IN HARMONY WITH NATURE
PROJECT BACKGROUND

THE HARMONY INSTITUTE

The Harmony Institute was founded as an independent charitable organization in 1996 by former Orlando Humane Society director Martha Lentz to promote the public health value of living in close proximity to animals and natural wildlife habitats. The institute is named in memory of the founder’s mother - Margaret Harmony Eastman.

The Institute’s main objective is to promote the psychological, emotional and public health values of living in balance with pets, wildlife and the environmental ecologies. The institute studies and develops programs to innovate new ways for human beings to enjoy peaceful, healthy, coexisting relationships with the animals and the environment. The premise is that there are significant health benefits for people who have regular accessibility to animals and nature within built communities. The institute strives to determine exactly how these relationships might positively influence chronic problems such as obesity, anxiety and other health risks.

THE HARMONY INSTITUTE SITE

The Institute owns 100 acres adjacent to the Harmony High School campus which is located directly across US Highway 192 from the community of Harmony. It is accessible through a walkway from the community town center.

THE INSTITUTE’S MISSION

The organization’s mission is to promote human health and well-being through the interaction of people, animals and the environment.

THE INSTITUTE’S GOALS

- Building a community environment for healthier living as a natural result of the interaction of humans, animals and the environment.
- Activation of model programs which illustrate the beneficial relationships between humans, animals and the environment.
- Research of community public health outcomes due to facilitated and maximized human - animal - environmental interactions.

DESIGN PROGRAM

MISSION STATEMENT
This project shall provide a place to improve human health and well-being, through the interaction of humans, animals and the environment.

DESIGN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1) Recognize the potential and develop the currently underutilized site to its future vision.
   - Retain and enhance the existing Camp Spirit.
   - Develop a program to utilize the site to its ideal capacity.

2) Develop an image that reflects the sustainable and environmental characteristics of the Harmony Community.
   - Develop an environment where humans and animals can interact yet thrive.
   - Protect natural landscape to maintain the rich bio-diversity and ecological balance.
   - Make use of sustainable design practices like water conservation, use of natural energy sources.

3) Promote health benefits to the site users.
   - Retain and enhance the existing Camp Spirit.
   - Provide spaces for active and passive restoration.
   - Provide spaces to encourage physical activity and recreation.

4) Design for communal activities and spaces to encourage social interaction.
   - Provide for activities to cater to all age groups.
   - Provide for spaces to encourage social gatherings.

5) Develop a plan that will have minimum impact on the existing natural habitats and plan for enhancement and restoration for the same.
   - Protect natural landscape to maintain bio-diversity and ecological balance.
   - Develop an environment that can hold different activities without interference to the natural landscape.
   - Limit development to have minimum impact on the natural environment.

6) Design an environment that is not only safe for the users but also secure for the planned animal population.
   - Ensure adequate security provisions.
   - Demarcate clearly areas for development and preservation.

7) Develop a plan that will inculcate a sense of respect for the natural environment, in its users.
   - Provide opportunity for various hands on educational programs.
   - Develop a plan to encourage interaction the users and the natural environment.
PROPOSED HARMONY INSTITUTE MASTER PLAN

LEGEND

1. ENTRY TO SITE
2. CONFERENCE & RESEARCH CENTER
3. GOPHER TORTOISE PRESERVE
4. HARMONY MIDDLE SCHOOL
5. ANIMAL CLINIC
6. OUTDOOR SCIENCE LABS
7. CAMP SPIRIT VISITOR CENTER
8. CHILDREN'S CLINIC
9. FUTURE EXPANSION
10. EXISTING WETLANDS
11. EXISTING VEGETATION MASSES
12. DETENTION BASIN

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In harmony with nature - A Master Plan for the Harmony Institute
I- RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE CENTER & GOPHER TORTOISE PRESERVE

KEY MAP

LEGEND
1. SITE ENTRY
2. SIGNAGE
3. APPROACH DRIVE
4. CAR PORCH
5. PARKING
6. RESEARCH & CONFERENCE CENTER
7. OUTDOOR DECK
8. EXISTING POND
9. EXISTING VEGETATION PATCH
10. GOPHER TORTOISE PRESERVE

DETAILS
TOTAL AREA - 8.3 ACRES
BUILT UP SQ FT - 12,600
NO. OF FLOORS - 1
PARKING SPACES - 36

BUILDING FLOOR PLAN

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II- HARMONY MIDDLE SCHOOL

KEY MAP

LEGEND
1. CAR ENTRY / BUS EXIT
2. BUS ENTRY / CAR EXIT
3. CAR DROP OFF
4. BUS BAYS
5. MAIN ENTRY DRIVE
6. STAFF PARKING
7. VISITOR PARKING
8. SCHOOL BUILDING
9. COURTYARD
10. TRACK AND FIELD
11. TENNIS COURTS
12. BALL FIELDS
13. DETENTION BASIN

DETAILS
TOTAL AREA - 15.2 ACRES
BUILT UP SQ FT - 54,360
NO. OF FLOORS - 1
PARKING SPACES - 108

SCHOOL BUILDING FLOOR PLAN

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SITE PLAN - CHILDREN'S CLINIC GARDEN

KEY MAP

LEGEND
1. CAR DROP OFF
2. ENTRY WALK
3. STAFF ENTRY
4. SICK CHILD ENTRY
5. ENTRY PORCH
6. PATIO
7. TRELLIS WALK
8. GARDEN SEAT
9. ARBOR AND GATE
10. TO ANIMAL PASTURE
11. SEATING AREA
12. FISH POND
13. BUTTERFLY GARDEN
14. GAZEBO
15. NATURAL MEADOW

PLANT LIFE FORMS
LARGE CANOPY TREE
MEDIUM TREE
SMALL TREE
MEDIUM SHRUB
SMALL SHRUBS
VINES
GRASSES
GROUNDCOVER