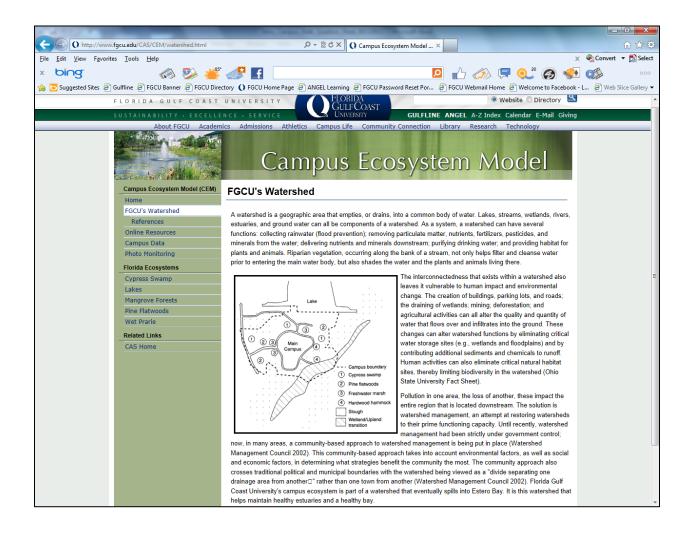
Introductory Campus Nature Walk

Tasks: As you visit the location today, pay attention to our observations and to the discussion topics. When you summarize the excursion in your Nature Journal, answer the following questions in detail. Anything else you want to write about is highly encouraged to help you reinforce your learning. Use the "Naturalist's Journal Template" for assistance in formatting! A multi-page entry with high-quality responses is expected.

- Describe each of the ecosystem types we visited.
- Explain these three factors that assist ecologists in determining ecosystem type: Hydroperiod, Soil Characteristics, and Elevation (local topography) differences.
- Observe big! Observe small! Learn to make observations like an ecologist!!! Using the "Naturalist Journal Template", make a series of observations. First, observe something very small and draw it, record relevant information, and a written description. Next, observe the "vertical stratification" of the pine flatwood (recall my analogy to the floors in a building) and draw the ground level, understory level(s), and canopy. Also add a written description that summarizes your observations.
- What was your favorite ecosystem type we observed today? Why?
- Describe how the soils were different at each ecosystem type.
- Name 5 plant species you saw and list the **distinguishing features** for each one.
- Give definitions for each of the terms related to the ecological hierarchy, or the scales of ecological complexity.
- Describe the differences between a food chain and a food web.
- What are the 4 major components of biodiversity? What is meant by each of these 4 components?
- In your opinion, is it important to conserve green space on a college campus like our's? Why or why not?
- Who and what factors influence your "land ethic"?
- Explain how you connected to your natural surroundings today.



Campus Ecosystem Model ... Check it out online: http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/CEM/watershed.html

Introductory Campus Walk Species List

You need to read and familiarize yourself with the "Habitats" section of the Audubon field guide (pp. 28 – 47).

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Cattail (p. 157)
Live oak (p. 99)
Sawgrass (p. 187)
Pickeralweed (p. 182)
Cabbage palm / Sabal palm (p. 106 – state tree of Florida)
Slash pine (p. 94)
Cypress (p.93)
Saw palmetto (p. 107)
Peninsular / Common cooter (p. 283)
Mosquitofish (p. 274)
Common grackle (p. 356)
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Other species encountered:

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