

VIVA FLORIDA LANDSCAPE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS GRANT INITIAL REPORT

As outlined in your Viva Florida Landscape Demonstration Gardens Grant program contract, you are required to complete the following final report. Final payment will be released once the report and all required attachments have been received, reviewed and approved by the Foundation.

INSTRUCTIONS

- **This report covers the period between installation and Jan. 31, 2021.**
- Enter all answers in the gray boxes.
- Save this Word document with your facility name followed by _FinalReport (e.g. CityPark_FinalReport) before submitting.
- The report, along with all required materials as outlined below, must be received no later than **Feb. 28, 2021**.

If you have any questions about the report, please contact Stacey Matrazzo at 407-590-5321 or SMatrazzo@FlaWildflowers.org before beginning.

I. Project location

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Facility and/or project name | SCCF Native Landscapes and Garden Center |
| 2. Address | 1300 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, FL 33957 |

II. Project manager contact information

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Name (first and last) | <div style="background-color: black; width: 140px; height: 1.2em;"></div> |
| 2. Email | <div style="background-color: black; width: 170px; height: 1.2em;"></div> |
| 3. Primary phone number | <div style="background-color: black; width: 120px; height: 1.2em;"></div> |

III. Project overview

1. Describe your installation experience (i.e., who and how many participated (volunteers, staff, etc.) in the installation). How long was the installation process and how many people (e.g., staff, volunteers, contractors, etc.) were involved? What about this experience went particularly well? What did not go well or as planned? What changes, if any, to your initial plan were necessary upon installation?

Depending on the day either one or two volunteers would work 2-3 hours daily Monday-Wednesday mornings. They started on July 31st and completed the boardwalk on August 19th. A total of 5 volunteers contributed to the construction of the boardwalk. This process took a little longer than anticipated because our foundation's Covid-19 guidelines limited the number of volunteers that could work together. Once the boardwalk was complete our intern and I dug a small pond and began trenching for the drainage that was installed around the perimeter of the garden. That process took two people (1 intern, 1 staff member) several weeks to complete (about 54 hrs total). Once the drainage was installed I put rabbit fencing around the perimeter of the

garden to prevent Sanibel's extensive marsh rabbit population from impacting our new planting. We started the plant layout and installation on October 14th and finished it on October 16th. The layout and installation took two staff members and one intern about 3 days (30 hrs total) to complete.

Overall, the project went smoothly. We didn't have the amount of help we normally do in terms of interns and volunteers due to Covid-19 restrictions. As a result the process took a little longer than initially estimated. Sanibel was impacted by a tropical storm and several heavy rain events in mid/late summer which forced us to postpone the drainage installation by about a week. The french drain has been working wonderfully and is keeping the walkway dry and Nostoc free. We did make a few changes to the plant layout after noticing that water was sitting in different areas of the garden after the boardwalk was completed. We made adjustments accordingly so the final design looks slightly different than the proposed design. Since installation, we've continued to maintain the garden as needed. Two interns have worked a total of 12 hours during the reporting period. Maintenance would include weeding and trimming to keep existing groundcovers from encroaching on the new plants along with some supplemental watering during dry season.

IV. Attendance and volunteers

1. Estimate the number of visitors **to your garden or facility** during this reporting period.

About 2,500 people have visited the garden center during the reporting period.

2. If possible, estimate what percentage of your total attendance was comprised of each of the following groups:

	75% or more	50–75%	25–50%	less than 25%
Children/school groups				x
Adult planting/gardening enthusiasts		x		
Adult (general)	x			
Florida residents		x		

3. Estimate the number of visitors **to the native wildflower demonstration garden** during this reporting period.

About 1,500 have directly interacted with the demonstration garden during the reporting period.

4. Estimate the number of hours volunteers worked in/on the native wildflower demonstration garden during this reporting period.

Five volunteers worked together to build the boardwalk for a total of 60 hours. (This was completed prior to the installation so is technically not part of the reporting period) Two interns were involved in site prep and installation (22 hours) as well as ongoing maintenance (12 hours) for a total of 34 hours.

V. Education and outreach

1. Describe how the planting has been received? Include quotes from visitors, volunteers or staff, if possible.

Staff- Our customer service/retail associate at the Garden Center has reported that retail sales of many of the aquatic/wetland species have increased since the installation of the garden. This includes the more standard native aquatics as well as less commonly used species like Water Pimpernel. It's been helpful to have a display of wetland plants in close proximity to the retail space as it allows customers to visualize growth habits and conditions so they can select appropriate plants for their landscape. It's exciting to be able to highlight underutilized wetland plants and introduce a wider diversity of natives to residential landscapes.

Visitors/volunteers- There has been a lot of positive feedback from visitors and volunteers. Repeat customers have been able to watch the process throughout the transition and have been very complimentary about the final product. Most visitor comments have been geared towards the aesthetic improvements and easier access to the interior of the garden.

2. Describe any educational programming related to the planting that has occurred during this reporting period. Include the number of attendees for each program. If you have not offered any programming but are planning to do so in the immediate future, list the programs below.

Education has primarily been through one-on-one teaching with Garden Center customers. All of our fall and winter programming has been virtual so the weekly tours and classes that we normally have are not currently happening on site. My manager has scheduled a livestream with a local realty company at the end of March that will focus on educating new homeowners on why they should use natives in their landscape. The demonstration garden will be included in the livestream. Our education department has also scheduled a lineup of summer camps at the Bailey Homestead for kids (ages 4-18) starting in early June. The curriculum hasn't been set yet but I imagine they may be interacting with the garden due to its proximity to the camp. As far as I know all other programming will continue to be virtual in the foreseeable future.

3. Describe any educational materials (e.g., brochures, pamphlets, signs, web pages, etc.) you have developed for the demonstration garden since the installation.

I haven't created the educational materials yet but I have plans to do that in the coming weeks. A few wildflowers that we planted were experimental and I wanted to give the garden time to establish to make sure the plants that I order labels for are going to be successful. These labels will include common and botanical names with a brief description or fact about each plant.

I will also be creating a handout for visitors specific to the wetland pollinator garden that highlights plant/pollinator relationships and explains the different environmental services that aquatic plants provide.

4. Has the planting been promoted to the community? Include URLs to any articles, posts, videos or other outreach or media coverage or send scans/PDFs of outreach as *separate attachments*.

The planting has been promoted in SCCF's newsletter, social media posts, and was included in the winter issue of SCCF's new magazine (page 11). The planting was also advertised in the local San-Cap Islander newspaper. Links are below.

<https://www.facebook.com/SanibelCaptivaConservationFoundation/posts/10158800130542209>

<https://www.captivasanibel.com/2021/01/27/viva-florida-grant-funds-enhanced-wetland-garden/>

https://issuu.com/sccf3/docs/sccf_magazine_no_1_winter_2021_flip (copy and paste)

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/SCCF-Wednesday-Update---Red-Tide-Persists-in-Lee---Collier-Waters.html?soid=1129379829417&aid=z7YSWjgluJ4> (copy and paste)

VI. Other information

1. Provide any other details that you would like to share regarding the planting and/or the installation experience.

This was the first time I've tried growing Marsh Pink, Frostweed, and Water Pimpernel from seed. I wasn't sure if I would have any success growing these plants or if they would persist long term in the garden. Thankfully I was able to grow and plant them as planned and all three species seem to be doing well so far.

VII. Photos

1. Send at least one current photo of the site. Multiple photos are encouraged, as are photo(s) of visitors and/or volunteers interacting with the site. *Send as separate attachments. Do not embed photos in this document.*

Email the completed report along with all attachments (or a link to the location of the attachments if using a file transfer service) to Stacey Matrazzo at SMatrazzo@FlaWildflowers.org.











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SCCF is at SCCF Native Landscapes & Garden Center.

January 12 · Sanibel, FL · 

Check out our new wetland pollinator garden that showcases native wetland shrubs, wildflowers, and groundcovers that local residents can utilize in areas of their yard that hold water seasonally or long term.

Thanks to a Viva Florida Landscape Demonstration grant funded by the [Florida Wildflower Foundation](#), SCCF's Native Landscapes and Garden Center has enhanced an existing demonstration garden at the Bailey Homestead Preserve.

The specific planting area was initially designed and implemented in 2015 as a dry, wildflower meadow demonstration garden. The following year, an irrigation system was installed in the retail space and irrigation runoff began to settle in the lower lying dry wildflower meadow causing many of the plants to gradually die off or become unhealthy.

Awarded in May 2020, the Viva Florida grant allowed staff to address drainage issues and introduce native wetland plants that



20+



This summer, a group of local volunteers known as the Hammerheads constructed an elevated walkway through the center of garden that allows visitors better access to the plants without getting their feet wet. A drain was installed around the perimeter of the garden to divert standing water away from the main walkway. Once the site prep was finished, garden center staff planted about 30 different species of wetland plants. Visit the Garden Center at 1300 Periwinkle Way, Monday-Thursday 10am to 3pm to see the results!

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Viva Florida grant funds enhanced wetland garden

By SCCF - | Jan 27, 2021



SCCF

In May, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's Native Landscapes and Garden Center was awarded the Viva Florida Landscape

Demonstration grant funded by the Florida Wildflower Foundation, and the funds were used to enhance an existing demonstration garden at the Bailey Homestead Preserve.

Stacey Matrazzo, program manager for the Florida Wildflower Foundation, said SCCF's project was *"only the second wetland garden ever proposed to the foundation."*

"We saw it as an opportunity to showcase the beauty of wetland wildflowers while demonstrating how they can be used in home landscapes," she said. *"We have great confidence in SCCF staff and volunteers to create and maintain a beautiful and beneficial project."*

The wetland garden area was originally implemented in 2015 as a dry, wildflower meadow demonstration garden. The following year, an irrigation system was installed in the retail space adjacent to the site. Over the course of the year, the irrigation runoff from the retail area began to settle in the lower-lying dry wildflower meadow, causing many of the plants to die off or become unhealthy.

The Viva Florida grant allowed the SCCF to address drainage issues and introduce native wetland plants that were more appropriate for the existing site conditions. The redesign and

SITE CONDITIONS. THE REDESIGN AND

replanting vastly improved the aesthetics and utility of the garden and the space now teaches visitors about the many benefits of wetland or littoral plants.



SCCF Installing drainage for the garden.

Over the summer, the Hammerheads — a group of local volunteers — constructed an elevated walkway through the center of the garden that allows visitors better access to the plants without getting their feet wet. A drain was installed around the perimeter of the garden to divert standing water away from the main walkway.

Once the site preparation was finished, Garden Center staff planted about 30 different species of wetland plants. The new wetland pollinator garden showcases native wetland shrubs, wildflowers and groundcovers that locals can utilize in areas of their yard that hold water seasonally or year-round.

Beauty & Benefits of Wetland Gardens

Visit our wetland pollinator garden at the Bailey Homestead Preserve

Wetland gardens are one of the most vibrant spaces in a landscape, offering many benefits to our local wildlife and natural resources. In Southwest Florida, as the winter brings drier conditions, water levels recede through spring, eventually completely drying out. Wading birds take advantage of shallow pools, which become prime feeding territory with concentrated fish and invertebrate populations. Watching an ibis prod the ground for treats is a delight those outside of Florida may rarely witness.

Another pleasure of the wetland garden is the ever-changing landscape as the seasons shift between wet and dry cycles. In particular, bacopa or water hyssop (*Bacopa monnieri*) follows the soil moisture. It grows quickly and sprawls across the ground in areas where there is enough water and dies back when the soil is too dry. It will also float when inundated with water quickly, which sometimes happens when a sudden downpour fills up shallow depressions. As the host plant for white peacock butterflies (*Anartia jatrophae*), the adults lay their eggs on the plant. The hatched caterpillars quickly munch bacopa leaves to energize their transformation into adult butterflies. Fast-growing annual wildflowers, such as coreopsis (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*), lend a splash of color and offer nectar for pollinators. From season to season, these plants will move around the garden, making each year unique from the next.

Wetland gardens also serve an important purpose in improving water quality. As water runs into these low-lying areas from the surrounding environment, the water may contain nutrients from fertilizer runoff, reclaimed irrigation, or pet waste. If that water is surrounded by plants, which need nutrients to grow, the plants extract the water's nutrients for their own growth. This, in turn, keeps the nutrients from leaching further into groundwater or neighboring waterbodies.

To create or enhance your own wetland garden, visit the Native Landscapes & Garden Center, which recently revamped a portion of the demonstration gardens into a wetland pollinator habitat with funding from a Viva Florida grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation. The area showcases a wide variety of attractive wildflowers and wetland plants that benefit local wildlife and enhance water quality.

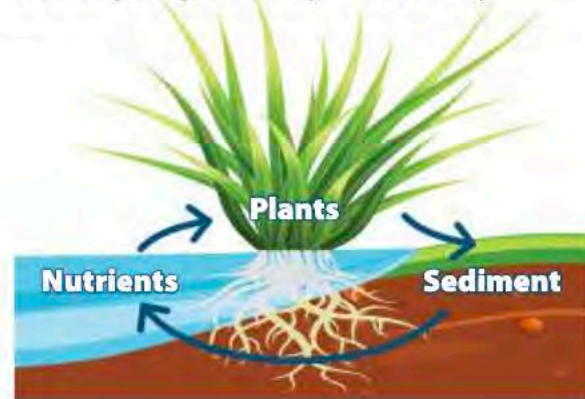
Jenny Evans, Native Landscapes & Adult Education Director

A close-up view of a bacopa flower
Photo courtesy of Karl Werner



CONDITIONS NEEDED TO PLANT ONE

The area should have standing water in the summer with a lesser amount in the winter, either completely drying out or staying damp with mucky soils. Sunny or shady locations can be utilized with appropriate plants for the amount of sunlight. In general, most wildflowers bloom best with full sun or dappled shade and bright light throughout the day.



A pollinator visiting a coreopsis flower



Viva Florida Grant Funds Enhanced Wetland Garden

In May, the SCCF Native Landscapes and Garden Center was awarded the Viva Florida Landscape Demonstration grant funded by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. The grant funds were used to enhance an existing demonstration garden at the Bailey Homestead Preserve.

Stacey Matrazzo, program manager for the Florida Wildflower Foundation, said

SCCF's project was "only the second wetland garden ever proposed to the foundation." She added: "We saw it as an opportunity to showcase the beauty of wetland wildflowers while demonstrating how they can be used in home landscapes. We have great confidence in SCCF staff and volunteers to create and maintain a beautiful and beneficial project."

The wetland garden area was originally implemented in 2015 as a dry, wildflower meadow demonstration garden. The following year, an irrigation system was installed in the retail space adjacent to the site. Over the course of that year, the irrigation runoff from the retail area began to settle in the lower-lying dry wildflower meadow, causing many of the plants to gradually die off or become unhealthy. The Viva Florida grant allowed SCCF to address drainage issues and introduce native wetland plants that were more appropriate for the existing site conditions. The redesign and replanting vastly improved the aesthetics and utility of the garden and the space now teaches visitors about the many benefits of wetland (littoral) plants.

This summer, the Hammerheads, a group of local volunteers, constructed an elevated walkway through the center of the garden that allows visitors better access to the plants without getting their feet wet. A drain was installed around the perimeter of the garden to divert standing water away from the main walkway.

Once the site preparation was finished, SCCF Native Landscapes and Garden Center staff planted about 30 different species of wetland plants. The new wetland pollinator garden currently showcases native wetland shrubs, wildflowers, and groundcovers that local residents can utilize in areas of their yard that hold water seasonally or year-round.



The Native Landscapes & Garden SCCF's Native Landscapes and Garden Center at the Bailey Homestead is now open Monday through Thursday, 10am to 3pm. We will also continue to offer contactless deliveries and curbside pickup. Simply place your order online by midnight on Tuesday for pickup or delivery that Wednesday.

Please email our Garden Center Assistant Sue Ramos at sramos@sccf.org with any questions or requests.

SCCF members will get their discount by entering this promo code: SCCFMBR10

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