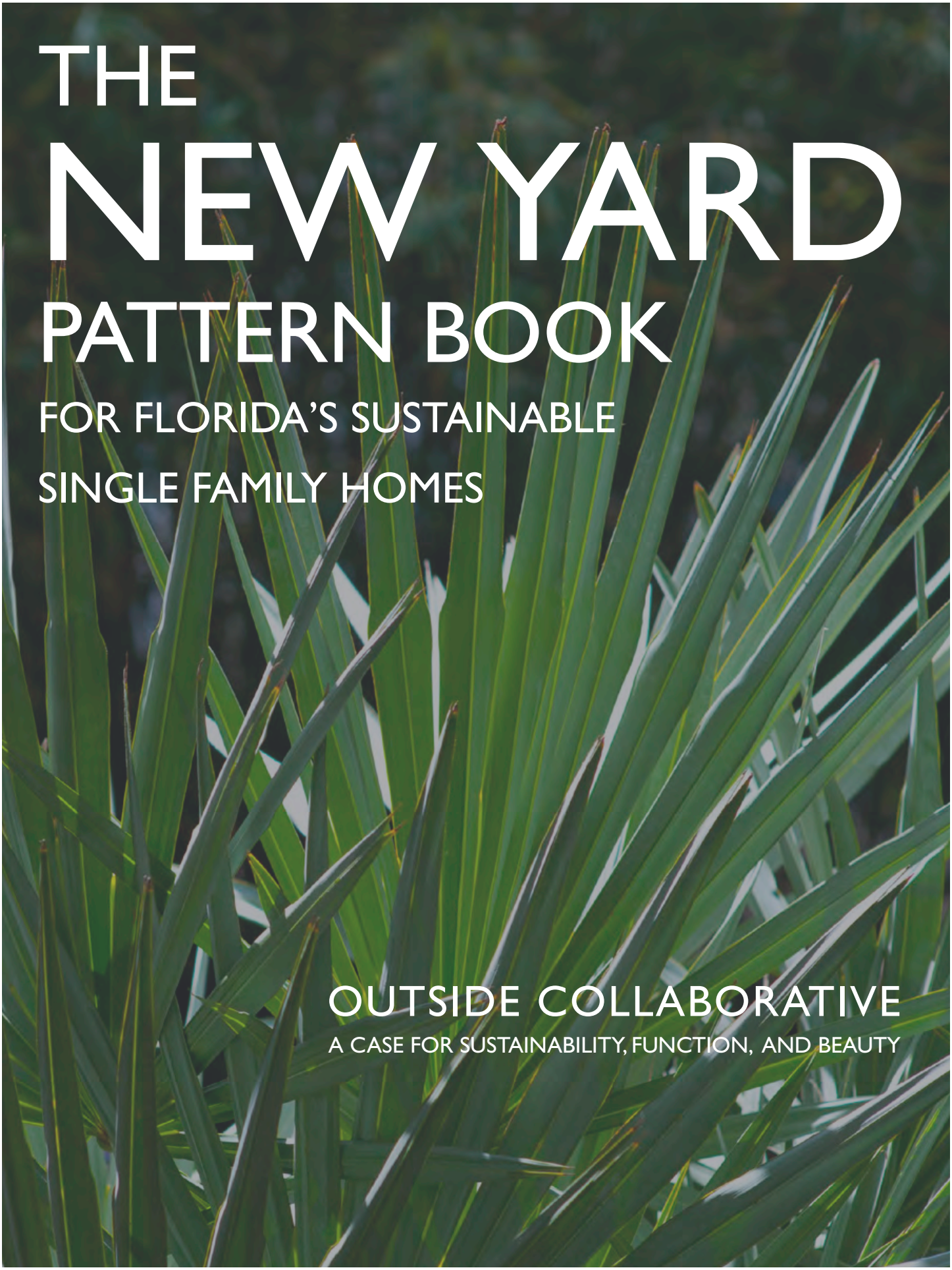


THE NEW YARD PATTERN BOOK

FOR FLORIDA'S SUSTAINABLE SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

OUTSIDE COLLABORATIVE

A CASE FOR SUSTAINABILITY, FUNCTION, AND BEAUTY

CONTRIBUTORS

The New Yard Pattern Book for Florida's Sustainable Single Family Homes was produced by Dix.Hite + Partners for the Outside Sustainable Landscape Collaborative in 2022.

DIX.HITE + PARTNERS CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Hite, PLA, FASLA
Rachel Taylor, PLA
Kirsten Farmer
Tori Francis
Nick Riker
Erin Sohl
Isabelle Hoppes
Jessica Griggs, PLA
Greg Bryla, PLA
Kody Smith, PLA
David Hoppes, PLA

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Basil Iannone III, PhD (University of Florida)
Pierce Jones, PhD (University of Florida)
Brooke Moffis (University of Florida)
Gail Hansen de Chapman, PhD (University of Florida)
Mark Hostetler, PhD (University of Florida)
M. Jennison Kipp (University of Florida)
Patrick Bohlen, PhD (University of Central Florida)
Timothee Sallin (Cherrylake)
David Ressler (Cherrylake)
Jimmy Rogers (Cherrylake)
James Dyer (Cherrylake)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Florida's population has been growing steadily since 1946, and the residential construction industry has become a cornerstone of our state's economy. Over the last four decades, construction of new homes has shifted increasingly towards master planned communities that require mass clearing and grading for stormwater control.

Partially to compensate for their disrupted soils, these projects install turf monocultures that depend on in-ground irrigation systems, regular fertilization, and frequent mowing. It is common for residential landscape irrigation to require an average of 200 plus gallons daily, more than half of typical total household water use. While Florida possesses abundant freshwater resources, this increasing demand is unsustainable.

The conventional landscaping patterns established in most master planned communities do little to mitigate or compensate for the larger problem of habitat loss of Florida's natural ecosystems and further contribute to the nutrient pollution (Phosphorus and Nitrogen) that negatively affects Florida's watersheds and surface waters.

In response to these issues, OUTSIDE and its collaborators established this handbook to provide landscape guidelines for sustainable residential development. These guidelines are based on principles of sustainable design that are intended to maximize community amenities and homeowner experience, while also making them more functional for the landscape and its ecology.

Image Credit: Florida Hikes

THE FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM

At a glance...

Florida has over
3,200
NATIVE species of plants.

Florida has nearly **8,000** lakes, **1,700** rivers, streams, and springs, thousands of miles of canals and extensive wetlands.

Our waterways support natural functions such as fish and wildlife habitat and provide human uses including navigation, recreation, irrigation, drinking water, and flood control.

In 1991 the flower of the genus
COREOPSIS
(common name: tickseed)

was designated Florida's official wildflower after its extensive use in Florida's roadside plantings and highway beautification programs.

Florida is home to
300 SPECIES OF NATIVE BEES
29 of which are endemic (found only in Florida).

Florida's **LARGEST** native tree is a
BALD CYPRESS
(Taxodium distichum)
in Hamilton County, Florida.

This tree measures **557 inches** in circumference, stands **84 feet tall**, and carries a crown spread of **49 feet**!

Our state animal is the
FLORIDA PANTHER
(Felis concolor coryi)

The Florida Panther is one of the most endangered animals in the world with an estimated **120-130** panthers left in the wild.

It has been on the federal endangered species list since 1967 and the state's list since 1973.

The only bird species endemic to Florida is the
FLORIDA SCRUB JAY
(Aphelocoma coerulescens)

It is found only in Florida scrub habitat, an ecosystem that exists **ONLY** in central Florida and **LIMITED** areas of the Atlantic coast.

Much of the srub habitat has been altered for agriculture and development purposes, and what is left is very susceptible to climate change.

WHAT IS A YARD?

The first step towards sustainable residential development is shifting society's mindset of what a yard could be. A yard is much more than simply turf with a band of shrubs around the foundation of a home. It can be a living ecosystem that supports local flora and fauna, uses resources efficiently, and creates an extension of the home.

TRADITIONAL YARD

Image Credit: istockphoto.com

THE NEW YARD

Image Credit: Feldman Architecture, Ground Studio Landscape Architecture

GOALS: THE BIG 4

LOW WATER USE

Choosing locally adapted plant material reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation post-establishment, in turn reducing water use and providing cost savings to the homeowner.

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

Planting a variety of native species in varied heights, textures, and form results in a resilient and beautiful yard. It also provides habitat for many different animals, conserving Florida's natural heritage and promoting human wellness.

HEALTHY SOILS

Regular use of compost and organic material, such as leaf litter, reduces the need for mineralized fertilizer and keeps plants happy, well-fed, and healthy!

HOLISTIC PEST MANAGEMENT

Choosing native plants builds habitat, creating balanced ecosystems in which living organisms suppress pest populations and pesticides are rarely used.

LOW WATER USE

MINIMIZE/ELIMINATE IRRIGATION BEYOND ESTABLISHMENT

"RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE"

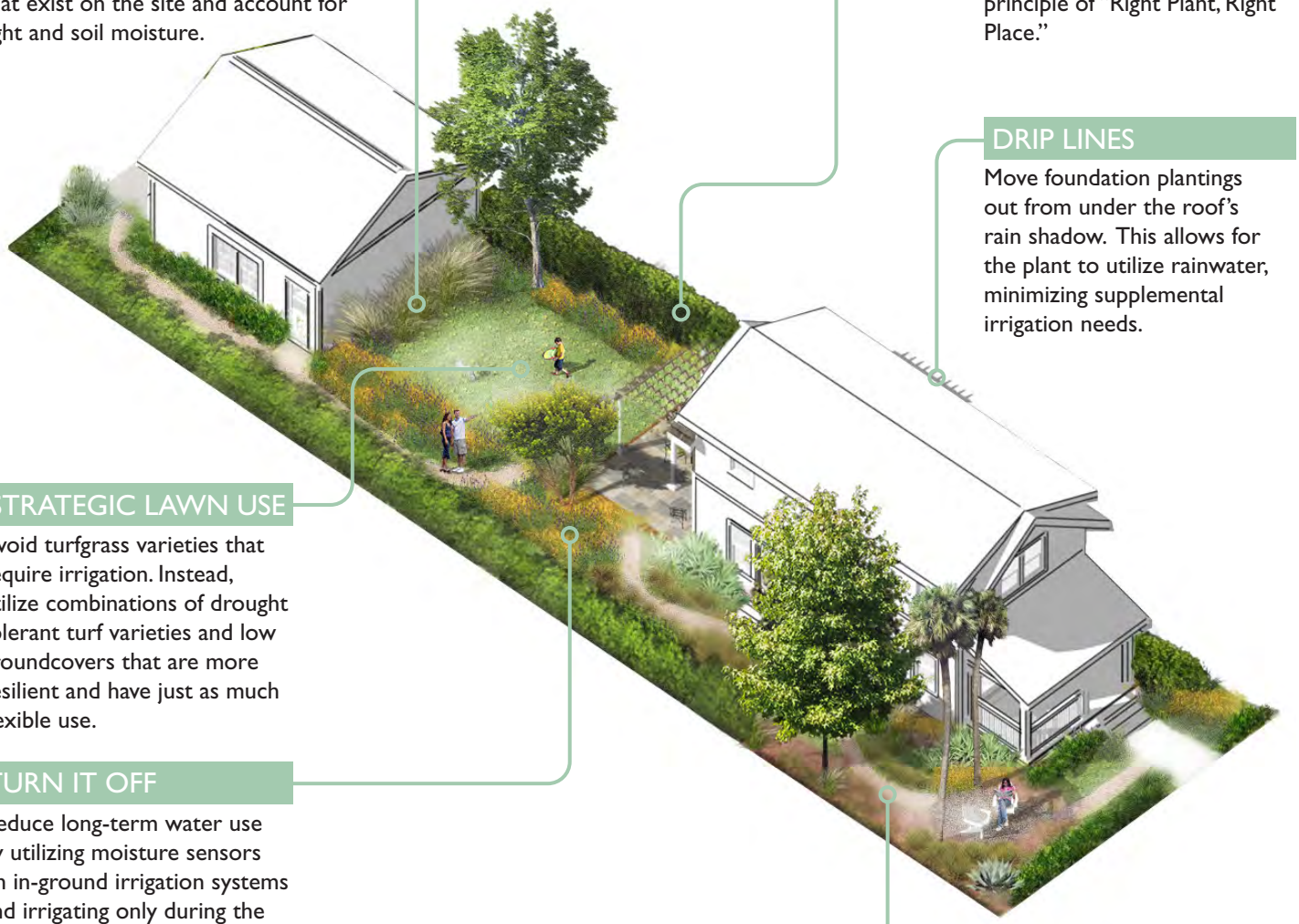
Select native plants that are drought tolerant and appropriate for local soil types and climate. Group species of plants together that are well suited to the unique combination of conditions that exist on the site and account for light and soil moisture.

PLANT NATIVE

When selected based on soil conditions and location, plants native to Florida are drought-tolerant and adapted to Florida's climate. Follow the principle of "Right Plant, Right Place."

DRIP LINES

Move foundation plantings out from under the roof's rain shadow. This allows for the plant to utilize rainwater, minimizing supplemental irrigation needs.



STRATEGIC LAWN USE

Avoid turfgrass varieties that require irrigation. Instead, utilize combinations of drought tolerant turf varieties and low groundcovers that are more resilient and have just as much flexible use.

TURN IT OFF

Reduce long-term water use by utilizing moisture sensors on in-ground irrigation systems and irrigating only during the establishment period and periods of drought. Weening plants off irrigation helps direct roots deeper into the ground.

RETAIN MOISTURE

Mulch and nonliving groundcover help lock moisture into the soil.

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

PROMOTE/MAXIMIZE ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

PROVIDE HABITAT

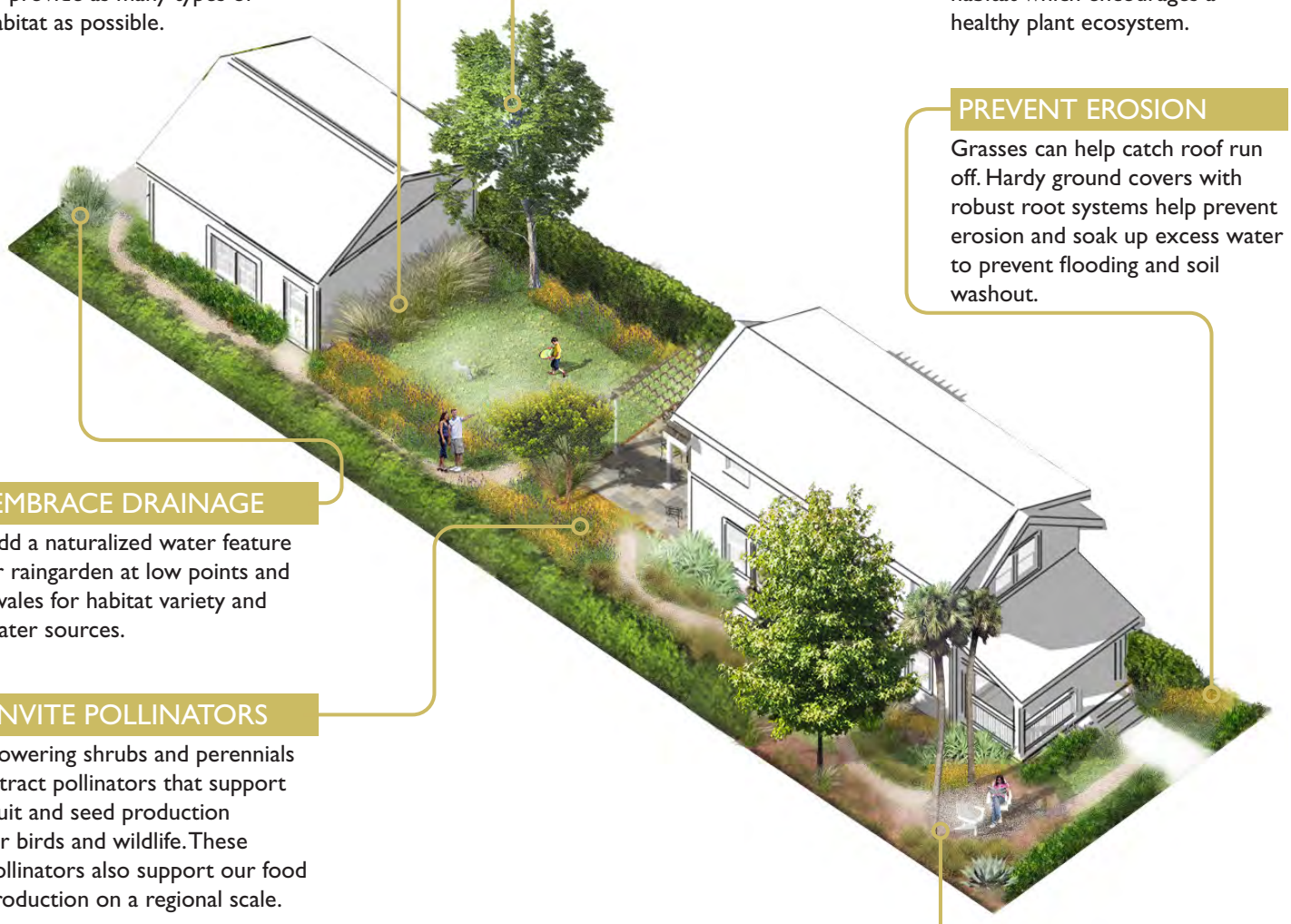
Plant a diverse native palette to provide many different animals and insects with habitat. Use varying heights and growth habits to provide as many types of habitat as possible.

PLANT CANOPY

Canopy trees help sequester carbon, improve air quality, and provide shade. Understory trees can encourage bird and insect habitat which encourages a healthy plant ecosystem.

PREVENT EROSION

Grasses can help catch roof run off. Hardy ground covers with robust root systems help prevent erosion and soak up excess water to prevent flooding and soil washout.



EMBRACE DRAINAGE

Add a naturalized water feature or raingarden at low points and swales for habitat variety and water sources.

INVITE POLLINATORS

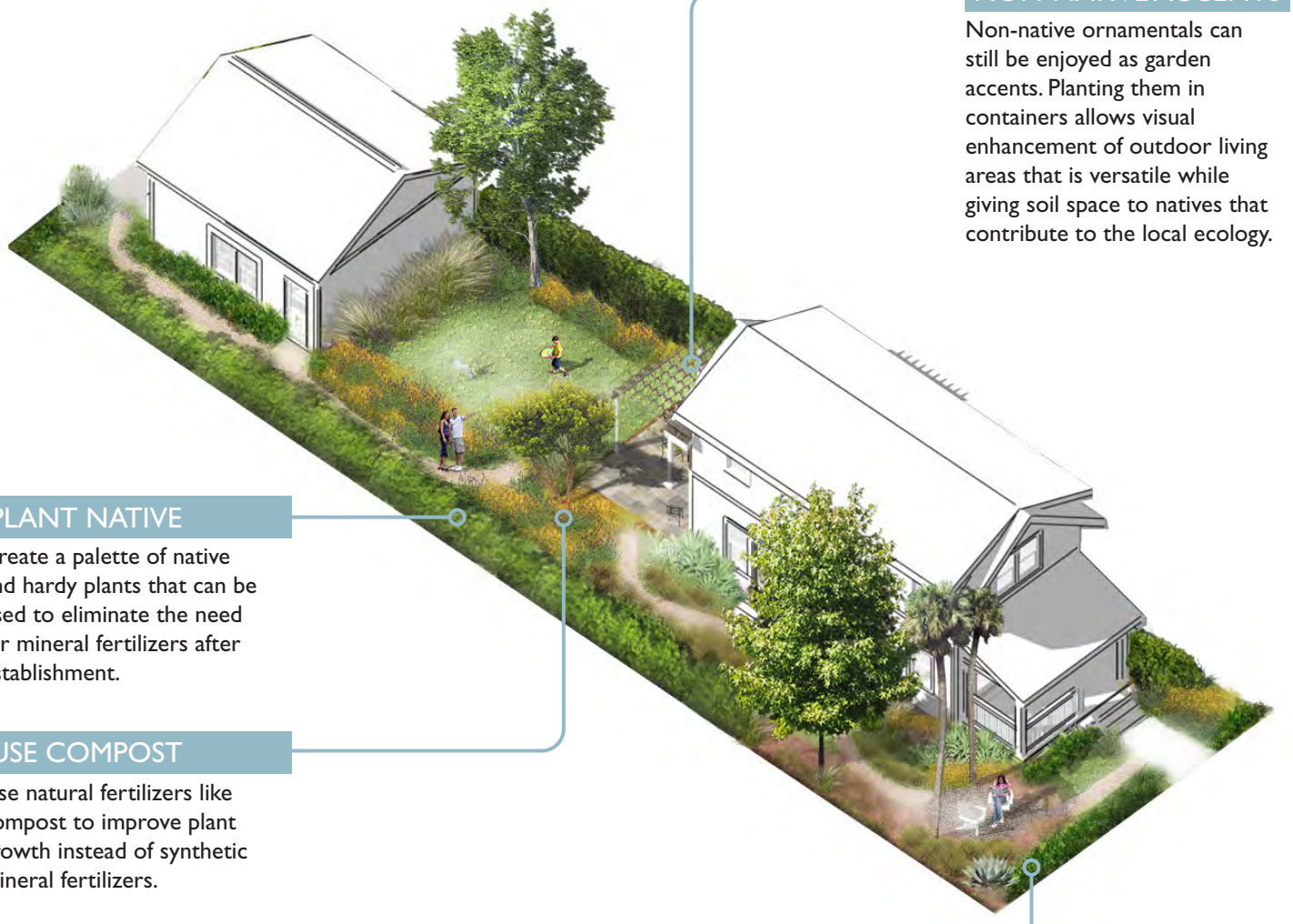
Flowering shrubs and perennials attract pollinators that support fruit and seed production for birds and wildlife. These pollinators also support our food production on a regional scale.

CELEBRATE FLORIDA

Create living spaces that flow between the indoor and outdoor and celebrate Florida's native ecology.

HEALTHY SOILS

MINIMIZE/ELIMINATE MINERALIZED FERTILIZER USE



NON-NATIVE ACCENTS

Non-native ornamentals can still be enjoyed as garden accents. Planting them in containers allows visual enhancement of outdoor living areas that is versatile while giving soil space to natives that contribute to the local ecology.

PLANT NATIVE

Create a palette of native and hardy plants that can be used to eliminate the need for mineral fertilizers after establishment.

USE COMPOST

Use natural fertilizers like compost to improve plant growth instead of synthetic mineral fertilizers.

SLOW-RELEASE

Most native plants require significantly less fertilizer than non-native plants if at all. Over fertilizing causes plants to under perform. If necessary, use slow-release fertilizers for the most environmentally safe option.

HOLISTIC PEST MANAGEMENT

MINIMIZE/ELIMINATE PESTICIDES

COMPLEX = HEALTHY

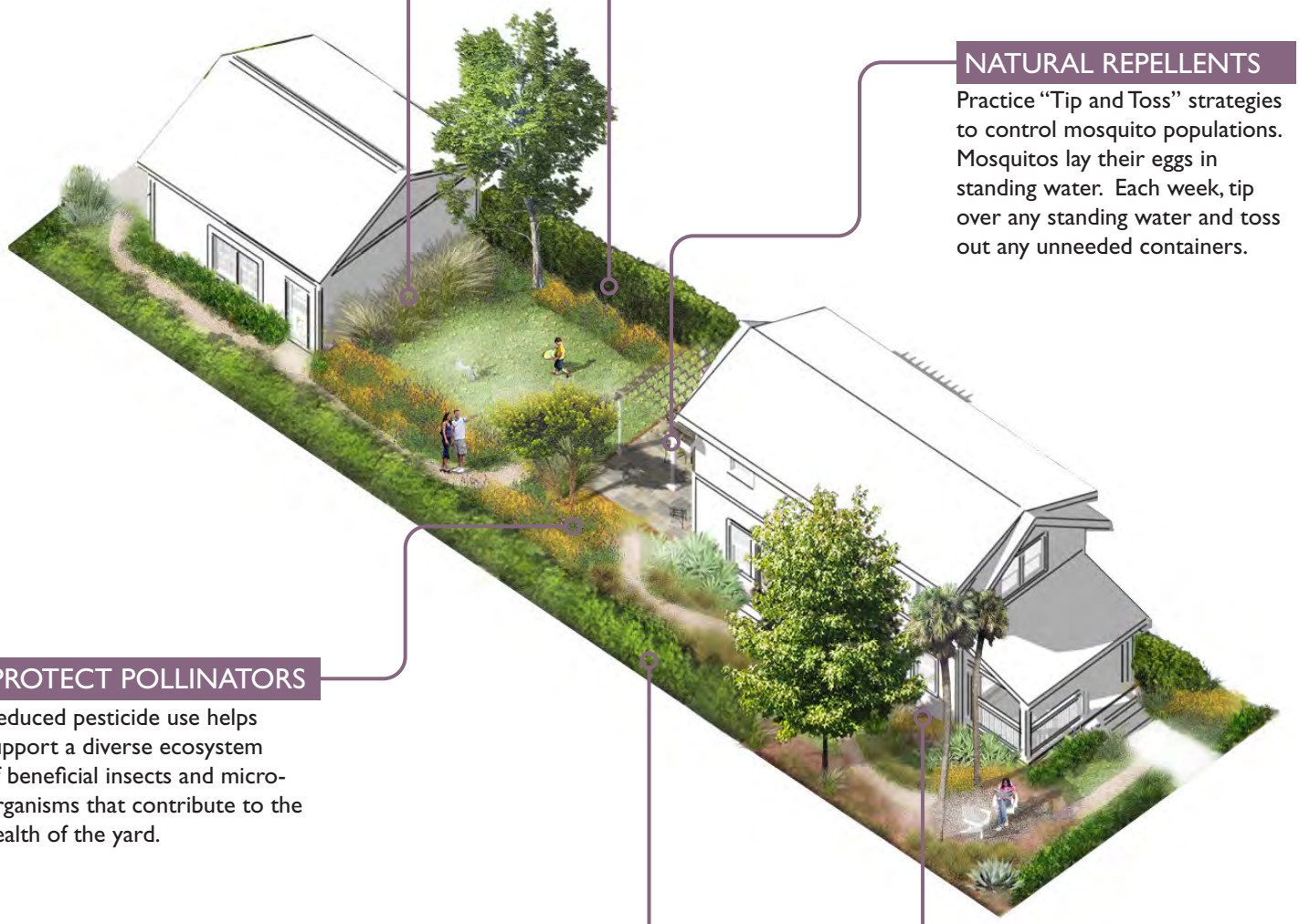
Using a mix of plants throughout the space can make diseases and pests less likely to spread by encouraging a complex ecosystem instead of a monoculture.

EMBRACE AIR FLOW

Proper plant spacing provides airflow between plants, which reduces the risk of pest and disease spread.

NATURAL REPELLENTS

Practice "Tip and Toss" strategies to control mosquito populations. Mosquitos lay their eggs in standing water. Each week, tip over any standing water and toss out any unneeded containers.



PROTECT POLLINATORS

Reduced pesticide use helps support a diverse ecosystem of beneficial insects and micro-organisms that contribute to the health of the yard.

NATURAL PREDATORS

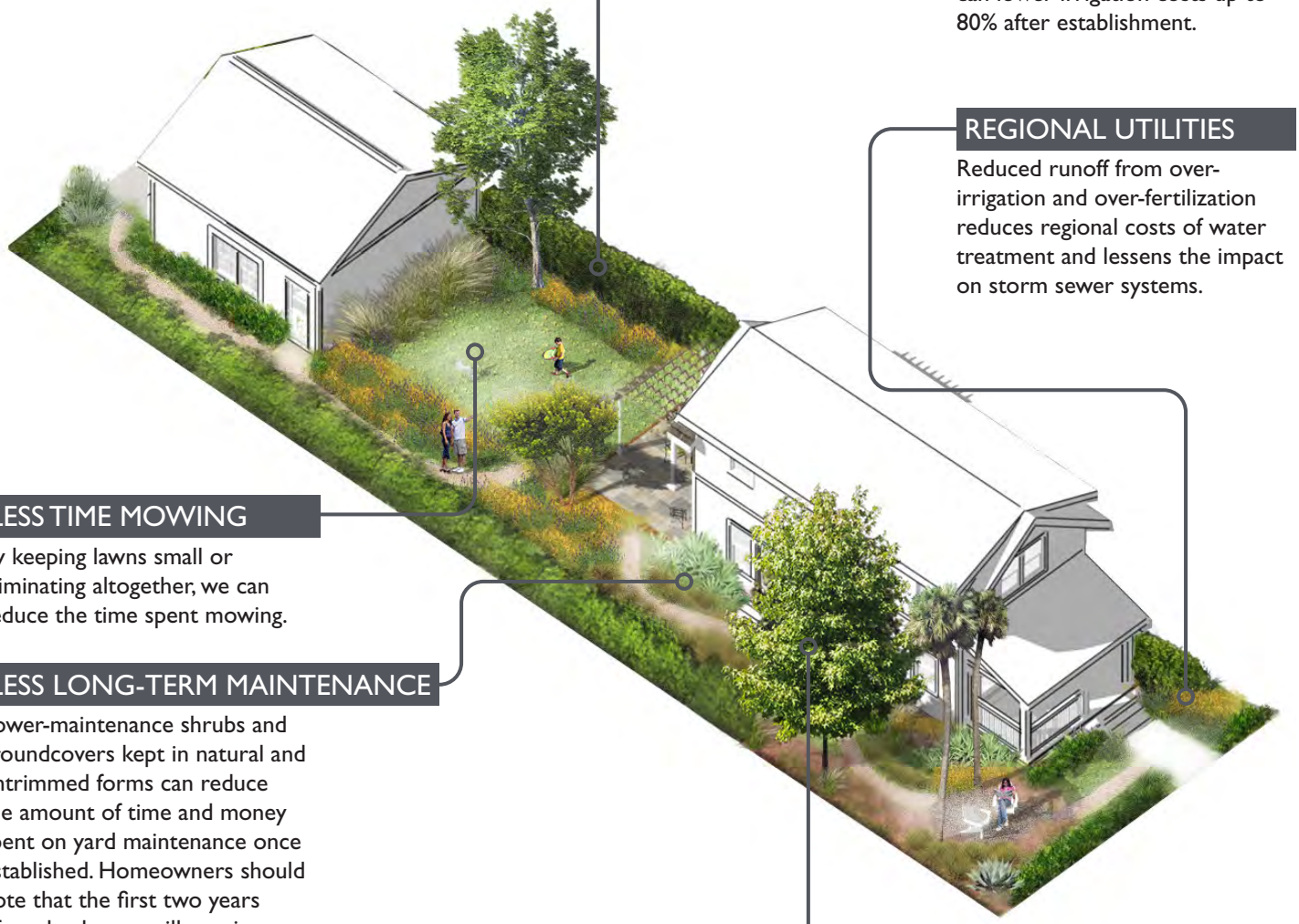
Using a diverse and ecologically appropriate plant palette encourages beneficial insect predators such as ladybugs, resulting in a robust ecosystem that in turn prevents pest issues.

NATURAL BARRIERS

Place gravel within the dripline of the house to discourage pest intrusion into the home and to provide maintenance access.

TIME + COST SAVINGS

HOW SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES IMPACT OUR WALLETS



LOW WATER BILLS

Reducing or eliminating irrigation can lower irrigation costs up to 80% after establishment.

REGIONAL UTILITIES

Reduced runoff from over-irrigation and over-fertilization reduces regional costs of water treatment and lessens the impact on storm sewer systems.

LESS TIME MOWING

By keeping lawns small or eliminating altogether, we can reduce the time spent mowing.

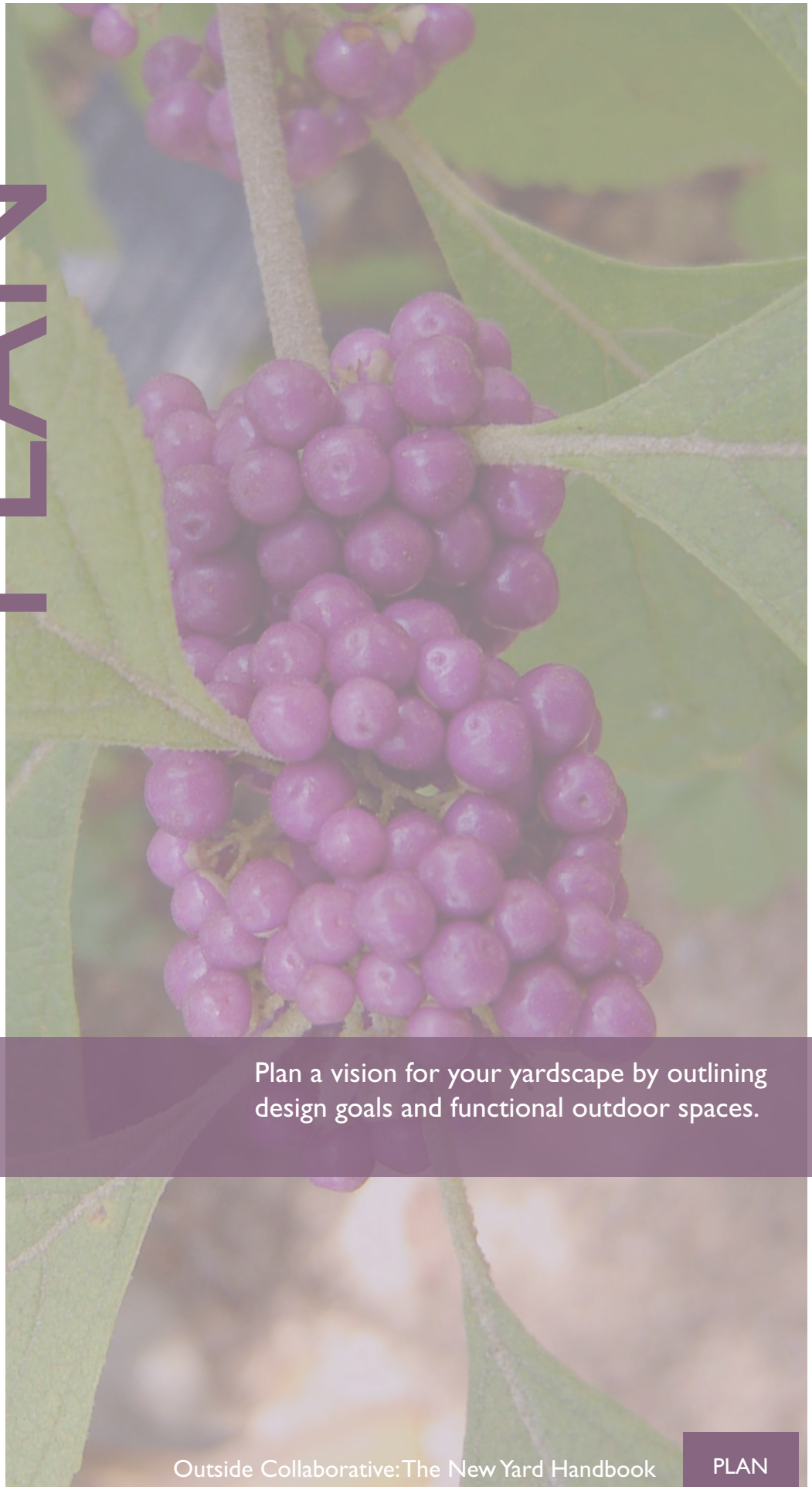
LESS LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE

Lower-maintenance shrubs and groundcovers kept in natural and untrimmed forms can reduce the amount of time and money spent on yard maintenance once established. Homeowners should note that the first two years of any landscape will require maintenance to help the plants get established (weeding, watering, selective pruning, etc.)

LOW COOLING COSTS

Utilize shade trees to lower heating/cooling costs of the home.

PLAN



Plan a vision for your yardscape by outlining design goals and functional outdoor spaces.

SITE PLAN

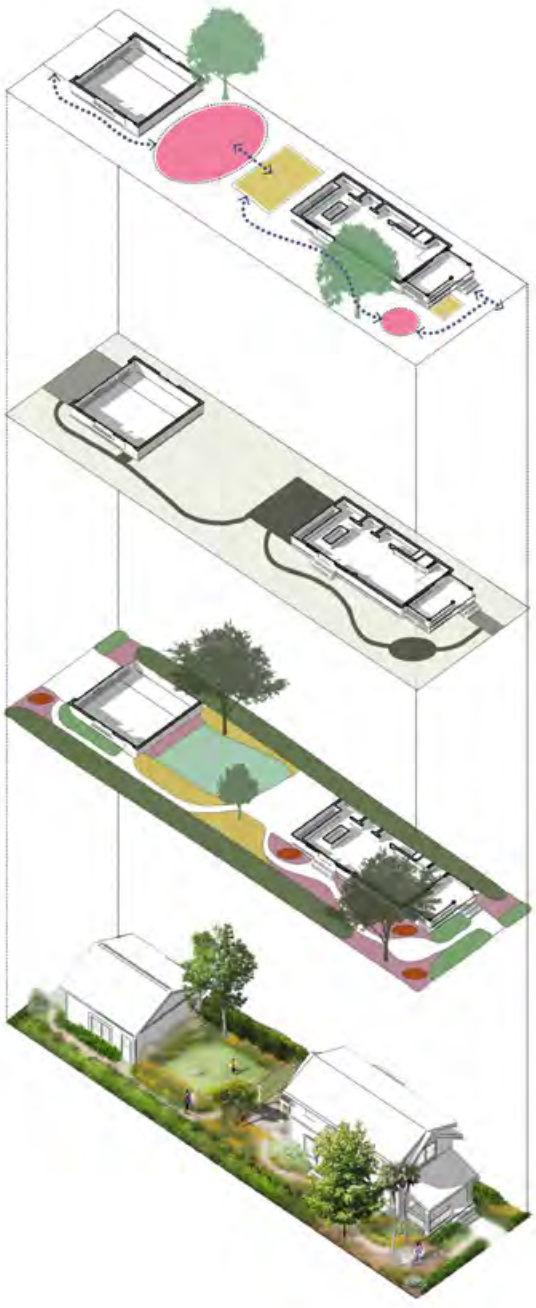
The OUTSIDE landscape design is composed of many systems working together as a whole to satisfy function, form, and sustainable practices. These layers are all designed to work together to provide a residential landscape that can achieve all of OUTSIDE's goals for any lot configuration.

PROGRAM

HARDSCAPE

PLANT MATERIAL

FINAL PRODUCT



PROGRAM:

The back, side, and front yard spaces each have a different function and are connected by the circulation paths that move between the spaces.

HARDSCAPE:

Material changes to hardscape, like gravel or pavers for the pathways and patio areas that lead up to the house and garage.

PLANT MATERIAL:

Plant material of many different forms, heights and species create a rich native landscape that frames space throughout the yard. Organize the combinations by massing in specific areas such as planting beds, raised beds or framing a walkway for visual appeal.

FINAL PRODUCT:

The final is the combined product of the three components above in a rich landscape that has lots of functional and usable space, and meets the 'Big 4' objectives.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Circulation:** Identify pathways that connect imporant nodes such as exterior doorways with key areas throughout the outdoor space.

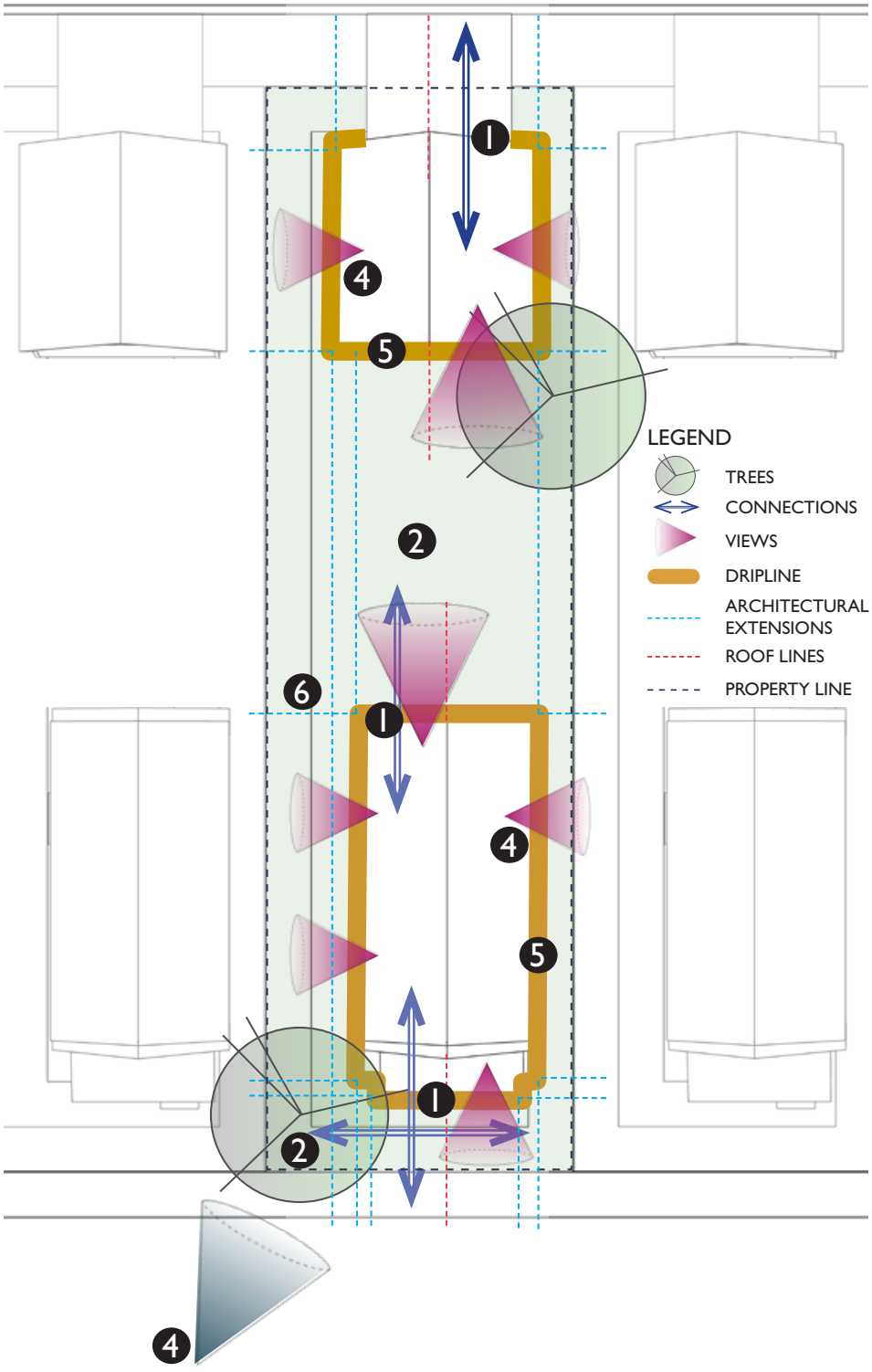
2. **Indoor/Outdoor:** Utilize your yard to support activities you enjoy - create a relaxing living area, active turf zone or family play area that extends livable space to the outdoors.

3. **Site Conditions:** Examine the lot to identify soil type, drainage patterns, prevailing winds and sun/shade areas to help create a palette.

4. **Frame/Buffer Views:** Utilize plantings to enhance favorable views while screening unfavorable views to create privacy and a sense of enclosure.

5. **Plant Spacing:** Consider mature size of plants when selecting to ensure they are situated far enough from the home and planted with proper spacing (see "Maintain" section).

6. **Grid Guide:** Utilize a grid system to help define planting areas, open spaces and create focal points through extensions of architectural features such as roof lines, columns, window locations, etc. Use curves or linear connections.

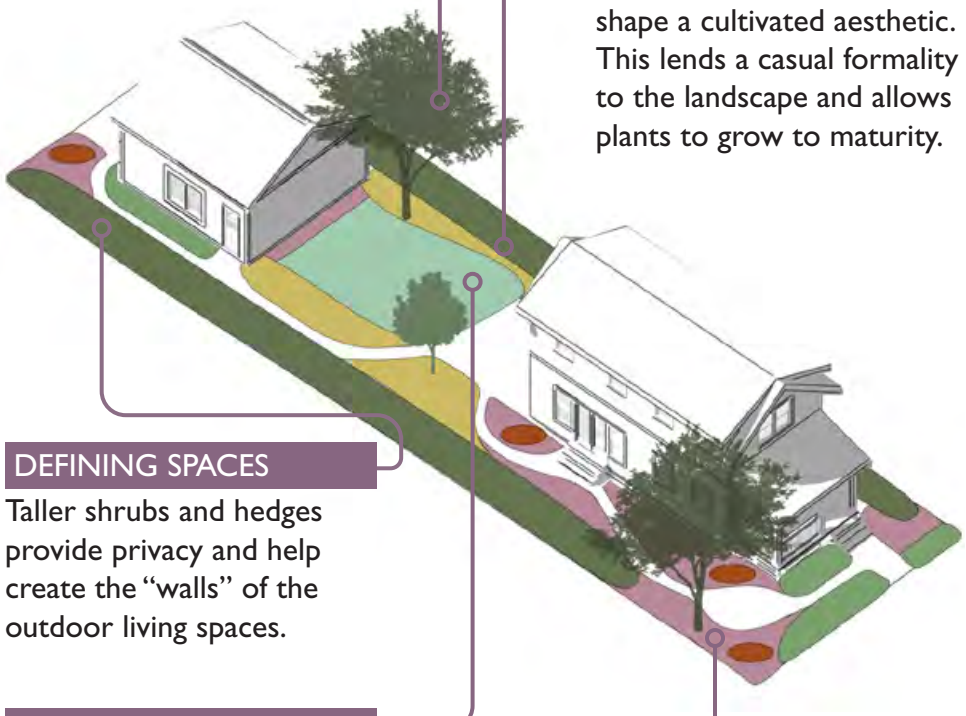


CREATING SPACE WITH PLANTS

Landscape can shape a home's space just as much as its buildings and walls. In the typical residential lot, most of the outdoor landscape space is used for lawn, and shrubs and groundcovers usually frame the house and paths up to the house. Landscape can be used as a much more useful tool for making spaces functional, comfortable, beautiful, and productive.

LEGEND

- SHADE TREE
- SMALL TREE/PALM
- GROUNDCOVER
- TALL HEDGE
- MEDIUM SHRUB
- LOW SHRUB
- FLOWERING PERENNIALS
- ACCENT PLANTS



CREATE A CEILING

Tall canopy trees create shade and provide a "ceiling" for living spaces.

"CUES TO CARE"

Clean edges around plant beds and hardscape help shape a cultivated aesthetic. This lends a casual formality to the landscape and allows plants to grow to maturity.

DEFINING SPACES

Taller shrubs and hedges provide privacy and help create the "walls" of the outdoor living spaces.

ACTIVITY ZONES

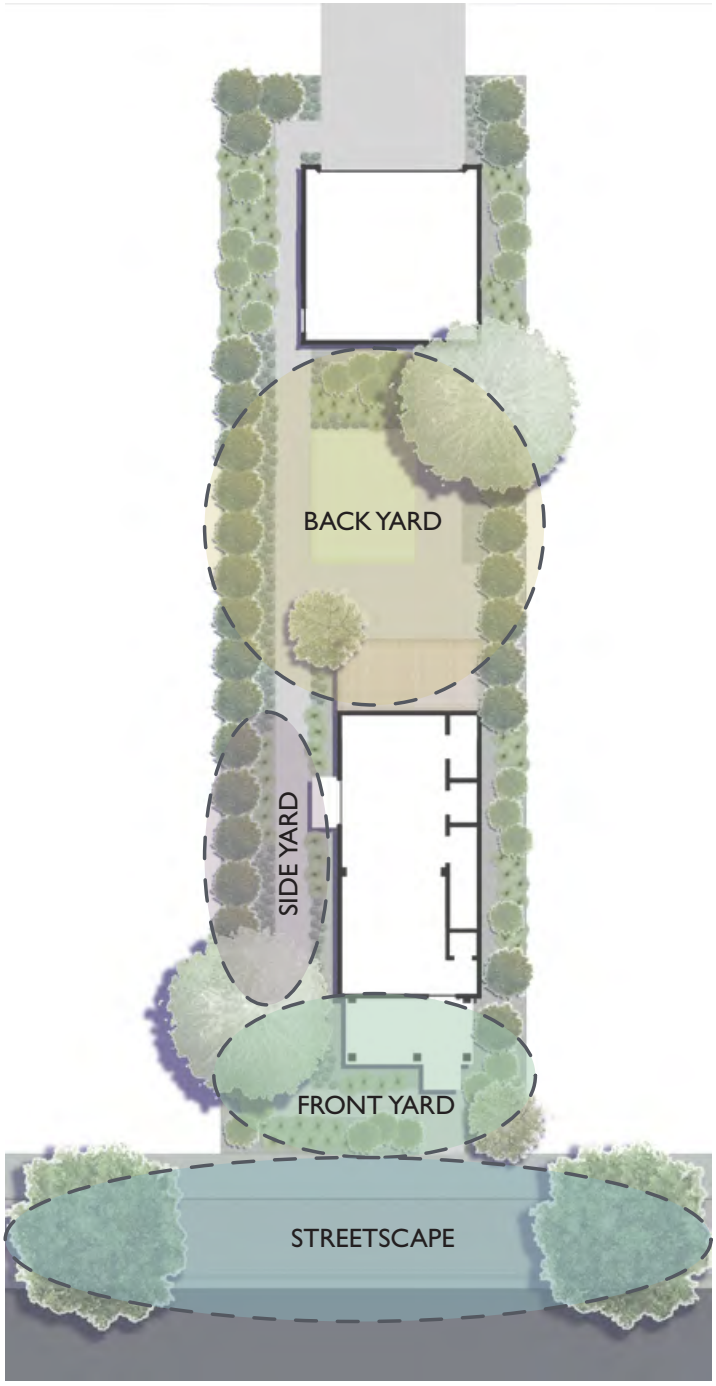
Ground covers and small areas of lawn form a clean carpet for activities.

VISUAL INTEREST

Lower shrubs and grasses provide visual interest and rhythm and form the fabric of the yard.

OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES

With a focus on programming as an extension of the home, we enhance use and enjoyment of the outdoors through functional and versatile spaces that support wellbeing for all organisms, foster neighborly connections, and help residents better understand the ecosystems around them. By looking at the front yard, side yard, back yard, and public streetscape as four separate spaces with distinct functions, we can better plan out programming and frameworks for each space.



STREETSCAPE

The public realm is what stitches a great community together. Whether it be where people linger and socialize or simply pass through, there is opportunity to provide dynamic experiences throughout the community. The public right-of-way and street network can provide a cohesive look for the community while reducing HOA maintenance costs to create thriving and comfortable living streets.

STREET CANOPY

Street trees provide ecosystem services such as shade, habitat, cooling, and carbon sequestration. Consider providing different species of street trees throughout the community for increased biodiversity, better air quality, and lower power bills.

CREATE THRESHOLD

A massing of evergreen shrubs helps delineate the threshold between public and private space.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Diversity of groundcovers and accent plants in the right-of-way planting strip provide a cohesive look between the lots and street and increase habitat for insects and micro-organisms. To promote a healthy streetscape, provide ample room for healthy root systems to establish.

EASY MAINTENANCE

Native drought-tolerant groundcover in right-of-way planting strip decreases maintenance, irrigation and fertilizer/pesticide usage. Ensure planting strip is wide enough to provide adequate root space for canopy trees.

FRONT YARD

As the most highly visible area, the front yard serves as a threshold between the public realm and private space. Clean bedlines and accents help guide visitors to the front door, while front porches and living spaces help foster neighborly connections.

FRAME THE ENTRY

Accent trees help frame the entry and create seasonal interest through flowering, fall color, and sculptural branching.

CREATE THRESHOLD

Evergreen hedges or low walls/ fences delineate the threshold between public and private space.

FRONT PORCH

Emphasizing the front porch activates the front yard and creates a friendly atmosphere.

SIDE YARD

Not commonly used for outdoor living spaces, the side yard will typically be used for maintenance access, utilities such as AC condensers, and screening from adjacent homes. Simple plant massings framed by evergreen shrubs will shield utilities from view and provide a workspace for compost bins, work benches, etc. while also creating habitat. Gravel or mulch paths instead of lawn should be used in this area.

SEASONAL INTEREST

Flowering plants create seasonal interest and pops of color while requiring very little irrigation.

PROVIDE PRIVACY

Evergreen trees and hedges provide privacy on narrow lots.

FRAME HOME ENTRIES

Evergreen shrubs help frame home entries.

UTILITY AREA

Simple materials like mulch or gravel paths provide access to utility areas and lock moisture into the soil.

BACK YARD

As the most private area of the yard, the back yard is the most used living area. A centralized zone for play, entertaining, or relaxing should be the central focus with ancillary living spaces connected with pathways. The living space types are entirely up to the owner and could consist of vegetable gardens, fire pits, outdoor dining rooms, rain gardens, or any other desired outdoor rooms. Lawn should be used sparingly in the central zone and should be framed by native shrubs and groundcover. Access to rear-loaded garages should be provided, and flow between indoor and outdoor spaces is of the utmost importance.

GARAGE ACCESS

Provide access to rear-loaded garages or alleys.

PLAY AREA

Small areas of lawn framed by shrubs provide space for pets or playing while minimizing water use.

MAXIMIZE SHADE

Maximize shade through arbors or canopy trees wherever possible for comfort and a sense of enclosure.

SEASONAL COLOR

Adjacent areas of the yard can provide seasonal color through planting, space for a vegetable garden, or other uses.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR

Seamless transitions between indoor and outdoor spaces provide ease of access and elevates the importance of the yard.

PICK

Pick desired landscape elements and identify ways to enhance the public streetscape and front, back, and side yard spaces.

PLANTING PATTERNS

The goals and strategies discussed in the introduction are practices that can be used in lots of all different sizes and types. We have demonstrated these on 3 different lot sizes typical to most developments: 34', 50', and 60' widths. The following diagrams are intended to be patterns for developing customized landscape plans for home lots. With slight alterations to the plant list, these strategies can be applied to any lot size, condition, or climate. Lot landscapes should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. 75% of all the planted area should be native. Any non-native species must be Florida Friendly with special care taken to avoid all invasive species.

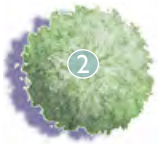
2. Limit turfgrass to no more than 15% of the lot area. The use of Bahia sod is encouraged over Zoysia, conventional St. Augustine, or cultivar Bermuda sod. When turf can be eliminated entirely, there will be significant reduction in maintenance costs due to areas no longer requiring mowing.

3. Use at least10 different species of shrubs/grasses/groundcover on each lot. This increases biodiversity and provides a naturally layered aesthetic.

4. Avoid using turfgrass in residential drainage swales.

SITE PLAN + PLANTING PATTERNS 34’

STREET TREE
Canopy trees approved by local municipality to plant in the right-of-way planting strip between the street and sidewalk.



SHADE TREE
Medium to large trees with dense canopies that provide shade. Can be evergreen or deciduous.

SMALL TREE/PALM
Small to medium trees that offer visual interest in the understory. Could have ornamental qualities or provide shade.

SCREEN/HEDGE
Large shrubs and small trees, most likely evergreen, to plant in rows for privacy and screening. 6-8’ tall with varying spreads.

SHRUB
Flowering plants, either evergreen or deciduous, 2-5’ tall with matching spreads.

GRASSES/WILDFLOWERS
Medium and large clumping grasses and perennials add texture, movement, and color to the yard.

GROUNDCOVER
Low, spreading plants and mulch to keep soil healthy.

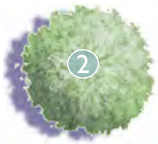
OPEN SPACE
Mowable low grasses and grasslike plants, creating a resilient, sustainable lawn.

WALKWAYS
Gravel, permeable pavers, crushed coquina, or mulch to formalize circulation.

OUTDOOR LIVING
Customizable areas to fit homeowner needs. Examples include firepits, lounge areas, vegetable gardens, and more.

SITE PLAN + PLANTING PATTERNS 50’

STREET TREE
Canopy trees approved by local municipality to plant in the right-of-way planting strip between the street and sidewalk.



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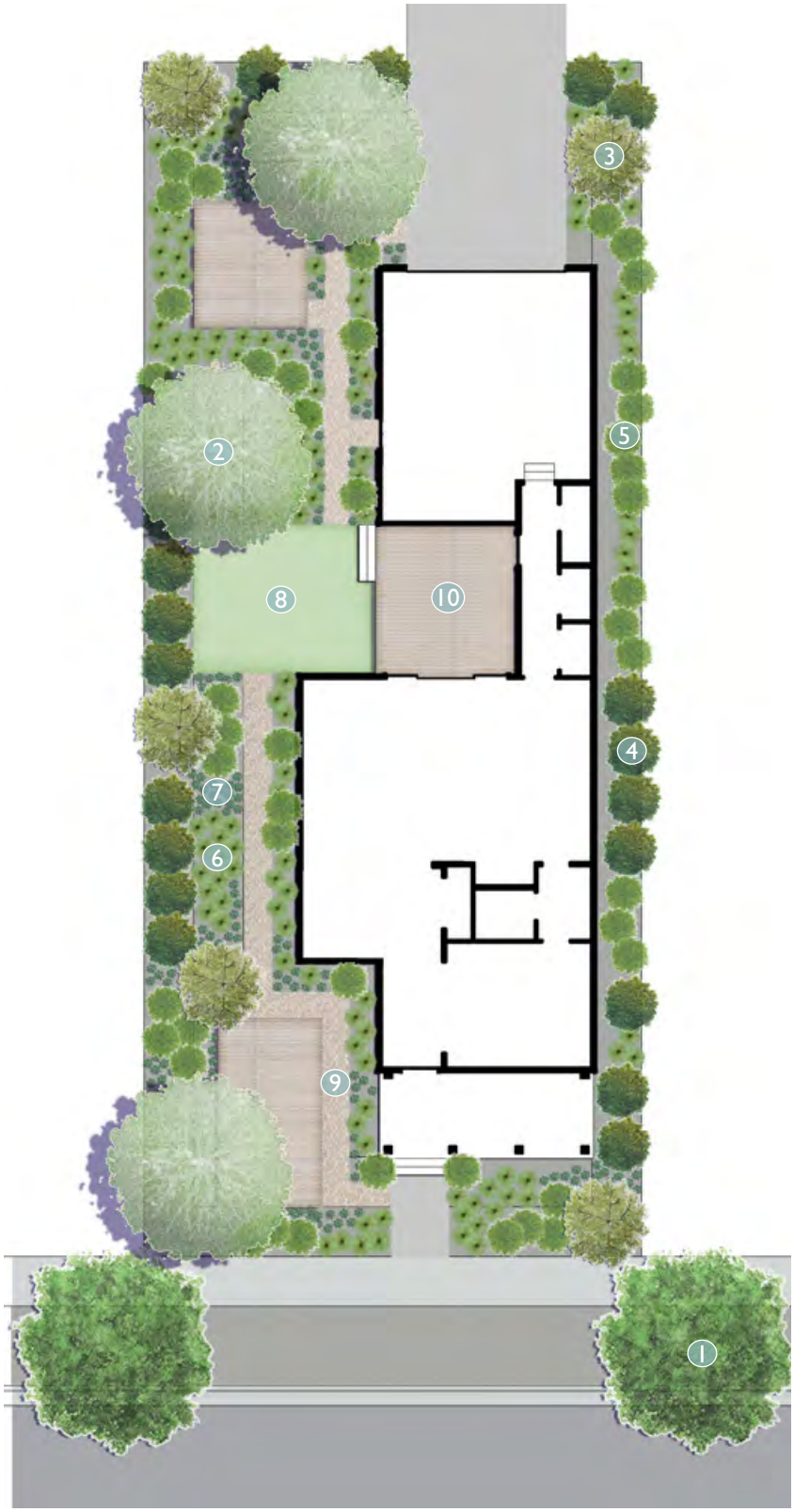

SITE PLAN + PLANTING PATTERNS 60’

STREET TREE
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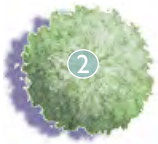

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OUTDOOR LIVING OPTIONS

CUSTOMIZABLE OUTDOOR LIVING AREAS TO FIT HOMEOWNER NEEDS

SPACE FOR ACTIVE USE



SPACE FOR ENTERTAINMENT



SPACE TO GROW PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

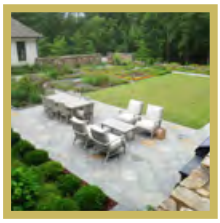
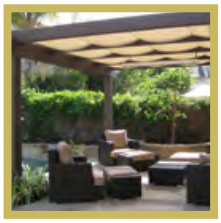
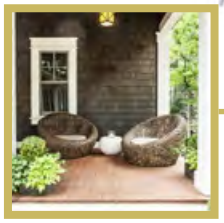


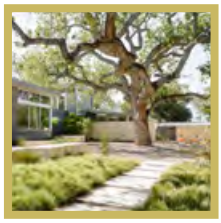
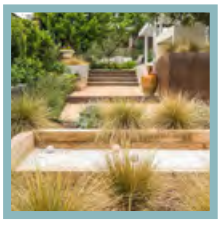
SPACE TO MAXIMIZE NATIVE FLORIDA LANDSCAPES



OUTDOOR LIVING OPTIONS



CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLANT

The planting diagrams shown in this document provide flexibility for home builders. While plant typologies must be followed, the actual species of plant can vary. This flexibility allows the builder to use many heights and textures to increase biodiversity, add visual depth, and celebrate seasonal changes in the landscape.

SITE ANALYSIS

- Consider the regional plant communities and which plants are naturally thriving in your area
- Consult the USDA Hardiness Zone map for which plants will survive in your region
- Analyze drainage patterns in your yard and choose plants with appropriate moisture needs
- Analyze sun/shade patterns and choose plants accordingly

PURCHASING

Purchase plants from nurseries that use sustainable growing practices. Plants should be healthy, pest-free, and disease-free.

FLORIDA REGION ZONES

USDA COLD HARDINESS ZONES

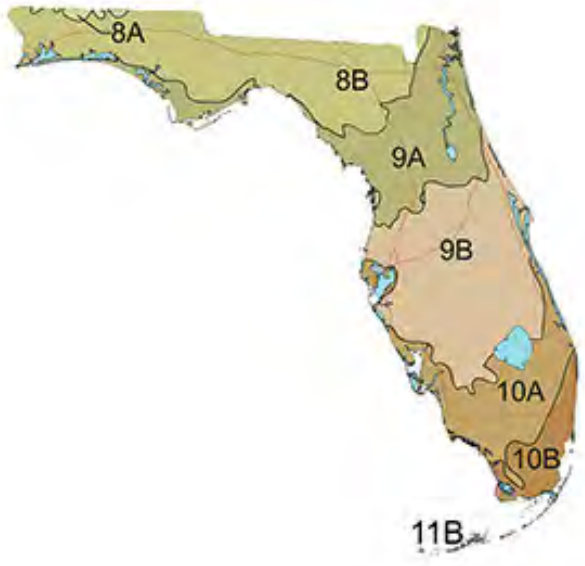


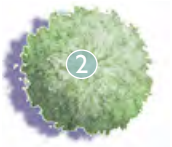
Image Credit: Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design

RECOMMENDED NATIVE PLANTS

Recommended native plants for Central Florida that are tested, commonly available, hardy and contribute to the local ecosystem.

STREET TREE

Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*)
Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*)
Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) (upright varieties)



SHADE TREE

Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
Summer Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) (various cultivars)
Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*)
Sand Live Oak (*Quercus geminata*)
Bluff Oak (*Quercus austrina*)
Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
Turkey Oak (*Quercus laevis*)
Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*)
Bluejack Oak (*Quercus incana*)
Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*)
Laurel Oak (*Quercus laurifolia*)
Eastern Redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

SMALL TREE/PALM

Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)
Eastern Redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
Chickasaw Plum (*Prunus angustifolia*)
Flatwoods Plum (*Prunus umbellata*)
Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
Southern Waxmyrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)
Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*)
Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
Florida Privet (*Forestiera segregata*)
Cocoplum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*)
Riverbirch (*Betula nigra*)
Redbay (*Persea borbonia*)
Paurotis Palm (*Acoelorraphe wrightii*)
Sabal Palm (*Sabal palmetto*)

SCREEN/HEDGE

Simpson's Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*)
Southern Waxmyrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)
Saltbush (*Baccharis halimnifolia*)
Withlacoochee Viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum* 'Withlacoochee')

SHRUB

Walter's Viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*)
Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)
Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)
Dwarf Palmetto (*Sabal minor*)
Scrub Palmetto (*Sabal etonia*)
Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hyrdrangea quercifolia*)
Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)
American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)
Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*)
Anise (*Illicium parviflorum*)
Darrow's Blueberry (*Vaccinium darrowii*)
White Stopper (*Eugenia axillaris*)
Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*)
Inkberry, Gallberry (*Ilex glabra*)
Georgia Catmint (*Calamintha ashei x georgiana*)
Florida Anise (*Illicium floridanum*)
Garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*)
Marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*)
Rusty Lyonia (*Lyonia ferruginia*)
Shiny Lyonia, Fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*)

GRASSES/WILDFLOWERS

Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
Fakahatchee Grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*)
Purple Lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)
Sand Cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*)
Elliot's Lovegrass (*Eragrostis elliotti*)
Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
Sea Oats (*Uniola paniculata*)
Lopsided Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*)
Splitbeard Bluestem (*Adropogon ternarius*)
Wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*)
Chalky Bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus* var. *glaucus*)
Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)
Blue Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)
Lanceleaf Tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
Leavenworth's Tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*)
Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)
Starry Rosinflower (*Silphium asteriscus*)
Carolina Wild Petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*)
Lyreleaf Sage (*Salvia lyrata*)
Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*)

GROUNDCOVER

St. John's Wort (*Hypericum tenuifolium*)
Swamp Twinflower (*Dyschoriste humistrata*)
Sunshine Mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*)
Creeping Sage (*Salvia misella*)
Common Violet (*Viola sororia*)
Beach Verbena (*Glandularia maritima*)
Narrowleaf Silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*)
Partridge Berry (*Mitchella repens*)

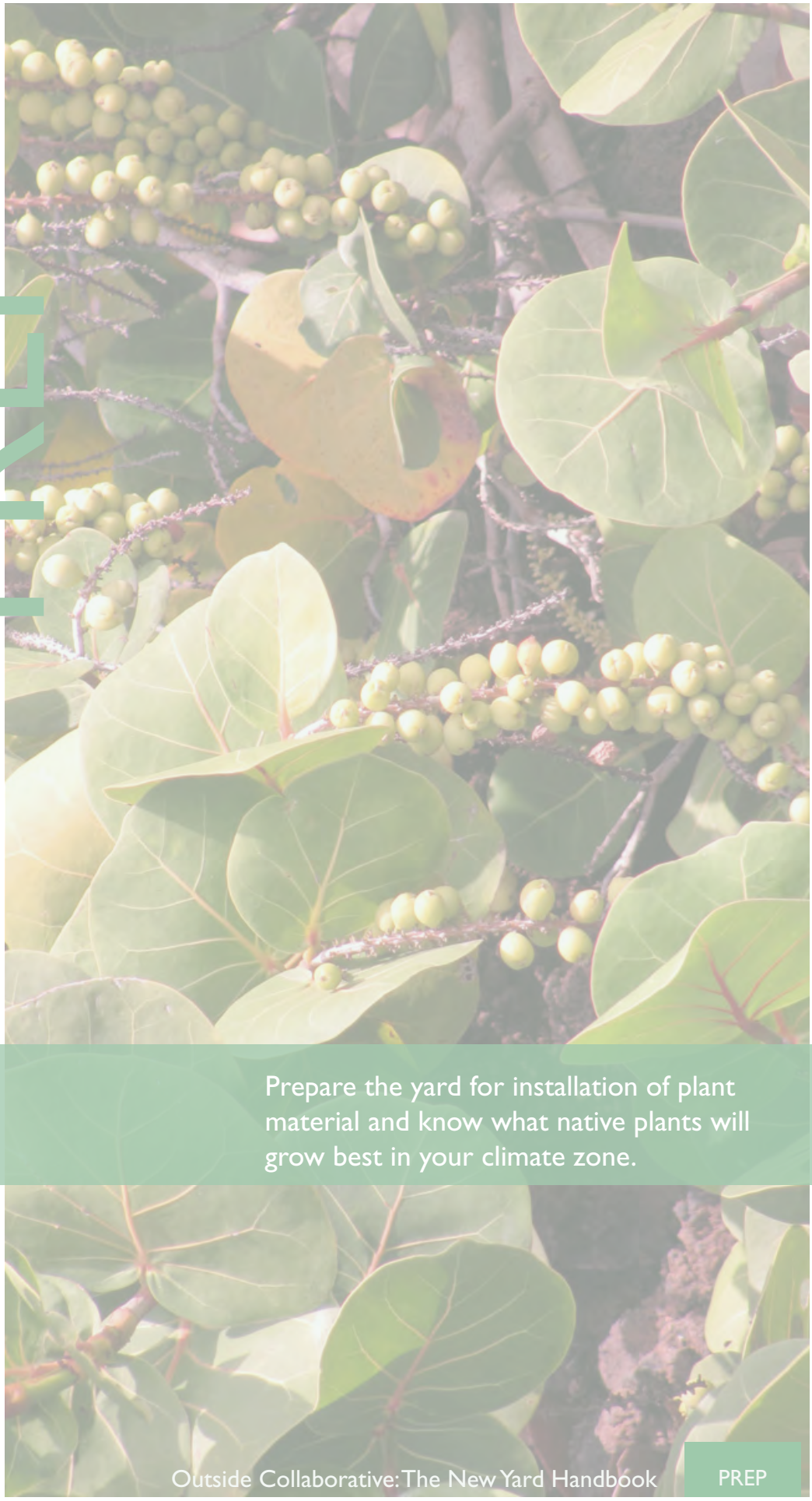
OPEN SPACE

Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*)
Oblongleaf Twinflower (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*)
Bahia Sod (*Paspalum notatum*)
St. Augustine Sod (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*) (low-mow and low-water varieties only)
Perennial Peanut (*Arachis glabrata*)

PLANT LIST RESOURCES

Florida Native Plant Society (fnps.org/)
Florida Friendly Plants (ffl.ifas.ufl.edu)
Cherrylake (cherrylake.com)
Florida Wildflowers Foundation (flawildflowers.org/)

PREP



Prepare the yard for installation of plant material and know what native plants will grow best in your climate zone.

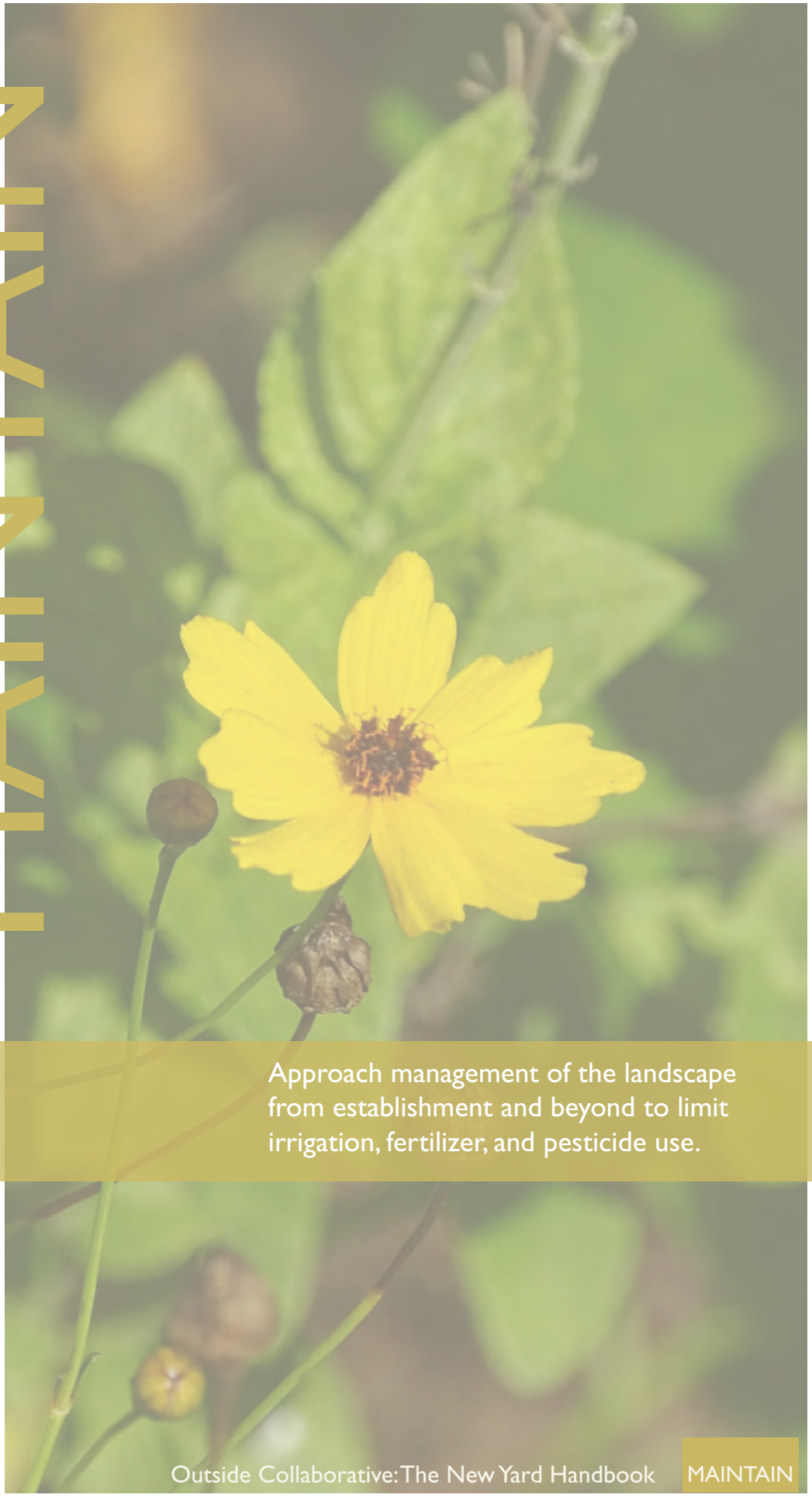
PREPARE

Preparation of the land before planting is just as important as which plants are chosen. Taking a soil sample for testing and consulting with your county extension agent for the most appropriate soil recommendations is the best way to assess soil type and any amendments that may be recommended before planting. If called for, amending the existing soil with compost can add important nutrients and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. Careful planning and installation practices set the groundwork for a healthy and thriving landscape. Industry leaders like IFAS and Cherrylake have extensive information on sustainable landscape installation and maintenance.

Image Credit: istockphoto.com

INSTALLATION RESOURCES
OUTSIDE (outsidecollab.com)
Cherrylake (cherrylake.com)
University of Florida IFAS (ifas.ufl.edu/)

MAINTAIN



Approach management of the landscape from establishment and beyond to limit irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticide use.

MAINTAIN

Establish
Establishment for new plants is an important time for the landscape to take hold and root well in the soil. This means that plants will require more care during the establishment stage. This extra care and time will eventually level off when plants are settled into their environment, and irrigation system use should be able to be reduced.

Maintain
Learning how to take care of your landscape and the plants in it is an important step in cultivating a healthy and mature landscape. Industry leaders like IFAS and Cherrylake have extensive information on sustainable landscape maintenance.

Water Usage
Best practice is to have a master controlled irrigation system for the entire community managed by a qualified horticulture professional. During establishment, low-volume irrigation, drip irrigation, or hand-watering should be used to help plants develop healthy root systems and settle into their new environment. Monitor irrigation heads regularly for leaks or breaks and run maintenance pulses on drip irrigation systems to prevent clogs. This keeps systems running efficiently and avoids excess water waste. Use of weather-based timers and soil moisture sensors should be standard to prevent unnecessary irrigation after rain events. When irrigation is needed, it should run early in the morning to prevent excess evaporation during the hot hours of the day.

Marketing and Storytelling
Community HOAs can work with developers to incorporate the landscape strategies in this guidebook into the community identity and branding. Homebuilders should educate buyers about these strategies, communicating the value that sustainable landscapes bring on both a financial and experiential level.

Community Resource Monitoring
Community HOAs can partner with organizations and state agencies to create long-term monitoring and evaluation programs. These could include monitoring overall water use, ecological surveys of the community, and establishment of certifications such as Homegrown National Park and The National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat.
https://homegrownnationalpark.org/
https://nwf.org/certify

MAINTENANCE RESOURCES
OUTSIDE (outsidecollab.com)
Cherrylake (cherrylake.com)
University of Florida IFAS (ifas.ufl.edu/)

RESOURCES

WORKS CITED

All About Birds (https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/even-small-scattered-florida-scrub-jay-groups-are-vital-to-the-survival-of-the-species/)

Atlas of Florida Plants (http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/)
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Our-Forests/Florida-Champion-Trees)

Bay Soundings, Tampa Bay's Environmental News (https://baysoundings.com/welcome-floridas-native-bees-into-your-yard/)

Florida Department of State (https://dos.myflorida.com/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/state-wildflower/; https://dos.myflorida.com/florida-facts/florida-state-symbols/state-animal/)

OUTSIDE Collaborative Conference Materials (outsidecollab.com)

University of Florida IFAS
https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/manage/overview-of-florida-waters/waterbody-types/

BOOKS WE LIKE

Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants: 200 Readily Available Species for Homeowners and Professionals
by Gil Nelson

Native Plants for Florida Gardens
by Stacey Matrazzo and Nancy Bissett

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard
by Douglas Tallamy

Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes
by Claudia West and Thomas Rainer

Priceless Florida: Natural Ecosystems and Native Species
by Anne Rudloe, D. Bruce Means, and Eleanor Noss Whitney

Florida Native Plant Society's Recommended Books (https://www.fnps.org/resources/books)

INSTALLATION HELP

Cherrylake (cherrylake.com)
University of Florida IFAS (ifas.ufl.edu/)

PLANT LISTS

Florida Native Plant Society (fnps.org/)
Florida Friendly Plants (ffl.ifas.ufl.edu, PDF Version, Pattern Book)
Cherrylake (cherrylake.com)
Florida Wildflowers Foundation (flawildflowers.org/)
IFAS Invasive Species Programs (invasivespecies.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/)

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Holistic Pest Management Image Credit: Florida Wildflower Foundation

CHAPTER IMAGES:
Plan Section Image (pg 13): http://northcoastgardening.com/2009/02/shrubs-to-attract-birds/
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Maintain Section Image (pg 34): https://florabundancegardens.com/product/coreopsis-linifolia-savannah-coreopsis/

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Hollander Design via https://www.architecturaldigest.com/gallery/front-yard-landscaping-ideas
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WMWA Landscape Architects / Mountaintop Garden
https://www.amazon.com/ALGFree-Shade-Sunblock-Durable-Breathable-Backyard/dp/B07TD-1DY3C
Karen Kempf Interiors
Nelson Byrd Woltz / Native Meadow
https://www.sortra.com/42-inviting-fire-place-designs-for-your-backyard/
Feldman Architecture, Ground Studio Landscape Architecture
Brett Hilton / Falling Waters Landscape
Scott Lewis Landscape Architecture via https://www.gardenista.com/posts/outdoor-furniture-spotlight-serenesynthesis-in-teak/
https://onekindesign.com/2017/04/28/outdoor-hammock-ideas/

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