shape of Biodiversity*.
Data from State Natural Heritage Programs and their cooperators.
Map produced by TNC Earth Conservation Science GIS, 5/19/00.
Copyright (c) 2000, The Nature Conservancy.

Bull, No Fluff, No Smudges
Your news source for
Flagler, Florida and Beyond

Florida Wants Privatized Camping and RV Sites at 56 State Parks, Including Washington Oaks

FLAGLERLIVE | JUNE 4, 2011

Recommend 255 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.



Maybe the gazebo, at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, can do

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Tampa Bay Times

A Times Editorial

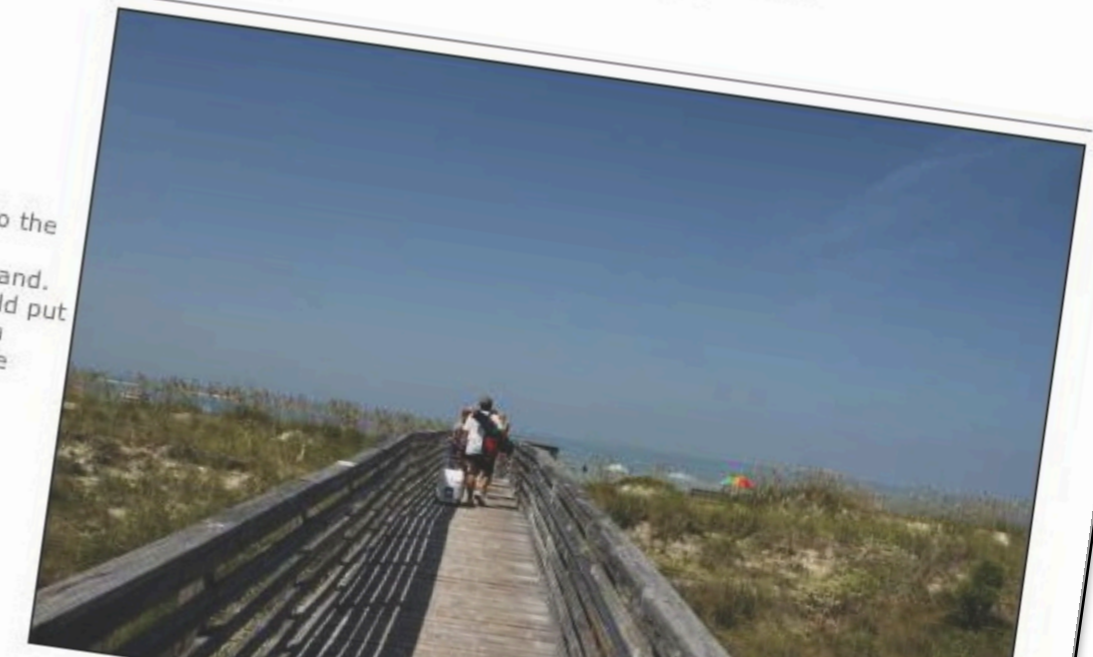
Under the radar attack on state parks

In Print: Tuesday, June 28, 2011

- #### Most emailed
- Guy Harvey brings fishing brand to St. Pete Beach TradeWinds resort
 - Bill would affect pay for servers and bartenders
 - Faster foreclosures could be coming to Florida
 - New 300-unit apartment complex planned for downtown St. Petersburg
 - Imagine charter schools' expensive leases draw scrutiny

- #### Popular
- The top 50 restaurants in the

Visitors head to the beach at Honeymoon Island. A proposal would put 45 campsites on 17.5 acres of the state park.

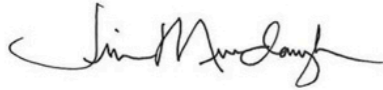


facility designed to support state law enforcement. Lodging certification from DEP.

TCC's work in Wakulla County, including with the DEP's goal to provide visitors with awareness, understanding and appreciation of field-based instruction, the Green Guide Community members and visitors with enriching experiences. A number of Wakulla Springs graduates or have taken courses through the expansion of a nature-centered network of residents and visitors and advise responsible

I believe recent public discussions have provided an appropriate venue to support the expansion of park amenities. Like you and many others in this community, we at TCC care deeply about the treasure that we have and want to preserve it for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jim Murdaugh
President

people from all over the world to the ecological and biological diversity of the region. This vision is the result of years of work and exploration of their desires for the future.

In 2006, TCC established the Wakulla Springs training and development service center for youth. The Center in Wakulla County and hosts our Wakulla Ambassadors program in response to needs expressed by the Center is inadequate in size and an effective Environmental Institute.

We have been seeking an alternative appropriate venue to support the development of Wakulla Springs. It is not be more consistent with the desires to enhance visitation of this jewel in Northwest Florida.

TCC has a demonstrated commitment to Wakulla County. Following the region's response by providing an alternative, we provided an alternative to Wakulla residents affected by the park's expansion.

We have been and continue to be involved with the School graduates each year. We are involved with the expansion of our efforts in Wakulla County, designed to offer educational opportunities to Wakulla County.

TCC has a demonstrated commitment to Wakulla County. local and state government. The responsible management of the College in Wakulla County have been recognized as a leading college in Florida.

At our Florida Springs campus, we offer a variety of programs in Florida for students from all over the state. In addition, we are a Certified Vendor that competes for contracts on our rough



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July 18, 2011

Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard, Jr.
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard M.S. 49
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Vinyard:

Within the past several weeks, I have intently followed the ongoing discussions related to the administration of the Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park and the proposed expansion of park amenities. Like you and many others in this community, we at TCC care deeply about the treasure that we have and want to preserve it for generations to come.

These challenging times call for fiscally creative approaches to best serve our constituents. Together, I believe we can find opportunities that we might otherwise not consider alone. It is in that spirit that we wish to offer the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) an alternative that we believe could be in the best interests of all parties. Specifically, in response to the various proposals that have appeared in the press, I would like you to consider this letter as our request to discuss the possibility of a Type II transfer of Wakulla Springs to TCC in lieu of other possible alternatives to the status quo.

Through a Type II transfer, the College would assume management responsibility for the park facilities, operations and certain staff. Your Department may need to continue trustee interests in certain land and natural resources. The transfer would alleviate the need for further privatization of park operations and services, and we would commit to protecting the integrity of the park and the State of Florida's vision for a system of park services that is nationally acclaimed. The transfer would move park assets to a public institution with the public's interest in mind. Our track record demonstrates financial stewardship and accountability, but our motives are not profit driven. Additionally, park staff could continue their employment and participation in the Florida Retirement System.

In considering this request, we offer the following background information.

TCC has already committed to the creation of a Wakulla Environmental Institute. Wakulla County is one of the three counties included in TCC's district and falls within our statutorily defined service area. At the direction of our District Board of Trustees, the College's long term vision in Wakulla County centers around the creation of a Wakulla Environmental Institute that will provide a wide range of programs intended to bring

TCC's Record as Responsible Steward

- Administration/Physical Plant Activities
 - ▶ Johnson Control Lighting Project
 - ▶ Green Lodging Certification
 - ▶ Forest Plan and Management of FPSI Property
 - ▶ Member of Sustainable Tallahassee
 - ▶ Member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
 - ▶ Founding Member of Education Alliance for Sustainable FL
 - ▶ Education Partner for National Solar

TCC's Record as Responsible Steward

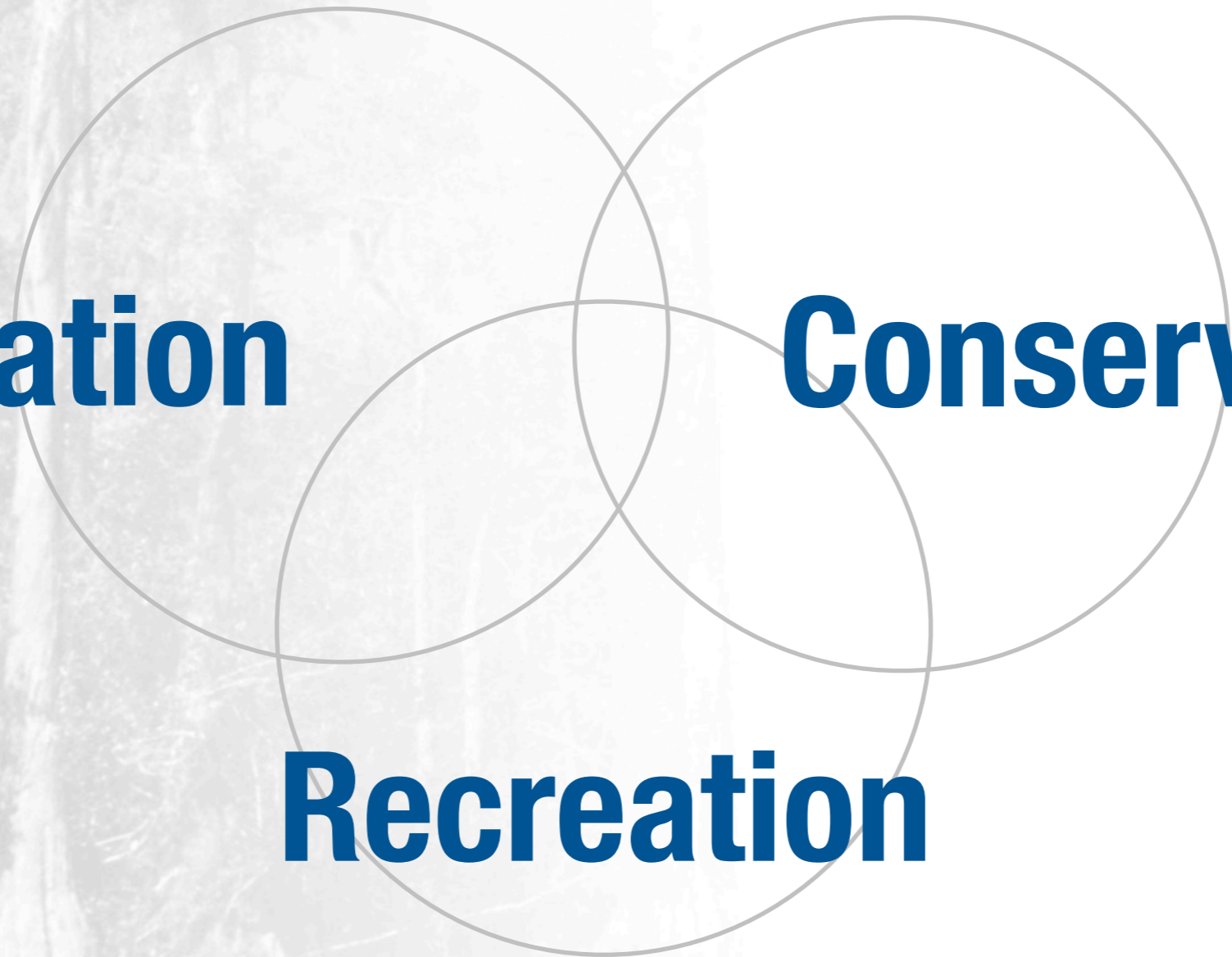
- Educational Programs
 - ▶ National Science Foundation Project Grant
 - ▶ Training partner of the Banner Center for Clean Energy (UCF Florida Solar Energy Center)
 - ▶ Member of the Sustainability Education and Economic Development Program
 - ▶ FL Green Academy located at TCC
 - ▶ Training for Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Cleanup

The Wakulla Environmental Institute will be a world-class destination that combines

Education

Conservation

Recreation





Education

Environmental Science Technology

- College Credit Certificate in Water Quality Management
 - ▶ 12 credit hours
 - ▶ 1 semester to complete
 - ▶ 100% online
 - ▶ Fully transferable into the AS degree

Environmental Science Technology

Job Title	Avg. Annual Job Openings	Positions in 2011	Projected Positions in 2018
Water and Liquid Waste Treatment Plant Operators	243	5,486	6,502

One of the Fastest Growing Occupations in Florida

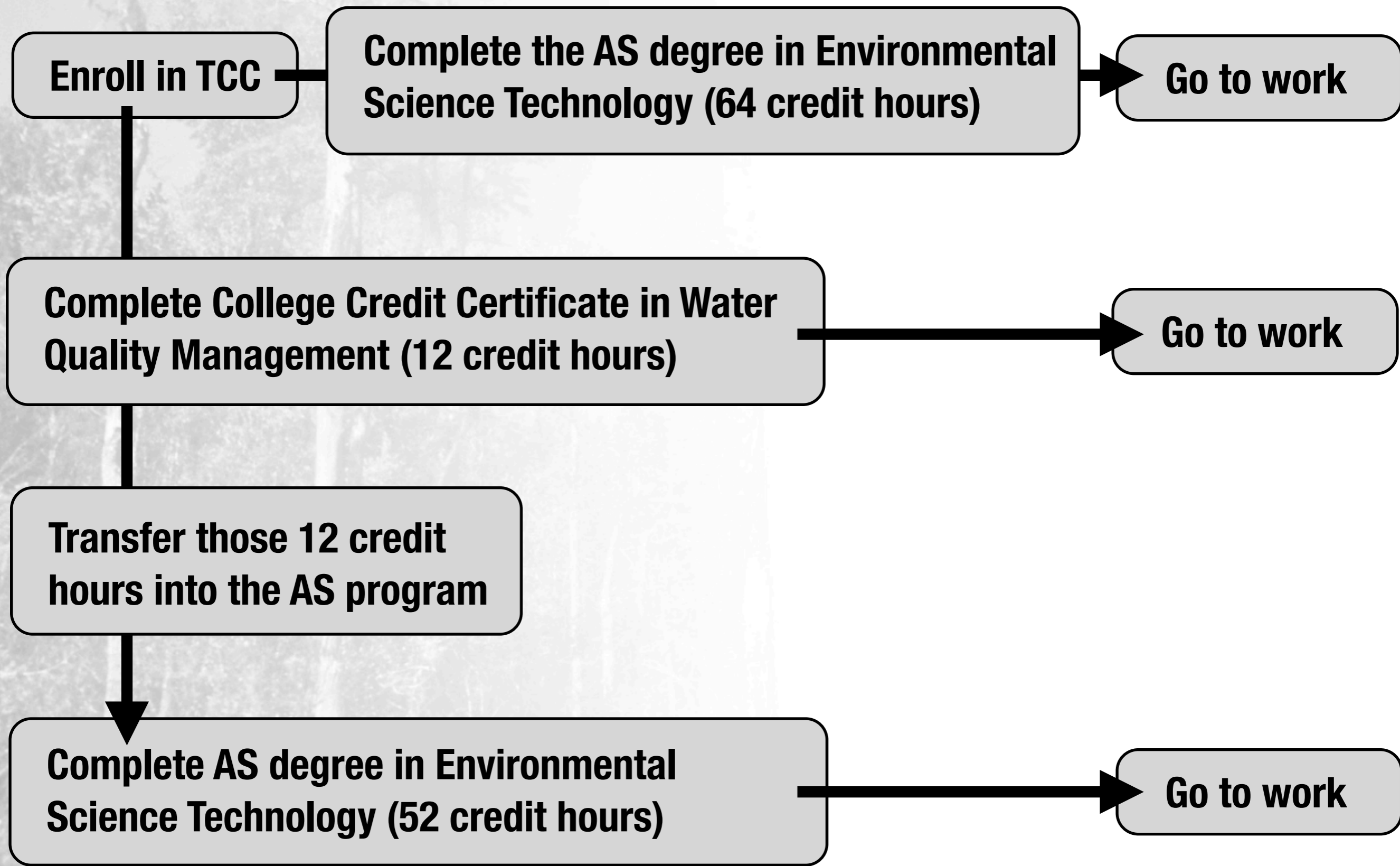
**This occupation is on the 2012-2013 Florida Regional Demand
Occupations List**

Environmental Science Technology

- AS degree in Environmental Science Technology with two tracks:
 - ▶ Track 1: Water Quality Management
 - ▶ Track 2: Natural Resource Management
- 64 credit hours
- 2 years to complete
- 75% online

Environmental Science Technology

Job Title	Avg. Annual Job Openings	Positions in 2011	Projected Positions in 2018
Environmental Lab Technicians/Environmental Science Technicians	261	6,514	7,140
Environmental Engineering Technicians	59	Florida Green Occupation	
Environmental Science & Protection Technicians	105	National High Growth Industry	
Environmental Compliance Inspectors	668	National High Growth Industry	



Parks & Leisure Services Technology

- AS degree in Parks and Leisure Services Technology
 - ▶ 64 credit hours
 - ▶ 2 years to complete
 - ▶ 80% online

Parks & Leisure Services Technology

Job Title	Avg. Annual Job Openings	Positions in 2011	Projected Positions in 2018
Recreation Workers	773	23,335	26,140
Tour Guides	99		
Amusement & Recreation Attendants	1,971		In Florida, one of the occupations gaining the most new jobs

Possible partnership to train Park Rangers, Forest Rangers

Possible partnership with FSU Panama City Campus with their BS Degree in Recreation, Tourism, and Events

Hospitality & Tourism Management

- AS degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management with four tracks:
 - ▶ Track 1: Event Planning Management
 - ▶ Track 2: Food and Beverage Operations
 - ▶ Track 3: Guest Services Specialist
 - ▶ Track 4: Rooms Division Operations
- 64 credit hours
- 2 years to complete
- 100% online

Hospitality & Tourism Management

Job Title	Avg. Annual Job Openings	Positions in 2011	Projected Positions in 2018
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	951	17,820	20,410
Concierges	101		
Lodging Managers	89		
Food Service Managers	528		
Transportation, Tourism & Lodging Attendants	608		

In Florida, one of the occupations gaining the most new jobs

Aquaculture Management

- College Credit Certificate in Aquaculture Technology
 - ▶ 26 credit hours
 - ▶ 1 year to complete
 - ▶ 50% online
 - ▶ This is fully transferable into the AS degree
- AS degree in Aquaculture Management
 - ▶ 64 credit hours
 - ▶ 2 years to complete
 - ▶ 50% online

Aquaculture Management

- Careers in Aquaculture Management
 - ▶ Aquatic Life of Shrimp Pond Laborer
 - ▶ Shellfish Grower or Oyster Culturist
 - ▶ Shellfish Bed Worker
 - ▶ Fish Farmer
 - ▶ Plant Breeder
 - ▶ Aquatic Facility Manager
 - ▶ Research Assistants

Partnership with FSU Marine Lab, Gulf Specimen Lab, Florida Division of Aquaculture, Aquaculture Review Council, Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council, Transgenic Aquatic Species Task Force, Florida Wildlife

Agribusiness Management

- AS degree in Agribusiness Management with emphasis in Forest Operations
- 64 credit hours
- 2 years to complete
- 75% online

Agribusiness Management

- Careers in Agribusiness Management
 - ▶ Precision Agriculture Technicians
 - ▶ Forest Conservation Technicians

Invasive Species Management

- College Credit Certificate in Invasive Species Management

This program is not currently available to the Florida College System.

Time Line

Phase I – Fall 2013

- College Credit Certificate in Water Quality Management
- AS Degree in Environmental Science Technology
- AS Degree in Hospitality & Tourism Management

Phase II – Fall 2014

- AS Degree in Parks & Leisure Services Technology
- AS Degree in Aquaculture Management
- College Credit Certificate in Aquaculture Technology
- Community College Certificate in Invasive Species Management

Phase III – Fall 2015

- AS Degree in Agribusiness Management with emphasis in Forest Operations

Staffing & Facilities

- Facilities
 - ▶ Laboratory with 12 work stations with water, tables, lab equipment
 - ▶ Classrooms with suitable technology
 - ▶ Computer labs
- Staffing
 - ▶ Faculty will need reassigned time or stipends to develop curricula
 - ▶ Adjuncts to assist with program development and to maintain adequate faculty
 - ▶ AS programs require a full-time qualified person to coordinate programs before the program can be fully implemented



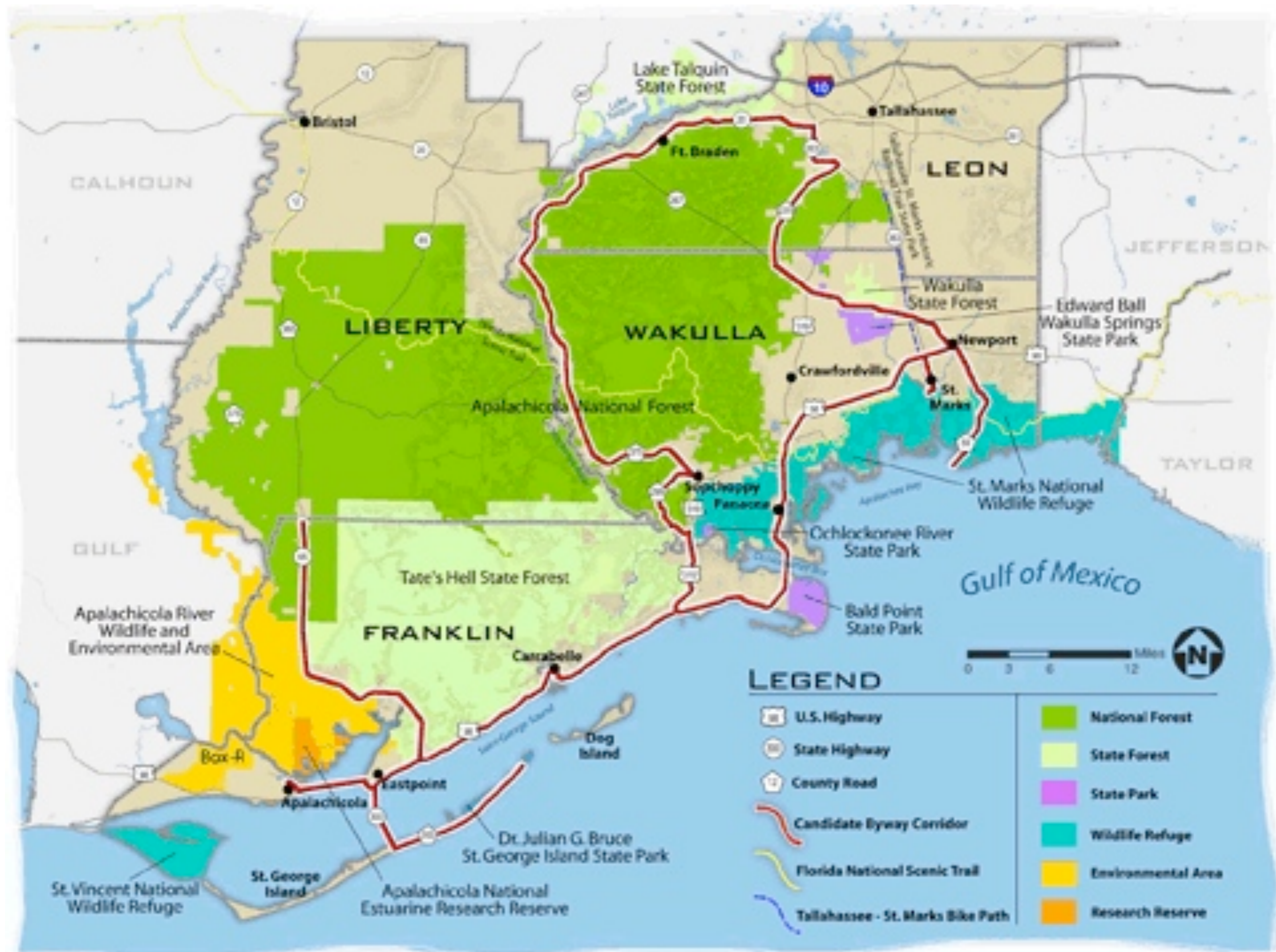
Conservation

Conservation Programs & Initiatives

- Support and guidance from consultants
- Attending public forums in Wakulla County
- Meeting with stakeholders and prospective partners
 - Hydrogeology Consortium
 - St. Marks Wildlife Refuge
 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 - Friends of Wakulla Springs

Conservation Programs & Initiatives

- Meeting with stakeholders and prospective partners
 - Water Management Districts
 - National and State Forest Managers
 - National, State and Local Park Managers
 - National and State Coastal and Aquatic Resource Managers





Recreation

Recreation Programs, Partnerships & Initiatives

- Coastal tourism and recreation are two of Florida's top ocean industries
- The state needs a strong framework to best manage resources to ensure long-term health and economic return
- \$20 billion and 250,000 jobs result directly from fish and wildlife in Florida each year
- Wildlife viewing accounts for \$5.5 billion and over 51,000 jobs

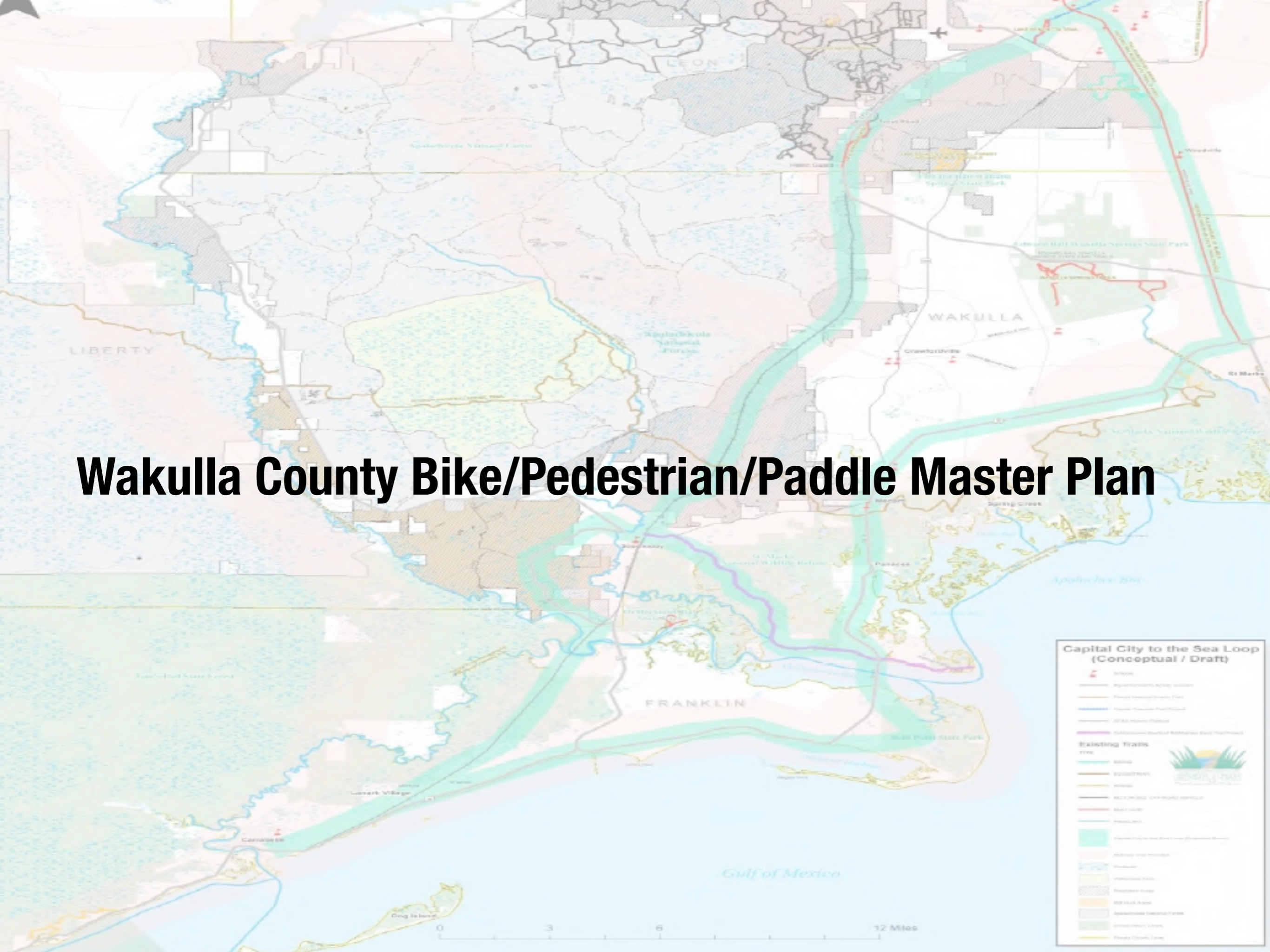
Recreation Programs, Partnerships & Initiatives

- Regional (Tourist Development Councils) and statewide (Visit Florida) recreational promotion partners
- Business stakeholders and ecotourism
 - ▶ Hotels, restaurants, outdoor-guides, entertainment

Business Partners in Wakulla & Surrounding Counties



Wakulla County Bike/Pedestrian/Paddle Master Plan



Next Steps

- Bring back to the Board for approval
 - ▶ Academic programs and courses
 - ▶ Implementation plan for the Institute