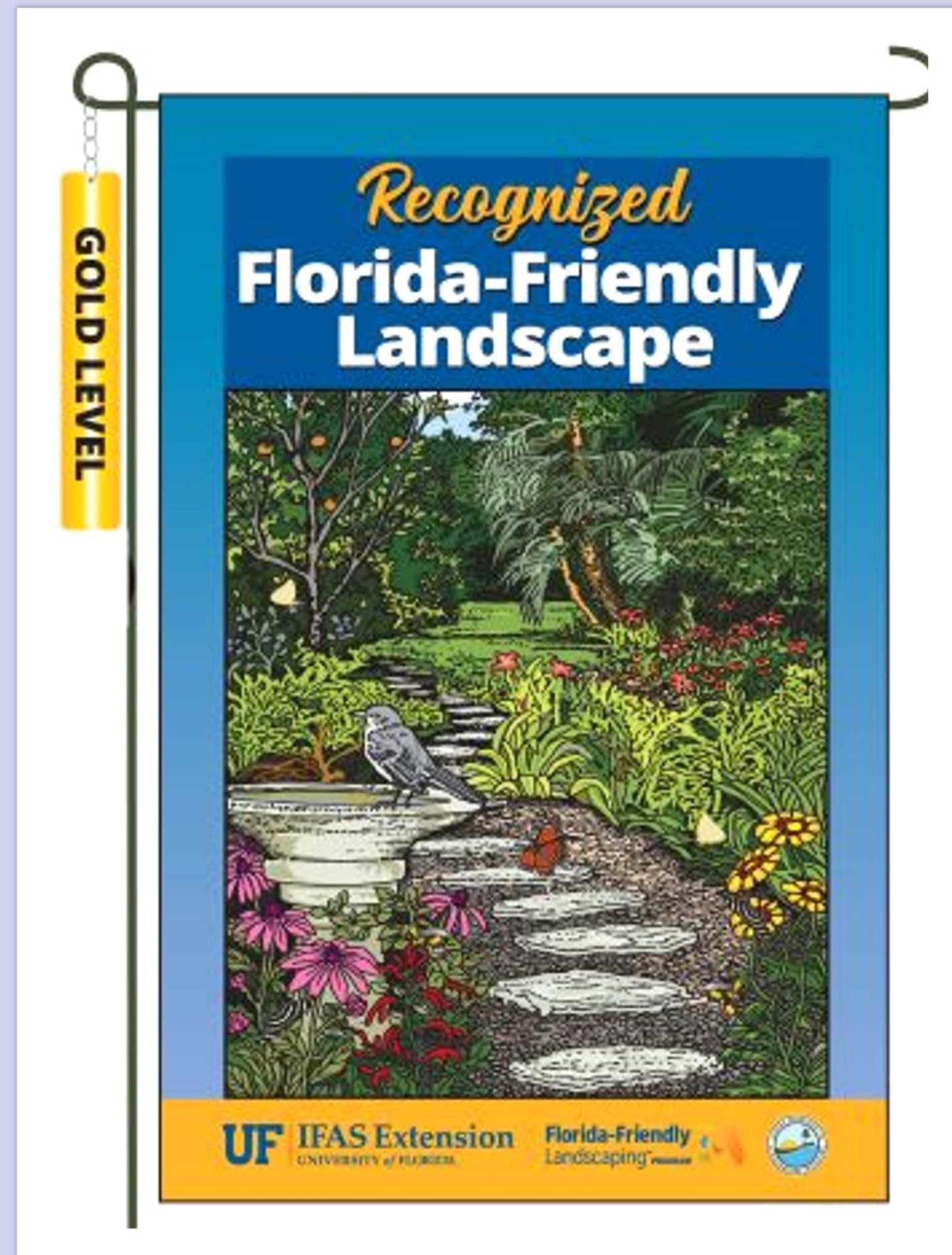


Strengthening County-Level Implementation of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Yard Recognition Program

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Situation

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) is Florida's statewide program promoting sustainable landscaping practices that conserve water, protect natural resources, and support environmental stewardship.

The FFL Yard Recognition Program is a key component of this initiative, encouraging residents to adopt Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles in residential landscapes.

Implementation of the Yard Recognition Program is managed by county Extension agents, with each county responsible for developing and administering the program to meet local needs.

Objective

Strengthen local capacity to offer Florida-Friendly Yard Recognition by training 3 volunteers to conduct standardized site assessments and recognize at least 5 homeowner landscapes for implementing Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices by end of year as measured by completed assessments and awarded recognitions.

Method

- A FFL Yard Recognition Committee was formed, consisting of three Master Gardener Volunteers and the county Extension agent.
- Committee members were trained in Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles and the statewide yard recognition process through classroom instruction and hands-on field training.

Results

- Since the committee's formation in early 2025, seven yard evaluations were completed, resulting in five Florida-Friendly Landscaping Yard Recognitions and a well-trained committee prepared to expand our capacity to recognize outstanding landscapes.
- These recognized landscapes serve as visible demonstrations of best management practices through the placement of FFL Yard Recognition flags, encouraging neighboring residents to adopt similar principles.

Conclusion

This model enhanced program capacity and provided a scalable framework for expansion into Florida-Friendly Neighborhood, Commercial, and Common Area recognition programs.

