

CITY BEAUTIFICATION BOARD

2016 AWARDS

Gainesville, Florida | April 27, 2016



OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD: Sweetwater Wetlands Park



OUTSTANDING INSTITUTION AWARD: George T. Harrell, M.D. Medical Education Building



OUTSTANDING GROUP AWARD: Gainesville Woman's Club

CITY BEAUTIFICATION BOARD 2016 AWARDS

The Thomas Center
Spanish Court and Long Gallery

April 27, 2016

302 Northeast 6th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida

COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Ed Braddy, *Mayor*

Harvey Budd

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CITY OF GAINESVILLE

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Paul Folkers, *Assistant City Manager*

Ralph Hilliard, *Planning Manager*

Earline Luhrman, *Urban Forestry Inspector, City Beautification Board Liaison*

Jessica Gonzalez, *Intern*

Assisting with the program:

Bedez Massey, *Planner*

Ella Bernhardt Brooks, *Staff Assistant*

Sally Wazny, *Program Coordinator*

Denese Wethy, *Staff Assistant*

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Jeffrey Knee

Karla Shopoff

Jabari Taylor

Claudia Weeks

CITY BEAUTIFICATION BOARD PROJECTS

EVENTS

Florida Arbor Day

Beautification Awards

Urban Forestry Workshop

DESIGN GUIDELINES AND WORKSHOPS

Comprehensive Civic Design Program

Gateway Corridor Study

Roadway Lighting Standards

Median Guidelines Study

cbb.cityofgainesvill.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Music: *Vic Donnell*

Wine donated by: *Gaston's Tree Service*

Catering: *Publix West*

Plants: *Park, Recreation and Cultural Affairs*

Printed Program: *Renaissance Printers*

Presenting of the Awards: *Ralph Hilliard*

Award Narratives: *Fletcher Crowe (editor)*

Cover Photos: *Jeff Knee and Awardees*

Layout and Design: *Tracy Bryant*

Floral Design: *The Four Seasons Garden Club*

Spoken Program: *Anita Spring*

CITY BEAUTIFICATION BOARD PLANTINGS

ARBOR DAY PARKS & PLANTINGS

2016: Matheson History Museum and Sweetwater Branch Creek (64 trees) Dedication of a 100 year old Date Palm to Earline Luhrman, Urban Forestry Inspector

2015: Gainesville Police Department and Fred Cone Park (62 trees)

2014: 30th Year of Gainesville as Tree City, USA

Arbor Day (60 trees planted at Depot Park and South Main Street (63 trees)

2013: City of Gainesville / Alachua County Senior Recreation Center (58 trees)

2012: Thomas Center, University Avenue & Evergreen Cemetery (56 trees)

2011: Ironwood Golf Course (54 trees)

2010: Kirby Smith Center and City Hall (52 trees)

2009: 25th year of Gainesville as Tree City, USA (total: 61 trees: A.N.N.E. Park (13 trees); Gainesville Technology Enterprise Center (25 trees); Girl Scout Park (Kiwaniis Park) (10 trees); Matheson Center (1 Liberty American elm); SE 7th Street (10 trees); Thomas Center (2 trees)

2008: Green Tree Park: Kiwanis Challenge Playground (48 trees)

2007: Evergreen Cemetery (46 trees)

2006: Roper Park, Thomas Center, Sweetwater Creek (44 trees)

2005: Westside Park (42 trees)

2004: Eastside Recreation Center at Cone Park (40 trees)

2003: Cedar Grove Park (38 trees)

2002: Westside Park (36 trees)

2001: Sun Center Elms (downtown, 8 trees)

2000: Waldo Road Beautification Grant (206 trees)

1999: Northwest 13th Street Streetscape (live oaks in tree wells)

1998: West University "Oaks on the Avenue" (6th-12th Streets) (20 trees)

1997: "Anti-Arbor Day" to remove invasive tallow trees

1996: East University "Oaks on the Avenue" (3rd-9th Streets) (20 trees)

1995: East University "Oaks on the Avenue" (9th Street- Waldo Road)(20 trees)

1984 to 1994: Downtown Plaza Ceremonies

THE AWARDS

The annual City Beautification Awards recognize excellence in a variety of design categories. The awards highlight projects of outstanding aesthetic and artistic appeal. Projects are evaluated for originality, innovation, and creativity, as well as for their sustainability, maintenance and use of serviceable materials. An award-winning site must exhibit appropriate land utilization, effective planning, compatibility with the area and screening of unsightly views. All projects must meet applicable building and landscaping codes. Each

must result in the improvement of the area, property or neighborhood.

Award-winning projects reflect the commitment of many individuals to excellence in design. Owners, managers, architects, landscape architects, engineers, designers and others have contributed to these prize-winning projects. The City Beautification Board salutes those who have made a significant contribution to our community through each outstanding project.

THE PROGRAM

Convocation: *Earline Luhrman, Urban Forestry Inspector*

Welcome: *Anita Spring, City Beautification Board Co-Chair*

Presentation of Awards by City Beautification Board Members:

Introduction of Categories: *Tricia Peddicord*

Outstanding Individual Award – John Fleming: *Jabari Taylor*

Outstanding Individual Award – Dr. Theresa Beachy: *Tricia Peddicord*

Outstanding Group Award: *Lissa Campbell*

Restoration and Adaptive Reuse: *Fletcher Crowe*

Institutional Facilities: *Claudia Weeks and Adam Boudreaux*

Apartments: *Kathryn Horter and Jabari Taylor*

Commercial and Retail Businesses: *Lissa Campbell*

Environmental Enhancements: *Jessica Gonzalez and Karla Shopoff*

Public Spaces: *Jeff Knee and Mary Held*

Uniquely Gainesville: *Michael Aquilia*

Outstanding Institution Award: *Tricia Peddicord*

Outstanding Environmental Award: *Anita Spring*

Closing Remarks: *Anita Spring*

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

John L. Fleming



John Fleming is the managing member of Trimark Properties (and several other real estate holding companies), who concentrates on the revitalization of University Heights, the area just east of the University of Florida campus. Founded in 1992, Trimark Properties has restored over sixty historic homes, duplexes, and office

buildings in that neighborhood, and has completed over twenty new boutique-style housing developments.

John oversees each project with an eye for overall design, compatibility with the surrounding environment, and long-term viability. For Trimark Properties, the landscaping, hardscaping, and general outdoor space are as crucial in the overall development as the building's architecture. This dedication to their properties has earned Trimark Properties over thirty-five City of Gainesville Beautification Awards since 1995.

John Fleming finds it a great honor to help preserve the area's history by renovating historic buildings so they can last into the future. John and Trimark Properties have been instrumental over the years in revitalizing a once

much-ignored area of downtown Gainesville. Originally known for the ability to manage historic infill projects, Trimark Properties has moved beyond their original scope: the company has now completed projects in a variety of architectural styles, as well as commercial renovations and new Class A+ office space.

John Fleming is one of the most prominent advocates of Innovation Square, where Trimark Properties is the second-largest landowner. Over the last twenty-four years, John has had a hand in a myriad of projects that have helped preserve Gainesville's character. Never satisfied with past accomplishments, John feels that Gainesville is just really getting started. "Gainesville has so much to offer: a rich history, diverse culture, nationally-ranked sports teams, a vibrant and growing downtown, and a never-ending supply of entrepreneurship and youthful spirit," John has stated.

Perhaps Trimark's most significant accomplishments under John's leadership are the Public/Private Partnerships (PPPs) that have been formed between Trimark Properties and various departments within the City of Gainesville and the University.

A 1989 graduate of the University of Florida, John Fleming has served on numerous boards and committees over the years. These include: the Chamber of Commerce, the Council for Economic Outreach, the College Park/University Heights Advisory Board, the recent Blue Ribbon Task Force, the Gateway Bank, and Cornerstone Academy.

We honor John Fleming and Trimark for years of effort to improve the appeal and quality of life in downtown Gainesville.

Dr. Theresa Beachy



Dr. Theresa Beachy is the Executive Director of the Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, the certified domestic violence center serving Alachua, Bradford, and Union counties.

Theresa came to Gainesville in 1989 from Sarasota to attend the University of Florida, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (1991), a Masters of Education (1992), and a PhD in Educational Leadership, Policy and Foundations (2000). From 1992-2000, she pursued a career in education, working in rural and at-risk programs. She taught high school social studies in rural Hardee County, FL, and from 1993-2000 she was the principal at a wilderness education program for at-risk boys located in the Ocala National Forest.

Theresa Beachy serves on the boards for the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the North Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry, and the Vestry of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. She is a Rotarian and a member of the Gainesville Woman's Club. She is involved in numerous local community projects that address family violence, homelessness, and social justice.

Theresa Beachy has a passion for social change work that creates advocacy for issues related to violence against women and promotes the feminist philosophy. But her greatest joy is her son, Nate, with whom she enjoys the Gainesville community and the Florida lifestyle, along with her husband, Don.

As the Executive Director of the Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, Dr. Beachy has overseen the design and

construction of the Dutton-Schilling Housing Campus for Peaceful Paths in northwest Gainesville, a residential housing campus for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Beginning with a generous gift of \$1 million in 2011, the staff and Board of Peaceful Paths planned an ambitious project on a 16-acre parcel of undeveloped land. Using the natural landscape as a backdrop, the Campus now includes a large dormitory building, three duplex apartment buildings, and a donation center. Plans for the facility provided for both the safety and security of residents by creating large lighted areas and walkways with gates and fencing for privacy. The building style and colors were chosen to compliment the adjacent outreach offices for the agency and ties the two properties together seamlessly.

The Campus is a model in the state for housing projects for vulnerable populations. The design has been recognized by the state granting agency as being the best of the eleven projects awarded funding in 2013 in terms of scope, cost and incorporation of design and purpose principles. The physical plant is highly efficient, easy to maintain, and the entire project was completed for \$4 million, making it replicable in other similar sized areas.

The Campus includes temporary and long-term housing that incorporates a playground, two attractive gated entrances for security, a large retention pond ringed with existing and planted trees, and a sign lighted and landscaped for street appeal. Accessibility for all residents was paramount, since both heavy foot and bicycle traffic are common, so sidewalks and lighting were critical. The overall effect is very positive.

This project will have an immediate and lasting impact on hundreds of families and individuals in our community by providing a space for safety and healing. Using state-of-the-art surveillance, fencing, and gates, the Campus offers higher security than previous locations, and provides excellent access to public transportation and local resources.

The architect for the project was Ricardo Cavallino and Associates of Gainesville, and the civil engineer was Sergio Reyes of Eng, Denman and Associates, also of Gainesville. The building construction contractor was BBI Construction of Gainesville. Gainesville Landscape Contractors completed landscape design.

OUTSTANDING GROUP AWARD

Gainesville Woman's Club | 2809 W University Ave

In the spring of 1903, upon hearing that small clubs in the state had formed a Florida Federation, a group of Gainesville women formed their own club. The Gainesville women chose the name Twentieth Century Club to express their hopes for a new century of growth in their small town of 4,500. One of their earliest goals was fostering the development of a public library, in 1917, and with help from the Carnegie Foundation, the Alachua County Public Library System was born. The Gainesville Woman's Club continues with this tradition, volunteering and fundraising for the betterment of our community.

Two clubhouses have been built and paid for by club members. The 1921 clubhouse was moved in 1960 to become the Gainesville Community Playhouse. The current clubhouse on West University Avenue was completed in 1961, and the club name was changed to Gainesville Woman's Club. The colonial style clubhouse, designed by architect, Arthur Lee Campbell, sat on five acres and was the first grand building one saw when entering Gainesville from the west and the last upon leaving Gainesville from the east.

With funds from the sale of Gainesville Woman's Club cookbooks, Mrs. William Arnett had the paving in front of the building and curbing by the kitchen completed. In 1966-1967, the bronze letters on the front of the building were purchased and placed by club members.

Following the clubhouse construction, several of the GWC leaders had a special interest in outdoor gardening and a love for beautification and landscaping. Mrs. A. W. Fletcher added a Conservation Garden of native plants to the grounds. Because of her interest in planting native species, a magnificent live oak has been preserved and maintained by the club facility chair, Joan Van Winkle. The tree stands on the northwest corner of the property.

In 2013, this tree was designated a Heritage Tree. The live oak measures 264" (22 feet) in circumference and is 60 feet tall. The City of Gainesville awarded the tree a plaque, which was presented to the Gainesville Woman's Club by Earline Lührman and Mark Siburt. The plaque reads:

The City of Gainesville commends with great praise Gainesville Woman's Club for their commitment to preserving the magnificent tree "Twentieth Century Live Oak," *Quercus virginiana*. Dedicated on April 1, 2013.

In keeping with the theme of the club's earlier leaders, Florida-friendly landscaping is still being used today at the Gainesville Woman's Club. A garden has been installed through a county program called SWAP (Save Water Add Plants), using native and drought-tolerant plants to the landscape.

We salute the Gainesville Woman's Club for their long dedication to improving the beauty of Gainesville.

RESTORATION AND ADAPTIVE REUSE

Social Security Building | 4562 NW 13th Street

The building that today houses the Social Security Administration on 13th St. has a long, colorful history. The building was first constructed in 1964 and opened as “Dub’s”, a club named for its owner James “Dub” Thomas; he ran it for 26 years, until 1990, the year he passed away. Over the years, numerous nationally-known entertainers played at Dub’s, including Tom Petty, Bob Seger, Black Sabbath, The Righteous Brothers, and Molly Hatchet.

The Social Security Administration issued a request for office space in that part of Gainesville. Gene Rutherford and Beau Strickland, doing business as R&S Gainesville LLC, purchased the dilapidated property, hired Michael Penney, an architect of Titusville, and completely renovated and refurbished the 50 year-old property.

R&S owns a number of other properties in Florida leased to the Social Security Administration, and designed this

office space to be similar to those other properties. R&S also purchased the adjacent property, Gator Aluminum, and hopes to renovate that property and lease it to the IRS.

The original structure had a number of different levels; the renovation gutted the entire interior and reduced the commercial space to one level. The building is Energy Star rated for energy conservation. Recycled materials were used throughout, and approved Florida vegetation was planted around the building.

Today what was once an eyesore on 13th St. services the needs of more than 300 residents a day, and affords an attractive example of reuse and renovation without destroying or razing our city’s architectural heritage.

Gainesville Plaza | 2649 NW 13th Street

Gainesville Plaza is a newly redeveloped shopping center located along the busy corridor of NW 13th Street (US 441) in Gainesville. This property has been transformed from what was once a tired, unattractive shopping plaza into a vibrant, tasteful center featuring a diverse mix of national retailers.

This transformation began in 2014 with the addition of Burlington Coat Factory and Ross Dress for Less, which located in the space formerly occupied by Wal-Mart. As part of this addition, the landlord, Kite Realty Group, made a commitment to improve all the existing buildings by enhancing the exterior façades and storefronts.

In addition, parking lot improvements were made and a comprehensive landscaping plan was put in place featuring new palm trees, magnolia trees, and shrubs. Adding extra

landscaping to enhance the site and substantial green space adds to the attractiveness of the property.

Tenants now include Burlington Coat Factory, Ross Dress for Less, and 2nd & Charles, a buy, sell, trade retailer of books, games, and audio devices, which was converted from Books-A-Million. In addition to these national tenants, the center is also home to several other national retailers.

The architect was MCG Architecture of Cleveland, Ohio, whose plan called for utilizing the existing structure in the redevelopment plan rather than wholesale demolition of earlier structures. Utilizing the existing structure in the redevelopment plan was a key factor in the attempt to reduce construction waste and lessen the impact on the site.

U14 | 1401 University Avenue

Just a stone’s throw from University and 13th St., Gainesville’s most prominent intersection, U14 is an adaptive-reuse development that has enhanced community street life by rehabilitating an old Presbyterian student center for use as a six-tenant restaurant building.

Demonstrating what is possible in saving older structures, the project has attracted quality eatery options without sacrificing building infrastructure capabilities, and has

become a destination lunch, dinner and after-dinner location. We commend the owners for their initiative in rehabilitating existing buildings through adaptive reuse and maintaining continuity in our cityscape.

U14 has been transformed into a modern structure with big city commercial urbanism that reaches toward the street, pulling the public into its open boundaries and façades. Tenant visibility was maximized through the use

of extensive storefronts, while providing canopy shading necessary for energy conservation, as well as sidewalk cafes. These elements were designed to utilize the historic spacing of structural supports and building volumes, even where new construction was woven into the old. The project received the maximum amount in award grants from the Community Redevelopment Agency, demonstrating its early appeal and buy-in from community leaders.

Brick pavers line the sidewalk cafes, which are delineated by custom steel fences and cedar rails. Within these are two prominent businesses: Burrito Brothers, a longtime Gainesville favorite; and Dough Religion / OoZoo Bar, a newcomer to Gainesville and the pilot testing ground for a

national concept. Other tenant spaces exist upstairs and on the ground floor. The upstairs tenant space boasts a deck view of University Avenue, which will further animate the property, making it a destination for quality dining and drinking options.

The architect for the project was Dura Architecture of Orange Park. Structural engineering was by Wayland Structural Engineering in Gainesville, and the MEP engineering team Powell and Hinkle, PA, of Orange Park, with civil engineering by George F. Young. The landscape architect was Buford Davis & Associates, Gainesville. The facility was built by Oelrich Construction.

INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES

UF Infinity Hall | 978 SW 2nd Avenue

Infinity Hall is a 312 bed living-learning community for University of Florida undergraduate students. Located at Innovation Square, Infinity Hall is the venture between UF, Signet Development, and the City of Gainesville to develop an innovative, creative, and technologically focused community east of SW 13th St. and south of University Ave.

Infinity Hall is an Entrepreneurial Living-Learning Community, and the first residential public-private partnership of its kind for the University. In addition to residential space, Infinity Hall has over 20,000 square feet of innovation and collaboration space for UF entrepreneurial students and UF program partners. Student learning objectives include: developing business plans; securing investors; making connections; marketing and outreach; and addressing legal issues. Partners co-located on the ground floor of Infinity Hall are: MADE@UF; the Warrington Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation; UF Fab Lab; mint STUDIO; Launchpad; and the Gainesville Development Academy.

The initial vision for Infinity Hall was created in 2011 by Innovation Square and UF, but the project was unable to

move forward until the partnership with Signet was signed. Signet's expertise with public-private partnerships and student housing made for the perfect match. The University of Florida Department of Housing and Residence Education and Signet collaborated with the design team on the programming and design for the project. This collaborative process continued through construction until the project opened in the fall of 2015.

As part of the partnership, Signet funded, constructed, and now owns Infinity Hall. Signet manages operations of the facility; while the UF Department of Housing and Residence Education manages occupancy, rent collection, residence life staffing, desk operations, and programming.

Perkins+Will of Atlanta served as the architect for the project; and both Moses & Associates Engineering and Casseaux, Hewett & Walpole of Gainesville provided engineering services. Brasfield & Gorrie's Jacksonville office served as the general contractor.

Reitz Union Expansion and Renovation | 686 Museum Road

Since the original J. Wayne Reitz Union on the University of Florida campus was built in Gainesville in 1967, UF's student body has grown from 19,000 students to 50,000. Today more than 1,100 student organizations call the union home, clearly showing enormous growth, well beyond the union's original capacity. In 2009, UF's student government, citing the growing student population and increasing maintenance issues, pushed for a new student union. Students and organizations identified needs for study spaces, food venues, and gathering places.

The recent improvements made to the original Reitz Student Union now provide 100,000 sq. ft. of renovated space, and a 120,000 sq. ft. expansion. These improvements will increase energy efficiency and reduce operational costs while expanding facilities, services, and programs that support the diverse campus community.

To align with the university's commitment to a carbon-neutral campus by 2025 and a commitment to sustainability, the student union improvements include a rigorous recycling program, high-efficiency LED lighting, low-flow water-efficient bathroom fixtures, high-efficiency mechanical equipment, rapidly renewable sourced supplies,

and a green housekeeping program. The university is pursuing LEED Platinum certification for the project. "Rapidly renewable materials" are natural, non-petroleum-based building materials that have harvest cycles under 10 years.

When the design team for the improvements first started meeting with University officials, they were charged with designing a building that could not fit in on any other campus. In a nod to UF's beloved mascot, the American Alligator, the new structure incorporates design elements inspired by the patterns, colors and textures of the gator's scales, tail and underbelly – making the Reitz Student Union "uniquely UF."

During design, the team met with numerous student organizations, faculty, staff and alumni to hear how these groups wanted their student union to look and function. As a result, the building now includes dance studios, an emergency shelter, flexible AV, access to power outlets to charge devices, and a variety of seating arrangements.

Participating in the project were: Cannon Design; Walker Architects Inc.; KJWW Engineering; the Structural Engineers Group; CHW; and David Conner & Associates.

UF Health Haile Family Medical Center | 2846 SW 87 Way

Nestled among the trees of the verdant Haile community, the exterior of the UF Health Family Medicine – Haile Plantation patient clinic is a complement to the traditional style of its surroundings. The warm brick, clock and steeple, and well-tended landscape add to Haile's Southern charm.

Last July the patient clinic opened its doors to the community at its new Haile Plantation location, delivering the services of more than 20 healthcare providers in primary care, urology and orthopedics. The building features 30 exam rooms, two procedure rooms, a radiology X-ray room, two laboratories, and a cast room. The 11,000

sq. ft. clinic shows the mission of UF Health to provide quality healthcare in the local community.

The patient clinic is the result of the vision of UF Health leaders Dr. David Guzick, Dr. Marvin Dewar, Dr. Michael Good, Dr. Peter Carek and Brad Pollitt, and the many UF faculty and staff members actively involved in operational support. Also involved were business members of the community including: Carol Bosshardt and her team of developers; Walker Architects; Oelrich Construction as well as their many partners; and Lawn Enforcement Landscaping. Lastly, medical director Dr. Michael McTiernan and office manager Kim Mann have worked to make the clinic a reality.

Northwood Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses | 3780 NW 16th Boulevard

Kingdom Halls are constructed by Jehovah's Witnesses congregations primarily for Bible education about God's Kingdom, the ministry of Jesus, and worship of the creator Jehovah. The first Kingdom Hall in Gainesville was built in 1958 on NE 3rd Avenue, but this Kingdom Hall became too small for the Jehovah's Witnesses congregations attending there, and in 1971 a second Kingdom Hall was constructed

on Archer Road. Since the 1950's the number of Jehovah's Witnesses congregations in Gainesville has grown to seven, representing English, Spanish, American Sign Language, Chinese, Russian and other language groups.

Consequently a new site on 16th Blvd. was purchased for the construction of a new Kingdom Hall, and completed in 2014. Design and construction of Kingdom Halls is done

primarily through volunteers. The Jehovah's Witnesses' Regional Building Committee #7 provided oversight for the design and construction of the new Kingdom Hall in Gainesville on 16th Blvd. The design is modest, functional, and attractive.

Working closely with the City Building Department, the City Arborist, and the community, the site plan, building design, and landscape plan for the new Kingdom Hall were prepared. The design includes the Kingdom Hall itself, the caretaker's residence, and a utility building.

Construction began in May 2013, and was completed in February 2014, at a cost of \$600,000, with funds provided

by voluntary donations. The required irrigation system made possible a nearly 100% survival rate of the 120 trees and 160 shrubs planted on the site. Helping with the construction were 480 volunteers from as far away as Pensacola.

Architect Peter F. Leenman, R.A., led the design team for the project; Mastroserio Engineering of Ocala provided site engineering; structural engineering was by Monta Consulting and Design of Orlando; and the Contractor of Record was Coastal States Contractors, Inc.

APARTMENTS

Centro Luxury Apartments | 1433 NW 3rd Avenue

Centro Luxury Apartments is a boutique community of 2-, 3-, and 4-bedroom apartments designed in a Mediterranean style within easy walking distance to the University of Florida. This project was the first apartment complex to break ground in the College Park neighborhood since 2009.

Before the property was redeveloped in 2015, it consisted of a 1950s-era duplex and a quadraplex built in the 1980s. Six new apartments were built on the site, and the quadraplex was extensively renovated inside and out to incorporate it within the new design. Several prominent longleaf pines and live oaks were preserved as part of the project, which now includes lush plantings featuring Florida horticulture.

The project's exterior features include porches, extensive moldings, brackets and trim work, and architectural

shingles reminiscent of barrel tile roofing to create a Mediterranean feel. Interior features include vaulted ceilings, oversized windows, granite countertops, designer lighting and other contemporary upgrades.

The property now includes lush plantings that feature Florida horticulture that demands little irrigation. Double-pane windows were used, and Energy Star appliances. The units fit in the streetscape and conform to the College Park Special Area Plan.

Clay Kallman developed the project for Terrapin B, LLC and Circa Properties. The local design team consisted of Jay Reeves & Associates, architects; Jay Brown Professional Group; WSE; Nix Engineering; McDowell Engineering; JOLA; and Parrish-McCall Constructors, who also acted as general contractor for the project.

Social 28 | 311 SW 13th Street

Social28 is an noteworthy example of high-density in-fill development. Social 28 was built on the site of the old Courtyards parking structure and elevated the view with two, six-story modern architecturally designed buildings directly across from the office of the University president. The open courtyard spaces, automated parking garage and roof-top pool create a compact and urban feel for students desiring to walk to class.

Social 28 has wide sidewalks, first-floor parking that is well-hidden and woven into the overall building design, and multi-use functionality with a CVS retail space on

the ground floor. This mixed-use building allows students and pedestrians the convenience of all-in-one living. With roughly 600 beds, there are only 112 parking spaces, which is consistent with the city's comprehensive plan that encourages fewer cars around campus. Social 28 has covered parking and state-of-the-art modern bike racks in both garage locations.

CA Ventures, LLC and its in-house design team and investors who promote a mind, body, and spirit lifestyle at major campuses nationally, envisioned the overall concept and design.

Solaria Luxury Apartments – Phase II | 1023 SW 6th Avenue

Solaria II is a three-story, 15-unit apartment complex designed to pay homage to the California Mission style of architecture that utilizes the rich, earthy materials of stucco, barrel tile, and heavy wooden timbers. This development represents the final phase of the Solaria residential complex that won an award from the City Beautification Board earlier, and expands the complex to the north to become a contributing neighbor to the SW 6th Avenue streetscape.

Entered via a fountained courtyard, Solaria II reveals its Mission character through the display of handmade Mexican clay tiles that are painted in intricate designs to celebrate the style and features of this architectural genre. Central to the courtyard is an elaborately embellished fountain common to Spanish homes and estates. This

courtyard serves as a focal point for social gatherings and as a shared community amenity.

A prominent structure on the street is the residence at 1047 SW 6th Ave. that is sited between two historic homes that were renovated as a part of this project, thus keeping historical continuity. This new house showcases the styling and detailing that this project conveys, and which distinguished the initial phase of Solaria in the University Heights Historic District.

Trimark Properties selected a team of local designers to develop this site. The architect for the project was Skinner Vignola McLean, and the landscape architect was Buford Davis & Associates. The general contractor was D. E. Scorpio, Inc.; and Personal Interiors by Sally Thompson provided interior design. Trimark's own Facilities Department completed the extensive renovations to the two existing historic homes.

Tuscana Luxury Apartments | 811 SW 8th Street

Sited along the banks of Tumblin Creek at the eastern edge of University Heights, Tuscana Luxury Apartments is reminiscent of northern Italian architecture, invoking perhaps an image of a Tuscan farmhouse resting in fields of olive trees.

Consisting of forty-one apartments, Tuscana residents enjoy an array of authentic Italian features including: Bougainvillea-laden arbors; creek views with dappled sunlight; a courtyard canopied with crape myrtles; an inviting gathering space with a glass fire pit; and a formal lawn perched above the creek for recreation or relaxing in the sun.

These Old World influences from the Mediterranean are evident in the detailing of Tuscana. Hand-laid stone and brick in the weathered palette of Tuscany lend a quiet,

character to the development. Rough-hewn rafter tails and trellises add to the rustic, refined quality of the spaces. Ornamental ironwork frames on each of the balconies pay homage to Tuscan craftsmanship.

The interiors continue this theme with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, gourmet kitchens, oversized living areas, and balconies. Modern amenities include dedicated high-speed Internet ports and beverage coolers to chill wine. Trimark Properties selected a team of local professionals for this design. Civil engineering services were provided by Causseaux Hewett & Walpole of Gainesville; the landscape design was provided by Buford Davis + Associates of Gainesville; architectural design services were by Skinner Vignola McLean of Gainesville; and interior design services were provided by Personal Interiors by Sally Thompson.

COMMERCIAL & RETAIL BUSINESSES

Outback Steakhouse | 3760 SW Archer Road

After opening initially in July of 1991, Outback Steakhouse moved to the northeast corner of Archer Rd and SW 37th Ave. The move put Outback in a prime location with the construction of the then-new Butler Plaza. The previous tenant had let the space sit vacant for over seven years prior to its demolition. The “Old Location” was situated in a strip mall next to Wal-mart and across from Lowes, but by 2015 – 24 years later --the Outback restaurant was much in need of a makeover.

Renovation construction began in mid-March of 2015, and doors were opened on August 26th. The new plan includes an outdoor patio with 32 seats, a drainage area, a two-story façade, 264 indoor seats, and a much-needed make-over. Parking is common space with shared with Best Buy and neighboring businesses.

Sonny’s BBQ | 3635 Archer Road

In March 2015, Sonny’s BBQ unveiled a brand-new, modernized look for their restaurants on Archer Road in Gainesville. The location was chosen as part of a two-year rebranding program for the nearly 50-year-old barbecue brand and signifies an ongoing effort to provide guests with a local and authentic BBQ experience.

At 5,000 sq. ft. and 160 seats, the new restaurant is equipped with high ceilings, large windows, and walls made of split firewood. Two large smokers are positioned at the front of the restaurant for guests to see and smell the BBQ when they walk in the door. Wood is a common theme throughout the restaurant, from the hickory tabletops to the cypress walls, but touches of the signature Sonny’s red appear throughout to brighten the space.

Swamp Head Brewery | 3650 SW 42 Avenue

In 2014 Swamp Head Brewery was informed that, due to a new I-75 overpass being built to the Celebration Point development, the company would need to relocate. While change is often a daunting challenge, the Swamp Head team took the opportunity to create a destination brewery that would reflect the company’s commitment to sustainability and world-class beer. Swamp Head enlisted the help of Anne Metz of Metz & Co. realty, who assisted with the acquisition of a new property in a highly wooded setting

The new location on southwest Archer Road discarded the carpet floors, an outdated décor, and a poor working design, and replaced it with a fresh Australian-themed restaurant. LEDs and the use of natural light now create a more open feel. Pedestrians now have easier access because the restaurant is located next to a high-traffic bus stop.

The Bloomin Brands Development Department in Tampa put together the plans and design behind the restaurant, and Haley Construction of Daytona Beach was the contractor. Steve Stratton was the Outback’s Project Manager, and Phil Vein of Haley Construction served as on-site General Contractor for the project.

The dining area is set to feel like a neighborhood BBQ -- fun, lively, and memorable. The new layout is open and inviting, where guests can watch as certified Sonny’s BBQ Pitmasters prepare and slow-smoke their meals to create the Southern-style BBQ that Sonny’s is famous for.

The first Sonny’s BBQ location in Gainesville opened in 1968 on Waldo Road when founder Sonny Tillman and his wife Lucille created a local BBQ joint for the community to enjoy. So it only made sense to begin the refreshed restaurant design in Gainesville, the hometown of Sonny’s BBQ.

The architect for this project was Michael Wenrich of Michael Wenrich Architects in Orlando, Fla.; and Buford Davis & Associates in Gainesville did the landscape design.

in Gainesville. Scherer Construction of North Florida, LLC was retained to work on Design/Build.

In addition to creating a workable production space, Swamp Head wanted to highlight their commitment to sustainability and nature conservation. Owner, Luke Kemper, made the decision to build Swamp Head’s own Florida wetland that they could enjoy every day from their tasting room, aptly named “The Wetlands.” With assistance from Florida Green-keepers, plants and trees

native specifically to Florida were cultivated throughout the property.

With attention to both how attractive and efficient Swamp Head wanted their new home to be, the decision was made to incorporate insulated panels. These panels are aesthetically pleasing; yet retain the traditional look of typical warehouses while providing increased energy efficiency. Earthy tones were selected to help the facility

visually settle into the surrounding forest, except for the functional grain silos. These silos, that store Swamp Head's daily beer production, provide an iconic touch of color to let visitors know they have arrived somewhere special.

A far cry from the company's more industrial beginnings, Swamp Head Brewery offers a window into Florida's wetlands, right in the city of Gainesville.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

Yelvington Wetlands Restoration Project | 7605 NW 13th Street

The Yelvington Distributors Aggregated Distribution Terminal, located on Hwy 441 in north Gainesville, supplies sand, gravel, and other aggregate building materials for sale to contractors and the general public. In the early 2000s, the company expanded their operations on the site, and fill material was inadvertently stockpiled in a wetland area. In 2011, when additional site work was being planned, the old fill was discovered. John Hendrix, the City of Gainesville Environmental Coordinator, explained the wetland loss to the company, and they voluntarily agreed to cooperate and seek a solution.

Working with Mr. Hendrix and the Suwannee River Water Management District, Yelvington proposed a wetlands restoration project to remove the approximately two acres of fill and restore the area to a viable wetland condition. The company retained Pete Wallace, Ecosystem Research Corp., and Sergio Reyes, President of eda engineers, Inc., to perform a site assessment and develop a restoration

plan for excavating the fill area back to original elevations. The City approved the restoration plan and issued a site work permit.

Although the restoration project was delayed by wet conditions, the work was completed in 2015, and natural regeneration of herbaceous wetland vegetation has already occurred across most of the site. The work was voluntarily performed by the company through a cooperative process, which allowed a flexible schedule for access during dry periods, and enabled the company to take advantage of commercial offsite reuse of the excavated soil material.

The property is entirely owned by the Yelvington family and does not have public access, but the wetlands of the property are contiguous with other large wetland landscapes of the Gainesville Deerhaven Annex and Plum Creek Planned Development lands, which together represent a significant natural area for future conservation and protection of water resources.

Cofrin Nature Park Renovation and Survivors of Suicide Loss Memory Garden | 4810 NW 8th Avenue

In 2015 Cofrin Nature Park on NW 8th Avenue underwent a major renovation by the City of Gainesville, and the Survivors of Suicide Loss Memory Garden at Cofrin Park was completed.

The major goal of the renovation was to stabilize the Beville Creek shoreline, reduce erosion, and improve water quality. The property's former owner had constructed wooden retaining walls and an earthen bridge over a culvert in the 1970s. Over time these structures had deteriorated and fell into disrepair, falling into Beville Creek. The situation was becoming unstable and unsightly.

The City hired a contractor to remove the old retaining walls, and installed erosion control structures and rocks to serve as dynamic shoreline reinforcement, allowing natural processes to rebuild the creek bed and return the creek to a more stable and healthy state. The old earthen bridge was removed and replaced with an attractive metal and wood footbridge, which has quickly become a focal point of the park.

A very significant but completely invisible improvement that took place during park renovation was the removal of the septic system and connection of the public restroom

to sanitary sewer lines. This improvement was a major advance in improving the creek's water quality.

This award also recognizes the Survivors of Suicide Loss Memory Garden located in Cofrin Nature Park, which is a project of the Friends of the Crisis Center, Inc., coordinated by Judy Broward. The Memory Garden is a place for members of the public to honor and remember loved ones lost to suicide, and provides consolation to others experiencing grief or to those simply walking through the garden. It is a place to support, and be supported by, other survivors, and a place of calm to prepare visitors for a return to a new reality.

The design of the landscape architects for this site encourages movement through the memory garden to help visitors deal with the loss of loved ones, and to assist grieving persons to be with others suffering the same emotional loss. The design includes a trellis on a brick floor, with two benches where people can gather together. The Labyrinth allows people who are alone with their thoughts to follow a winding path as they try to make sense of what happened. In addition, there is the Remembrance Sculpture with seven basalt columns: six standing and one broken and lying down to represent the one lost.

The Memory Garden is intended to help visitors never forget their loved one. As visitors approach the bench placed under shade trees along the creek, they may reflect on their forever-changed life that is still full of people, responsibilities, and even joy. They may listen to the sounds of flowing water, perhaps mingled with the sounds of

children laughing in the nearby playground. These sounds of continuing life can calm and quiet the visitor, easing the return to a full life.

Gladys Cofrin suggested in her land gift to the city in 2003 that some space be allotted for an SOS Garden, and provided a cash donation. The Survivors of Suicide Loss Memory Garden then became a 12-year project of the Friends of the Crisis Center.

Dr. Kay Williams, a UF Professor of Landscape Architecture, Fred Peace, Barbara Denahan, a Landscape Architecture student, and John Adams of Landscape Design, Inc were involved in drawing up the landscape plans. Alachua County Master Gardeners donated most of the trees and all of the shrubs. Wendy Wilbur, the Master Gardener Coordinator, Susan Nugent, and a team of Master Gardeners planted, watered and now continue to maintain and weed the garden.

AKEA, Inc, donated the trellis design; Oelrich Construction donated the materials and built the trellis. Greg Johnson designed and sculpted the Remembrance sculpture, in addition to leading crews on garden projects throughout the site. Hundreds of volunteers, coordinated by Terrie Mullin, worked thousands of hours over three years; volunteers included high school and UF students, Girl Scouts, police officers, volunteers from the Crisis Center, Master Gardeners and survivors of suicide. They helped clear the space and carry in bricks, blocks, mulch, sand and gravel; they laid the pathways, built the trellis, built terraces, laid brick, and took part in many other tasks.

Butterfly Hill at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | 4700 SW 58th Drive

Recently renovated Butterfly Hill is now one of the ecological specialty gardens at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Most of the plants in this garden produce flowers that attract butterflies. Butterflies are especially attracted to plants with large clusters of small tubular flowers, like lantana and pentas. These flower clusters serve as landing pads for butterflies and the droplets of nectar in the throats of individual floral tubes provide a food source; in return, the butterflies serve as pollinators for the plant.

Other plants are included in the Butterfly Hill garden because they serve as a food sources for caterpillars, the larval form of butterflies. Caterpillars are often very specific in their food preferences and adult butterflies may deposit their eggs on only these preferred species. Upon hatching, emerging caterpillars find themselves on the plant that meets their nutritional needs. In many cases — as with milkweeds — a plant species serves both functions,

whereas, in others it serves only one phase of the insect's life cycle.

This garden or hill originated in 1994 as the byproduct of soil excavated and piled when creating a neighboring specialty garden, the Water Gardens. After being planted with perennials, it was originally called the Perennial Hill, but by 2002 the plantings had been replaced and transitioned into butterfly attractants and was subsequently renamed Butterfly Hill.

For several years, volunteer Barry Davis maintained the Butterfly Garden. Then in 2010, the Alachua County Master Gardeners took on the project of maintaining and renovating the garden. Since then, gravel walkways have been replaced with crushed concrete to create a solid surface, and the walkways have been widened for wheelchair access. Other more recent improvements include repainting the gazebo and adding a water feature to

attract butterflies. Invasive plant species have been removed and the plant groupings have been cleaned up to make them homogeneous and better for plant identification.

Master Gardener and Project Coordinator Greg Guyan and his all-volunteer master gardener crew have contributed

long hours to Butterfly Hill. Two informational mailboxes have been mounted and are kept stocked with University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Florida Museum of Natural History brochures.

PUBLIC SPACES

Bo Diddley Plaza Revitalization | 111 E University Avenue

Centrally located in the heart of Downtown Gainesville, Bo Diddley Plaza has been a landmark destination in the city since 1976, but in recent years it became apparent that the public plaza could benefit from increased safety, visibility and accessibility. The north face of the plaza, facing University Ave., felt like a back alleyway with obstructed viewpoints and tight, cluttered spaces. Performers had to change in a small utility closet, which significantly limited the city's ability to book top-notch talent and bring high-profile events to the community.

Reimagining the north face of the plaza has led to a more vibrant and inviting public space. Led by the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), improvements to the Downtown Plaza's north side include: a new café space, new airport-style restrooms, a gently-trickling water wall with 250 different programmable LED light combinations, a welcoming informational kiosk, and a green room for enhanced performances.

The renovations also reclaimed the former bus lane, significantly adding to the available square footage of the plaza fronting University Avenue. Demolishing the old RTS bus stop and relocating it slightly east next to the courthouse has helped open up the line of sight into the plaza—changing it from feeling like the “back of a house” to feeling like a front porch.

The City of Gainesville's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) department fostered additional improvements to the south side of the plaza while the CRA had it closed for construction. These improvements include: acoustical improvements to the stage, brick repairs, enhanced turf, better lighting, and touch-ups to the stage mural done by the original artist.

In addition to the physical improvements, citizens will find that it's now easier than ever to use the plaza for events.

In line with the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee on Economic Competiveness's recommendations for making the City of Gainesville more user-friendly, the CRA has worked closely with other departments to streamline the plaza's rental and operations process. The renovated plaza is already drawing more events, like Zumba fitness, tango dance lessons, yoga, concerts and Downtown festivals, creating a fun, active space for all to enjoy.

Oelrich Construction of Newberry led construction management services. The plaza design team included: DAG Architects, Inc. (Design + CAS) of Destin, H2Engineering (MEP) of Tallahassee, plus five firms from Gainesville: Buford Davis & Associates; JMJ Consulting Engineering; Wayland Structural Engineering; Deren Land Surveying; and GSE Engineering

Entrance at Cynthia Moore Chestnut Park and Clark Butler Nature Preserve | 2315 SE 35th Street

Inviting park users in, the new entrance of the Cynthia Moore Chestnut Park and Clark Butler Nature Preserve is an excellent example of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™. Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices. Designed by Alachua County Master Gardeners, the entranceway garden provides a mixture of color, texture, and forms throughout the year while demonstrating the principles of FFL.

Chestnut Park, which opened in April 2010, includes picnic shelters, basketball courts, all-purpose fields, nature trails, and a sand volleyball court. Over 300 native trees and shrubs were planted throughout the park's 30 acres, making it a beautiful and peaceful area on its own. For many years, however, the only greeting to the park was a park sign and a wrought iron gate, leading to a winding road that concealed the beauty of the park further in. The

new entrance park now provides an inviting welcome to park visitors.

Prominently featured in the entranceway garden are two large boulders with Alachua red climber roses cascading up the rocks, boulders that complement the rocks found throughout the park itself. Sable palms surrounded by pink muhly grass, a Florida native, serve as a backdrop to the boulders. Although not all the plants are Florida natives, they capture the essence of FFL. Blooming at various times during the year, the additional plants include walking iris, yellow bush daisies, swamp mallow hibiscus, jewel red wild salvia, Adams needle, crinum, and zinnias. This delightful

mix serves as nectar for butterflies and pollinators, making it an inviting sight for those on the walking path.

In collaboration with the Alachua County Parks and Recreation department and Alachua County Master Gardeners, work began on the garden in January 2014. The county Parks and Recreation department excavated the area, brought in the boulders, provided soil and pine straw, and watered the area to establish the plantings. The Alachua County Master Gardeners, who are volunteers trained by the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension Alachua County, designed, planted, and currently maintain the garden.

SW 5th Avenue Porters Community Project | 512 SE 2nd Terrace

Established in 1884, the Porters Community neighborhood has been an important African American community for decades. Some of its longest living residents have seen as many as 103 birthdays. In late 2013, the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) proposed a sidewalk on the north side of SW 5th Avenue in the Porters Community, with the goal of improving the neighborhood's connectivity, safety and identity. The community especially desired this neighborhood amenity since the street features a daycare, community center and an organic community farm with active youth programs.

Completed in the fall of 2015, the 0.4-mile sidewalk now connects Porters to the Innovation District along 6th Street and an assortment of Downtown bookstores, artisan workshops and restaurants on South Main Street. The project includes thick-skinned, steely-green agave plants so common to the Porters Community that they are an apt metaphor for its resilience.

And it's an important route linking green spaces like the western Tumblin' Creek park to the eastern Haisley Lynch Dog Park and the planned 32-acre Depot Park. There was also a unique opportunity to better announce the community's history and character through the creation of 8-foot-tall gateways at each major entrance. By installing prominent LED-lit, 8-foot-tall gateway features, on the

most heavily trafficked entrances to Porters, the project dramatically highlights the neighborhood's identity.

The many historic street markers sprinkled throughout the neighborhood inspired the concrete markers. The year the Porters Community was established, 1884, is inscribed on the side of one monument to preserve its history and integrity. They're nicely complemented by drought-tolerant, native Florida vegetation.

Many organizations talk about engaging the community and working with local vendors whenever possible, but how many take that extra personal step? Meet Vernon, a Porters resident living along the SW 5th Avenue sidewalk project. He saw the CRA meeting onsite and asked the superintendent if there was any work he could be hired to do during construction... and as it turns out, yes! Hicks Seal Coating and Stripping officially hired Vernon to work with the site crew to form and pour the sidewalk running through Porters—and physically be a part of making his neighborhood a better place.

This anecdote is a powerful illustration of the many steps the CRA took to connect with the Porters Community on this project. It's one thing to build an improvement for the community—but it's infinitely more impactful for the community to physically be a part of shaping that change.

UNIQUELY GAINESVILLE

One Love Café | 4989 NW 40th Place

The planned development known as Magnolia Parke in northwest Gainesville on 39th Ave. was approved by the City of Gainesville on October 13, 1997. It has proven to be a uniquely attractive development due to its multimodal, pedestrian-friendly and sustainable characteristics, with a large central 3-acre “green space.” This green space was to become the home of One Love Café in 2014.

Cliff and Juli Denney wanted to bring this park to life and make it an extension of what their family concept had been: Fresh homemade food and drinks for their guests, with areas to let the kids play, letting the adults enjoy their time outdoors. Games like corn hole, tetherball and bocce ball would be available for all to enjoy. There would be no table service so people are not hurried along to vacate their table if they choose to hang out and relax.

Although originally there were only five picnic tables on grass, this quickly grew into a large patio of pavers with seating, and a pavilion to protect patrons from the rain or sun. Misters were added to bring the temperature down under the pavilion during the hottest months. Cliff’s

company, Skillful Creations, built the improvements and Juli would joke, “If you’re going to own a restaurant, it helps if your husband is a contractor!”

Live music was added. Originally music was scheduled only on Saturdays for brunch, but the entertainment quickly grew into a nightly event on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays as well.

One Love Café “magically” became what the owners envisioned. Kids now run around the park, and dogs hang out with their owners. People stop to chat with their neighbors around the fire pit. Strangers connect and communicate, and cellphones and iPads don’t come out as often except to take pictures. Music is playing, and people are enjoying themselves. The ambiance is active and fun, with a feel-good atmosphere and feel-good food, say the owners.

A favorite Facebook post from a guest is, “One Love is like a giant backyard family reunion except you don’t know anyone”! This is exactly what makes One Love Café uniquely Gainesville!

OUTSTANDING INSTITUTION AWARD

George T. Harrell M.D. Medical Education Building | 1104 Newell Drive

Located on the Health Sciences campus of the University of Florida, the Harrell Medical Education building supports a new medical education curriculum and provides advanced training to future and current healthcare providers employing the latest in medical education, teaching and technologies.

Nestled around the canopy of a beautiful majestic oak, the signature four-story building serves as a new front door to the Health Sciences complex. Within the building, new teaching labs, high-tech simulators, meeting rooms, and learning studios catapult the university into a state of the art medical education center.

Preserving and embracing the oak symbolizes the attention to human and environmental interface found throughout the project. Where possible, the building protected native vegetation and habitat adjacent to the site. When not possible, oak trees removed to accommodate construction were harvested, stored, and reused within the building. Under the canopy of the oak, a shaded courtyard provides expanded gathering for interior lobby functions. Surrounding the courtyard, a peaceful fern and azalea

garden provides a scenic and relaxing backdrop for interior offices and classrooms.

The outdoor garden blends the building and outside into one cohesive unit. In addition to the preservation of existing vegetation, sustainability efforts also included the collection of rainwater from the courtyard and drop off areas. Distribution of such water flows into a series of bio-swales buffeting the building from the adjacent road. The creative team accomplished a purposeful feeling in this design, movement from the building to an outdoor campus in a gracious and transparent manner.

For the University of Florida, this project demonstrates a strong commitment to advancing medical education in the 21st Century. The university's mission is to provide an education that imprints a distinct learning experience for today's students, and fosters a life-long commitment to patient care for the next generation of doctors.

The architect for the project was Heery International of Orlando; the interior architect was Ballinger of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the landscape architect was David Conner and Associates of Tampa; and the building construction contractor was Charles Perry Partners of Gainesville.

OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Sweetwater Wetlands Park | 325 SW Williston Road

Sweetwater Wetlands Park provides a unique and innovative approach to achieving new water quality regulatory standards, while providing additional environmental benefits. The facilities filter water in Sweetwater Branch, reduce nutrient loading, and then release clean water to Paynes Prairie while protecting the Floridian aquifer, enhancing wildlife habitat and providing public recreation. It is the most significant integrated water resources project in the city's history.

The 264-acre park is located at the southern tip of Gainesville with the main entrance on Williston Road, just east of the intersection with South Main Street. Parking is available, along with restroom facilities. All buildings are reminiscent of Florida cracker-style architecture. Sustainability elements are demonstrated, including collection of roof drainage into a cistern that is used to water Florida native-landscape plantings.

Three miles of elevated walking trails wend through 125 acres of constructed wetlands. Eight viewpoint structures with covered benches offer visitors a place to rest as they explore the park. A one-half mile boardwalk meanders

through the wetlands and over habitat islands, and offers an opportunity to view wildlife up close. Interpretive signage along the boardwalk explains the park's role in water quality treatment.

Gainesville Regional Utilities and the City of Gainesville Public Works Department partnered to develop Sweetwater Wetlands Park. The Gainesville City Commission approved the project concept in March 2007, and construction began in August 2012. Cooperating organizations including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the St. Johns River Water Management District, Alachua County, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provided support and assistance.

The design and construction team included: Jones Edmunds and Associates, Engineers; Jones and Jones, Architect and Landscape Architect; Wetland Solutions, Inc., Environmental Consultant; South Arc, Inc., Cultural Resources Consultant; and Wharton Smith Inc., Construction Management.

2016 City Beautification Board Award Winners



Social Security Building



Gainesville Plaza



U14



UF Infinity Hall



Reitz Union Expansion and Renovation



UF Health Haile Family Medical Center



Northwood Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses



Centro Luxury Apartments



Social 28



Solaria Luxury Apartments – Phase II



Tuscana Luxury Apartments



Outback Steakhouse



Sonny's BBQ



Swamp Head Brewery



Yelvington Wetlands Restoration Project



Cofrin Nature Park Renovation & SOS Loss Garden



Butterfly Hill at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens



Bo Diddley Plaza Renovation



Entrance at Cynthia Moore Chestnut Park



SW 5th Avenue Porters Community Project



One Love Café



Gainesville Woman's Club



George T. Harrell, M.D. Medical Education Building



Sweetwater Wetlands Park