



“Spring” Into Action Contest Project Ideas and Resources

Project Ideas – Home Landscape

- Help reduce potable water consumption in the landscape by installing a rain barrel or cistern.

<http://www.rainbarrelguide.com/>

<http://www.harvesth2o.com/faq.shtml>

- Help reduce stormwater pollution by building a rain garden.

<http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/raingarden.htm>

<http://www.lowimpactliving.com/blog/2008/04/14/how-to-build-a-rain-garden/>

<http://www.raingardennetwork.com/>

<http://www.rainkc.com/>

- Make your yard more Florida-friendly.

<http://www.floridayards.org/>

- Retrofit your irrigation system for more efficient use of water.

<http://sjr.state.fl.us/floridawaterstar/irrigation.html>

- Reduce turf and make your yard a real Florida wildlife habitat by planting native plants, shrubs and trees.

<http://www.fnps.org/pages/plants/gettingstarted.php>

http://www.fufc.org/tree_facts.html

<http://www.nsis.org/>

<http://www.gimmegreen.com/updates/seeGG.htm>

- Combine a number of the above projects for greater effect.

<http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/fhlc/FHtour.shtml>

- More resources to explore:

<http://floridaswater.com/floridawaterstar/>

<http://floridaswater.com/education/activities.html>

http://www.werf.org/livablecommunities/who_homeowner.htm

http://www.marioncountyfl.org/Utilities/Services_WaterConservation.aspx

http://www.marioncountyfl.org/Transportation/Transportation_Stormwater_Home.aspx

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/mainpage/default.htm>

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/>

Project Ideas – Community

- Organize a neighborhood cleanup.
- Participate in the planned cleanup (i.e. river cleanup) of another organization.
- Install native or Florida-friendly plants in public areas.
<http://www.fnps.org/pages/plants/gettingstarted.php>
- Conduct irrigation audits of local businesses and government offices and offer recommendations on how to water their landscape better.
<http://floridaswater.com/education/activities.html>
- Paint a mural in public space depicting Springs-friendly concepts.
- Organize a mini neighborhood rain garden program similar to Kansas City's "10,000 Rain Gardens" program, with signage.
<http://www.rainkc.com/>
- Explore the possibility of planting retention pond areas. (check with property owner or local authorities.)
- Organize a stormwater stencil project.
- Have your organization host a showing of the short film, "*Gimme Green*". Have motivated audience members sign a pledge to reduce turf and make their yards more Florida-friendly.
<http://www.gimmegreen.com/updates/seeGG.htm>
- Use your imagination and come up with more ideas to help our local springs.

Please keep in mind that Florida law now permits the use of Florida-friendly yard principles even in communities that are deed-restricted or have strict Home Owner's Association rules and regulations. Work with your HOA for a plan that meets your needs and theirs. For any other questions concerning a home landscape project you can call Kathleen Patterson, Marion County's Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program Coordinator, at (352) 671-8400. Web site:

<http://www.marioncountyfl.org/CountyExtension/floridayards.aspx>

For information on community projects and volunteer opportunities, please contact Ellie Falbo, Marion County Coordinator – St. Johns River Water Management District

Watershed Action Volunteer (WAV) Program at 352-304-6324, e-mail WAVMarion@sjrwmd.com or visit www.floridaswater.com/wav