ABOUT THE FLORIDA CENTER

The Florida Center for Community Design and Research is a research center affiliated with the School of Architecture and Community Design at the University of South Florida. The Center was founded in 1986 as a statewide research center to address urban and regional problems related to both the natural and built environment and to provide design expertise, technical assistance, and applied research to assist Florida’s growing communities. The Center serves as a primary vehicle for interdisciplinary community engagement at the University of South Florida. The Center employs full-time research faculty, full-time professional and support staff, undergraduate and graduate students from multiple departments, and affiliated faculty throughout USF.

RESEARCH

The Florida Center gathers and analyzes data about built and natural environments to help planners and resource managers evaluate the quality and extent of existing environmental, infrastructure and historical assets, and to quantify trends in their status. This collected knowledge can then be used by practitioners, both within the Florida Center and elsewhere, as a basis for creating community designs and public policies that result in more sustainable resource allocation.

DESIGN

The Florida Center helps local governments, non-profit organizations, development professionals, and concerned citizens explore ways to accommodate growth while preserving the quality of life for all Floridians. Our projects propose creative, sustainable solutions to urban and regional problems. Areas of interest include urban ecology, human behavior and the built environment, transit and economic development, smart growth, landscape urbanism, housing and community design, and urban policy and development.

INFORMATICS

Many of the Florida Center’s projects use advanced information technology to collect, organize and disseminate community resource data for use by researchers, planners, resource managers and the general public, to encourage effective decision-making about future growth, development, and management of natural resources and greater citizen participation in resource stewardship.

EDUCATION

The Florida Center is involved in graduate education through the School of Architecture and Community Design and the Department of Geography GIS Certificate Program, and as guest lecturers for other USF Departments. Faculty specializations include urban/community design, development and redevelopment guidelines, GIS technology, environmental education, limnology, neighborhood planning, water resource conservation and data management, ecosystem analysis, community indicators, infrastructure mapping, and architectural design.

FEATURED PROJECTS

WaterAtlas.org: This is the web portal provides access to all of the Water Atlas websites. Each Water Atlas is a website that helps communities to make informed decisions by providing up-to-date information on our vital water resources. The Atlas Program is designed to provide citizens, scientists, professionals, and planners with comprehensive and current water quality, hydrologic, and ecological data, as well as information about recreational opportunities and a library of scientific and educational materials on water resource issues. The Atlas is a “one stop information shop” for concerned citizens and scientists alike. We encourage you to use the Atlas as a tool to help in maintaining and improving our vital water resources.

CommunityAtlas.org: This website, currently available in Hillsborough County, presents quality-assured data and information concerning community conditions in a format that the public can easily access and understand. Information is presented by community and neighborhood along with detailed explanations of what agency provides data or services, what the data mean, and why they are important. Interactive on-line maps further enhance the utility of the website by allowing citizens to view the information spatially and compare communities within Hillsborough County, thus helping citizens sustain livable communities by sharing information at a useful scale.

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FACULTY


Griffin, Jim, PhD, Associate in Research. Specializations: Environmental Chemistry (Ph.D.), Limnology, GIS Technology, Electronic Systems Technology (Chemical Instrumentation) (MS), Graduate and Undergraduate Education, Adult Environmental Education.

Johnson, B. Terry, MS, AICP, Assoc. in Research. Specializations: Local comprehensive planning, strategic planning, public and stakeholder involvement, environmental and neighborhood planning, performance measurement, community indicators.

Landry, Shawn, MS, MS/MIS, Program Director, Associate in Research. Specializations: Data integration and database design, web-based software development, water resources data management, GIS/GPS based rapid survey techniques, stormwater/wastewater and other infrastructure GIS mapping.

Mehta, Vikas, M.Arch, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture and Community Design. Specializations: Urban design, community design, sustainable neighborhood planning and design, design of urban public spaces, livability and social interaction in urban areas.

Russell, Stanley, M.Arch, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture and Community Design. Specializations: Architectural design, community design, sustainable architecture, energy efficient building design, building materials.

STAFF

Allyn, Jan, BS, Web Content Manager
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For more information about the Florida Center visit http://fccdr.usf.edu/

RECENT PROJECTS

Principal Investigator—B. Terry Johnson:
• Hillsborough Community Atlas
• Hillsborough County Census Data Update
• University Area Community Development Corporation Crime Prevention Project
• Water Conservation Public Opinion Survey
• Water Atlases:
  – Charlotte Harbor Water Atlas
  – Hillsborough/City of Tampa Water Atlas
  – Sarasota County Water Atlas
  – Manatee County Water Atlas
  – Pinellas County Water Atlas
  – Tallahassee/Leon County Water Atlas
  – Florida Atlas of Lakes
  – Lake County Water Atlas
  – Orange County Water Atlas
  – Seminole County Water Atlas
  – Tampa Bay Water Atlas
• Lake Physical, Chemical and Biological Field Assessment Project
• Lake and Stream Bathymetry Project
• Hillsborough River Watershed Alliance Website
• Water Atlas Service in Support of New College Coastal Watershed Symposium

Principal Investigator—Shawn Landry:
• Florida Atlas of Vascular Plants
• Alabama Atlas of Vascular Plants
• Tampa Urban Ecological Analysis
• Sarasota Water and Wastewater Facility Data Management
• Urban development, power relations, and water redistribution as drivers of wetland change in the Tampa Bay Region Socioecosystem

Principal Investigator—Theodore Trent Green:
• Affordable Housing Design Review
• East Tampa Stormwater Ponds Revitalization
• Scale Model—Channel District
• Titusville Community Redevelopment Area Plan Update

Principal Investigator—Stanley Russell:
• Waste Clay as a Green Building Material
• Energy Efficient Technologies and the Zero Energy Home Learning Center
• 2011 Solar Decathlon