

FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™

Beautiful Landscapes Protecting Florida's Water



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Division of Water Restoration Assistance
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES PROTECTING FLORIDA'S WATER

Agenda:

Overview of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) program.

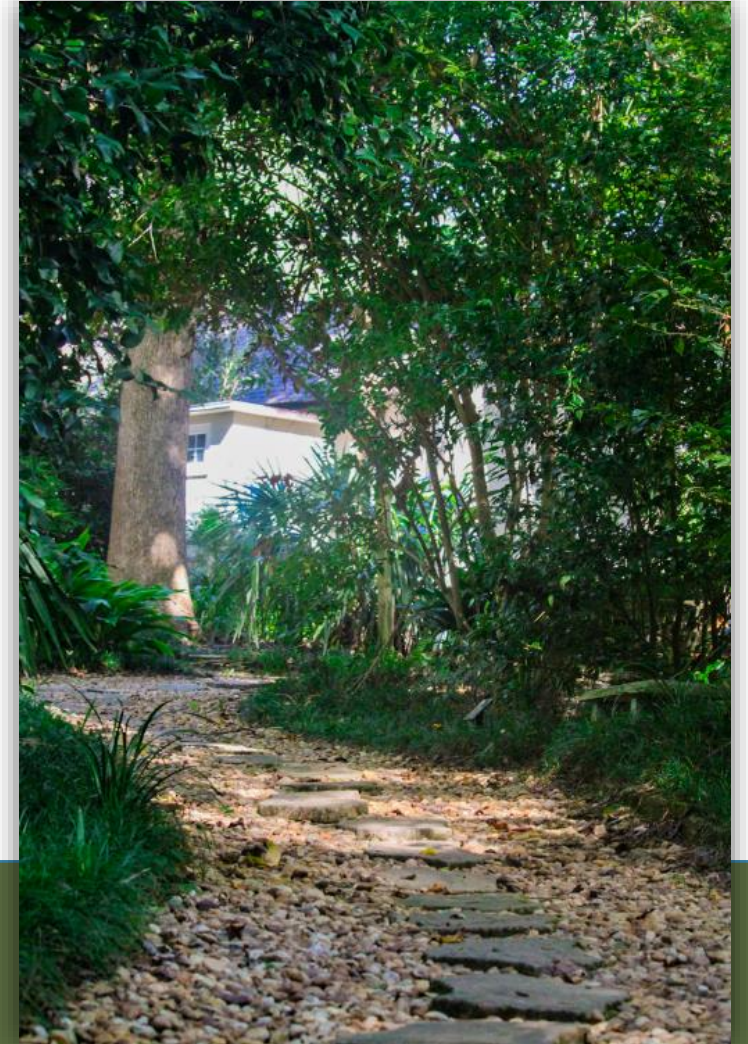
Resources for Home Landscapes

Resources for Landscape Professionals

Resources for Community Decision Makers:

Landscape Irrigation and FFL Design Standards.

Clean Water Act (CWA) 319(h) Grant Funding.





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WHO, WHAT AND WHY?

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.



- Provides best practice training and resources for home gardeners, landscape professionals, and community decision makers.
- The program began as a grass roots movement to protect water quality in the Indian River Lagoon; began receiving DEP funding for the first time in 1993.
- The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program and its principles are defined in Chapter 373.185 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.).



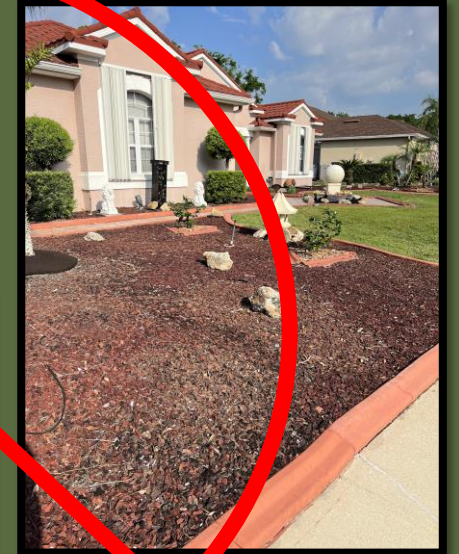
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WHO, WHAT AND WHY?

Florida-Friendly Landscaping uses minimal inputs. Landscapes designed and planted with the Right Plant, Right Place principle should need little to no irrigation or fertilizer once established.



Florida-Friendly Landscaping is not xeriscaping. The program does not support large areas of rock, mulch or artificial turf.





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RESOURCES FOR HOME GARDENERS

- **FFL Plant Guide**
(available for iOS, Android, in browser or as a physical book).
- Workshops and webinars.
- Landscape recognition and awards.
- Landscape design examples.
- Guidelines for hiring a landscape professional.
- Homeowners' association resources.

Scan the QR
Code below.



<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/apps/plant-guide/>



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RESOURCES FOR LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS



- **Green Industries Best Management Practice (GI-BMP)**
 - Statutorily required for commercial fertilizer applicators.
- **FFL Professional Certification**
 - Recommended for landscape designers, municipal staff and property managers.
- **Professional Webinar Series**
 - Available on the FFL website and YouTube page.
- **Green Stormwater Infrastructure Resources**
 - Planting guide available; training development in progress.
- **Landscape Irrigation and FFL Design Standards**
 - Manual available; model ordinance in development.
 - Additional design resources available.

*** New trainings coming soon!**



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RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY DECISION MAKERS

- **Model ordinances and review support.**
- **Homeowners Association (HOA) Code Document Guidelines.**
- **Recommendations for landscape maintenance contracts.**
- **Stormwater pond planting and maintenance guidelines.**



Case Studies:

- **Sugarmill Manor and Brentwood Retirement Communities**
 - Replaced old fixtures and improved irrigation practices.
 - Saved a combined 226,000 gallons of water per month.
- **Dorchester of Palm Beach – ocean-front luxury condominium**
 - Installed a smart irrigation controller, reduced scheduled irrigation.
 - Saved over 1 million gallons of water and \$6,000 on water bills in the first seven months.
- **Sumter County public library and The Villages government annex**
 - Replaced annual beds with Florida-Friendly perennials.
 - Saved \$2,935 a year.
- **Tamarind Village Community Association**
 - Adopted FFL practices.
 - Water cost savings: \$16,320
 - Fertilizer cost savings: \$12,000
 - Pesticide cost savings: \$5,000



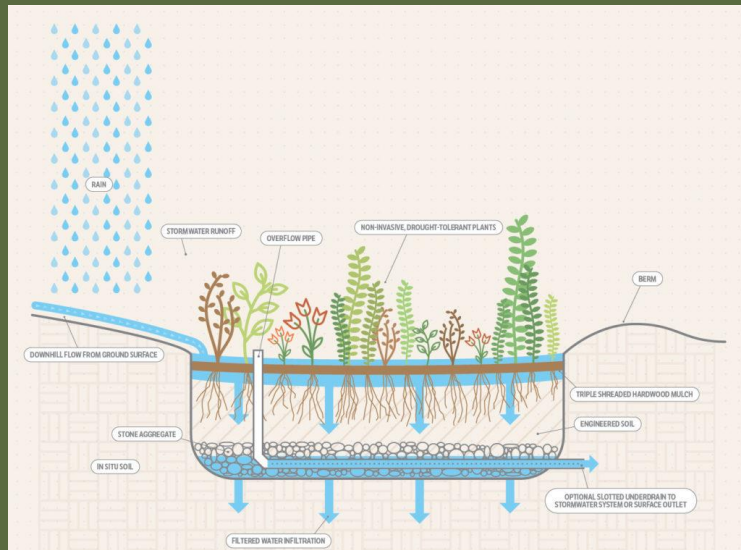
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GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

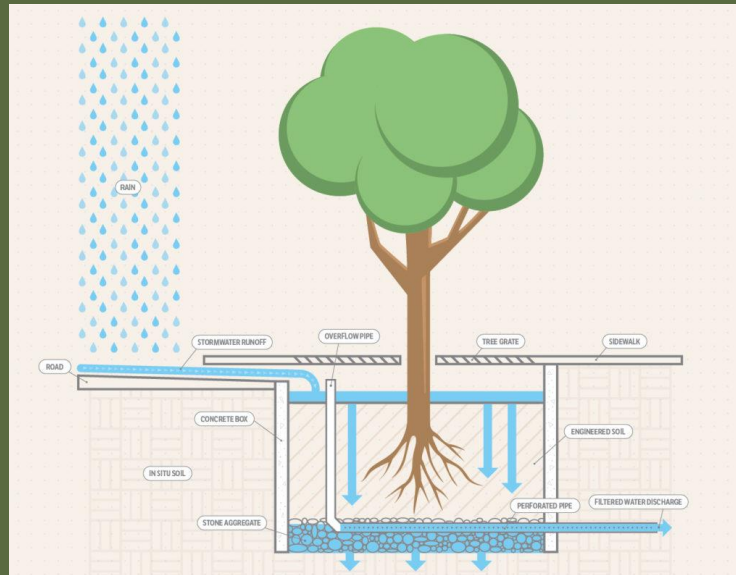
Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) can be used to supplement or replace traditional gray stormwater infrastructure for managing the impacts of rain in urban areas.

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

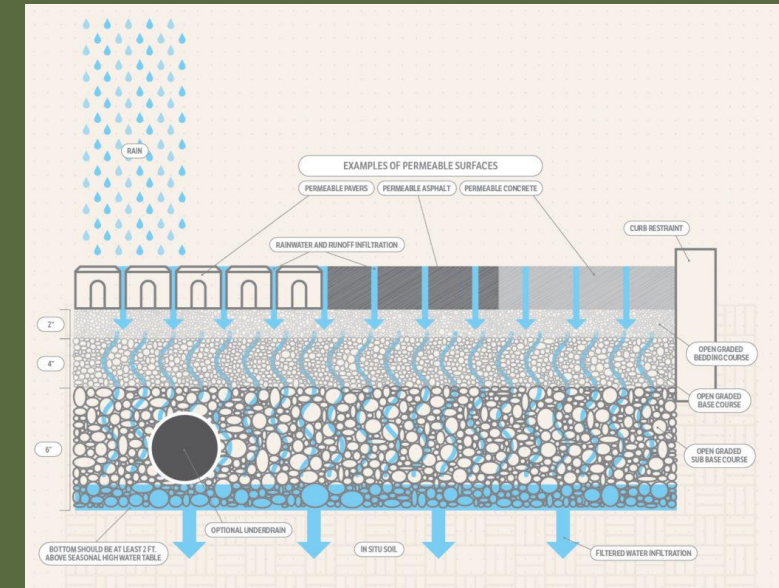
Bioretention Cells



Tree Box Filter



Permeable Pavement





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GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Technical resources:

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

Regional GSI/Low Impact Development (LID) manuals:

- List of region-specific GSI/LID manuals.
- Example projects/library.

Community engagement resources:

- Introduction to GSI.
- GSI education resources.
- Webinar series.
- Nonpoint publication tool.

Funding resources:

- Grants and loans.



GSI.FloridaDEP.gov





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LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION AND FFL DESIGN STANDARDS

Landscape Irrigation and Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Design Standards

CREATED DECEMBER 2006, UPDATED JANUARY 2024



Section 373.228 F.S.

Goals:

- To provide landscape/irrigation design and installation standards.
- Encourage water conscious landscapes.

Main Audience: Irrigation professionals.

Key Points:

- A properly designed landscape will conserve more water.
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles such as Right Plant, Right Place and Mulch can significantly reduce irrigation requirements.
- A Florida-friendly landscape should be able to thrive with little to no irrigation after establishment.
- Technical guidance for irrigation professionals including spacing, flow rates, etc.



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AVAILABLE FUNDING

The CWA 319(h) grant and State Water Quality Assistance grant (SWAG) can fund nonpoint source pollution construction projects and public education projects on a limited basis.

Projects funded in the past include:

- Rain barrel workshops.
- Florida-Friendly rebate programs.
- Fertilizer education.
- Irrigation education.
- Demonstration gardens with educational signage.
- GSI pilot projects and monitoring.

Eligible projects must have water quality benefits.



For funding information, contact: Emily.Lang@FloridaDEP.gov



THANK YOU

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