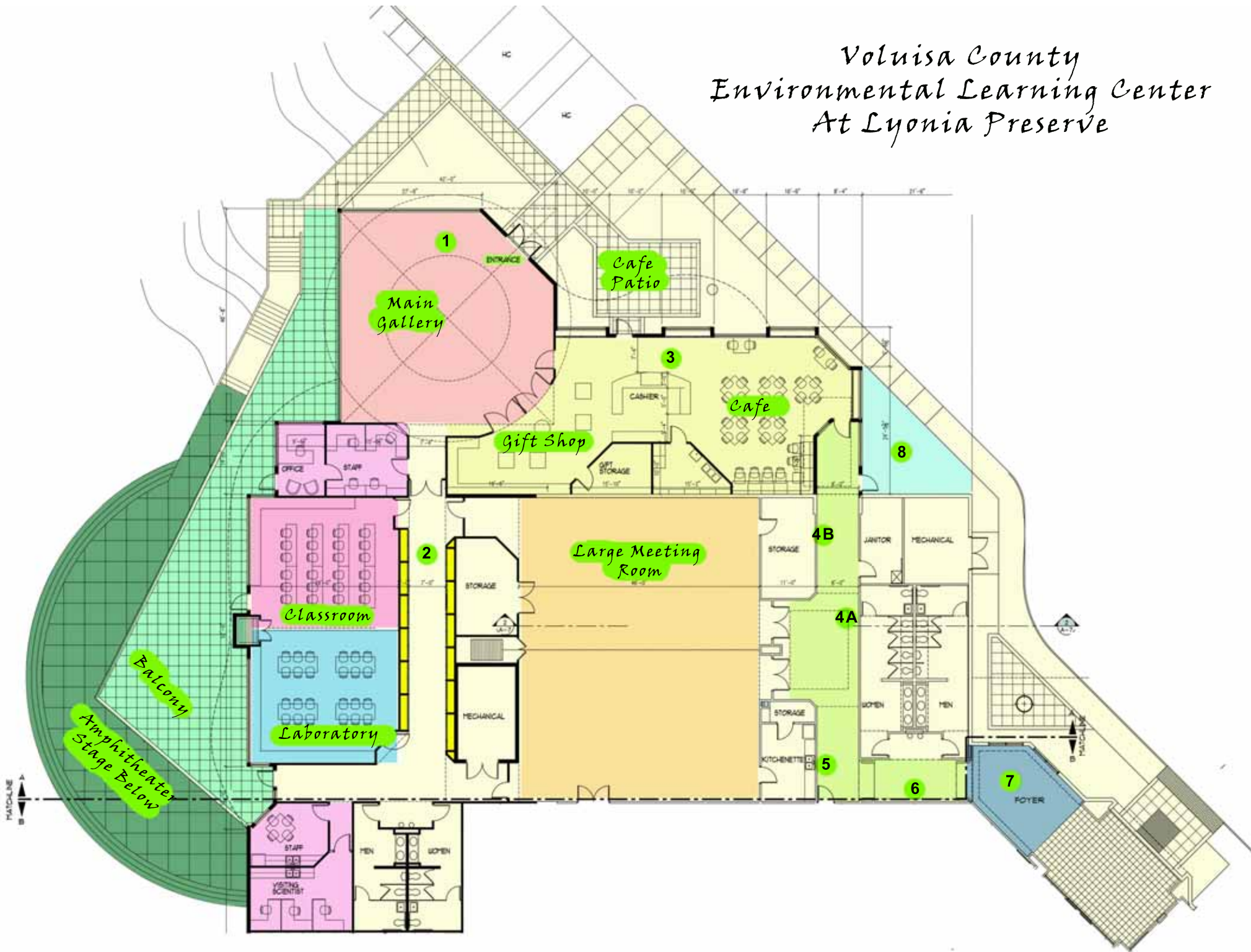


Volusia County
Environmental Learning Center
At Lyonia Preserve



Environmental Learning Center at Lyonia Preserve

Schematic Description

This document should be used in partnership with the attached schematic drawing of the ELC. Each number correlates to one of the Center's features. Please note, display specifics and objectives are found in the ELC's Interpretive Plan. The following is a general overview.

1. Main Exhibit Gallery

The Main Exhibit Gallery's architecturally incorporated displays and focal points of interest will draw the visitor into the gallery, which will feature fixed, yet interactive displays that can be enjoyed by patrons of all ages through self-guided or docent-guided tours.

Scrub habitat, its ecological value, and its cultural significance will be the major focus of the ELC, with all other displays complementing the scrub story. As other ecosystems are defined through the displays, scrub's unique characteristics will become more distinct to the Center's audience, giving the displays an interconnectedness of thought so that visitors will leave with a complete understanding of the story of scrub and other ecosystems that they encounter in Volusia County.

The story of scrub, the oldest habitat in Florida, is a blend of science and history. Inland areas of Florida scrub are made up of ancient islands, the highest peaks of which once stuck out of the sea millions of years ago, when the rest of Florida was underwater. Once viewed as worthless by the human inhabitants of Florida, scrub habitat is now under pressure from development so scrub preserves like Lyonia Preserve are once again, in a sense, islands amongst the development.

2. Conservation Connection Gallery

The gallery will be created in the hallway outside the ELC's laboratory and classroom. The gallery will feature artwork representing the natural areas of Florida. It will serve to educate and inspire an appreciation of nature.

3. Sustainable Practices Gallery

The environmental impact area will illustrate man's footprint on the environment and demonstrate sustainable practices that can minimize threats to local habitat. Located in the

area that will house the Scrub Jay Café and Gift Shop, the Sustainable Practices Gallery also will feature green building displays that will highlight:

- The “Green” building techniques, practices, and fixtures that were incorporated into the creation of the ELC.
- Sustainable products used at the ELC.
- State and federal “green building” accreditations earned by the ELC.
- Simple measures the public can use to reduce energy and water use in homes and businesses.
- Programs available to the public to learn about green building.
- A “Suggestion box” for comments by the public or product sharing information.

4. History and Heritage Mural

4A. This gallery presents a detailed history of Volusia County, from its geologic formation to its present day cultural significance. This timeline allows the visitor to follow the growth of Volusia County and understand the evolution of its heritage. It will demonstrate the influence of Native Americans, track European exploration and colonization, and proceed to the lifestyle of contemporary Volusians.

4B. The cultural portion of the timeline acts as a community resource bulletin board and is the focus for community involvement, encouraging informed voter participation. Designed as an evolving timeline, Volusia County’s history can be continually detailed and updated through the efforts of its residents.

5. Riverine Mural

This mural depicts a cross section of the St Johns River from one bank to the other. The mural will give the visitors a glimpse of the life below, above, and at the sides of the river. The mural will illustrate the species encountered on the riverbanks and species that might be found on the riverbed or in the water column. Waterfowl and small aquatic insects are pictured on the water’s surface. The transition between the water and the riverbank might include a log with fresh water turtles and wading birds in the grasses. The grasses and trees along the river banks will be full of wildlife and perhaps an osprey in a nest will be painted high in one of the trees. All of which unlock further educational opportunities.

The mural may include an otter coming down to the water for food or a drink, a bird flying above the river, and a manatee in the water column. It may even be possible to zoom in or magnifying an area of the water to further illustrate life within the water - the life we don’t always see - phytoplankton and zooplankton.

6. *Scrub Mural*

This mural introduces the visitor to scrub habitat with images of the animals and plants that may be seen in Lyonia Preserve. With a bold scrub-jay in the foreground perched on the branch of a rusty Lyonia the mural depicts the essence of Lyonia Preserve with open sandy areas among patches of scrub vegetation.

Through the presentation of a gopher tortoise burrow, visitors are able to see a cross section of the Preserve and catch a glimpse of the subterranean communities below the footpaths. The burrow's creator is visible as she ventures out for food; her shell scutes are evident providing another educational opportunity.

In the foreground, at a child's level, small insects and anthills are painted on the surface of the sand and the tunnels of an ant nest are visible as they go down and spread out below the surface. Plants like garberia, a state protected species, will be present flowering and covered with insects, depicting the importance of their presence in the ecology of the scrub habitat ecosystem.

7. *Gateway Gallery*

The Gateway Gallery interfaces with the Deltona Regional Library at the complex's main entrance and introduces the visitor to the unique facilities of the Library and ELC, while encouraging discovery and exploration of Volusia County.

The focal point of this gallery provides the visitor a glimpse of Volusia County's special places and programs. This exhibit will serve as an interactive gateway map of the County, featuring ecological, cultural, heritage, and outdoor destinations throughout the region. The gateway feature will include "critter cams" that highlight local wildlife, such as scrub jays and manatees. It will also invite visitors to hike county lands, explore local rivers, and visit facilities such as the Bicentennial Youth Park, Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve, DeBary Hall, the Marine Science Center, Blue Spring State Park and other points of interest.

A model of the Library, the Environmental Learning Center Complex, and Lyonia Preserve will complement the gateway map. It will provide the visitor with a three-dimensional "bird's-eye" view of the facility, the Preserve, and the surrounding schools and neighborhoods. Serving to orient the visitor, this state-of-the-art model can be modified as the Library-Learning Center Complex evolves over time.

8. *Waterwise Landscape Display*

By providing the public with examples of native plants, the water-wise landscaping display will help dispel the notion that natural areas cannot be used as attractive components of landscaping. Where possible, the display will include plants that bloom at different times of

the year thus making the colorful blooms the focus of attention. The display will provide the public with examples of plants that they can use in their own gardens. Brochures in the ELC will compliment the display and allow the visitor to further explore native landscaping.

There will be a number of large display kiosks strategically positioned throughout the display to capture the visitor's attention. The kiosks will include a layout of the planted area naming the plants that are present and will include descriptions and photos of the plants in and out of flower. These boards will follow the University of Florida sustainable communities' model (<http://www.energy.ufl.edu/enveducation.htm>.)

Each kiosk will contain different information pertinent to waterwise landscaping such as gardening with native plants, irrigation, and wildlife attracted by natives. The kiosk will encourage visitors to learn more through the Lyonia Preserve website and to pick up a brochure in the library. Brochures and kiosks will be number coded so that the visitors can easily identify the brochure that interests them.

The waterwise landscaping display also may include an irrigation display. The display will describe the correct use of irrigation systems and illustrate differences in water usage when an incorrect or damaged system is used.