

## FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ PILOT PROGRAM IN THE LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY AND SURROUNDING AREA

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The Lincoln Park community is approximately 2.5 square miles in the City of Fort Pierce, FL within St. Lucie County. This culturally and historically rich community has been home to influential African-American artists such as author Zora Neal Hurston and the Florida Highwaymen. Complex social factors contributed to this area's decline in the 1960s-1990s. Recent revitalization efforts by the City, community organizations, and residents have included infrastructure improvements, streetscapes, facade improvements, and community gardens. Moore's Creek runs through the Lincoln Park community, which provides drainage for the area and discharges into the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). Recent revitalization efforts of Moore's Creek include the installation of baffle boxes and the construction of littoral shelves, to potentially improve water quality. This proposed Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ pilot program, in the Lincoln Park Community, seeks to address one of the most serious threats to the IRL, non-point source pollution - stormwater runoff. Urban residents can be unaware of the impact the design and maintenance of their residential yards have in relation to water supply and water quality within their watershed. With collaboration between the City of Fort Pierce and UF/IFAS St. Lucie County Extension Urban Horticulture, needs assessments will be conducted and community members engaged, to formulate effective ways to connect and educate residents on this topic. The goal of this pilot program is to educate Lincoln Park residents on how landscape practices directly impact the local watershed, the Indian River Lagoon. The program will emphasize the use of FFL principles in the landscape for improved water quality, economic, and beautification elements of that community. Possible program ideas include "front-porch changes", where participants would learn Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles, design changes to small areas of their landscape implementing FFL principles, and possibly qualify for grant-funded, small monetary assistance for implementation.

**PRESENTER BIO:** Kate Rotindo is the UF/IFAS St. Lucie County Urban Horticulture Agent and much of her programming efforts involve educating residents on Best Management Practices in the landscape, in order to ensure improved water quality, increased water conservation in the landscape, and enhance sustainable landscapes.