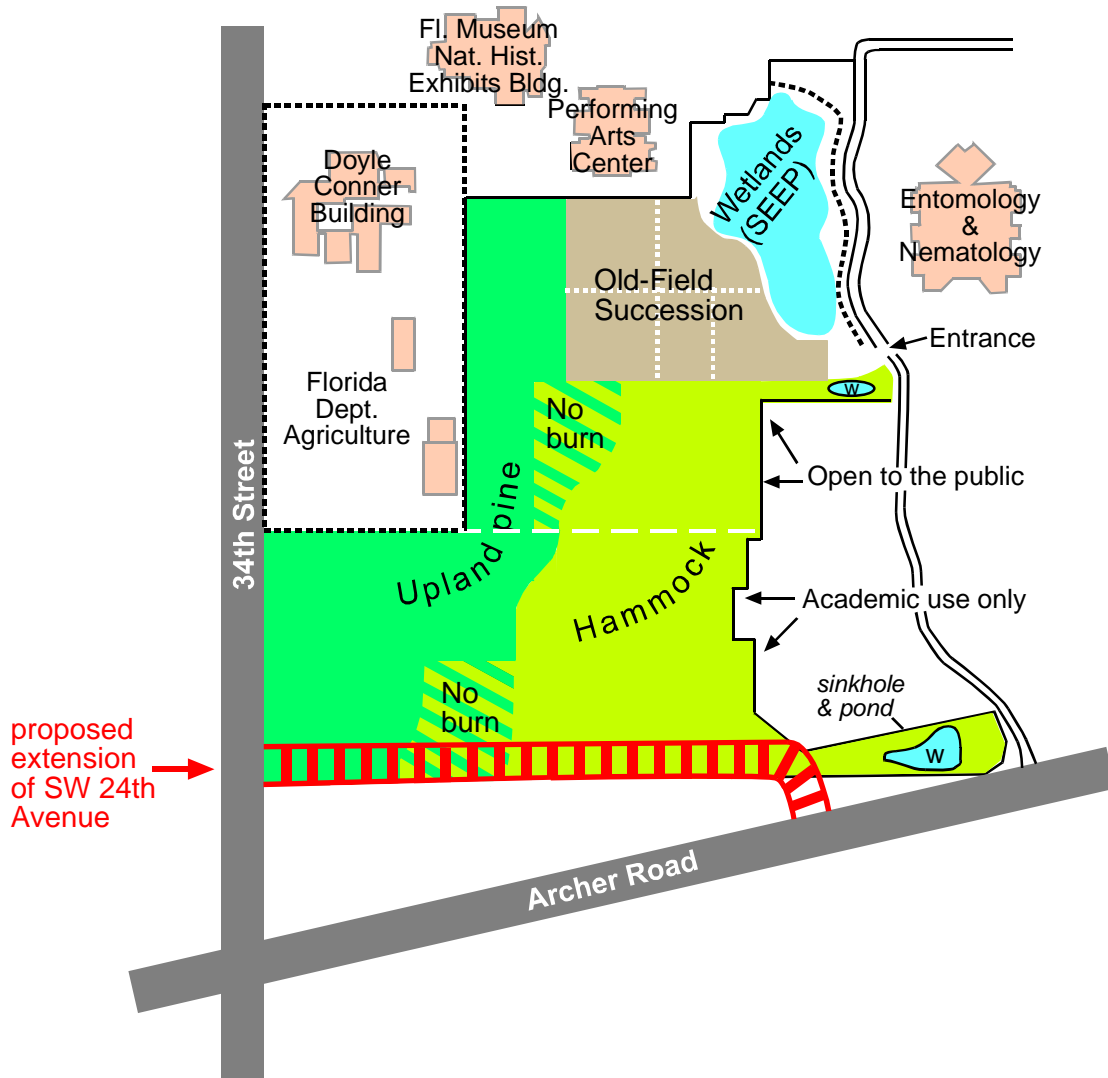


UF's commitment to donate right-of-way for a four-lane road through the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory

Review and update



T. J. Walker, Chair, Natural Area Advisory Committee

18 Sep 2003

Summary

In February and March, the UF Administration stated that it intended to amend the UF Master Plan to provide the right-of-way for a four-lane, eastward extension of SW 24th Avenue through the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory (NATL). For more than six months, the Administration has failed to draft the promised amendment and has avoided asking its advisory committees for input on the wisdom of the proposed donation of right-of-way. This month, Alachua County began to pay nearly \$400,000 to design a four-lane road that will function as intended only if it continues through NATL.

Contents

This and the following page list key events that are relevant to the Administration's proposed donation of right-of-way through NATL. The remaining pages are documents that give details of some of these events. All parts of this *Review and Update* and much additional information about SW 24th Avenue are at <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Spring Semester 2003

What UF Administration **did**: (see Documents 1, 2, and 3)

20 Feb: Told the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization that UF would recommend that right-of-way be provided for a four-lane divided SW 24th Avenue from SW 34th Street east to Archer Road.

25 Mar: Told the Alachua County Commission that UF would recommend through its Master Plan amendment process that right-of-way be provided for the extension of SW 24th Avenue east to Archer Road

26 Mar: Appointed a Focus Group to study the impact of the extension on academic programs and how to mitigate that impact.

What UF Administration **failed to do**:

Before proposing to donate ROW: Ask for input from any of UF's four land-use advisory committees or from the Natural Area Advisory Committee, the group that has overseen the development of NATL since 1994.

After proposing to donate ROW: Ask for input from any of UF's four land-use advisory committees or from the Natural Area Advisory Committee.

After proposing to donate ROW: Draft the promised amendment to the Master Plan and proceed with the amendment process.

After appointing the Focus Group: Convene the Focus Group or name a chair for it. (see Document 4)

What the Faculty Senate **did**:

20 Mar: Passed a motion to have the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee and the Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee [LVLC] place the proposed SW 24th Avenue extension on their agendas for April.

17 Apr: In response to a report from LVLC (document 5), voted that "The UF administration should clarify its position on the SW 24th Avenue extension in order

to address procedural concerns and ensure that a process will be implemented that allows for input from the entire university community before any final decisions are made.”

What the Faculty Senate **failed to do**:

Succeed in getting the Administration to provide a venue for the discussion of the costs and benefits of the proposed donation—with or without the possibility “for input from the entire university community.”

Between Spring and Fall Semesters 2003

6 and 19 May: Administration convenes Focus Group but no chair is named and no work plan is adopted. (Document 4)

14 Aug: An MTPO member requests that UF Administration provide a time line for completing the amendment process.

Fall Semester 2003

3 Sep: Vice President Poppell submits a tentative time line to the MTPO. UF’s final decision regarding the donation is slated for June 2004, but Poppell warns that because of the dynamics of committee work and committee input, the timeline could slip. (Document 6)

5 Sep: Members of the Natural Area Advisory Committee [NAAC] collect 113 faculty signatures on a petition asking the Administration to start the amendment process no later than 30 Sep 2003. (Document 7)

8 Sep: Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee votes that it is opposed to a road being built through NATL.

11 Sep: Senate Steering Committee declines to put the NAAC petition request (see 5 Sep above) on the 18 Sep Senate agenda.

17 Sep: Acting Alachua County Public Works Director Michael Fay writes that the County will start payments to Berryman & Henigar, Inc. this month on a \$388,286 contract to design a four-lane SW 24th Avenue from SW 43rd Street to SW 34th Street. The design work is to be completed in June 2004. Thus by the time UF expects to render a decision on the proposed ROW donation (see 3 Sep above), Alachua County will have spent almost \$400,000 to design a road that is aligned with NATL and depends on a four-lane extension through NATL to function properly. (Document 8)

URLs

Pages 1-3 of *Review and Update*: <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/24RandU.pdf>

Document 1 <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/EWcorridor.pdf>

Document 2 <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/young.pdf>

Document 3 <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/24youngFG.pdf>

Document 4 <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/FocusGroup.pdf>

Document 5 <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/24lvlsenrpt.pdf>

Document 6 <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/24poppell2.pdf>

Document 7 <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/petitionlv1.pdf>

Document 8 <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/fayemail.htm> and [fayemail2.htm](http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/fayemail2.htm)