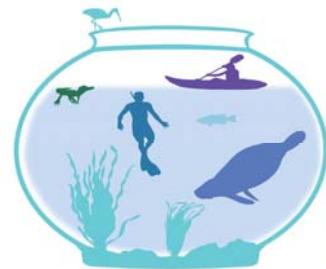


# *A Concept Plan for:* The Silver Springs Environmental Center

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## *Silver Springs Environmental Center*

# Rationale:

- ***Clean and abundant freshwater will be the most important environmental issue affecting Florida's future.*** The progressive disruption of freshwater systems is damaging the Florida economy and quality of life. Continued business-as-usual will result in the widespread collapse of ecosystem function with catastrophic consequences for humans and other living systems.
- ***Critical research is urgent:*** It is imperative that we more fully understand the form and function of Florida freshwater ecosystems. Without the understanding gained from research, we will lack the tools for remediation of these damaged systems and adaptation of the human population. The impacts of climate change and continued human population growth on freshwater ecosystems in Florida are poorly understood.
- ***Education is essential:*** Most Floridians lack the most basic understanding of their reliance on freshwater and the accelerating ecological crisis affecting all freshwater systems in the state.

## *Silver Springs Environmental Center*

### Mission:

*The mission of the Silver Springs Environmental Center is to advance and share fundamental and strategic scientific knowledge needed to support the viability of freshwater resources in Florida and beyond, including springs, rivers, lakes and groundwater aquifers.*

### Vision:

- Through innovative research, the Silver Springs Environmental Center will develop a body of practice based on ecosystem and social science to foster the sustainable management of freshwater systems.*
- The Silver Springs Environmental Center will become recognized by Floridians as the leading education destiny/authority on the ecology of Florida freshwater ecosystems.*



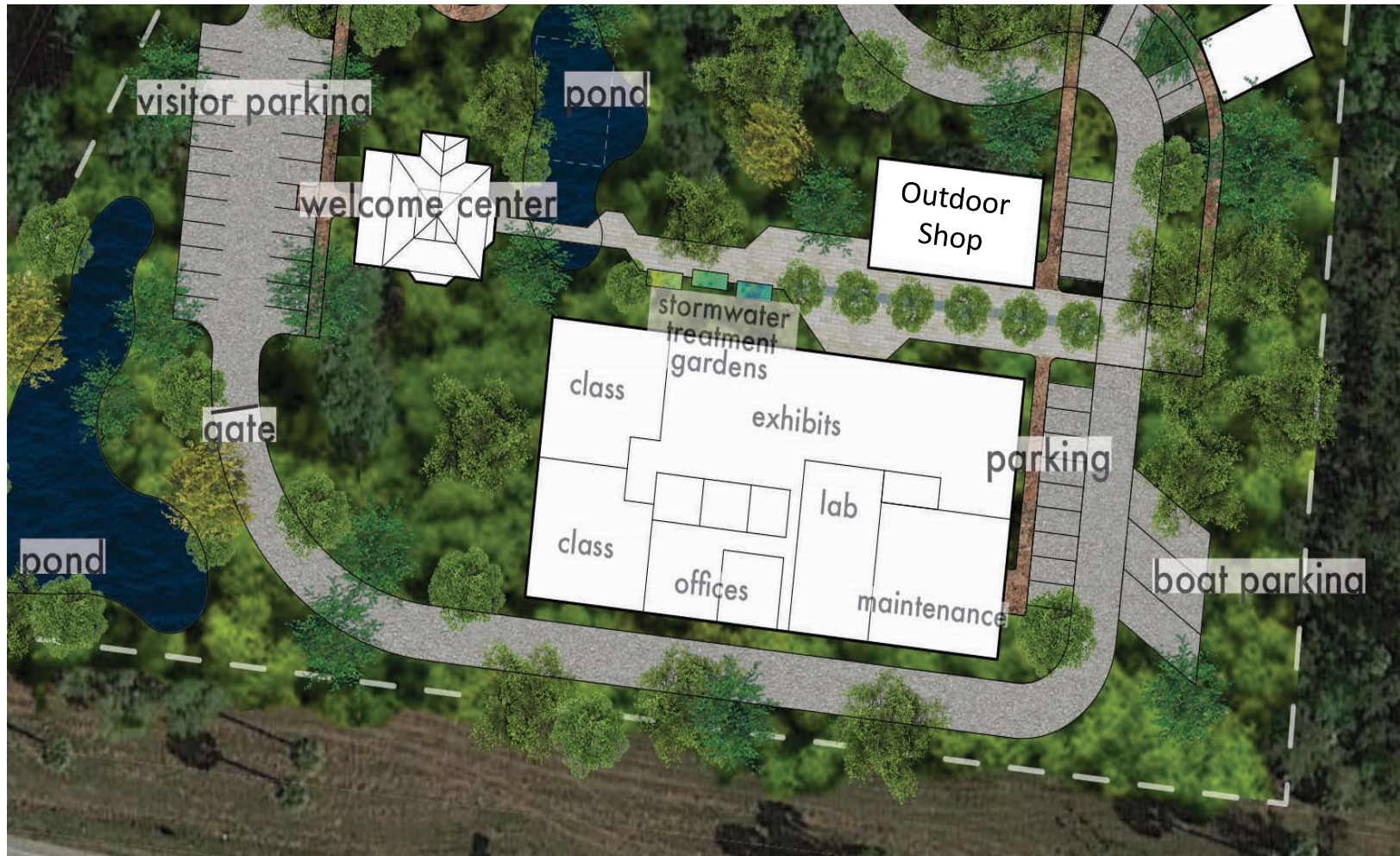
*Silver Springs Environmental Center*

*Vision for facilities:*



# Silver Springs Environmental Center

## *Vision for facilities:*



## *Silver Springs Environmental Center*

### *Facility specifications*

- ***Location:*** SR 40 and Baseline Road in Silver Springs State Park
- ***Existing Facilities:*** Site of former Wild Waters; extensive parking available
- ***Proposed Facilities:***
  - Environmental Center (c. 20,000 sq. ft.) – exhibits area; classrooms; offices; laboratory; maintenance area; rest rooms; etc.
  - Unattached: boat parking, stormwater ponds, etc.
  - Unattached: bicycle/trail shop with equipment rentals
  - Nature trail connectors

## *Silver Springs Environmental Center*

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