VIVA FLORIDA LANDSCAPE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS GRANT
FINAL 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 **July 1, 2022** through **Sept. 30, 2022.**
- 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 **Oct. 31, 2022.**

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

Village Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and Technologies (VISTA)

13572 S. Village Drive

Tampa, FL 33618

II. Project manager name

[redacted]

III. Planting overview

1. Provide a complete list of plants used in the demonstration garden; indicate those that were purchased with grant funds.

Initially purchased with grant funds: 3 Flatwoods plum (*Prunus umbellata*), 9 Muhlygrass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), 37 Elliott's lovegrass (*Eragrostis elliottii*), 21 Wiregrass, (*Aristida stricta*), 10 Lopsided indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*), 3 Buttonsage (*Lantana involucrata*), 3 Garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*), 3 Dwarf saltbush (*Baccharis dioica*), 1 Tarflower (*Bejaria racemosa*), 1 Wild lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*), 7 Tall elephantsfoot (*Elephantopus elatus*), 5 Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*), 5 Sweet everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*), 1 Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), 1 Purple passionflower "Maypop" (*Passiflora incarnata*), 5 Beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*), 6 Calamintha (*Calamintha georgiana*), 7 False rosemary (*Conradina canescens*), 1 Dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), 20 Wild petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*), 15 Florida paintbrush (*Carphephorus corymbosus*), 12 Florida greeneyes (*Berlandiera subacaulis*), 12 Oblongleaf twinflower (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*), 19 Pineland heliotrope (*Euploca polyphylla*), 5 Tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*), 10 Giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*), 7 Maryland goldenaster (*Chrysopsis mariana*), 6 Starry rosinweed (*Silphium asteriscus*), 51 Narrowleaf silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), 22 Many-wings, coastalplain palafox (*Palafoxia integrifolia*), 4 Pineland lantana (*Lantana depressa* var. *depressa*), 4 Blue porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*), 10 Manyflower beardtongue (*Penstemon multiflorus*) and 36 Sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*).

Initially donated by Wilcox Nursery: 6 Beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*), 10 Slender blazing star (*Liatris gracilis*), 10 Dense blazing star (*Liatris spicata*), 4 Lanceleaf tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), 5 Snow squarestem (*Melanthera nivea*), as well as 5 Short-leaf blazing star (*Liatris tenuifolia*) that are not listed on 11/06/21 final invoice that is attached to this report.

Existing plants incorporated into the original Wildflower Garden design included: 2 Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*), 1 Fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*), 1 Dune sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*), 2 American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*), 1 Chapman's wild sensitive plant (*Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii*), 1 Dwarf saltbush (*Baccharis dioica*), 1 Pineland lantana (*Lantana depressa* var. *depressa*) and 3 Tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*).

Added subsequently to test in the Wildflower Garden: 6 Large-flowered false rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*), 5 Vanillaleaf (*Carphephorus odoratissimus*), 4 Stokes aster (*Stokesia leavis*), 2 Corn snakeroot (*Eryngium aquaticum*), 1 Clustered bushmint (*Hyptis alata*), 1 White oldfield aster (*Symphyotrichum pilosum*), 1 Tea bush (*Melochia tomentosa*) and 1 Jamaican caper (*Quadrella jamaicensis*).

2. Indicate if and how the final demonstration garden design varies from the original design submitted with your grant application.

During soil preparation prior to planting, heavy equipment disturbed a large southwest section of the berm originally intended to be unplanted "green space" immediately adjacent to the Wildflower Garden. We covered that area with Sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*) and subsequently propagated more Sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*) to cover the northwest perimeter of the garden.

The entire northern perimeter adjacent a busy pedestrian sidewalk and well-traveled suburban street was comprised of sod with a significant presence of Wedelia and other weed growth. We manually removed the sod/weeds and mulched heavily with oak leaves shared by neighbors and chipped hardwoods donated to VISTA Gardens by a trusted arborist. Eventually we were able to plant in this area using propagated Beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*) and Blue porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) as well as volunteer seedlings of Muhlygrass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), Tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*), Wild petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*) and Lopsided indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*). We relocated some of the Elliott's lovegrass (*Eragrostis elliottii*) from their location in the original design to the northeastern perimeter, allowing them more space. We also propagated Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) and covered a section of ground at the garden's entrance to serve as an understory for Dwarf saltbush (*Baccharis dioica*).

Freezing temperatures on January 30 and 31, 2022, resulted in loss of 15 Pineland heliotrope (*Euploca polyphylla*) that were replaced with Beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*) that Wildflower Garden Resident Experts propagated from cuttings. Now that neighboring plant growth provides additional cover, we plan to return to the original design with Pineland heliotrope (*Euploca polyphylla*) as a low border at the entrance sign to VISTA Gardens.

Challenging soil conditions due to compaction and clay content resulted in poor drainage in many sections of this garden, resulting in relocation of some plantings and replacement of others. This remains a "work in progress."

3. Overall, the native wildflower demonstration garden is best described as

Extremely successful	☒	Moderately successful	☐
Somewhat successful	☐	Not successful	☐

Provide any additional comments about the success of the garden:

As our native wildflower garden's designer and ongoing consultant, Bruce Turley, said, "We worked the project progressively to assure success. Additionally, significant VISTA member contributions, ongoing involvement with high school and college students, as well as participation by many organizations in our community increased awareness and acceptance of native plant landscaping."

4. Overall, the wildflower display is best described as

Extremely showy	☒	Moderately showy	☐
Slightly showy	☐	Not very showy	☐

Provide any additional comments about the showiness of the wildflower display:
Pedestrian passersby comment regularly as do visitors who drive into VISTA Gardens to learn more about the Wildflower Garden and other gardens on our 3.31 acres.

From passersby we hear favorable comments. "This is beautiful!" "We love how the plants change. We watch for new colors in the Wildflower Garden on our walks." "My children love the grasses and what they call the 'little' Longleaf pine trees." People often take time to walk the garden pathway, use their phones to "read" the QR codes on plant markers and to take photos.

We receive many questions. Repeatedly we have visitors, as well as our own members, ask us, "What is that plant with the beautiful bloom?" The most frequent inquiry is about ground covers. Pointing to the Sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*) or Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*), a visitor said, "I would like to replace the turf in my backyard to a groundcover. Tell me about these."

A toddler of one of VISTA's gardeners regularly comes to the Wildflower Garden when his family finishes tending their vegetable garden. He seeks out flowers in bloom and identifies their colors. He watches for and tracks pollinators enthusiastically.

Our members and visitors marvel at the bees, birds, and butterflies in this garden and there is lingering enthusiasm about Sweet everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*) hosting "a multitude of American Lady butterfly caterpillars" as the story of this garden occurrence is told and retold.

5. List those species with which you had the most success.
Of the species added to this garden, we had the most success with Beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*), Blue porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*), Dwarf saltbush (*Baccharis dioica*), Elliott's lovegrass (*Eragrostis elliottii*), Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*), Giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*), Lanceleaf tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), Purple passionflower "Maypop"(*Passiflora incarnata*), Pineland lantana (*Lantana depressa* var. *depressa*), Starry rosinweed (*Silphium asteriscus*), Tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*), Sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*), Sweet everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*) and the Blazing stars - *Liatris gracilis*; *Liatris spicata* and *Liatris tenuifolia*.

There are added successes with species that existed in this space and were incorporated into the original garden design, including Dune sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*), Chapman's wild sensitive plant (*Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii*) and Fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*).

6. List those species that did not succeed or do as well as anticipated.
Six species did not survive. These were Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), False rosemary (*Conradina canescens*), Florida paintbrush (*Carphephorus corymbosus*), Manyflower

beardtongue (*Penstemon multiflorus*), Maryland goldenaster (*Chrysopsis mariana*) and Wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*).

Six species struggled during establishment, including Calamintha (*Calamintha georgiana*), Florida greeneyes (*Berlandiera subacaulis*), Lopsided indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*), Garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*), Oblongleaf twinflower (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*) and Many-wings coastalplain palafox (*Palafoxia integrifolia*). In many cases, we relocated these to areas with better soil drainage, placing them where the same species showed more success or where we determined drainage patterns to be better.

The Dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), Garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*) and Tarflower (*Bejaria racemosa*) are not doing as well as anticipated.

7. If any part of your planting was not successful, please explain (to the best of your understanding) why it did not do well (e.g., succumbed to weed pressure; accidental mowing; flooding; etc.); what, if anything, you are doing to help re-establish it; and how you are educating the public about the failed planting.

We attribute the demise of some species and difficulties for others to poor growing conditions, especially the predominace of clay deep below the soil surface that contributes to poor drainage after irrigation or rainfall. The initial assessment of site conditions was determined by cutting a swath of sod and examining the soil beneath it, as well as through moderate excavation to remove treated turf/weed growth, rocks, and root matter prior to solarizing the site. Not until we began digging deeply to create planting holes did we discover hardpack layers of clay beneath soil that drained very poorly. We literally uprooted and nursed plantings while digging and removing soil from several sections of the garden, replacing it with native soil from other locations on VISTA's property, and replanting (and in some cases, relocating) the plants.

Claiming a small fallow garden area at VISTA's entrance west of the Wildflower Garden, we are experimenting by creating a "scrub" environment for one of the Garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*) and several Large-flowered rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*), in hopes these plants thrive in this garden. This project was completed by a Hillsborough High School International Baccalaureate Program student, in consultation with VISTA member Jerry Wentzel (paver edging construction), Bruce Turley (soil composition and plant placement) and Ann Wallace (Wildflower Garden Resident Expert for Garberia). Course builder's sand was added to 1/3 of the existing soil and used to create "planting mounds" about 6 inches high with a slope to facilitate rapid drainage and expel water away from the plant. The Garberia appears to be establishing in this new environment along with all but one of the Large-flowered rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*) that survived frequent and heavy rainfall in September.

We communicated our findings and solutions personally with members, as well as with visitors and continue to share "lessons learned" about achieving full awareness of growing conditions when developing landscape gardens.

IV. Attendance and volunteers

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

In the 91days between July 1 and September 30, we conservatively estimate that a daily average of 3 community members, tour participants, volunteers, and prospective members visited the Wildflower Garden, totaling 273.

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	☐	☐	☒	☐
Adult planting/gardening enthusiasts	☐	☒	☐	☐
Adult (general)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Florida residents	☒	☐	☐	☐

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

A total of 471 volunteer hours were contributed July through September, including:

72 hours by 20 community volunteers from three local high schools on 10 occasions.

247 volunteer hours by 19 VISTA members who are active Wildflower Garden Resident Experts and regularly maintain the garden. Due to summer's heat and humidity, on average each worked one hour weekly to tend the plantings for which they are responsible. (June through August most VISTA gardeners grow cover crops and come to the gardens less frequently. Frequent thunderstorms and rainfall limited time in the gardens during September.)

39 volunteer hours during the July 14 Wildflower Garden Work Day contributed by the Project Manager, Bruce Turley, Wildflower Garden designer and consultant, 5 Wildflower Garden Resident Experts, 3 Sickles High School National Honor Society volunteers and 1 Gaither High School volunteer.

57 volunteer hours during July 20 Wildflower Garden Work Day contributed by the Project Manager, 6 Wildflower Garden Resident Experts, 6 Sickles High School National Honor Society members, 1 Gaither High School student and 1 member of VISTA's Board of Directors, who chairs VISTA's Marketing and Community Relations Committee.

18 volunteer hours during September 13 Wildflower Garden meeting, preceded by a walk through the Wildflower Garden with Bruce Turley to share observations, questions and answers. (See attached meeting reports for this meeting and one subsequent to this reporting period.)

38 volunteer hours by VISTA's Wildflower Garden project manager and other leaders, including our Infrastructure Chair, Volunteers Chair, Communications Chair, and Newsletter Editor.

V. Education and outreach

1. List and explain any and all **educational programs** offered **during this reporting period** that incorporated the wildflower demonstration garden, including an estimate of the attendance for each program.

VISTA Gardens traditionally discontinues educational activities throughout the summer months, when many members break from gardening activities.

We hosted tours for members of the Sierra Club on July 9 and July 23, with a total of 12 participating, as well as for the 6 members of the Florida Native Plant Society, Pinellas Chapter, on August 20. Noteworthy was the Pinellas FNPS's advertisement on their website encouraging members to participate in this "field trip" and "be amazed at what a group of volunteers can achieve right in the middle of suburbia Tampa." https://pinellas.fnpschapters.org/calendar/

AARP of Tampa Bay staff and volunteers, along with the AARP State Director, selected VISTA Gardens and the nearby Community Food Pantry as the sites for their "Day of Service." As part of

their day at VISTA, the eight participants viewed the Wildflower Garden and learned about the ecology of native plants in this demonstration garden.

2. List and explain any and all **educational or informational signs** that were installed **during this reporting period** that explain the wildflower demonstration garden and its environmental, historical and/or cultural significance.
Send photo(s) of signage as separate attachment when submitting this report.
We did not install signs during this reporting period.

3. List and explain any and all **educational or informational brochures or pamphlets** that were created **during this reporting period** to explain the wildflower demonstration garden and its environmental, historical and/or cultural significance? Include information on their specific use.
Send scans or PDFs of brochures as separate attachments when submitting this report.
No materials were created during this reporting period. Brochures and booklets from the Florida Wildflower Foundation and "Guide for Real Florida Gardeners" published by FANN were shared with members, volunteers, and visitors whenever possible, along with verbal explanations of the significance of our demonstration garden. We also rotate informational material in our Little Free Library. For example, when there are frequent bird sightings in and around the Wildflower Garden (such as a family of Eastern bluebirds), visitors find the "Attracting Birds with Florida's Native Wildflowers" brochures prominently displayed (and they are taken quickly and soon replaced).

4. List or describe any **articles, posts, videos or other outreach or media coverage during this reporting period**.
Send URLs below and/or scans or PDFs as separate attachments when submitting this report.
The September 2022 issue of "Dunndeal Gazette" features "The Great Outdoors: VISTA Gardens" by Dr. Robert Norman, included the following excerpt about the Wildflower Garden: "The Florida Landscape Demonstration Garden, funded by the Florida Wildflower Foundation, is VISTA's Wildflower Garden, also a model native plant landscape designed by Bruce Turley, former president of the Florida Native Plant Society, inspiring neighbors and sparking the beginning of a pollinator corridor in Carrollwood Village. This garden models Sunshine Mimosa, Frogfruit, and Oblongleaf twinflower groundcovers." Dr. Norman was one of several members of the Sierra Club who toured VISTA Gardens on July 9, prior to welcoming Sierra Club members to a July 23 "meet up" and tour of VISTA. He requested tour notes from one of our VISTA tour guides and used these in this publication. Based on this group's interest, this tour emphazed native plant ground covers. https://dunndealpublications.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Dunndeal-Gazettes-September-2022.pdf

We continue to feature a native plant monthly in VISTA Matters, our newsletter, and on our VISTA Gardens' Website.

When Tall elephantsfoot (*Elephantopus elatus*) blooms intrigued visitors in early summer, we featured this plant during July.
https://www.vistagardentampa.org/_files/ugd/834747_a143b24baa2547568bd64390728bff94.pdf

Hearing people remark about the vibrant yellow Starry rosinweed (*Silphium astericus*) flowers, we featured it during August.
https://www.vistagardentampa.org/_files/ugd/834747_6c2bc2ef336b4920aca6a8812806fc46.pdf

Interest seemed to be spreading among many about the edible uses of Blue porterweed (Stachytarpheta jamaicensis) leaves and flowers, leading us to feature it during September. https://www.vistagardentampa.org/_files/ugd/834747_305e5ecc61a049c1885a0cabcff6a3e3.pdf

We also include photographs of Wildflower Garden volunteers and wildflowers on VISTA's Facebook page.

Subsequent to this reporting period, on October 24 "The Tampa Beacon" published "Community garden connects residents with nature" that included the following excerpt: “Our goal is to help people see that wildflowers and Florida natives can be easily grown in your own yard instead of bringing in an invasive plant of some sort,” said VISTA Gardens President Jennifer Grebenschikoff. “Our mission is education, and we’re constantly thinking about how we can educate the public.” https://www.tampabeacon.com/news/community-garden-connects-residents-with-nature/article_92781886-5148-11ed-b050-8bac8c294d0b.html

5. How well does your demonstration garden and its associated educational programming and materials provide to visitors information on the following topics as they relate to native wildflowers and plants:

	provides a lot of information	**provides a good amount of information**	**provides some information**	**provides very little information**	**provides no information**
Landscape uses	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Availability	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Ecological significance	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

6. Provide examples of how your demonstration garden and related programming/materials address the following:

Landscape uses — We weave information about the landscape uses and ecological value of groundcovers, native trees and shrubs, and wildflowers into prospective member tours, new member orientations, volunteer activities, and group tours and provide abundant examples in the Wildflower Garden, the native plant landscape that surrounds our pavilion and is near the wetland, the Monarch Waystation Garden, as well as littoral zone plantings at our retention pond and trees, shrubs, wildflowers that surround our man-made pond.

Availability — The Wildflower Garden is highly visible and accessible. In many ways it “speaks for itself!” Neighbors, visitors to the community, and our own members are drawn to this unique public landscape and take interest in the plantings and our garden maintenance activities. Whenever Resident Experts check and tend plantings, they find that they also welcome “walk-in” visitors. They answer questions and interest them in native landscaping.

Ecological significance — The appearance of wildlife (e.g., birds, insects, snakes, racoons) and the environments we make available for them (e.g., wetland, pond, tree snags, owl and bat houses) are part of an ecosystem we value. Organic gardening is a primary function at VISTA Gardens, and we communicate the importance of the native plants growing north, south, east and west of our 60+ raised garden beds. Gardeners increase their

understanding of biodiversity and they, along with visitors (be they part of a tour group or volunteer event or curious passersby) hear specific examples of beneficial insects (e.g., lady beetles, lacewings, parasitoid wasps) preying on non-beneficial pests and how this supports decreased use of biological insecticides. We find most everyone interested in these anecdotes of nature.

Generally, we find members, volunteers and visitors eager to practice conservation and interested in land management practices that improve the environment, including supporting waterways. We futher their interest in native plant landscaping when they realize that they can reduce the use of irrigation and, at best, eliminate using fertilizers and pesticides.

7. Write a brief description about visitor impressions as well as the impact of the native wildflower demonstration planting and related educational programming.
   Not only do members and visitors enjoy observing the Wildflower Garden, many of them en-joy participating in developing and maintaining it. All VISTA members select a committee on which to participate, and the Wildflower Garden is the most popular among both returning and new members. The Resident Experts' genuine interest in learning about native plants and land-scapes, as well as their dedicated care of the Wildflower Garden is remarkable. Many have de-veloped (or added to existing) home gardens, using native plants with which they have become familiar. Some are converting their landscapes to 80-100% native plants and inspiring their neighbors to do likewise. They are increasing knowledge through reading, discussion, garden tours, and active gardening and serving as ambassadors in our community. One repeat visitor exclaimed, "I could have listened to that gardener for more time than she had! Not only did she answer my questions about plants and where I can purchase some like them, she identified three different types of butterflies in the process. Now, I've returned to get that brochure about attracting birds and butterflies."

   A woman came for a tour and told us that her physician instructed her to “go over to that garden on South Village Drive. People work on those plants along the sidewalk all the time and joining them will offer you good exercise.” Although she deemed her home too distant from the garden to come regularly, she took great interest in the Wildflower Garden, accepted brochures that we had available and seemed interested in adding some of the species of plants to her landscape. She was especially attracted to those on which she noticed pollinators, as she "loved having bees and butterflies in her yard."

VI. 2022–23 Plans

Although your obligations to the Foundation with regard to the Viva Florida grant will end once your final report is approved, we hope that you intend to use and maintain your demonstration garden throughout the next year and beyond. The Foundation is interested in knowing more about your plans for programming and maintenance in the coming year(s). Please include as much information as is known regarding the following:

1. Maintenance plan or schedule for the demonstration garden through Sept. 2023; indicate whether maintenance will be provided by volunteers, staff or a combination of both
   As with the establishment of the Wildflower Garden, continued maintenance will be provided completely by volunteers, led by Wildflower Garden Resident Experts. All of the resident experts have selected species of plants that they tend and about which they develop expertise. Some have

vegetable gardens at VISTA (called Seasonal Garden members) and extend their time at the gardens to care for the native plants in the Wildflower Garden. Other resident experts are VISTA Social Members who do not have vegetable gardens at VISTA and come primarily to maintain the Wildflower Garden. This group will continue meeting every 4-6 weeks with Bruce Turley, as well as guide tours and provide information about the landscape demonstration garden and native plants. See attached Wildflower Garden Resident Experts, October 2022 for detailed information about their activities.

We will continue hosting high school and college students regularly. Typically, these groups come 1-2 times each month throughout the academic year and assist resident experts in maintaining the Wildflower Garden. We also include student volunteers wanting community service credit hours for the Bright Futures program or to fulfill service organization requirements.

2. Plan or schedule for educational programming and materials through Sept. 2023 that relate to or will incorporate the demonstration garden

Assuming that it will be safe to gather in large groups, we are resuming plans to host at least two community-wide events to disseminate information about native plant landscapes with featured speakers, gardening demonstrations and tours.

As funds allow, we will develop additional informational seasonal signage to alert and educate about plant stages (buds, blooms, fruit, seeds, volunteer seedlings, dormancy, etc.)

We will continue to use our VISTA Matters newsletters, VISTA Garden's website and other social media platforms to share Wildflower Garden updates and native plant landscaping information. For example, attached is a draft article in process informing and educating about the ecological value of the Pine tree snags. Note: Bruce Turley recently encouraged us to add bird housing high in the snags when they are trimmed in early November, so we are investigating this possibility and seeking donations.

VII. Attachment checklist

The following is a list of files to be submitted as submitted as separate attachments.

- Check the box next to each item in the checklist to indicate you are submitting it as an attachment to this report. An * indicates the attachment is required.
- If you choose to include additional items not included on this list, please add them to the end of this checklist and indicate the file type being submitted.
- If files are too large to email all together, please send in separate emails and include your project name and an explanation of the attachment. You may also upload them to a file transfer service such as Dropbox and provide a link to the file(s) when you submit the report.

Included	Item	Instructions	Acceptable file type
☒	Itemized expense report for entire project*	Note in the report if and how expenses vary from initially submitted budget	Excel or Word doc
☒	Receipts for all related expenses*	Scan all related receipts and combine into a single PDF	PDF

☒	Invoice for balance of grant*	Must be on managing organization's letterhead	PDF, Excel or Word doc
☒	Current photo(s) of the site*	Must be 300 dpi and sharply focused; preferred size is 8"x10"	JPG
☒	Outreach or educational materials* (itemize below) Example article about VISTA's Pine tree snags		PDF or JPG
☒	Other: Zip file 4b - Candid photos by Wildflower Garden Resident Experts and volunteers illustrating information provided in this report.		
☒	Other: 4 -13 Relocated Elliott's lovegrass and propagated Beach verbena, Blue porterweed, Sunshine mimosa - Photo credit, Diana Rao		
☒	Other: Wildflower Garden Resident Experts, September 2022		
☒	Other: Wildflower Garden Resident Experts, October 2022		

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.

Viva Florida Landscape Demonstration Garden Grant
VISTA Gardens' Wildflower Garden

Revenue

June 21, 2021	Grant, Florida Wildflower Foundation	$1,500
July 25, 2021	Maury Ronald Horn	$1,500
Sept 30, 2021	Elizabeth Bailey	$2,000
June 2021	Tara Evenson	$500
Anticipated in November 2022	Grant, Florida Wildflower Foundation	$1,500
		$7,000

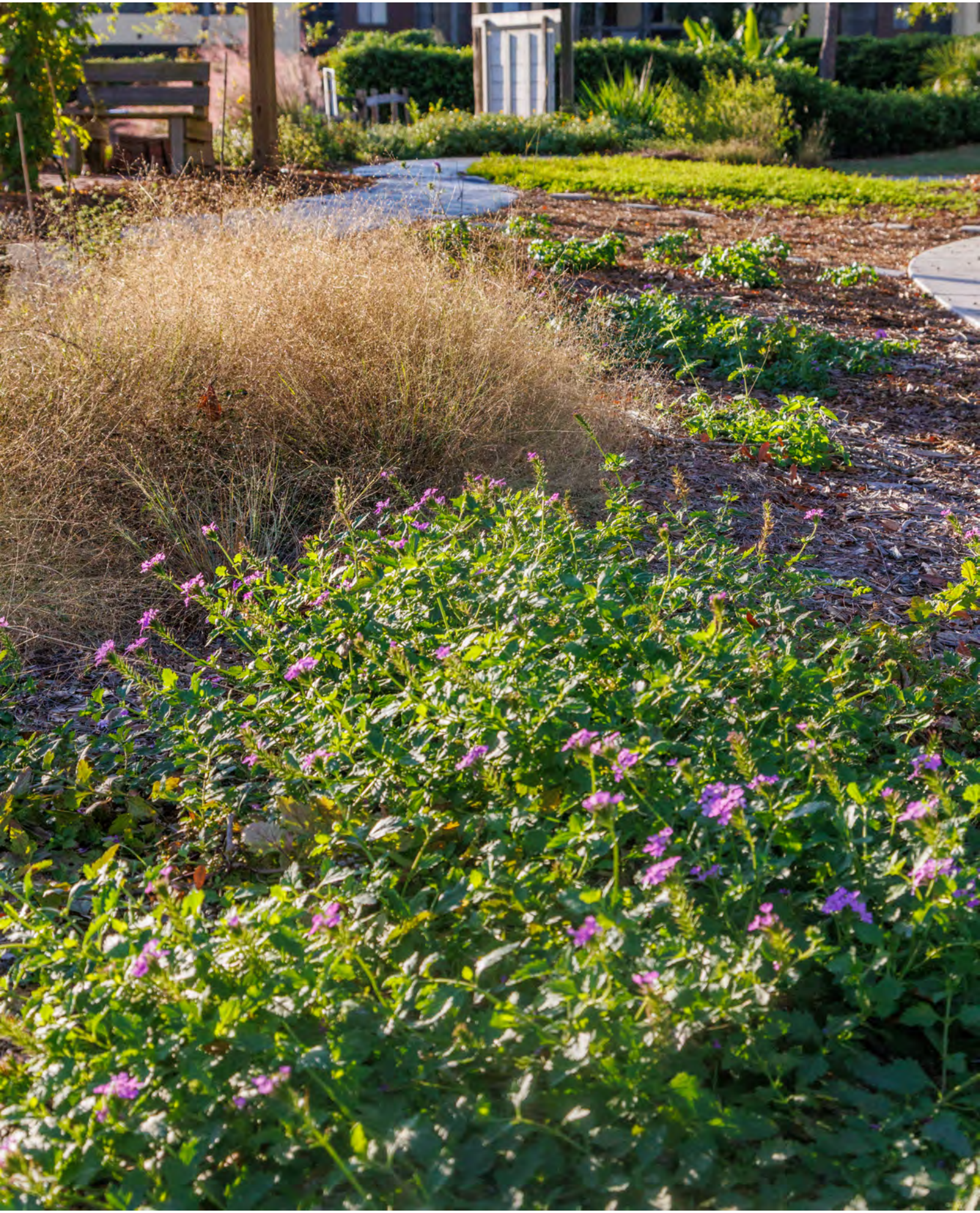
Expenditures

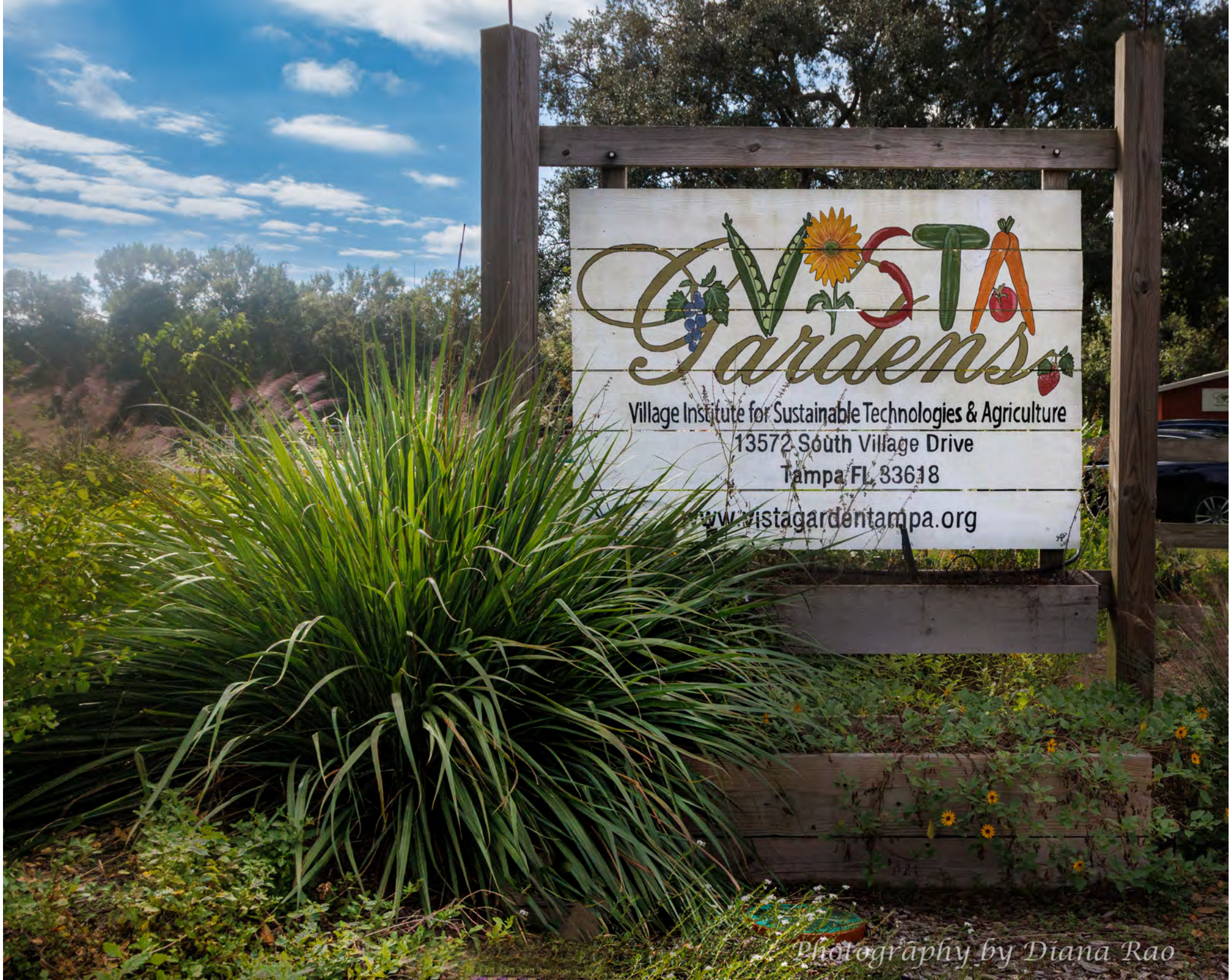
Date	Purchases	Costs
June 18, 2021	FastSigns – Banner 30 x 78 "Coming Autumn 2021 Viva Florida Landscape Demonstration Garden, Funded by the State of Florida, Florida Wildflower Foundation and friends of VISTA Gardens"	$101.56
June 18, 2021	FastSigns – Sign 2 x 3 Dry Erase with space to share info/progress notes Schematic Landscape Drawing and Viva Florida Landscape Demonstration Garden at VISTA, Funded by the State of Florida, the Florida Wildflower Foundation, and friends of VISTA Gardens	$ 99.38
July 16, 2021	Wilcox Nursery - Finale herbicide for site preparation	$187.20 (Horn donation)
August 26, 2021	Wilcox Nursery – 18 4-inch Sunshine Mimosa plants	$48.99 (Horn donation)
Oct 27, 2021	Fieldstone – Drip Irrigation System	$1,941.16 (Bailey donation)
Nov 3, 2021	Lark Label – 37 Classic Stake Plant Markers w/ VISTA Logo & QR codes	$738.58
Nov 6, 2021	Wilcox Nursery – Plants $2,244.68	$2,575.63
Nov 6, 2021	Wilcox Nursery – Pine Straw $330.95	
Nov 11, 2021	Wilcox Nursery – Landscape Fabric and Landscape Fabric Pins	$118.15
Nov 15, 2021	Wilcox Nursery – 12 Milkweed plants	$49.71
Nov. 30, 2021	**Amazon – Moisture Meters for Resident Experts**	**$47.23**
Dec 7, 2021	**Wild Birds Unlimited – 5-Gallon Galvanized Can to store Resident Expert Gardening Equipment at VISTA**	**$43.19**

Feb 19, 2022	FL Wildflower Foundation – 16 copies of "Native Plants for Florida Gardens" book for Resident Experts	$248.00 (Evenson donation)
Mar 1, 2022	Image360 – Sign 24 x 36 "Information about Plant Dormancy"	$75.45
April 29, 2022	Williams Nursery –Pine Straw Bales 4 @$5	$10.00
May 13, 2022	SiteOne Landscape Supply – Permaloc Edging	$198.51
June 20, 2022	**Spend-Less Building Supply – Course Builder's Sand, ½ yard**	**$24.20**
July 19, 2022	Williams Nursery –Pine Straw Bales 4 @$5	$20.00
Sept 3, 2022	Yoki's Native Flora – Replacement Plants	$28.62
Sept 15, 2022	FANN - Book Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants	$29.95 (Evenson donation)
Sept 15, 2022	FANN – Book Xeric Landscape Guide	$20.00 (Evenson donation)
Sept 15, 2022	Amazon: Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities	$14.73 (Evenson donation)
Sept 15, 2022	Amazon – Book A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants	$27.45 (Evenson donation)
Oct 10, 2022	Wilcox Nursery - Replacement Plants	$112.25
	Wilcox Nursery – Replacement Plants	$28.78
Oct 28, 2022	Stipend for Nancy Niemann, presentation to Wildflower Garden Resident Experts	$50.00 (Evenson donation)
		$6,838.72

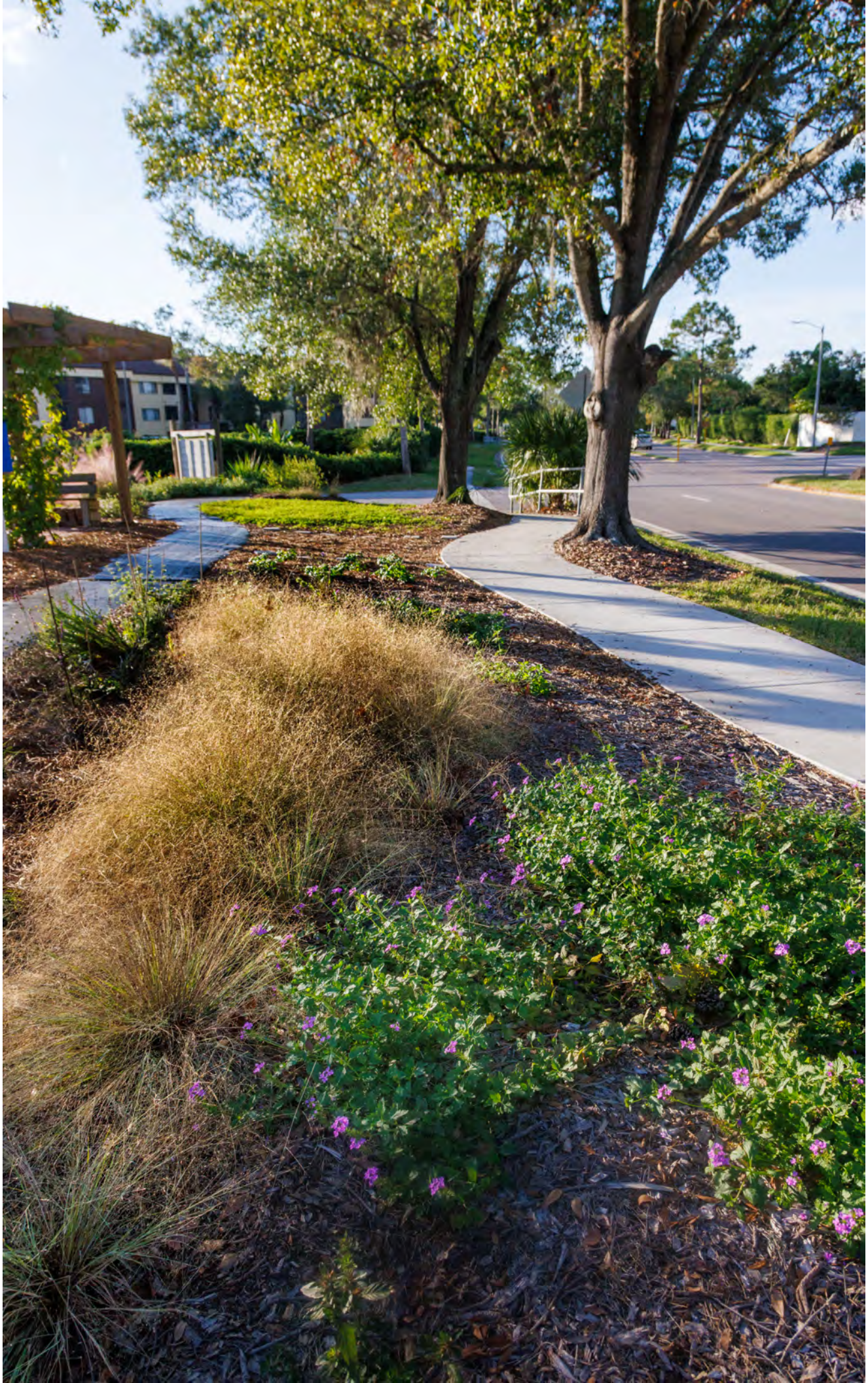
Budget Variance

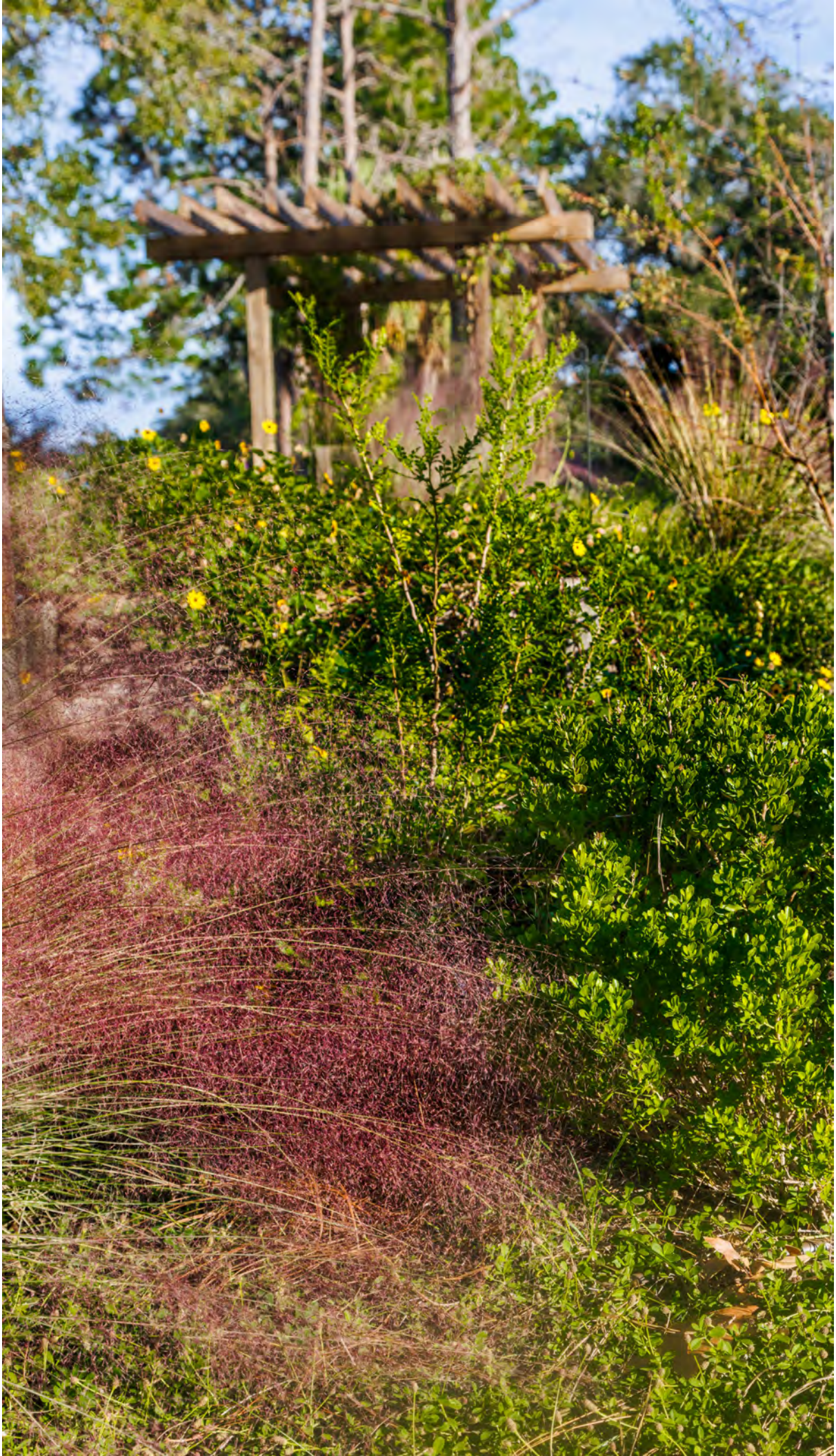
	Total amount budgeted	Grant Share	Expended
Plants & Seeds	2,437	2,400	48.99 2,244.68 49.71 28.62 112.25 28.78 _____ 2,513.03 (76.03)
Pine Straw Mulch	300		330.95 10.00 20.00 _____ 360.95 (60.95)
Edging, Pathway Covering	819		118.15 198.51 _____ 316.66 502.34
Interpretive signage	1000	600	101.56 99.38 738.58 75.45 _____ 1,014.97 (14.97)
Plant ID Tools	330		
Handouts, brochures, and display/storage boxes	80		Storage boxes donated by Brenda Rider, Realtor)
Equipment rental	200		Equipment donated by Scott Vanover, Jolly Green Nursery
Totals	5,166	3,000	970.39





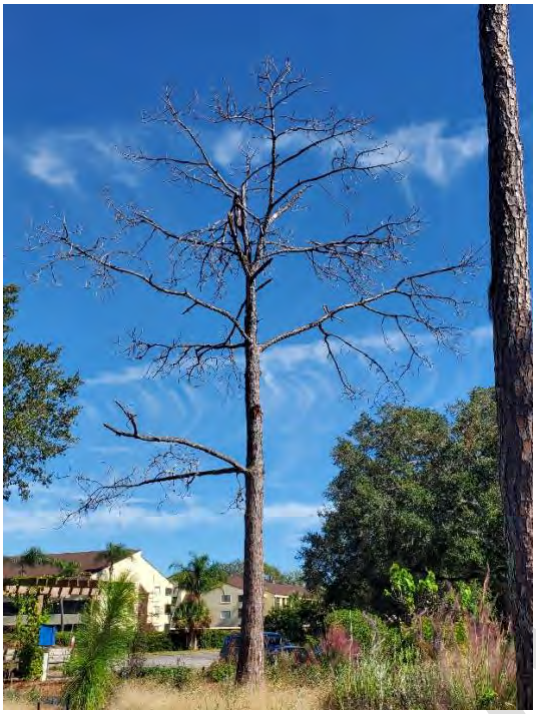
Photography by Diana Rao



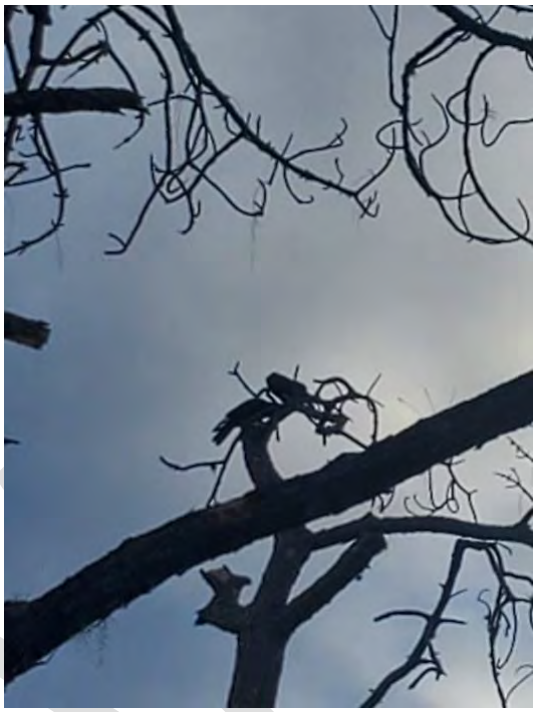


Draft article for future VISTA MATTERS newsletter

Noticed our Pine Tree Snags Lately?



After Hurricane Ian and prior to trimming



Birds dining in VISTA Pine tree snag in October

Have you ever heard someone say that a dead tree supports more life than live wood? Well, it's true! VISTA's two dead pine trees near the sidewalk are "living proof" that snags (as dead trees are known) enhance the wildlife diversity at VISTA.

Snags provide more than just shelter within our pines' cavities. Crevices formed between the trunk of our dead trees and their peeling bark provide protection from the sun for bats and amphibians. Those branches free of leaves serve as perches for birds of prey to view movements of prey below. Ever noticed how the hawks and crows seem to love watching us as we farm our gardens? The pines' wood trunks are home to many insects and fungi which serve as food for birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

Last October Roberta and Jennifer met with Jerry from Independent Tree to discuss what to do about the two dead pine trees on our berm. Jerry had previously assessed them and told us that they were in decent shape and good enough to leave them as perches for our various birds.

Draft article for future VISTA MATTERS newsletter

After Hurricane Ian caused some broken branches to drop and another to hang itself up there, we asked Jerry to reassess. He told us the trunks and bases are strong, and that the little holes in the bark are not pine beetles but some other bugs that are mainly interested in the outer bark and not harming the inner tree tissue.

To deal with the broken and breaking branches, Jerry recommended that we remove the upper parts of each tree leaving about 35 feet. This was accomplished in November. The west tree now has six branches that were cut back to 3-4 feet. Ditto on the east tree but that one now has one branch left under 35 feet.

Jerry's Independent Tree crew did everything possible to not invade the wildflowers surrounding the trees. To lower our cost, VISTA agreed to clean up the dead branches the tree crew took down. VISTA appreciates the special pricing we received and the care that Independent Tree took to avoid any harm to our wildflower garden below the trees. https://www.independenttreeservice.com/

For more on why snags are key to enhancing wildlife diversity, visit these two excellent resources:

https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/pinellasco/2020/01/29/the-living-dead-trees/

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/UW277

DRAFT

Wildflower Garden Resident Experts Meeting and Takeaways

September 13, 2022, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

In attendance were Ann, Bruce, Deb, Ellen, Janet, Lesley, Lynn, Roberta, Rolfe, Ruth, Sue and Vicki. We missed having Dana, Diana, Elizabeth, Gigi&Naomi, and Jennifer with us.

Updates

Warm welcome to Elizabeth Warner and Lesley Damisch.

You may have met Elizabeth at our summer work days. (She is missing this meeting due to prior travel plans.) Elizabeth is becoming our expert on Wild Petunia (that she selected for its propagation potential) and Lopsided Indiangrass.

Lesley, our newest resident expert, has focused on Clustered bushmint *Hyptis alata* https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-hyptis-alata/, one of the new varieties we are testing in a particularly wet area of our garden.

- **Tall Elephantsfoot** featured in *VISTA Matters* newsletter and on our website in July https://www.vistagardentampa.org/post/july-native-plant-of-the-month, followed by **Starry Rosinflower** https://www.vistagardentampa.org/post/august-wildflower-of-the-month in August and **Blue Porterweed** in September. https://www.vistagardentampa.org/ **Elliott's lovegrass** will be featured in October.
- Interim 2 grant report submitted and favorably accepted by the Florida Wildflower Foundation July 31 (highlighting April 1– June 30, 2022, activities). Email Roberta with if interested in receiving a copy of the report. The final report is due October 30 (for July 1 - Sept 30 activities). If everything is in order, VISTA will receive the remaining $1,500 of the $3,000 Viva Florida Grant Award November 30, 2022.
- Continued removal of weed-laden grass north of our landscape adjacent to the sidewalk along South Village Drive and replacement with ground covers, thanks to Sue's perseverance in propagating and establishing sufficient Sunshine mimosa west of the pergola, as well as Blue Porterweed planned for a small section east of the pergola. **Discussion of the invasive nature of this and other native plantings (e.g., Dotted horsemint, Tropical sage). Bruce spoke of his experience, over time, achieving a natural balance that requires limited control of native plants and how he advises designers to begin with smaller amounts of plants, knowing their eventual size and propensity to self-seed.**
- Following up on Bruce's recommendations during his last visit, we are testing new varieties of native plants that will thrive in our soil conditions and serve as replacements for varieties that failed to thrive.

Requests for plants to be added to our Wildflower Garden

Rolfe would like to explore the addition of one or more Tea bush, Wooly Pyramidflower *Melochia tomentosa* https://www.fnps.org/plant/melochia-tomentosa to our garden landscape. **Bruce recommended a location east and a bit south of the southernmost Longleaf pine and that we add one. Bruce has seen Tea bush *Melochia tomentosa* grow as large as 14ft. Vicki indicated that she began pruning our Tea bush growing in the Native Plant Landscape surrounding the pavilion to manage the size.**

Outreach and Education

As we continue to establish our Wildflower Garden, we will also begin more outreach and education activities for VISTA members and the larger community. If you know of interested organizations to invite for tours of the garden and to learn about Florida Native Plants, please share your ideas and contacts. **Our role as native plant ambassadors and ways to provide information about native plants in our garden will be the focus of our next meeting October 25.**

Reflections on tending our native plants

Discussion – your thoughts about the best ways for us to maintain the Wildflower Garden throughout our Fall 2022 growing season at VISTA.

We have offers of groups of volunteers from both the University of Tampa's PEACE Volunteer Center https://www.ut.edu/campus-life/student-organizations/peace-volunteer-center-x9801 and USF's Rotaract https://www.linkedin.com/in/usf-rotaract-14121422a. Shall we invite them to come learn about native plants/landscaping and assist us in tending it? If so, do you have suggestions of tasks to be completed, preferred days and timeframes, and specific interests in sharing information?

Ann, Dana, Deb, Lesley, Sue, and Vicki are especially interested in propagation and willing to host/guide volunteer events with that focus. We will approach Rotaract about the possibility of volunteering on a Sunday morning.

Rolfe suggested the volunteer project of ground preparation for the new Teabush.

Roberta will canvas other Resident Experts about the best days/times to host college volunteers and schedule volunteer events to maintain and plant throughout the coming months.

Future Wildflower Garden Resident Expert meetings

October 25 and November 15, 2022. Welcome requests regarding meeting design and content, especially focused on our interpretive role as we invite members and visitors to learn more about native plants and landscapes. **Please mark your 2023 calendar – On January 10th, Stacey Matrazzo returns to meet with us. Details to be announced.**

Expanding our "Resident" Expertise

Native plants still available for adoption: 1 *Bahama cassia* and "Countless" *Tropical Sage.* We anticipate that newly joining VISTA members will be interested. **Late-**

breaking news: the morning after our meeting, Vivian and Dianne, who lead New Member Orientation, informed us that Jennifer Kue, a new Seasonal Gardener at VISTA, is interested in volunteering.

As a good set of references for native plant gardeners, Bruce recommends the following 4 books:

1. **"Xeric Landscaping with Florida Native Plants" by AFNN**
2. **"Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants" by Gil Nelson.**

Both of the above publications are available at:
https://fann.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/fann/giftstore.jsp

3. **"Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities'' by Walter Kingsley Taylor**

"***This is the first photographic identification guide to have an extensive discussion of plant communities and to organize plants by plant community . . . of interest to anyone desiring to identify Florida flowering plants--individuals who enjoy the outdoors, amateur naturalists, teachers, students, and professional biologists."--Walter Judd, University of Florida***
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1672036.Florida_Wildflowers_in_Their_Natural_Communities

4. **"A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants" by Rufino Osorio.**

"This guide provides detailed descriptions and methods of cultivation for 350 of Florida's most attractive and easily grown native plants, including ferns, wildflowers, shrubs, trees, vines, aquatics and epiphytes (air plants)."
https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/1088402

Thanks to the generous donation from the Evenson Family, Roberta is acquiring these resources, so that we may share them among us. Everyone watch used book sales for more copies!

VISTA's Wildflower Garden Resident Experts Meeting and Takeaways
October 25, 2022

In attendance were Bruce, Dana, Deb, Elizabeth, Ellen, Jenn, Jennifer, Leyla, Lesley & Peter, Lynn, Roberta, Ruth, Sue, and Vicki. We missed having Ann, Diana, Gigi & Naomi, Janet, and Rolfe with us.

Prior to the meeting, many walked the Wildflower Garden with Bruce Turley, who answered questions and offered a wealth of observations and suggestions.

Updates

- Welcome to **Jenn Kue** and **Elizabeth Warner**. Jenn is our budding resident expert on Jamaican caper *Quadrella jamaicensis*.
- **Elliott's Lovegrass** *Eragrostis elliottii* and **Lopsided Indiangrass** *Sorghastrum secundum* featured in October and November respectively in *VISTA Matters* and on our website.
- Final grant report (due October 31) in progress.
- We added to our Wildflower Garden a Tea bush *Melochia tomentosa*, a Jamaican caper *Quadrella jamaicensis*, 5 Vanillaleaf *Carphephorus odoratissimus* and replaced 5 Sweet everlasting *seudognaphalium obtusifolium.*
- **Pine tree snags will be cut to 35' height by Independent Tree November 8, leaving short limbs for wildlife perches. Bruce suggested taking this opportunity to add bat and bird housing high in the snags.**

Guest Speaker

Nancy Nieman, an environmental educator with focus on agriculture and nutrition, serves as Education Coordinator at Abby's Farm in Lutz, where she welcomes visitors for tours, learning labs and field trips.

From Nancy's experiences, we gleaned the following applications as we plan to host visitors and help with tours of our Wildflower Garden:

- **Walk the garden prior to scheduled Wildflower Garden visits**

Observe and identify what can be highlighted (e.g., presence of pollinators, flower blooms or fruits, such as passion or plum fruit, helpful information in the Little Free Library)

- **Greet visitors warmly and provide a very short introduction, sharing the history and purpose of the garden.**

We often involve visitors in guessing how many vehicles pass by this garden daily. Hillsborough County statistics indicate >22,000 and mention the potential influence the Wildflower Garden, and or guessing the number of plant varieties (50), number of plants (475).

- **Welcome visitors to explore the garden freely for a few minutes and then "call them back together" to share more information.**

"Leave only footprints!" Request that nothing is collected or removed and the walking pathways are used for the protection of plants.

To the extent possible, watch what visitors notice of as they explore.

- **Respond to the varied levels of knowledge and the interests of individual participants**

Some may be experienced gardeners, some may be new to Florida and interested in what grows here, etc.

- **Consider developing a "field guide" for visitors**

Nancy shared a simple collection of laminated 5x7 cards on a round binder ring with photos and key information

- **Use available resources**

Learn more about Native plants. https://www.plantrealflorida.org/info/

Learning Resources from the Florida Wildflower Foundation https://www.flawildflowers.org/classroom-resources/

When Nature is Your Neighbor https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/4862/file/When_Nature_is_Your_Neighbor.pdf

Tree Identification https://ffs.fdacs.gov/ftof/

Forest and Wildlife Publications https://www.fdacs.gov/About-Us/Publications/Forest-Wildfire-Publications

- **When possible, share dried flower heads, collected seeds or volunteer seedlings.**

Homegrown examples: In 2022, we collected and packaged Tropical sage seeds (with growing instructions on the seed envelopes) and shared them with members and visitors. Barbara saved and sowed Privet cassia seeds and shared the seedlings, along with other varieties of native plants grown by Vicki.

Peter, an experienced adventure guide, suggested after the meeting that we have ideas "in our back pocket" to respond to the unique perspectives of guests (e.g. a reference to literature for a guest who is a poet or writer).

Books for loan - to share among us

If you are interested in borrowing one of the following and did not sign up, contact Roberta.

- Xeric Landscaping with Florida Native Plants
- Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants by Gil Nelson

- Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities by Walter Kingsley Taylor
- A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants by Rufino Osorio

In related correspondence, Bruce added: “Another level of reference book that you might want to have available is Thomas Rainer and Claudia West's **'Planting in a Post Wild World'**. Despite not liking landscape design books generally, I have long loved this book. I got to hear Thomas Rainer speak at the annual 'Outside Collaborative' conference in Lake Nona last week. I wish I had gotten to hear his ideas 30 to 40 years ago as his concepts are game changers and would have been a big influence in my designs.” https://outsidecollab.com/meet-our-2022-keynote-thomas-rainer/

Upcoming Meetings – Mark your calendars

- **November 15, 2022 4:30-5:30 p.m. at VISTA**
- **January 10, 2023 Resident Experts meet with Stacey Matrazzo, Executive Director, Florida Wildflower Foundation (time to be announced)**

Scheduled Volunteer Events

- **Saturday, November 5 9-12N University of Tampa PEACE volunteers (Janet & Rolfe guiding - others are welcome.)**
- **Sunday, November 6 8:30-11 a.m. USF Rotaract volunteers assist with maintaining the Wildflower Garden. (You are welcome to guide volunteers.)**

Following up on our discussion of native pollinators (and not just European honeybees) benefiting organic vegetable growing at VISTA, here are photos of a female Caribbean scoliid wasp on one of our Stokes' Asters in bloom last year. As Bruce says, “When we take time to observe … “

and take a closer look …

and accept Google's "auto-sent effects"

Scoliid wasps are parasitic upon larvae of soil-inhabiting scarab beetles. DeBach (1964) briefly reviewed the literature on these wasps for their use in the biological control of white grubs.

https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/wasps/scoliid_wasps.htm

https://bugguide.net/node/view/497494