

Tips and Strategies for a Successful Demonstration Garden

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The Beginning

- ▶ The landscape was unkempt and dilapidated
- ▶ Not a good example of the “Florida Friendly” landscape principles



The Beginning



- ▶ Not a favorable reflection of the MG program

Getting Started

- ▶ Master Gardeners asked the Agent about updating the landscape
- ▶ They were prepared to hire a landscape architect to create a plan for a new landscape



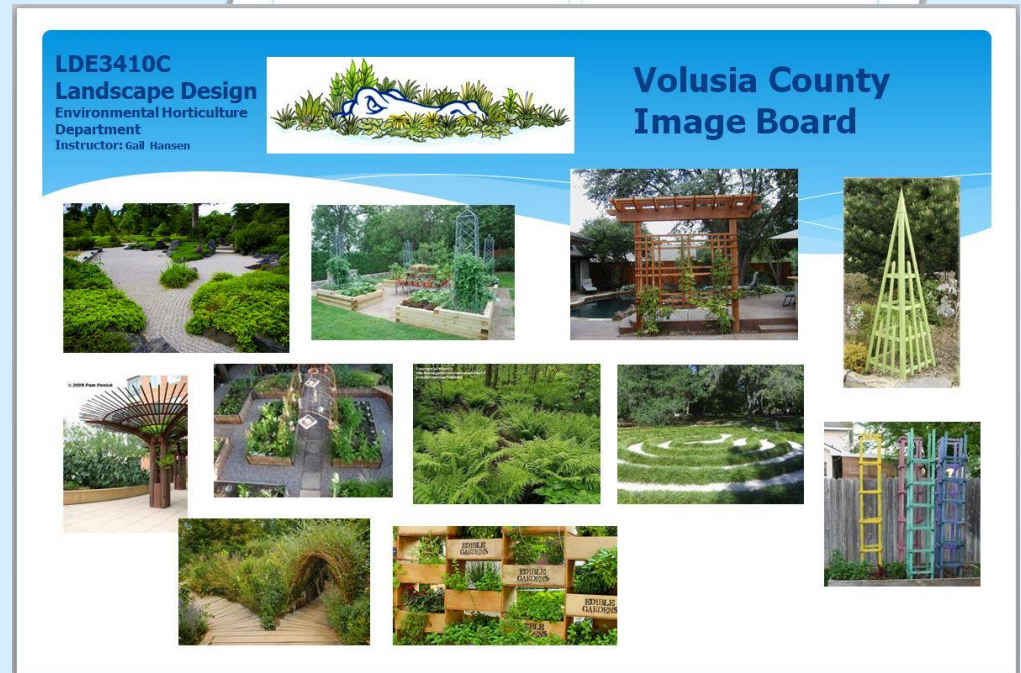
Leveraging Resources



- ▶ Rather than hiring a landscape architect, we contacted Dr. Gail Hansen at UF – Associate Professor, Environmental Horticulture and the Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Program, Specialty- Landscape Architecture

The Charrette

- ▶ Gail and two of her LA students came to the Volusia County Office in May 2013.
- ▶ 12 MG's and the Agent took part in creating the vision for the landscape.



The Plan



Elements of the Landscape

- ▶ Rain Gardens
- ▶ Permeable pavement
- ▶ Shade gardens
- ▶ Children's sensory garden
- ▶ Revamped greenhouse
- ▶ Outdoor classroom
- ▶ Koi pond
- ▶ Fruit trees
- ▶ Edible landscaping
- ▶ All nine principles of Florida Friendly Landscaping are on display
- ▶ Hydroponic vegetables
- ▶ Other alternative growing methods
- ▶ Rose arbor
- ▶ Grape arbor
- ▶ Much more

Funding the Ambitious Plan



- ▶ Volusia County E.C.H.O. grant
- ▶ A MG volunteer authored the application
- ▶ \$55,415 plus matching funds from MG program and Urban Hort. Program
- ▶ Total - \$71,415.00

Additional Contributions

- ▶ Kio pond valued at \$29,000.00 was donated
- ▶ Two local landscape companies donated labor to support MG's
- ▶ Total value of the project is over \$104,000.00



Goals for the Landscape



- ▶ Serve as a demonstration and teaching garden
- ▶ MG's, MG trainees and citizens of Volusia Co.
- ▶ Over 100 species of plants
- ▶ FFL – of course!
- ▶ LID elements as well
- ▶ Ideas and alternatives

Teaching – It's what we do!

- ▶ It's one thing to teach folks about FFL etc.
- ▶ It's another thing to be able to *SHOW* them each of the nine principles in practice.
- ▶ Our new landscape will enhance our mission!



Before and After!



Before and After!



Before and After



Before and After



Before and After



Before and After



Before and After



Summary

- ▶ Create a vision!
- ▶ Build capacity
- ▶ Gather your allies
- ▶ Make a plan
- ▶ Identify your resources
- ▶ Build it!
- ▶ Promote it!
- ▶ Maintain it!





Thank you!!
Questions??