

# MIAMI-DADE ECOLOGICAL FORECASTING II

*Utilizing NASA Imagery and GIS Modeling for the Design and  
Implementation of the Miami-Dade Western Greenway*

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- ▶ Team Lead: Ning Chen (University of Georgia)
  - ▶ Team Members: Mohamed Amin (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Lauren Anderson (University of Georgia), Erick Braun (Georgia State University), Tunan Hu (University of Georgia), Linli Zhu (University of Georgia)

# Background



## ▶ Miami-Dade County:

- ▶ Estimated population will reach 2,959,308 by 2030 (Miami for Visitors)
- ▶ Urban development threatening attempts to maintain and restore Everglades habitats



## ▶ The Everglades:

- ▶ Largest subtropical ecosystem in the United States
- ▶ National park established in 1947
- ▶ International treasure, biosphere reserve, world heritage site



# Community Concerns



- ▶ **Urban development** is threatening the attempts to maintain and restore Everglades habitats
- ▶ Importance of the **Everglades**:
  - ▶ Growing Southern Florida population depends on the many **ecosystem services** provided by the Everglades, such as **water recharge resources**
  - ▶ Located along avian migratory routes and home to many **endemic species**
  - ▶ **Ecotourism**



# Project Purpose



- ▶ **The Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department and Trust for Public Land have embarked on an ambitious project to develop the Western Greenway.**
- ▶ System of trails and recreational destinations along the county's western edge.
- ▶ Provide a transition between urban developed areas and the Everglades.
- ▶ **3 goals: Conservation, Agritourism, Recreation**



# Study Area and NASA Earth Observations

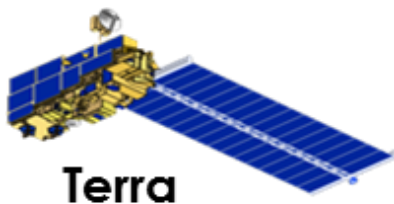


## ▶ Study Area

- ▶ The southern tip of Florida: the entirety of the proposed Western Greenway (urban-wetland fringe to the western edge of Miami-Dade county).

## ▶ Terra – ASTER

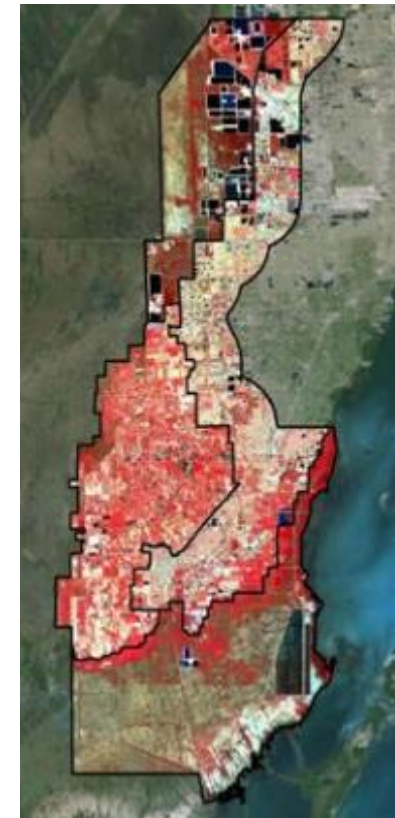
- ▶ March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011



Miami-Dade County

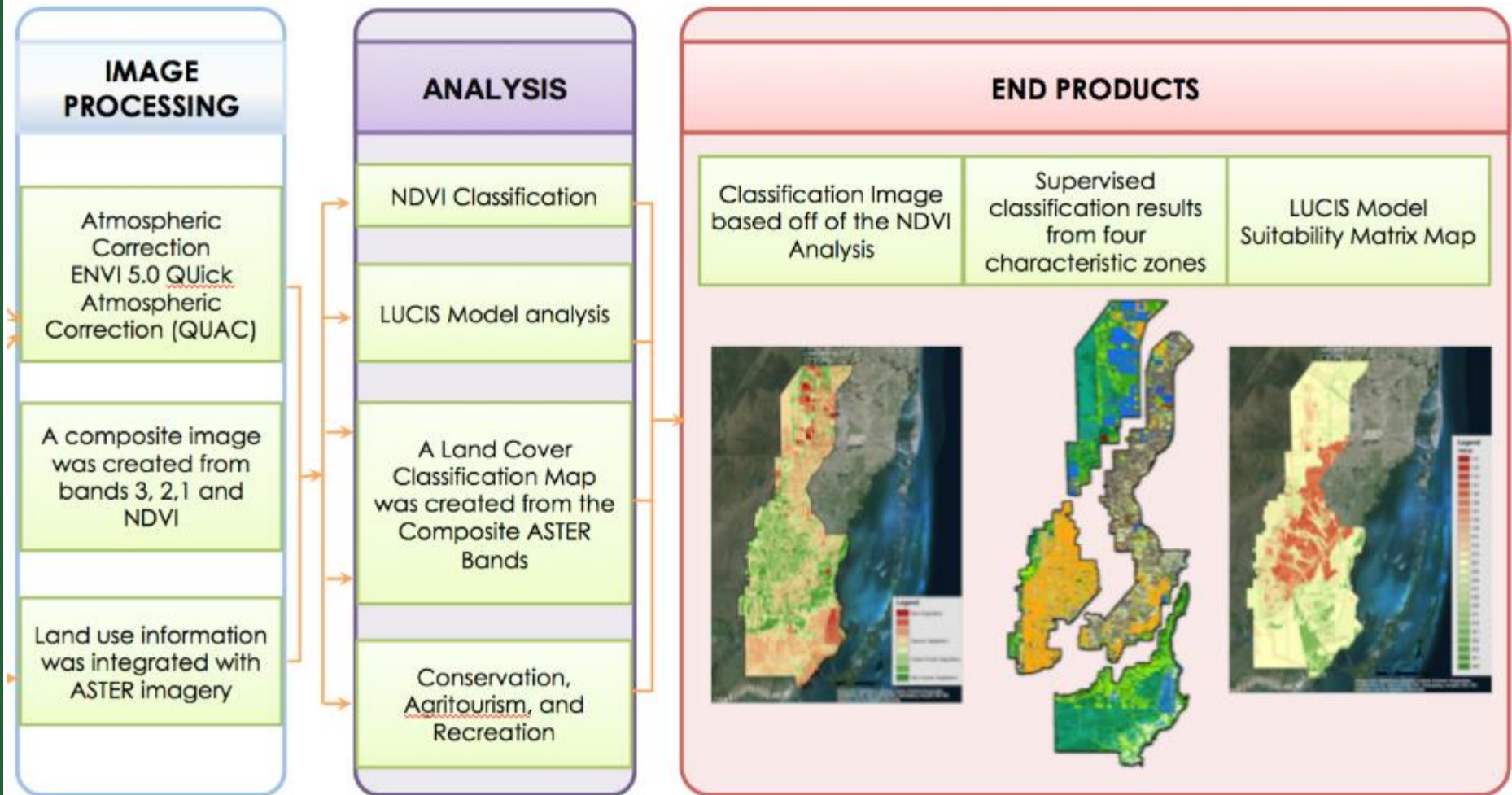


Data source: University of Florida  
GeoPlan Center



Study Area

# Methodology

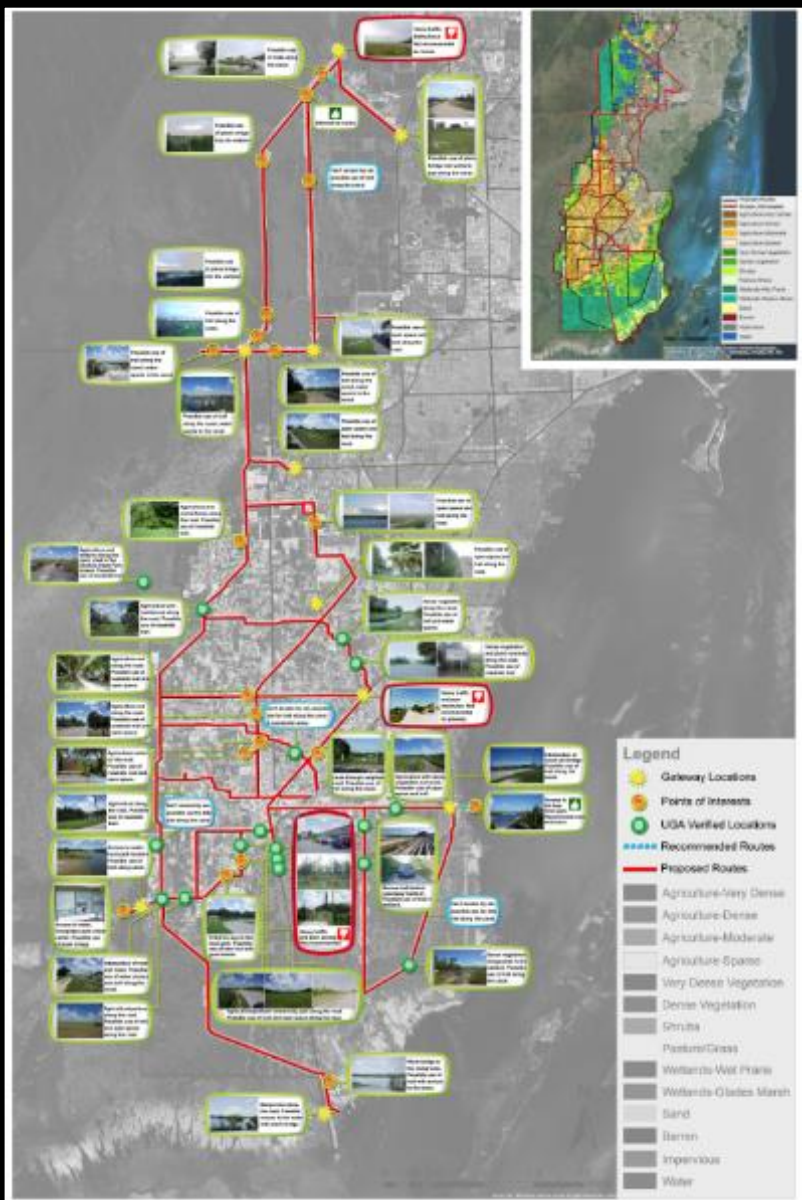




A wide-angle photograph of a scenic waterfront area. In the foreground, a paved path leads from the bottom left towards the center. A woman in a black swimsuit and a man on a bicycle are walking along the path. To the right of the path is a lush green area with various plants and flowers. In the background, a small concrete structure with a flat roof stands near the water's edge. A yellow kayak is visible in the water. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

A group of five people (three men and two women) are standing on a wooden boardwalk bridge. They are leaning on the wooden railing. The bridge is surrounded by lush green trees and bushes. In the foreground, there is a large white bird sculpture, possibly a swan or heron, in a pond. In the background, a large building and a billboard are visible under a clear sky.

# Trip to Study Area



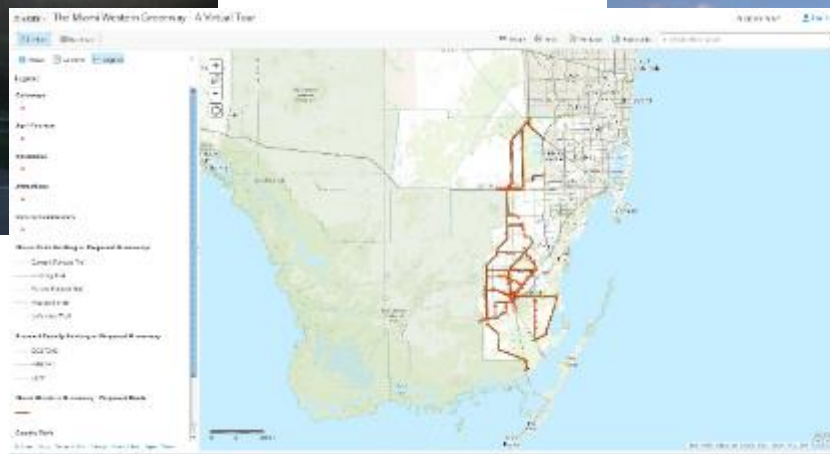
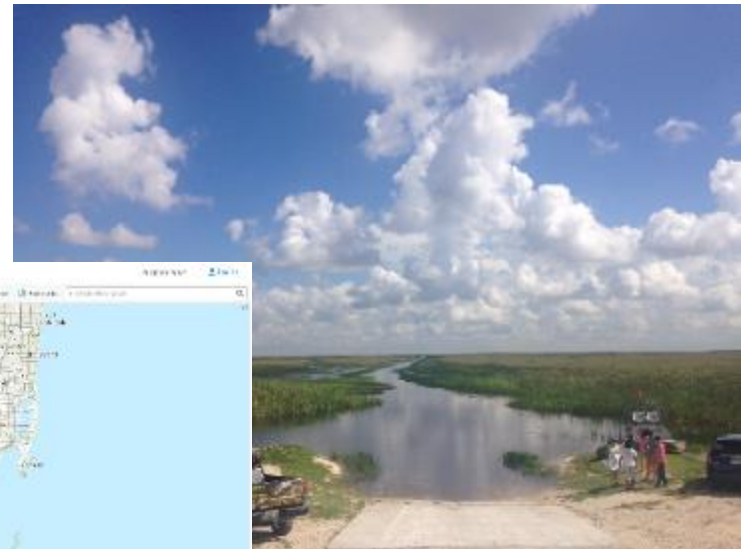
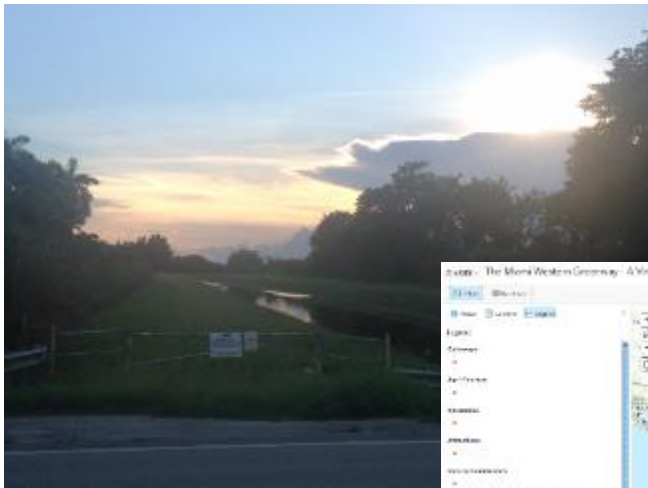
- ▶ Met with project partners to discuss specific goals and criteria for the Western greenway
- ▶ Traveled to proposed greenway routes, destinations, and gateways to document specific opportunities for greenway development



# Conclusions/Benefits to the End-User



- ▶ Updated, higher resolution NDVI and land cover classification maps have played a vital role in the planning and design of the Western Greenway
- ▶ The LUCIS model helped specifically assess the greenway's three goals of conservation, agritourism, and recreation, producing a spatial representation of probable patterns of future land use
- ▶ Contributions of the project to an online story map help to bring awareness of the greenway project to the general public



# Team Members and Project Partners



Left to right: Dr. Rosanna Rivera, Erick Braun, Mohamed Amin, Lauren Anderson, Ning Chen, Linli Zhu, Tunan Hu



Miami-Dade County  
Park, Recreation and  
Open Spaces  
Department



The Trust for Public Land

## Thanks Again!

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**Brenda Faber, Trust for Public Land**

**Alissa Tuttleaub,  
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