

DRAFT FINAL REPORT SWFWMD

Project name: Pocket Park – Groundwater Recharge Demonstration

Organization: Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Associate

Contact Person: Alan Lillie

Address: 351 North Shore Dr
Sarasota, FL 34234

phone, etc. – see original proposals

Number of persons project reached volunteers: 40
others 800+ households through
newsletter

Project beginning date: May 10 2000 ended July 14 2000

1. Describe project

The project encompassed developing a groundwater recharge demonstration park on an abandoned city right of way completely strangled with Brazilian peppers and other exotics. The purpose was to show how to create landscape contours to capture rainwater and increase infiltration, and to teach neighbors about landscape management impacts on water use, flood protection, and groundwater recharge.

2. What did participants learn and what project accomplish

Volunteers who participated directly in the project learned the importance of water capture in residential landscapes, and the identification and benefits of native plantings for water conservation, flood prevention, and habitat production. They learned to identify exotic species such as Brazilian pepper and potato vine. This information will also be disseminated to the entire neighborhood of 1200 homes in the fall newsletter. The project transformed an abandoned city right of way choked with Brazilian peppers and other exotics into a natural landscape contoured to increase water infiltration and planted with Florida native plants.

3. impact of project local environment and community

The project has significantly decreased the water run off in a high run-off area and reestablished native plantings that will increase wildlife habitat. The project has built neighborhood solidarity. The creation of Marlin Conservation Square creates a natural setting for neighbors to enjoy and provides permanent educational benefits. It is part of an ongoing effort of the IBSSA to increase neighborhood awareness of water conservation through the use of native plantings and xeriscaping.

4. materials used

Handed out :

- an explanation of the project describing the benefits of transforming the site, including before and after pictures.

- Informational material on water conservation, Florida native plants, exotic species, composting.

Neighbors helped clear the site, form the contours and depressions, spread compost, put in native plants, constructed a berm, and spread mulch. The City of Sarasota provided approximately \$4,000 of in kind site preparation work. They removed the Brazilian peppers and the underlying hard surface that was discovered after site preparation had begun. In all, 14 truckloads of impermeable material were removed from the site.

Neighborhood spring newsletter.

Neighborhood mass email

Neighborhood website

Personal contact with immediate neighbors

Phone calls.

A questionnaire will be distributed with the fall neighborhood newsletter and handed out at the annual picnic.

The grant award was announced in the spring newsletter and posted on the neighborhood website. The district's support will again be recognized in the fall newsletter. The Manatee Basin Board of the SWFWMD is also acknowledged on the informational sign at the site.

We will continue to work with the site to make improvements.
The next neighborhood beautification project is the establishment of a butterfly garden. We are studying the feasibility of contouring the site to capture the extensive runoff from an adjacent motel.

10. No.