Ecological Sphere Reflection

For my ecological sphere, I took the course Design and the Environment (LAND1500). This class taught me how to analyze the relationship between built environment and natural systems. It also presented the importance of harmonious integration and planning landscapes with intention. Throughout the course, I evaluated several different types of built environments utilizing principles of landscape architecture. Notably, for my final paper, I completed a comprehensive evaluation of the Brevard College campus. This assignment enabled me to combine various design considerations while evaluating specific elements of the landscape.

Completing this course provided me with an appreciation for building landscapes that respect the character of natural systems. It also emphasized the importance of incorporating natural elements with man-made elements to ensure harmonious integration. This is crucial because humans need to feel connected to the natural landscapes surrounding them. On the other hand, human developments also need to take into consideration resource limitations to ensure a healthy quality of life for generations to come. I believe this deeply relates to the larger scope of sustainability. In order to encourage sustainable development, we need to be mindful about how human actions and resource usage impact natural systems.

My understanding of the built environment has been greatly enhanced due to this course. I now find myself noticing small details in the world around me and applying sustainability principles to landscape features. On an individual level, this course inspired me to garden with native plants to ensure harmonious integration. Although I do not plan to pursue a career involving landscape architecture, I believe the learnings from this course are still relevant to my everyday life. Just as landscape architects aspire to protect natural systems through their work, I hope to also protect the natural environment through work of my own. This shared goal unites sustainability professionals for cross-functional collective action.