



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGENDA ITEM
Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department

Date: October 25, 2023
To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Thru: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Deputy County Administrator
Beth Powell, Parks, Recreation & Conservation Director
From: Nickie Munroe, Environmental Horticulture Agent I and MG Coordinator
Subject: IRL Council Small Grant Contract#: 2023SG-09

BACKGROUND:

The Indian River Lagoon Council (IRLC) Small Grants Program provides funding for projects that benefit the management of water resources of the Indian River Lagoon. UF/IFAS Indian River County Extension faculty applied for a grant during the last funding cycle and have been awarded a \$4,923.00 grant which will fund a demonstration garden project using the existing garden area at the Victor Hart Sr. Community Enhancement Complex near the Gifford Youth Achievement Center.

Since 2016, the goals of the Environmental Horticulture Agent for this location incorporated demonstration gardens, community gardening plots, and space to facilitate outreach activities. When the garden was renovated in 2021, it was expanded by 1,100 square feet to include a 6-foot radius around the fence line. This additional space was allocated for Florida-Friendly Landscaping demonstration and community gardening plots. The space inside the fence was modified to include a seating area that can be used for various activities including outdoor educational efforts.

Locations for teaching Florida-Friendly Landscaping management are limited and these gardens will be a tool utilized as part of formal trainings as well as instructor-free learning experiences through instructive signage. Appropriate signage will be developed to provide information on cost, plant identification, and plant management. The grant will be used to develop Florida-Friendly landscaping garden plots and signage that will be used for educational programs and to provide residents with cost-effective, lagoon-friendly home landscaping designs and ideas.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

The IRLC Small Grant is offered on a one-year cycle with a start date of 1st June 2023 and ends on 1st June 2024. Project work is to begin within six months of the agreement and completed within one year or earlier. The grant covers costs of plants (\$2,723.00), participant safety equipment (\$200), and professional labor (\$2,000) totaling \$4,923.00. Matching in-kind donations of labor and materials are estimated at \$8,430. At the end of the project, the IRLC will provide reimbursement for project expenses up to the total grant award of \$4,923.00.

FUNDING:

Funds, in the amount of \$4,923.00, will be made available via budget amendment into the General Fund/Ag Extension/Other Operating Supplies/IRL GYAC Grant account number 00121237-035290-24801.

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
General Fund/Ag Extension/Other Operating Supplies/IRL GYAC Grant	00121237-035290-24801	\$4,923.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board accept the IRLC 2023 Small Grants Program Agreement - Contract #:2023SG-09 for the Gifford Youth Achievement Center Garden Florida-Friendly Landscaping Demonstration Project and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement after review and approval by the County Attorney.

ATTACHMENTS:

- IRL Council Small Grants Program Agreement - Contract#:2023SG-09

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2023