

# RDL 1 Form

<b>Date Submitted:</b>	4/19/04
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<b>ACE Workgroup date:</b>	October TBD
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## 2. Description of Project alignment with USF Mission and purpose of Project:

The GeoPark aligns with all four facets of the USF Mission listed on the USF Website: teaching, research, service, and community engagement.

**Teaching:** The GeoPark is, has been, and will forever be, a teaching resource. It has been used for classroom laboratories in the field by both the Geology Department and the Environmental Science and Policy Department; demonstrations by local environmental geophysical companies; expositions put on by the Geological Alumni Society. With the signage developed with the SWFWMD Community-education grant, the teaching will expand to the broader university community, including visitors to the Botanical Gardens.

**Research:** Already, the sinkhole at the GeoPark has provided vital insight about the subsurface anatomy of a sinkhole, the structure in the sand mantle above sinkholes, and the significance of sinkholes in the recharge to the Floridan aquifer. With additional wells, and outfitting them with recorders in the future – all of which will happen as we continue along the trajectory that has already been established – the site will continue to contribute insights to the environmental hydrogeology of the covered karst terrain, which Tampa's urban sprawl is encountering.

**Service:** Included in USF's responsibility to the community are discovering and spreading knowledge concerning matters vital to the well being of our citizens. What is more vital than water? Add to that the Florida environment, and interaction of urban development with the geological substrate. These are the educational themes that th





