

THE KING'S ACADEMY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

When the Palm Beach County Department of Airports pursued the acquisition of The King's Academy private school property on Cherry Road in 2001, school representatives approached Urban Design Kilday Studios to perform due diligence evaluations and provide conceptual site plans for alternative sites on which to relocate. Following an extensive review of their options, The King's Academy partnered with Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department to develop a 206.73 acre parcel accommodating school and a district park. This approach allowed for the sharing of infrastructure improvements and the co-location and use of facilities. UDKS was selected to develop the master plan for both uses, and to provide development review services to prepare and process rezoning and conditional use applications for the necessary governmental approvals. The approvals obtained by UDKS entitled The King's Academy to construct an elementary and secondary private school for 1,725 students, a day care center for 200 students and an accessory summer camp for 80 campers. Entitlements for the 147 acre District Park include passive and active recreational facilities for sports fields, a tot lot, volleyball courts and a bike path with picnic pavilions and restroom facilities situated around an 83 acre lake.

On behalf of The King's Academy, UDKS also provided detailed site plans for all of the school facilities and amenities on their 58.77 acre site, taking into consideration a phased program of development and compatibility with the surrounding residential communities. The campus

master plan includes 241,430 square feet of buildings that include elementary, middle and high school classrooms, an administrative building, a cafeteria, media center, sports complex, and fine arts and music building. The campus also includes a football stadium, soccer, baseball and softball fields in addition to tennis courts, a swimming pool and practice field/track.

UDKS also prepared landscape and hardscape plans for The King's Academy, working closely with the project engineer and architect. Existing native vegetation was preserved to the greatest extent possible and worked into the project's design. The landscape design accentuated the formal layout of the campus and complimented the architectural design of the buildings. The plant palette was chosen to provide a high-impact and welcomed shade, especially in the outdoor gathering areas, yet to minimize costs associated with maintenance and to reduce water usage needed for irrigation. UDKS also provided construction administration and oversight of planting during development of the site. The first phase of the campus was opened in 2005 and UDKS continues to serve The King's Academy as they move forward with the next phase of development.

Client: King's Academy

Site Area: 59 acres

Building Area/Uses: 250,000 sf private school (1,725 students) 10,000 sf day care (200 children)

Architect: DDP Architects

