



## **Florida–Friendly Landscaping Facelift—Extension Collaboration with County Parks and Recreation**

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Indian River County Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) invested over \$12 million dollars into the interGenerational Center (iG Center). A beautiful modern building with many amenities. However, the landscape has been a disappointment; plant selection and placement conflicted with soil, sun, and irrigation conditions.

Indian River County Master Gardeners (IRCMGs) have been providing Florida–Friendly Landscaping (FFL) educational outreach to participants but without a physical, in-ground illustration of these management techniques via a demonstration landscape site.

Objectives included: 1) provide PRD with a solution for the unappealing and difficult to manage landscape and 2) obtain space where IRCMGs can provide visual and experiential learning opportunities for FFL programming participants.

The agent conducted a site visit and submitted a project proposal based on utilizing FFL methods of management, with emphasis on “Right Plant, Right Place” that would remedy current landscaping challenges. Project implementation incorporated practical skills of veteran volunteers and the 2020 trainee class. Signage illustrating the multi-faceted components of FFL educated visitors to the iG Center.

Three beautifully landscaped garden beds welcome visitors to the iG Center. Master Gardeners use the gardens to supplement teaching FFL concepts with educational program participants. The newly landscaped beds, totaling 1176 ft<sup>2</sup>, are worth approximately \$5,600 in labor and materials.

Due to the curb appeal with the public and its success as a demonstration landscape, we have been asked to rehabilitate another six beds at the same location.

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