Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ to Protect Florida's Waters

Claire Lewis

Eliana Bardi

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Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

Alachua County, Florida

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

September 17th 2025

Claire Lewis
State Specialized Program Extension Agent
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program, Coordinator

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

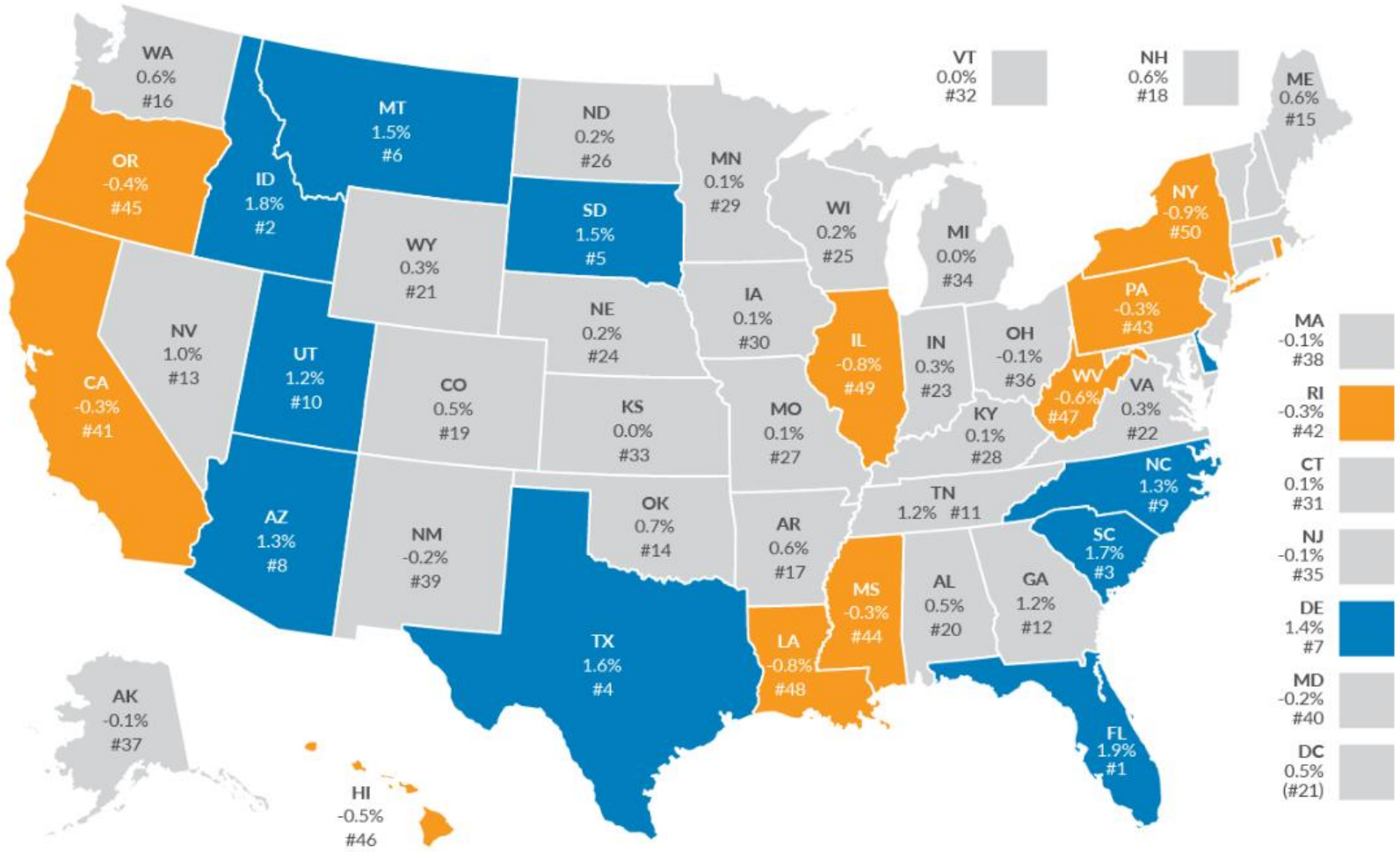
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CLUE | CENTER FOR LAND USE EFFICIENCY

- Water conservation is essential for managing and protecting Florida's water supplies, which are used for drinking, bathing, growing crops, and more.
- Water needs are projected to increase in Florida, so conservation is key to meeting future demands

State Population Change in 2022

State Migration Patterns, from Most Inbound to Most Outbound, 2022

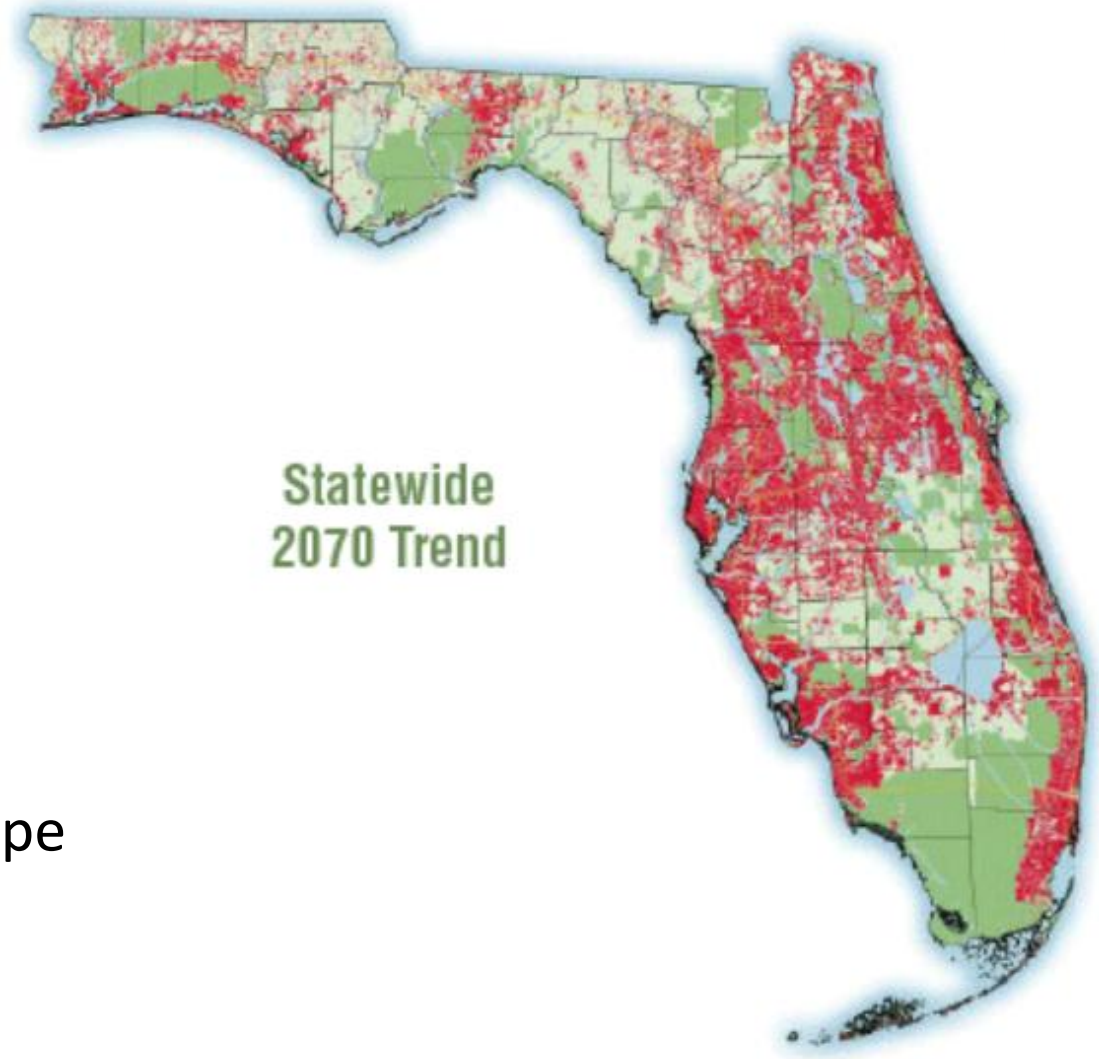


Note: D.C's rank does not affect states' ranks, but the figure in parentheses indicates where it would have ranked if included.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

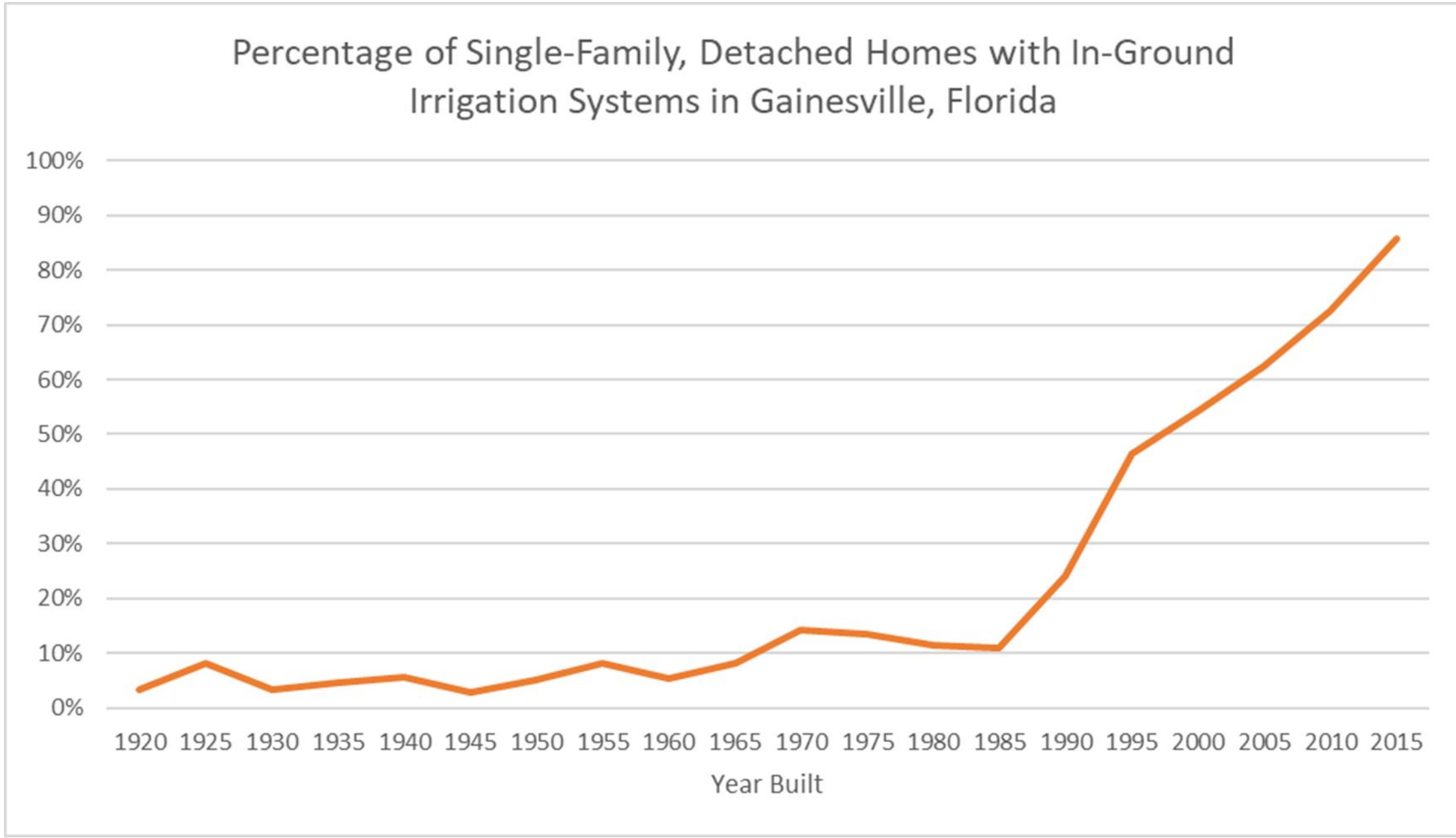
Population Growth

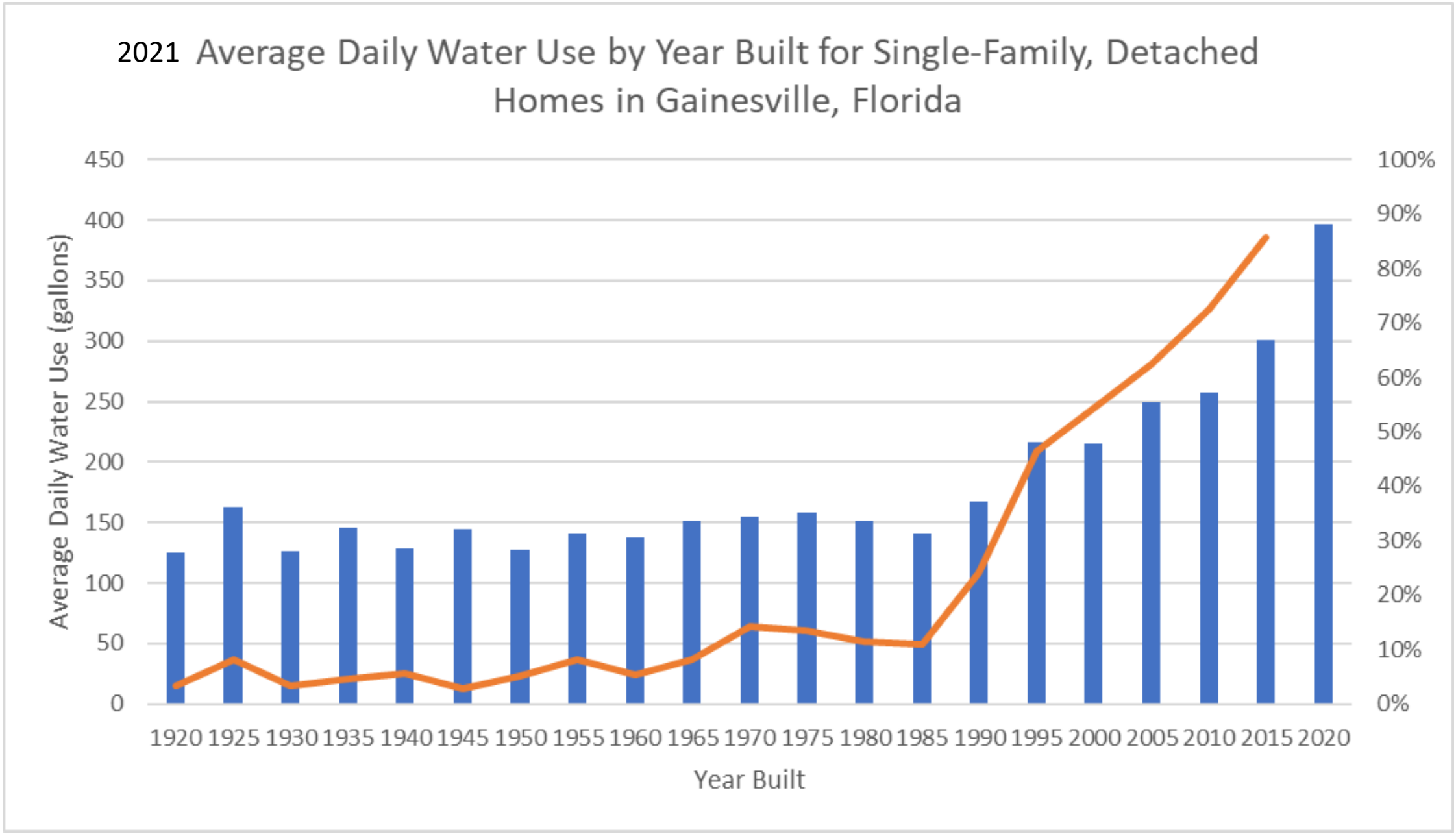
- Approximately 1,000 people a day
- 400 new homes built every day
- Decisions we make today will have a long-term impact



"The single most effective strategy to reduce water demand in Florida is to significantly reduce the amount of water used for landscape irrigation."

Water 2070 Report


Percentage of Single-Family, Detached Homes with In-Ground Irrigation Systems in Gainesville, Florida
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015
Year Built


2021 Average Daily Water Use by Year Built for Single-Family, Detached Homes in Gainesville, Florida
Average Daily Water Use (gallons)
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020
Year Built

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H₂OSAV | WATER SAVINGS, ANALYTICS & VERIFICATION

How much water am I using to irrigate my yard?

In Florida, an irrigation system uses at least **991 gallons** each time the average yard is watered. That amount of water is equal to...

Taking a WaterSense shower for **8.25 hours**

Using your HE washing machine for **37 loads** of laundry

Running the bathroom faucet for **8.25 hours**

Running your dishwasher **50 times**

Flushing a WaterSense toilet **774 times**

To learn more, visit edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE585

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AE585

https://doi.org/10.32473/edis-AE585-2023

How much water am I using to irrigate my yard?[1]

By Nicholas Taylor, Kaitlin Robb Price, and Bradley Spatz[2]

Florida is known for its abundant springs, rivers, and lakes, but the state is facing a water crisis. By 2070, development-related water demand is projected to more than double to 6.5 billion gallons per day from the 2010 baseline of 3.1 billion gallons per day (UF Geoplan Center 2016). While the EPA estimates that outdoor water use accounts for 30% of household use nationally (Environmental Protection Agency 2022), research shows that some homes in Florida are using significantly more than this. In some counties, the highest water users spend 60–70% of their total water use for irrigation (Taylor et al. 2021; Taylor et al. 2022).

UF/IFAS research shows that common issues with irrigation systems include timers being set to water too frequently and/or for too long (Olmstead and Dukes 2020). Florida homeowners with high water use who are looking to save water and save money on their water bill should first look to see if they can reduce their outdoor water use. The goal of this publication is to help readers understand the magnitude of water used for a single irrigation event and encourage them to evaluate their outdoor water use. First, we calculated the estimated gallons of water used per irrigation cycle in Florida. Then, to help readers visualize the magnitude of that water use, we compared the water use of irrigation to other indoor behaviors.

Figure 1. In-ground irrigation at a single-family, detached home in Florida.
Credits: UF/IFAS Photo by Tyler Jones

How much water is used per irrigation cycle?

This study used county property appraisal data for 1,162,401 homes in Florida to estimate the typical irrigated landscape area. This data represents 22% of the 5,231,740 single-family, detached homes in Florida (as estimated by the United States Census Bureau).

It takes 0.62337 gallons of water to cover one square foot with one inch of water. With this constant, the following formula was used to calculate water use per irrigation cycle:

0.62337 × irrigated area × irrigation depth = water use per irrigation cycle

1. This document is AE585, one of a series of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date March 2023. Visit the EDIS website at https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu for the currently supported version of this publication.

2. Nicholas Taylor, state specialized agent, Program for Resource Efficient Communities; Kaitlin Robb Price, H₂OSAV project manager, Program for Resource Efficient Communities, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering; and Bradley Spatz, data scientist, H₂OSAV, Program for Resource Efficient Communities; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AE585

623 gallons per 1000 sqft
3,179 sq feet landscape
991 gallons per ½” irrigation cycle

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

What is it?

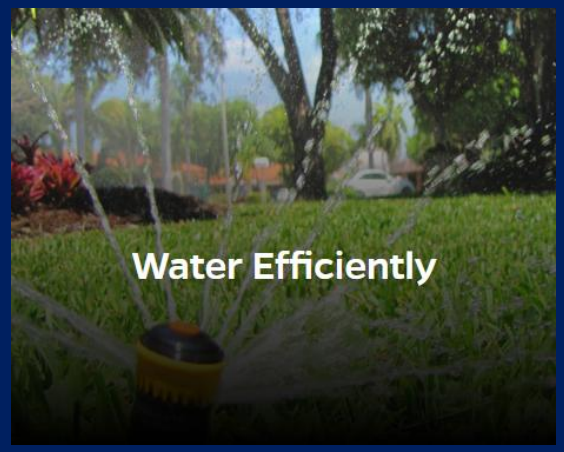
- Science-based approach to maintaining an attractive, diverse, and more sustainable landscape.

Goals:

- Conserve water
- Protect water quality

9

Principles of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program



Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program

Florida Statute 373.185

FFL for Home Landscapes

- Homeowners
- Gardeners
- Youth

FFL for Landscape Professionals

- Maintenance
- Irrigation
- Design

GI-BMP – F.S. 403.933 & 482.1562
SQuInT – S.B. 7040

FFL for Communities

- Municipalities
- Builder & Developers
- Property managers

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ & Water Conservation: A Legislative Priority

Compelling Public Interest: The Florida Legislature recognizes that Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) and pollution prevention measures are critical for conserving and protecting the state's water resources.

Community Involvement: Water Management Districts and local governments play a key role in implementing water conservation practices and supporting water quality protection and restoration.

Sustainable Impact: Encouraging FFL practices helps reduce pollution, conserve water, and promote environmental stewardship across Florida.

F.S. 373.185

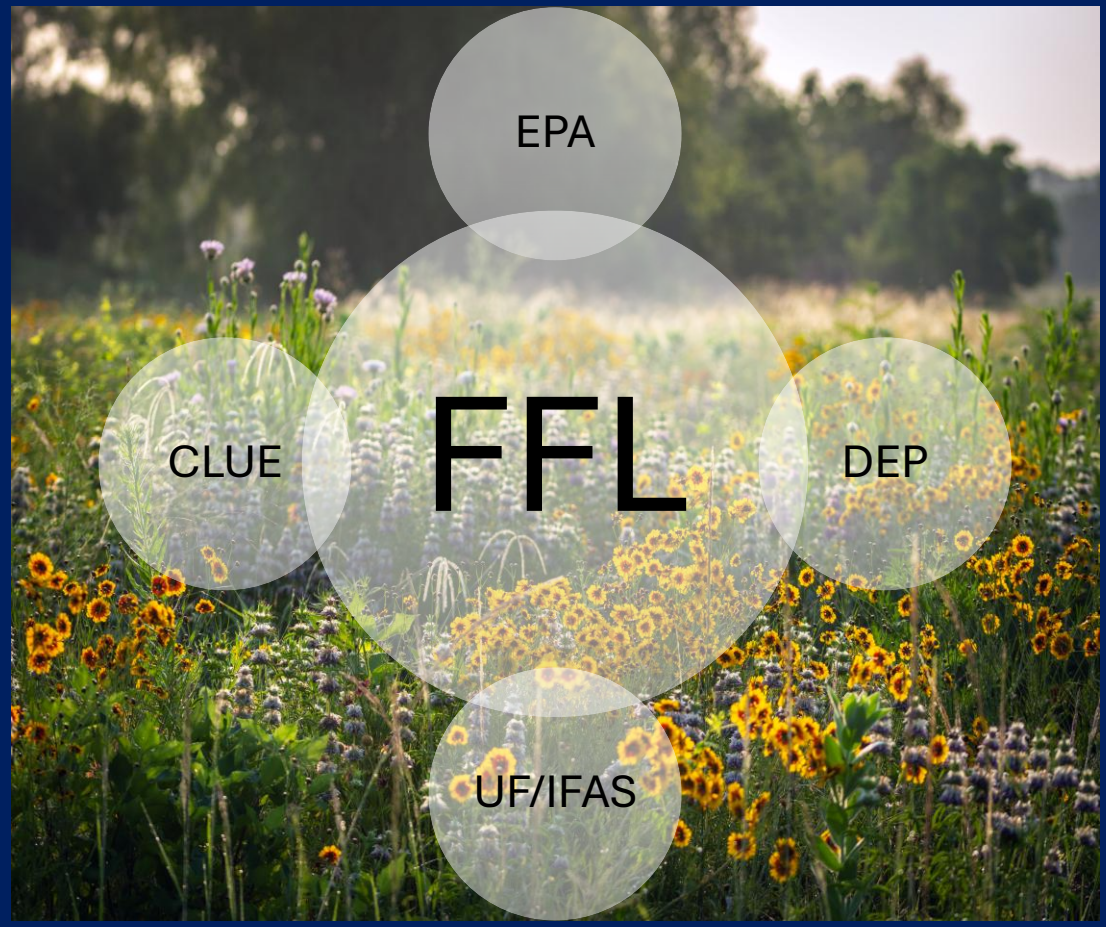
Defined:

"Florida-friendly landscaping" means quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment, are adaptable to local conditions, and are drought tolerant.

- Local governments and homeowner association (HOA) covenants, codes, and restrictions may not prohibit any homeowner to implement Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices.
- Does NOT invalidate HOA architectural review process and local governmental restrictions

FFL Support & Implementation

- EPA: Provides federal guidelines on environmental protection.
- DEP: Implements state-level environmental policies and collaborates with local initiatives.
- UF/IFAS: Offers research, education, and resources on sustainable practices.
- CLUE: Conducts urban landscape research and advises on best practices.



Statewide Initiatives & Partners

- City, County, and HOA Ordinances
- Fair Income Housing Tax Credit
- Florida Green Building Coalition
- Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association
- 1,000 Friends of Florida

FFL Professional Certification Programs

- **Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP)**
- **FFL Certified Professional**
- **Qualified Stormwater Inspector Certification**
- **Florida-Friendly Ponds Certification**

Green Industry Professionals are leaders in protecting Florida's water resources.
What you do every day matters!

FFL-Reaching Underserved Audiences Through Innovative Programming

Training and Certifying Incarcerated People

The FFL/GI-BMP team has collaborated with Florida Department of Corrections to provide private in-house GI-BMP trainings for inmates interested in training in the Green Industries. GI-BMP Regional Coordinator Marc Celestin and Taylor County instructors Lisa Strange and Clay Olson were offered the challenge of certifying approximately 100 inmates at Jefferson County Correctional Facility in Monticello. Ninety-two inmates participated in the training and 87 were certified.

> **I really enjoyed the class.**
> I believe this training certificate will go well with my Wastewater Management course.

> **This class informed me**
> that I was doing a few things the wrong way and I can now correct myself.

Training and Certifying High School Students

FFL/GI-BMP initiated a pilot program at Santa Fe High School to train and certify students in the SFHS horticulture program. Twenty-four students received the first high school FFL/GI-BMP training in Florida, and of those, 22 tested to certify on the GI-BMP post-test. Currently, 21 certified high school students are ready to apply for the Limited Urban Commerical Fertilizer Applicator Certificate (LCFAC) with FDACS.

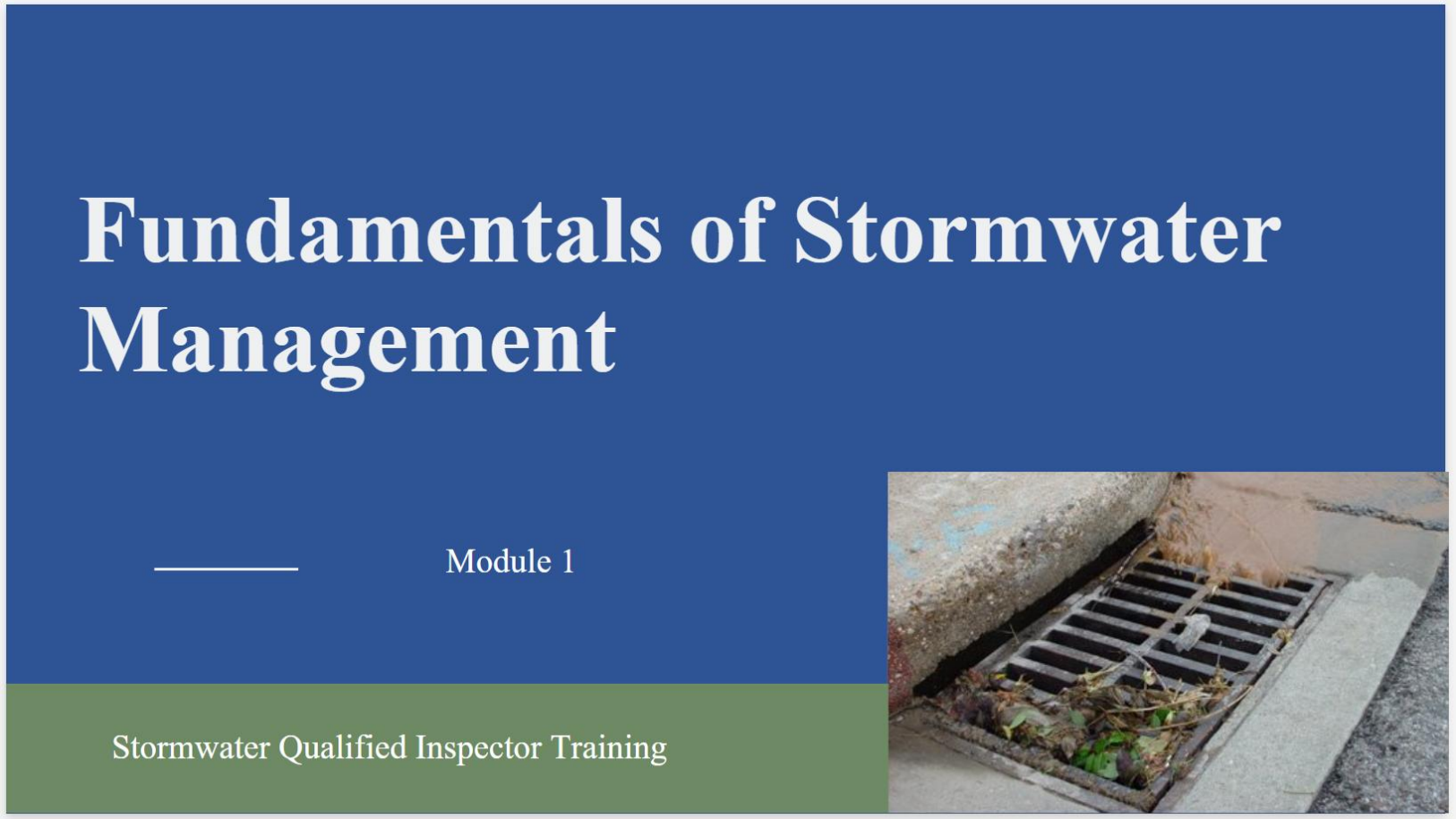
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certified Professional

- A competitive advantage in the professional landscape design market
- A certificate of qualification with the FFLCP logo
- Option to be listed on the state-wide Florida-Friendly Certified Professionals website
- Use of the FFLCP logo to promote your expertise in sustainable landscape design and maintenance

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM
Certified Professional

Stormwater Qualified Inspector Certification

- Online certification
- 10 recorded modules with interactive activities and field videos
- Cost –$100
- Certified individuals have the option to be listed on our website
- Valid for 5 years



Florida-Friendly Ponds

- Online modules
- In-person Field module
- 2 Levels
  - Professional Pond Manager
  - HOA board member


HOA & Local Governments are Our Partners

Sumter County Library

- Replaced annuals with Florida-Friendly Perennials

$2,935 annual savings

Don’t remove fronds between 9 and 3

Ocean Hammock

Flagler County

1000-acre community

- Replaced turf in medians with groundcovers
- Reduce the number of annual planting rotations from 4 down to 2
- No longer “hurricane cut” the palms

$50,000 annual savings

Tamarind Village

Broward County (HOA)

Annual Maintenance Savings

- saved $16,000 on water bill
- saves $13,000 a year on fertilizer
- saves $5,000 a year on pesticides

$33,000 annual savings

Homeowner's Association Landscape Design and Maintenance

Constraints

- Hard to change governing documents once established
- Expectations & norms
- Changing board members and goals

Opportunities

- Often require plants from the FFL plant list
- FFL can look conventional to naturalistic
- People prefer more plants in their yard

Landscape Preferences – beds to turf areas

Option - 1

Option - 2

Option - 3

Option - 4

Option - 5

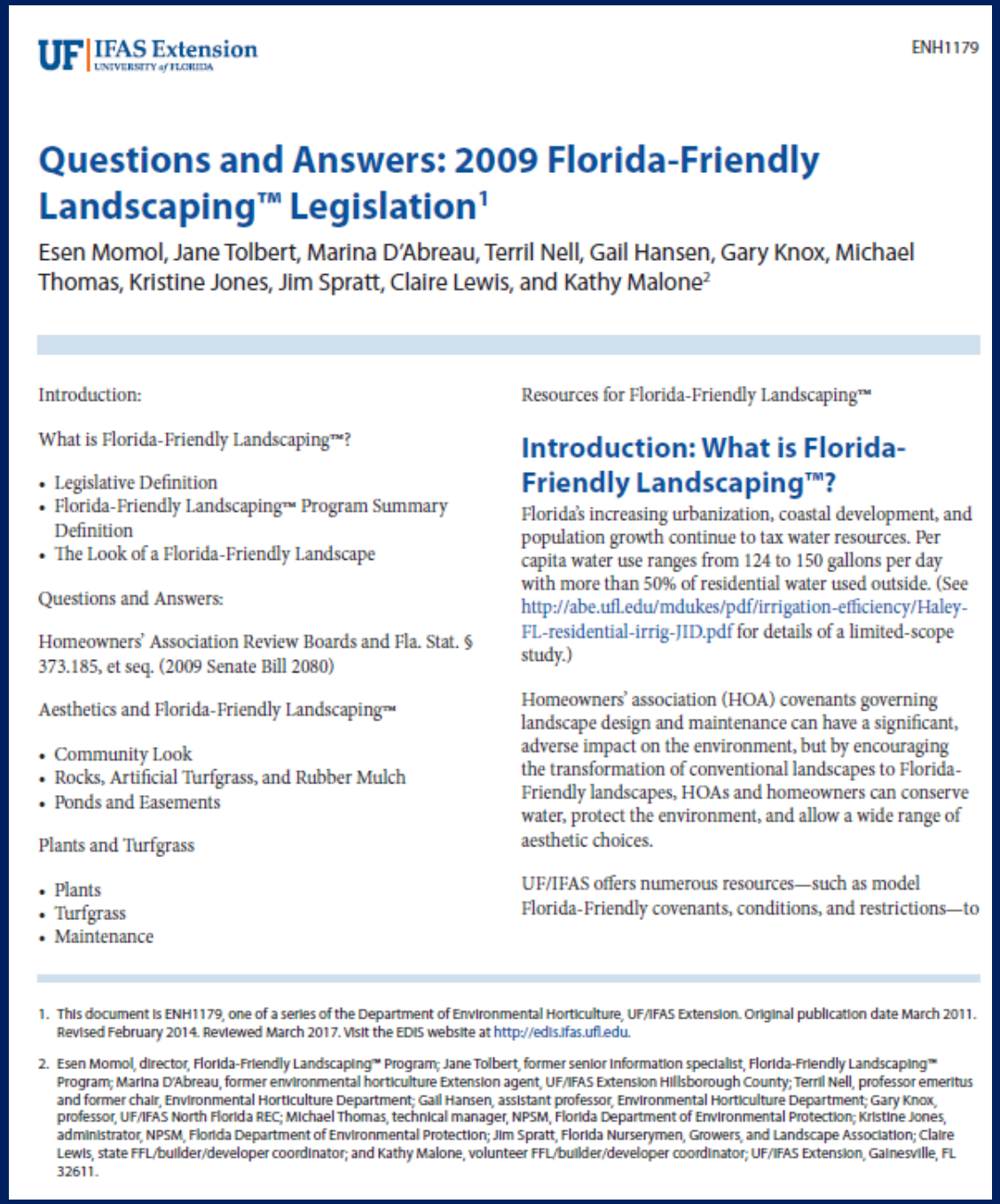
FFL for Community Associations

Trainings

- HOA workshops
- Legally Speaking – F.S. 373.189

Publications

- Ten Strategies for working with HOAs
- Model Codes
- Model ARB
- Model Landscape Maintenance Contract
- Legislation FAQs



UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA ENH1179

Questions and Answers: 2009 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Legislation[1]

Esen Momol, Jane Tolbert, Marina D'Abreau, Terril Nell, Gail Hansen, Gary Knox, Michael Thomas, Kristine Jones, Jim Spratt, Claire Lewis, and Kathy Malone[2]

Introduction: What is Florida-Friendly Landscaping™?

Florida's increasing urbanization, coastal development, and population growth continue to tax water resources. Per capita water use ranges from 124 to 150 gallons per day with more than 50% of residential water used outside. (See http://abe.ufl.edu/mdukes/pdf/irrigation-efficiency/Haley-FL-residential-irrig-JID.pdf for details of a limited-scope study.)

Homeowners' association (HOA) covenants governing landscape design and maintenance can have a significant, adverse impact on the environment, but by encouraging the transformation of conventional landscapes to Florida-Friendly landscapes, HOAs and homeowners can conserve water, protect the environment, and allow a wide range of aesthetic choices.

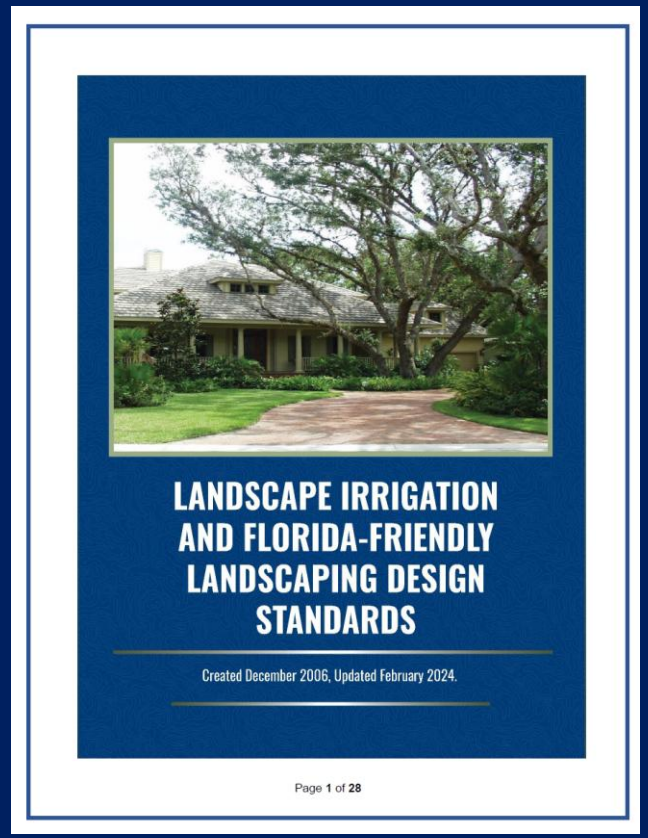
UF/IFAS offers numerous resources—such as model Florida-Friendly covenants, conditions, and restrictions—to

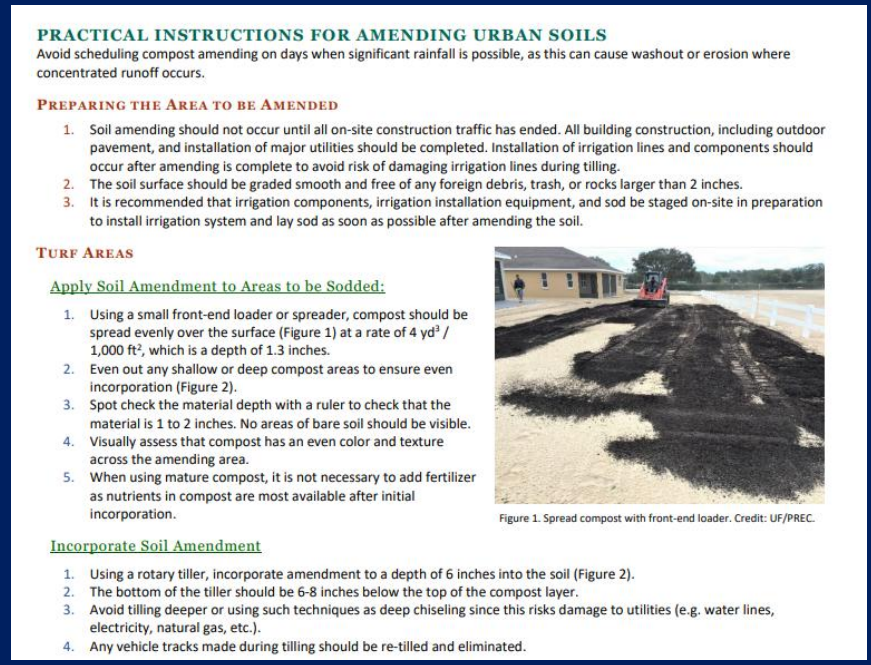
1. This document is ENH1179, one of a series of the Department of Environmental Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date March 2011. Revised February 2014. Reviewed March 2017. Visit the EDIS website at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu.

2. Esen Momol, director, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program; Jane Tolbert, former senior information specialist, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program; Marina D'Abreau, former environmental horticulture Extension agent, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County; Terril Nell, professor emeritus and former chair, Environmental Horticulture Department; Gail Hansen, assistant professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Gary Knox, professor, UF/IFAS North Florida REC; Michael Thomas, technical manager, NPSM, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Kristine Jones, administrator, NPSM, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Jim Spratt, Florida Nurserymen, Growers, and Landscape Association; Claire Lewis, state FFL/builder/developer coordinator; and Kathy Malone, volunteer FFL/builder/developer coordinator; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

FFL for Municipal & Governmental

- Model Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes
- Standards for High Performing Landscapes: A Blueprint for Writing Community Landscape Standards
- Landscape Irrigation and FFL Design Standards
- Model Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Irrigation Ordinance
- Example Ordinance for Compost Amending Soil in Urban Landscaping





PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMENDING URBAN SOILS

Avoid scheduling compost amending on days when significant rainfall is possible, as this can cause washout or erosion where concentrated runoff occurs.

Preparing the Area to be Amended

1. Soil amending should not occur until all on-site construction traffic has ended. All building construction, including outdoor pavement, and installation of major utilities should be completed. Installation of irrigation lines and components should occur after amending is complete to avoid risk of damaging irrigation lines during tilling.
2. The soil surface should be graded smooth and free of any foreign debris, trash, or rocks larger than 2 inches.
3. It is recommended that irrigation components, irrigation installation equipment, and sod be staged on-site in preparation to install irrigation system and lay sod as soon as possible after amending the soil.

Turf Areas

Apply Soil Amendment to Areas to be Sodded:

1. Using a small front-end loader or spreader, compost should be spread evenly over the surface (Figure 1) at a rate of 4 yd^3 / 1,000 ft^2, which is a depth of 1.3 inches.
2. Even out any shallow or deep compost areas to ensure even incorporation (Figure 2).
3. Spot check the material depth with a ruler to check that the material is 1 to 2 inches. No areas of bare soil should be visible.
4. Visually assess that compost has an even color and texture across the amending area.
5. When using mature compost, it is not necessary to add fertilizer as nutrients in compost are most available after initial incorporation.

Figure 1. Spread compost with front-end loader. Credit: UF/PREC.

Incorporate Soil Amendment

1. Using a rotary tiller, incorporate amendment to a depth of 6 inches into the soil (Figure 2).
2. The bottom of the tiller should be 6-8 inches below the top of the compost layer.
3. Avoid tilling deeper or using such techniques as deep chiseling since this risks damage to utilities (e.g. water lines, electricity, natural gas, etc.).
4. Any vehicle tracks made during tilling should be re-tilled and eliminated.

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PDEC Program Development & Evaluation Center

SAVING FLORIDA'S WATER SUPPLY, DROP BY DROP

UF/IFAS Extension's Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) program and the Center for Land Use Efficiency (CLUE) partner with state agencies, local governments, and nonprofit organizations to safeguard our water for future generations.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

CLUE | CENTER FOR LAND USE EFFICIENCY

WATER DEMAND

Water demand already exceeds supply in some parts of Florida, and projections show the state could double its current water usage by 2070 if population growth, water-use habits, and irrigation practices do not change.[1]

At least **50%** of Florida household water usage is for landscape irrigation.

The average U.S. household spends more than **$1,000** per year on water.[2]

WATER CONSERVATION

In 2023,

120,700

residents and landscape professionals

participated in water conservation programs, taught by

MAKING AN IMPACT[4]

375,503,045

gallons of water saved...

375,503,045

gallons of water saved...

1 Water 2070 project (FDACS, UF Geoplan Center, 1000 Friends of Florida)

2 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2015

3 Participants reporting they began a new behavior or more consistently performed the behavior.

4 Borisova et al. February 2021. Estimating Benefits of Residential Outdoor Water Conservation: A Step-by-Step Guide. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fe1009 and Boyer and Dukes. August 2015. Estimated Water Savings Potential of Florida-Friendly Landscaping Activities. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ae515

Updated: April 2024

UF IFAS Extension

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

REDUCing Nitrogen Pollution in Florida Waters

Since 1993 the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) program has partnered with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to reduce pollution in Florida waters. Polluted runoff from rainfall or overwatering is a major source of excess nitrogen and a major contributor to poor water quality.[1] FFL is an integral component of many Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) and helps to reduce nitrogen loading into Florida waters.

Data provided by the UF/ Program Development & Evaluation Center

WATER QUALITY BENEFITS OF FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™

- **FFL** efforts **prevented** an estimated **128,714 pounds of nitrogen from entering Florida waters** in 2022.[2]
- **7,042** landscape professionals **adopted** one or more green industry **best management practices** (GI-BMP).[3]
- **31,889** adult participants in FFL Extension programs **adopted** one or more **best management practices** for residential landscapes.[3]
- **Participants shared** what they learned through FFL **with 9 other people**, on average.[4]
- **99%** of landscape professionals reported using UF/IFAS green industry **best management practices for fertilizer use**, compared to just **45% before** attending the FFL training.[4]
- **64%** of residential participants said they **adopted** one or more **FFL water conservation practices**.[4]

Estimated statewide annual savings of $64.4 million.

[1] Reisinger et al. March 2020. Sour
Transformations of Nitrogen in Url
edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ss6

[2] Florida Department of Environme
July 2023. 2022 Statewide Annua
Maximum Daily Loads, Basin Mana
Plans, Minimum Flows or Minimun
and Recovery or Prevention Strate
floridadep.gov/dear/water-quali
content/statewide-annual-repor

[3] 2024 IFAS Workload data.

[4] 2024 surveys of FFL participants
landscape professionals (108).

June 2025

Emerging Trends

- Water Supply Issues
  - Building moratoriums
  - Rolling water “black outs”
  - Codes restricting high-volume irrigation
- Small lot sizes
- Synthetic turfgrass
- Increased use of natives
- Mulch – rubber, colored, cypress, glue, weed prevention
- Resilient landscapes

Zephyrhills City Council votes to halt new development for a year as water woes rise

BY CALVIN LEWIS | PASCO COUNTY
PUBLISHED 6:36 PM ET JUN. 27, 2023

ZEPHYRHILLS, Fla. — The Zephyrhills City Council voted unanimously Monday night for a yearlong moratorium on new housing developments.

It's a move that some say is a signal the city is growing too fast for the amount of water it has been allotted.

What You Need To Know

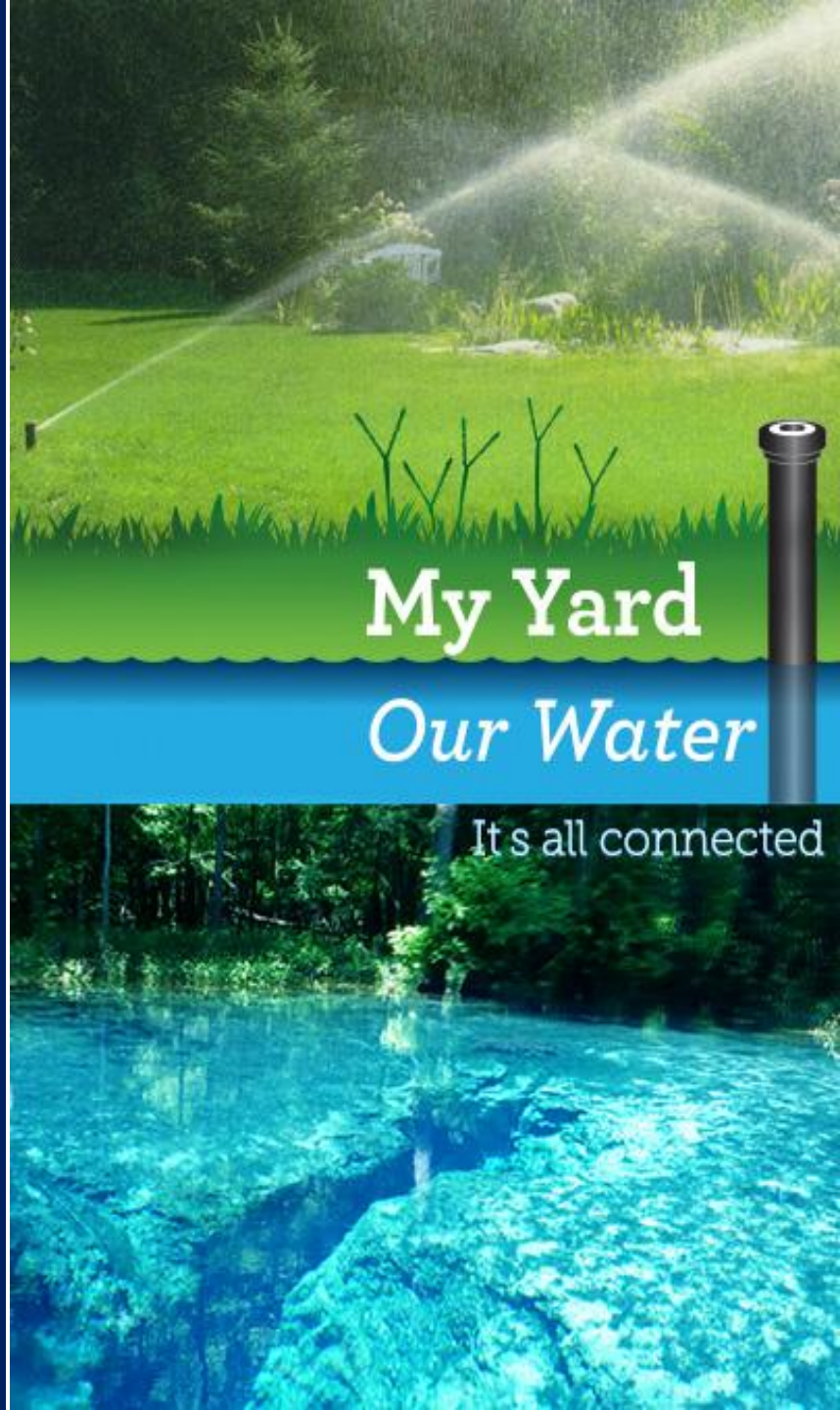
- The Zephyrhills City Council voted unanimously Monday night for a yearlong moratorium on new housing developments
- The moratorium will not stop development applications that have already been filed, but will affect future approval based on water availability for new homes
- It's a move officials say will help conserve the amount of water that has been allotted for the city

Alachua County HOA Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Code

Eliana Bardi

Senior Planner

Alachua County Environmental Protection Department



Florida Statute 373.185

Adopted in 2009

Deed restrictions, covenants or local ordinances cannot prohibit or be enforced so as to prohibit the implementation of Florida Friendly practices

Alachua County
HOA FFL Code

- Mirrored the FFL statute in local code (2019) *plus* HOAs cannot require irrigation
- Statute was never assigned to a specific agency; enforced only by court system
- Provide support to homeowners
- Foster collaboration with other agencies on FFL efforts/identify needs

Code Implementation – New HOAs

At Development Review Process:

- Review HOA docs (unincorporated Alachua County) when new subdivisions are proposed for compliance with:
  - Section 406.59.1, Unified Land Development Code
  - Section 77, Article VII – Alachua County's HOA FFL Code

Each Lot shall have an irrigation system installed for such purpose which shall also be maintained by the Association. Maintenance by the Association shall include periodic testing of each zone to insure proper operation; repair and replacement of broken sprinkler heads, and adjustment of the watering times for each zone.

Code Implementation - Complaints

- Citizen contacts Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD)
- County communicates with homeowner and HOA to clarify code
- If needed, schedule an educational site visit and provide recommendations, AC Extension
- If there is no resolution, ACEPD can bring the case before Special Magistrate, hire an independent expert to make an FFL determination
- Apply enforcement actions/fees as appropriate to ensure compliance

Florida Friendly Landscaping Code

Click Here to Report an HOA FFL Code Concern

NEW! The code was updated on May 23, 2023.

Section 77.69(c) was added stating: "All Homeowner Associations that are governed by deed restrictions or covenants must keep a current contact on file with Alachua County."

Moreover, Section 77.63(f) was also updated to require registration of all commercial irrigation systems (including master systems serving multiple lots or irrigation systems for common areas in residential development) and submittal of an annual maintenance report (template provided). Updated code language is available in the Summary Code Changes document.

Please contact Eliana Bardi (ebardi@alachuacounty.us) to provide a current contact and submit the annual irrigation system maintenance report.

Alachua County has adopted a new code to encourage resilient landscapes that reduce the need for frequent irrigation and the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

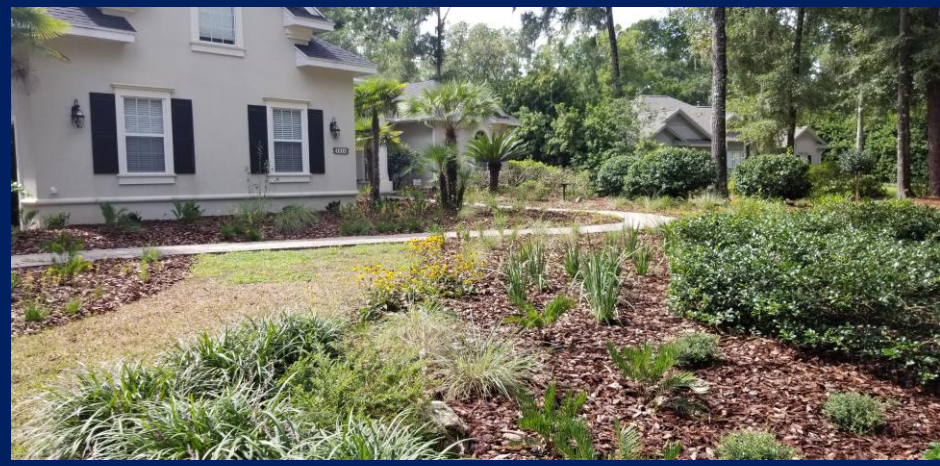
- Under the new Homeowner Association (HOA) Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Design Standards Ordinance, HOAs may not prohibit the implementation of Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL).
- Homeowners still need to follow their HOA covenants, including the process for making landscaping changes.
- If what the HOA is requiring meets the principles of FFL, then the ordinance has not been violated.
- If what the HOA is asking a homeowner to do is not FFL, then the HOA is in violation of the Code.
- A good example is with turf that is failing due to shade or pest issues. If turf

Contact

Hollie Greer

352-264-6827

hgreer@alachuacounty.us



Monday.com Intake Form

HOA FFL Code Inquiries

First Name *

0/255

Last Name *

Email *

Phone Number *

Property Street Address *

Begin typing the address and select the correct pop up

Search for a location

Subdivision *

HOA *

Name of HOA

Example 1

- HOA only allows St. Augustine grass, but some residents want Bahia grass
  - No routine irrigation/fertilizer
- If St. Augustine meets the “right plant the right place” principle, The HOA is not prohibiting FFL by requiring it

NOT A VIOLATION OF THE CODE

Example 2 - Recent Special Magistrate Case

HOA only allowed sod along the curbside, homeowner requested FFL alternative

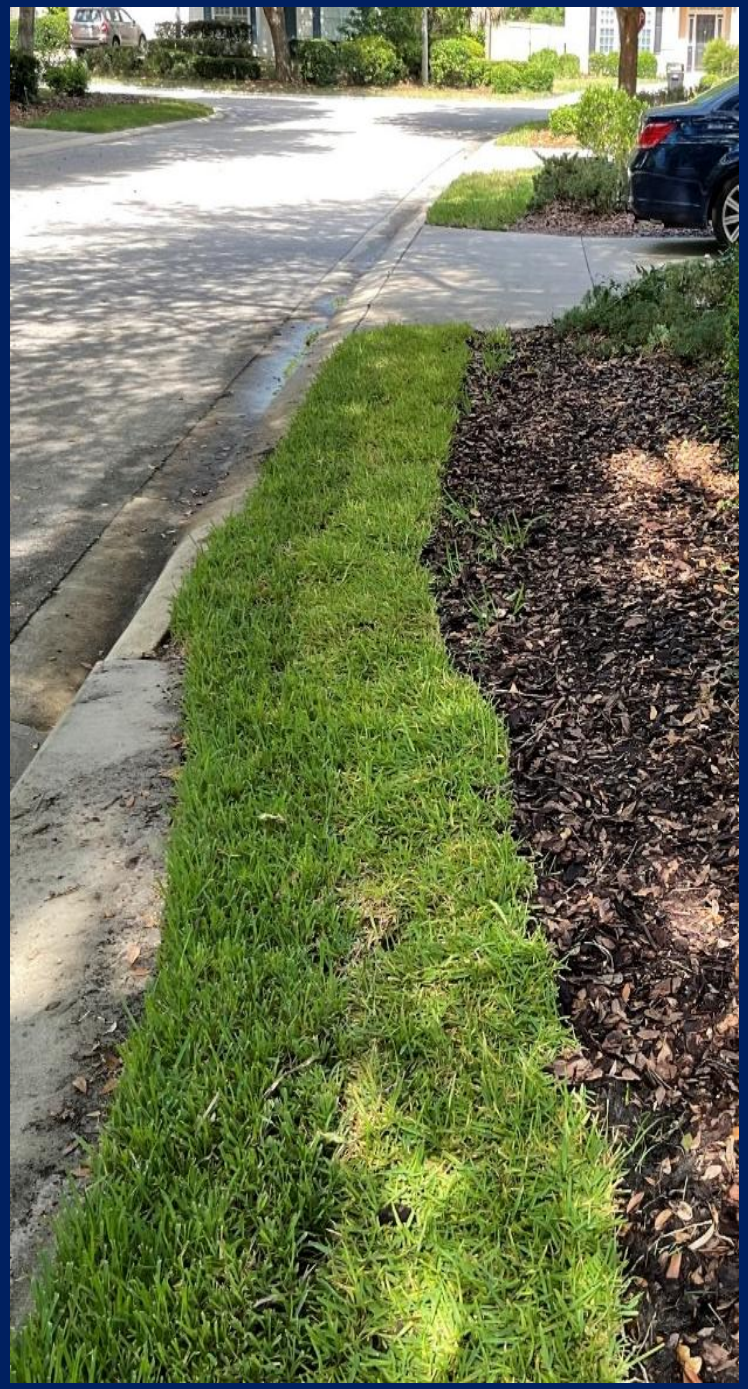
Environmental Implications

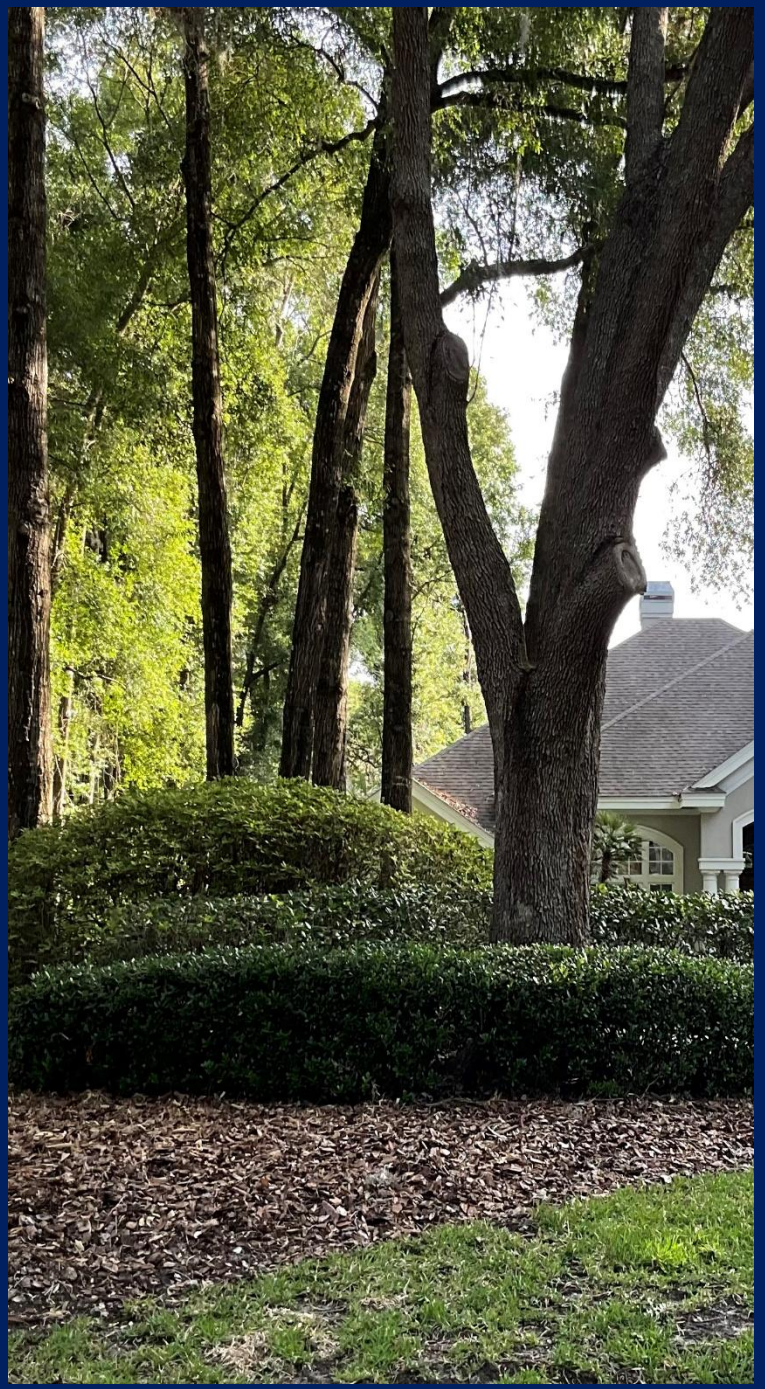
- Resodded several times
- Removed trees, trimmed remaining trees
- Applied chemicals
- Added irrigation

Association "alternative FFL" proposal

- Prune/Remove Heritage Live Oak
- Treat/manage fungus
- Install new fungi-resistant turf
- Continue chemical treatments *OR* Install Artificial Turf

2018-2024






KEEP OFF
GRASS

Social Media Ads – Spring 2025

Flipping the script

Responsibility on HOA not to violate the law

APPLICATION OF THE FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING STATUTE TO HOMEOWNER DISPUTES REGARDING VIOLATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

Vol. 94, No. 6 November/December 2020 Pg 34

Jeffery W. Van Treese II and Michael T. Olexa Solo and Small Firm

Most homeowner and condominium associations have restrictive
the aesthetic appearance of units within each respective associati
restrictive covenants require homeowners to maintain the aesthe
home landscape to the satisfaction of the association or face finar
failing to do so. Many Floridians have had the unpleasant experier
from their association complaining their lawn is discolored or the
and the problem must be remedied within a short time frame (su
Depending on the nature and extent of the alleged violation, hom
faced with the dilemma of 1) re-sodding (which requires extensive
be economically feasible) or 2) increased irrigation of their existing

How can HOAs participate in FFL?

Remove barriers to FFL implementation in landscaping guidelines and CCRs

Eliminate plant lists altogether *OR* adopt a reasonable and **<u>extensive</u>** list for various landscape conditions

Promptly respond to homeowner inquiries

Adopt FFL principles in common areas and maintenance contracts

Educate and engage the community to encourage FFL practices

You are your HOA!

- Attend HOA Board Meetings, Vote in HOA Elections
- Run for election to be on the board or
  Volunteer to serve on the ARC committee

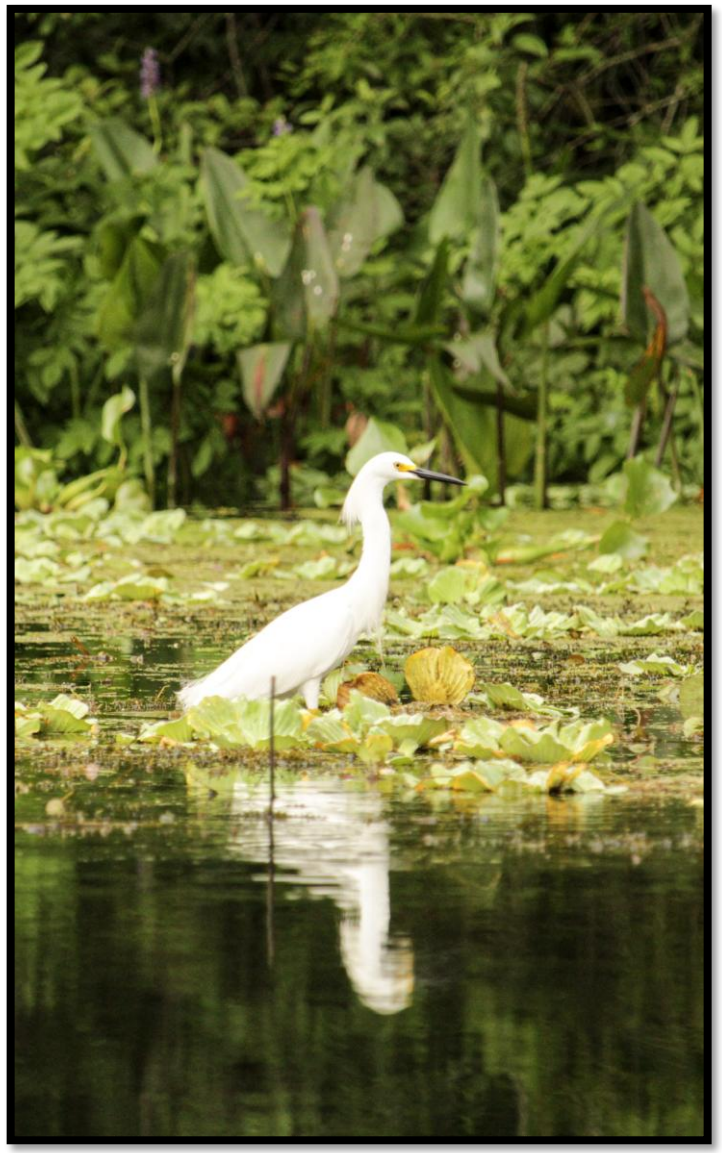
- Do your research on FFL & communicate with board members
- Encourage your HOA to omit plant lists or adopt an extensive list of approved FFL species for various landscape conditions

Funding Opportunities: Florida-Friendly Landscaping & Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Emily Lang
Nonpoint Source Management Program
Division of Water Restoration Assistance
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

September 17, 2025

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319 Nonpoint Source Grant



Federal grant through the U.S. EPA:

- Prioritizes reductions in impaired waterbodies.
- 40% match requirement.
- Monitoring may be required.
- Funds construction, education and monitoring.
- Planning and design may be eligible for match.
- 18 months to two years to receive grant award.

Eligible Project Types:

- Water quality improvement.
- Groundwater protection.
- Water quality restoration.
- Stormwater treatment.
- Nonpoint source education.
- Septic to sewer.

State Water Quality Assistance Grant (SWAG)

Grant for projects that reduce stormwater pollutant loadings in impaired waterbodies:

- Shovel-ready construction projects.
- No required match.
- No required water quality monitoring.
- Faster application to grant award date.

Eligible Project Types:

- Water quality improvement.
- Groundwater protection.
- Water quality restoration.
- Best management practices.
- Reuse water.
- Public Education.

Examples of Projects Funded: Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Past/Current Public Education Projects

“Brevard County Rain Barrel Workshops”

$31,025 319(h) Grant Award
$31,025 Local Match

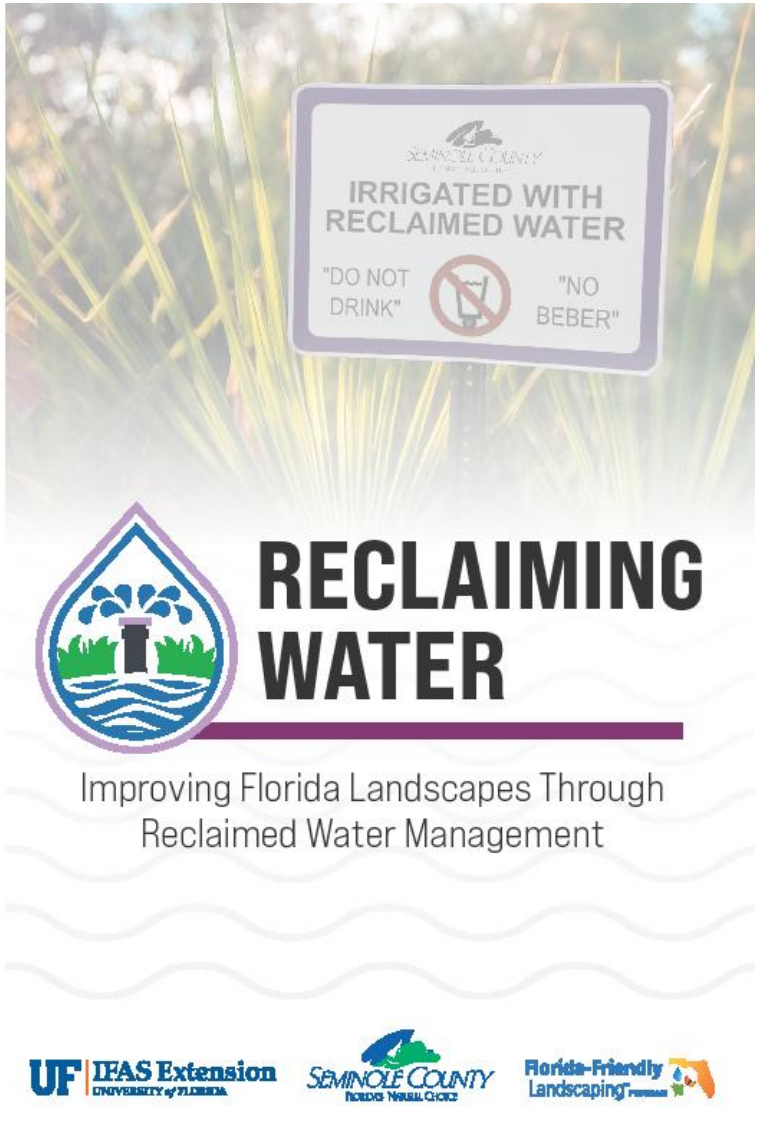
Contracted with the local UF/IFAS County Extension office to conduct 15 rain barrel workshops. Workshops took place at farmers markets, fairs, food truck festivals, and other locations where audience members were congregating. The grant provide free rain barrels to attendees.

Past/Current Public Education Projects

Seminole County – Public Education Program on Reclaimed Water and Nonpoint Source Management

$100,000 319(h) Grant Award
$40,000 Local Match

Hired a contracted employee to implement reclaimed water programing (development of surveys, print materials, workshops, etc.) on FFL, nutrient content in reclaimed water, fertilizing appropriately, and efficient watering practices.



Past/Current Public Education Projects

Pinellas County – "Landscaping for Watershed Protection Pilot Project"

$25,000 319(h) Grant Award
$35,035 Local Match

Conducted FFL educational workshops and provided up-to $2,000 cost reimbursement rebates for Florida-Friendly landscape renovations (plants, mulch, drip irrigation).

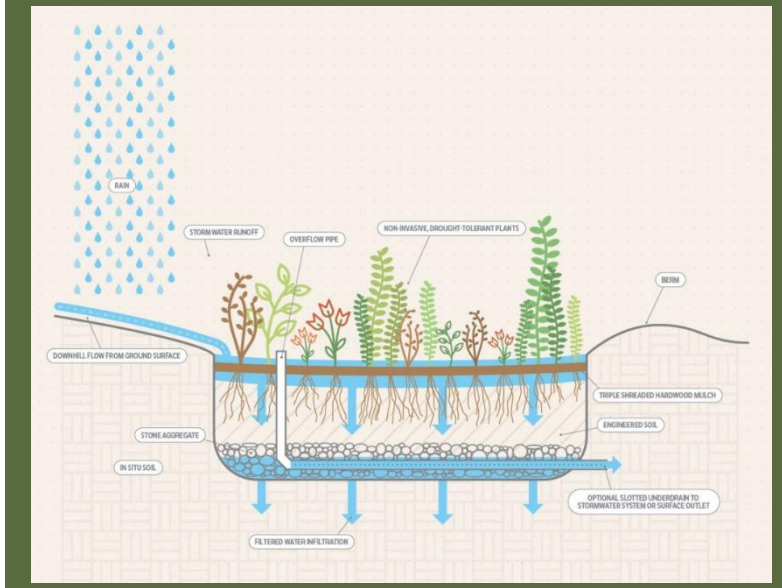
Examples of Projects Funded: Green Stormwater Infrastructure

What is Green Stormwater Infrastructure?

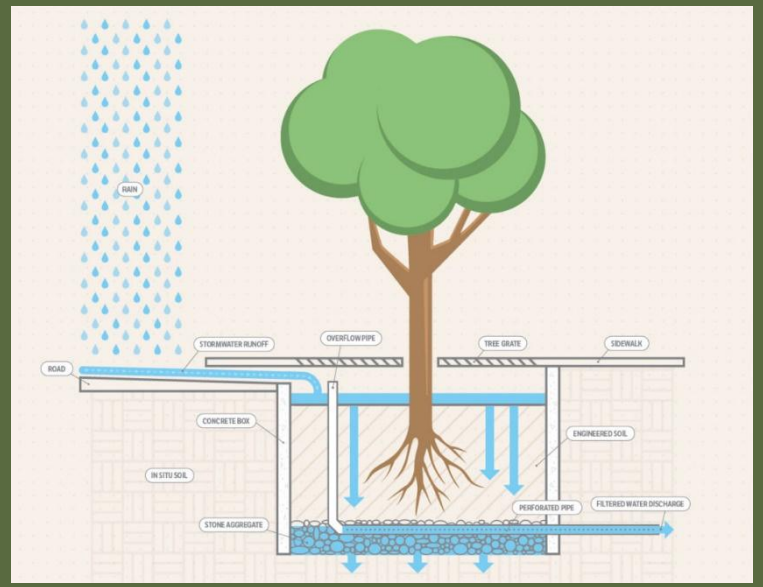
Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) can be used to supplement or replace traditional gray stormwater infrastructure for managing the impacts of rain in urban areas.

GSI reduces pollution and treats stormwater by retaining rainfall near its source instead of directing it to a centralized pond or treatment system.

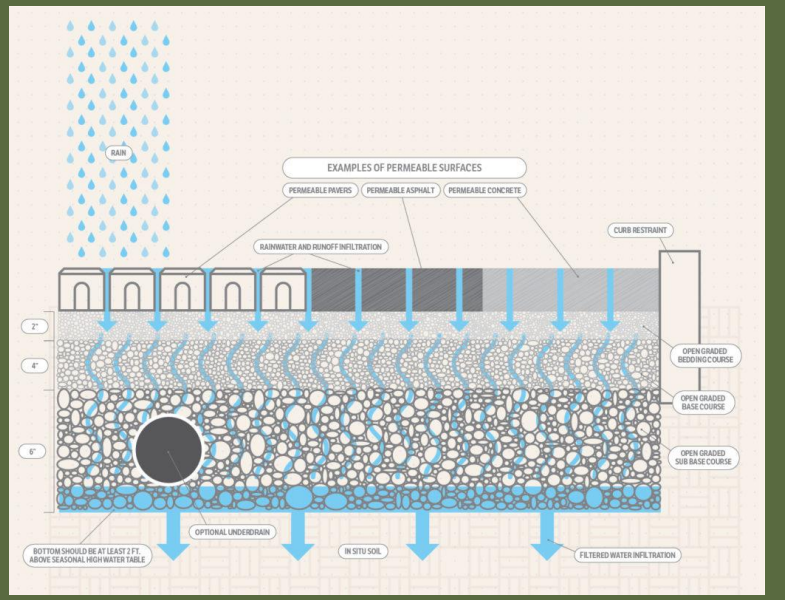
Bioretention Cells



Tree Box Filter



Permeable Pavement



GSI Resources: GSI.FloridaDEP.GOV

Technical resources:

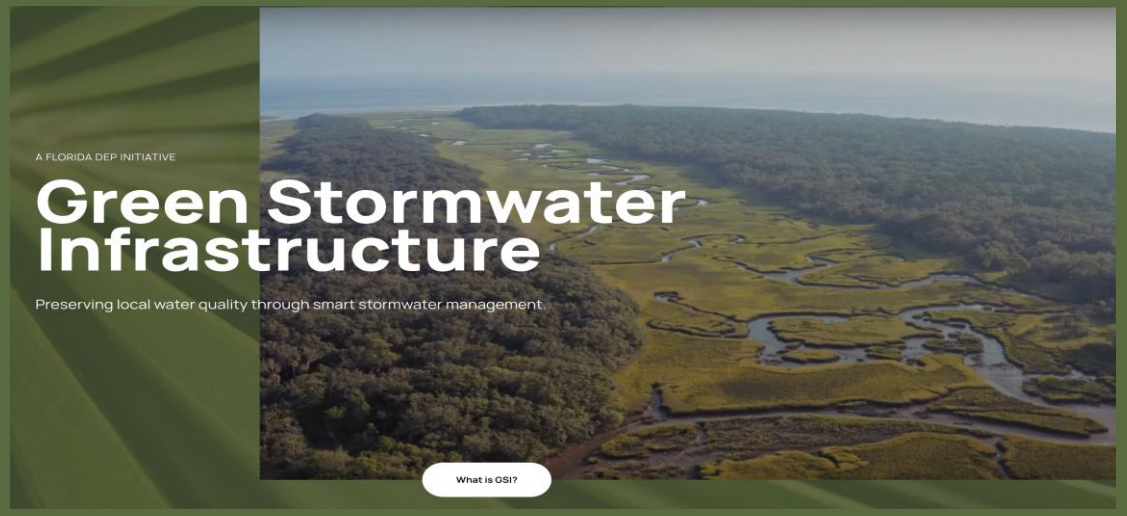
- General GSI tools and resources.
- GSI code audit tool.
- Modeling tools.
- Maintenance manuals and trainings.

Regional GSI/LID manuals:

- List of region-specific GSI/Low Impact Development (LID) manuals.
- Example projects/library.

Community engagement resources:

- Introduction to GSI.
- GSI education resources.
- Webinar series.



GSI Success Stories and Project Inventory

GSI success stories include:

- Project Goals.
- Design.
- Funding.
- Maintenance.
- Community Engagement.
- Outcome/Results.

GSI project inventory:

- Attempt to compile an exhaustive list of GSI projects located throughout the state.
- Include GSI constructed using local, state, federal and private funding sources.
- Supplemental to GSI Success Stories page on website.

How to submit projects:

→ DEP GSI website.
  → Technical resources section.
    → GSI project inventory survey.

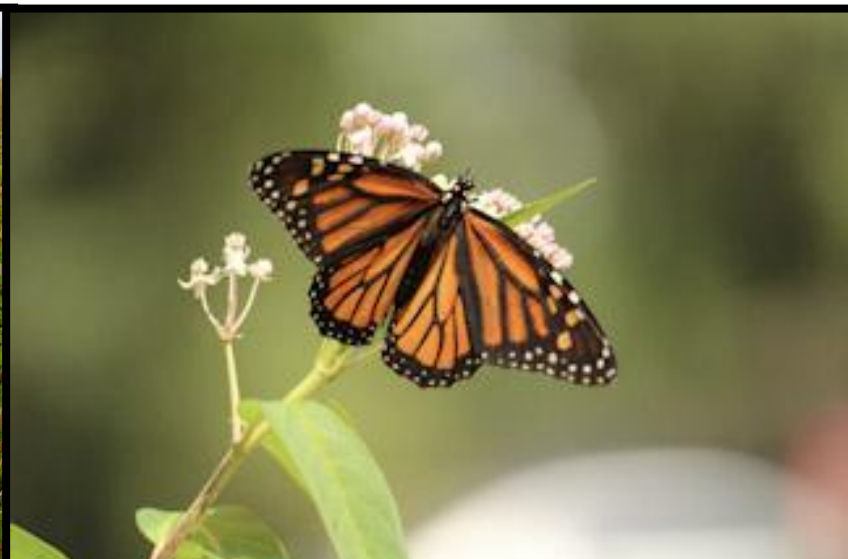
https://gsi.floridadep.gov/resources/technical-resources/

If There Are Plants, There Should be Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

The Nine Principles:

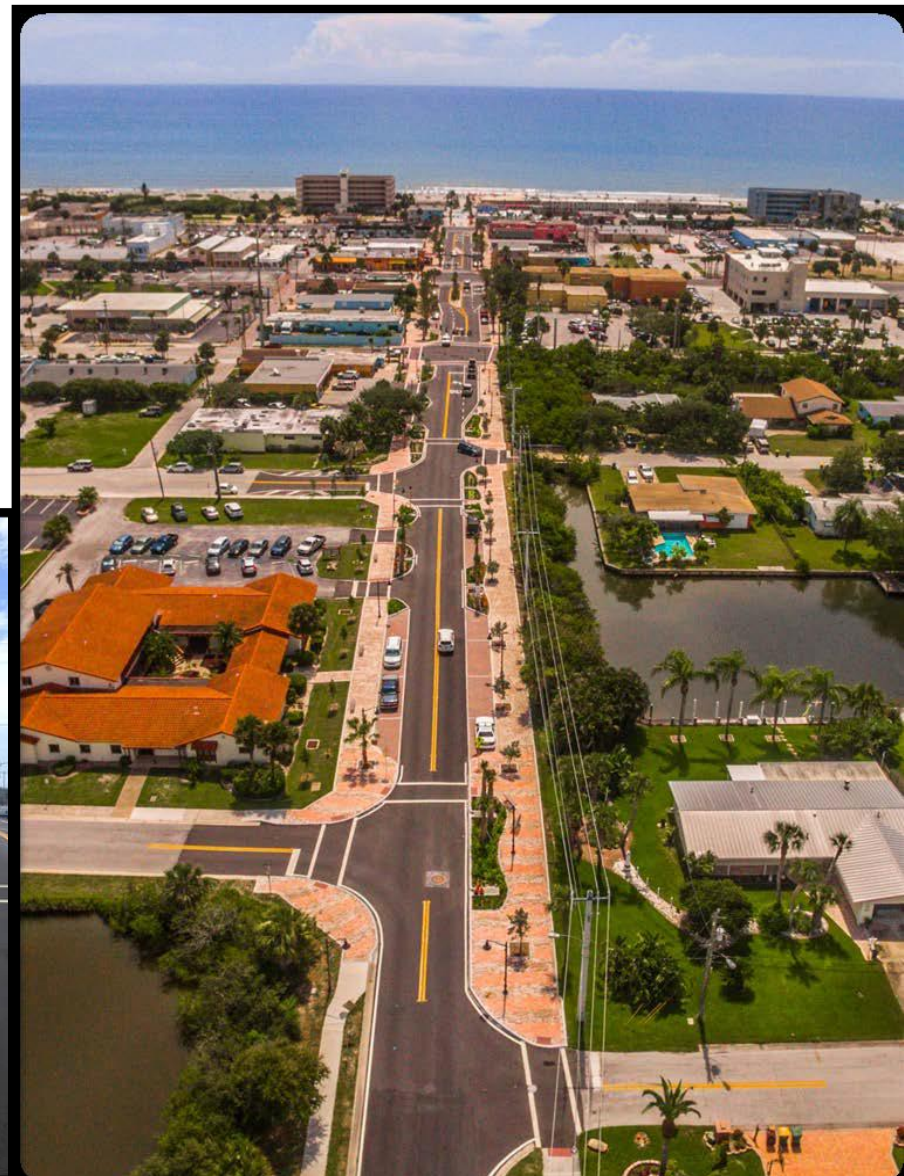
1. Right Plant, Right Place.
2. Water Efficiently.
3. Fertilize Appropriately.
4. Mulch.
5. Attract Wildlife.
6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly.
7. Recycle Yard Waste.
8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff.
9. Protect the Waterfront.

Beautiful landscapes reducing nutrient pollution, managing stormwater, providing for wildlife, and conserving and protecting Florida's water.



Minutemen Corridor Stormwater Improvements

Funding Source	Amount
Federal 319(14)	$544,540
SWAG	$450,000
Legislative Appropriation	$800,000
Project Total	**$1,794,540**



Tavares Stormwater Park

Education Signage
- $24,320 319(h)

Pervious Parking Lot
- $180,000 319(h)
- $115,000 SWAG

Stormwater Ponds
- $750,000 319(h)
- $750,000 Legislative

Stormwater Pipes
- $750,000 TMDL Category

State Revolving Loan
- $6,438,944

Total: $9,008,264

Tavares Stormwater Park

BMPs Included:

- Pervious pavement.
- Floating vegetated islands.
- Litoral zone plantings.
- Stormwater pond treatment trains.
- Stormwater and FFL education.
- Traditional infrastructure.

How to Submit a Proposal?

Grant proposals are accepted once or twice a year:

- Contact us for a copy of the latest grant proposal form.
- Department review and evaluation periods are expected to occur in the spring of each year.
- Schedule a pre-proposal meeting.

Franchesca.Linares@FloridaDEP.gov

How to Submit a Proposal?

PROTECTING TOGETHER

- Nonpoint Source Management Funding.
- Water Quality Improvement Grants.
- Indian River Lagoon Water Quality Improvement Grants.
- Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grants.
- Alternative Water Supply Grants.

https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/state-action/grants-submissions

THANK YOU

Emily Lang
Nonpoint Source Management Program
Division of Water Restoration Assistance
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Contact Info:
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Emily.Lang@FloridaDEP.Gov

Questions?

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Emily Lang	850-245-2866	emily.lang@floridadep.gov

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

Alachua County, Florida

Florida Department of Environmental Protection