



# HIGHER EDUCATION MARCHING BAND PRACTICE FIELD

**PROJECT LOCATION:** UF-629 Band Field at University of Florida - Gainesville, FL  
**EXPERIENCE OF:** Mitchell Gulledge Engineering, Inc.  
**ROLE IN PROJECT:** MEPF Design

## CONSTRUCTION COST

\$2,000,000

## COMPLETION DATE

August 2018

## PROJECT STAFFING

**Project Manager:**

Andrew Mitchell, PE, CxA

**Electrical Lead:**

Andrew McCaddin, PE

## PROJECT OWNER

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## BUILDER

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## PROJECT CIVIL ENGINEER

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## PROJECT ARCHITECT

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## PROJECT SUMMARY:

The University of Florida Gator Marching Band is a new, full-sized, NCAA regulated artificial turf field. This new field is an exact replica of its Ben Hill Griffin Stadium original and provides a new home for the UF Gator Marching Band, the Pride of the Sunshine. This new field also features a 6,500 SF covered pavilion area, observation tower, and outdoor researching and teaching area.

Mitchell Gulledge Engineering took night-time lighting measurements at many existing facilities on UF campus. We then met with the user at night to see the various lighting conditions in-person and determine the needs of the UF band. 50 foot-candles (FC) was selected as a light level which would be sufficient for reading sheet music, while meeting budget constraints. It was this light 50 FC light level that was used as the basis of design for the new band field LED lighting requirements. Mitchell Gulledge Engineering coordinated with Musco Lighting directly and gave Musco direction regarding design parameters and project requirements. We then designed the necessary support infrastructure to power the lighting system and provided the owner with a turn-key field lighting design solution. The Gator Marching Band requested Mitchell Gulledge Engineering coordinate with UF IT directly regarding the required IT systems. Scope was added to the electrical plans to provide necessary conduit, boxes, supports, and other appurtenances.

Sports fields often involved many moving parts, requiring careful coordination of several systems to meet user needs. This project also showcases our ability to design specialized lighting systems for NCAA sports fields. The Gator Marching Band practice field is an excellent example of the extra effort Mitchell Gulledge Engineering puts into consulting with the user, keeping consultants on-track, and keeping a project within budget.

