

MAY
OCT 2025

NATURE CORNER

- YOUR EVERYDAY ESCAPE INTO NATURE -



PLANTATION

Parks & Recreation

Where Community and Fun Become One!

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Table Of Contents

03 Easy Tips for Recycling At Home

05 Emerald Award Winner 2025

07 Healthy Recipe

08 Wildlife
Animals of Plantation

09 Monthly Planting Guide in Florida

12 P&R Nature Initiatives

13 Upcycling: An Everyday Solution

15 Right Tree: Right Place



Easy Tips for Recycling at Home

1. Know What You Can Recycle

- Paper & cardboard
(clean and dry)
- Plastic bottles & containers
- Aluminum cans & foil
- Glass bottles and jars

2. Rinse Before You Recycle

Leftover food can contaminate an entire batch of recyclables. A quick rinse keeps your recycling clean and effective.

3. Skip Wishful Recycling

Don't toss something in the bin just because you hope it can be recycled (like pizza boxes with grease, plastic bags, or Styrofoam). That's called "wish-cycling" — and it can do more harm than good.

Tip: Check your city's recycling guide online or keep a printout nearby for quick reference.



4. Flatten Cardboard Boxes

Break them down to save space and make it easier for collection trucks to process.

5. Set Up a Simple System

Have clearly labeled bins in your kitchen or garage for: Trash, Recycling, Compost (if you're into it!)

6. Say No to Single-Use

Use:

- Reusable bags,
- Water bottles
- Coffee mugs.

Less waste = less to recycle!



Sound Bath Healing

Free Class

3rd Sunday of each month | Starting at 9:00 am

Rae Carole Armstrong Liberty Tree Park

Enjoy a morning sound bath as we take you on a journey inward with the use of crystal sound bowls and sacred instruments to draw you into a meditative state that will leave you feeling relaxed and centered after the practice. Just sit back or lay down, close your eyes and settle into the breath as you listen to the sounds and rest.

Please bring a yoga mat, any blankets or pillows for head or lower back support, and water.

Class will be cancelled if rain is expected. For class updates, please text your email address to 954-682-0367 with "YOGA UPDATE" to be added to the email blast list.





NATURESCAPE Emerald Award Winner 2025

The **Plantation Community Garden** was honored with the 2025 NATURESCAPE Emerald Award, a testament to our commitment to sustainability, education, and environmental stewardship.

The Community Garden is an intergenerational space that fosters social connections while passing down knowledge from one generation to the next, creating a lasting impact on both our community and the environment.

The NATURESCAPE Emerald Award recognizes outstanding efforts in Florida-friendly landscaping and ecological practices, including the use of non-cypress mulch, rain barrels, composting, and wildlife-friendly spaces. We are honored to be part of a movement that prioritizes sustainability and environmental responsibility.

For more information, contact the Jim Ward Community Center at **(954) 585-2344**.



MORE ABOUT THE GARDEN

With two awards and more than 20 participants per session, our garden has a lot to offer.

There are many more initiatives and programs to come. Stay tuned for what this amazing program will bring you and your community!



Healthy Recipe: Mediterranean Chickpea Salad



Ingredients:

- 1 can (15 oz) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 cucumber, diced
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1/4 red onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup Kalamata olives, sliced
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped

For the Dressing:

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Optional: a pinch of oregano or sumac for extra zing

Instructions:

1. In a large bowl, combine the chickpeas, cucumber, tomatoes, bell pepper, red onion, olives, and parsley.
2. In a small bowl or jar, whisk together all the dressing ingredients until emulsified.
3. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss to coat evenly.
4. Let it sit for at least 10 minutes to allow the flavors to meld — even better after an hour in the fridge!
5. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Bonus tip: Add some avocado, feta cheese, or quinoa for an extra boost of creaminess or protein!

Wildlife: Animals of Plantation

Have you seen any of these animals in the wild? Did we miss one of your favorites? Or have you captured a great photo you would love to share? We would love to hear from you!

Send us your stories or pictures at NatureCorner@psd.plantation.org



White-Ibis



Anartia jatrophae/
White peacock



Indian Runner duck



Burrowing owl



Blue jay

Monthly Planting Guide for Florida Gardeners

June



	North	Central	South
 EASY TO TRANSPLANT	Boniato, Gingers, Roselle, Tropical Spinaches	Boniato, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches	Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches
 TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY	Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Pigeon Pea, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Cassava, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Papaya, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Sweet Potatoes
 USE SEEDS	Chayote, Okra, Peas (southern)	Chayote, Okra, Peas (southern)	Chayote




July

	North	Central	South
 EASY TO TRANSPLANT	Gingers, Peppers, Roselle, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches	Boniato, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches	Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches
 TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY	Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Seminole Pumpkin	Amaranth, Cassava, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin	Amaranth, Papaya, Pineapple, Sweet Potatoes
 USE SEEDS	Chayote, Cucumbers, Peas (southern), Pumpkin	Chayote, Okra, Peas (southern), Pumpkin	Chayote



Monthly Planting Guide for Florida Gardeners

August

North	Central	South
 <p>Eggplant, Kale, Peppers, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches</p> <p>EASY TO TRANSPLANT</p>	<p>Eggplant, Endive, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches</p>	<p>Eggplant, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches</p>
 <p>Mustard</p> <p>TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY</p>	<p>Pineapple</p>	<p>Amaranth, Calabaza, Papaya, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes</p>
 <p>Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Squashes, Turnips</p> <p>USE SEEDS</p>	<p>Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Squashes</p>	<p>Okra, Pumpkin</p>



September

North	Central	South
 <p>Beets, Broccoli Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry, Swiss Chard</p> <p>EASY TO TRANSPLANT</p>	<p>Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches</p>	<p>Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches</p>
 <p>Celery, Mustard, Spinach</p> <p>TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY</p>	<p>Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Spinach</p>	<p>Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Mustard, Papaya, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes</p>
 <p>Arugula, Beans (bush, pole), Carrots, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Radish, Squashes, Turnips</p> <p>USE SEEDS</p>	<p>Arugula, Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Radish, Squashes, Turnips</p>	<p>Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Squashes, Turnips</p>



Monthly Planting Guide for Florida Gardeners

October

North	Central	South
 <p>EASY TO TRANSPLANT</p> <p>Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry, Swiss Chard</p>	<p>Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches</p>	<p>Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Strawberry, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches</p>
 <p>TRANSPLANT WITH CARE</p> <p>Celery, Mustard, Spinach</p>	<p>Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Spinach</p>	<p>Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squashes, Luffa, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach</p>
 <p>USE SEEDS</p> <p>Carrots, Onions (bunching), Radish, Turnips</p>	<p>Carrots, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Radish, Turnips</p>	<p>Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Peas (southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips</p>



November

North	Central	South
 <p>EASY TO TRANSPLANT</p> <p>Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard</p>	<p>Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard</p>	<p>Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Strawberry, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches</p>
 <p>TRANSPLANT WITH CARE</p> <p>Celery, Mustard, Spinach</p>	<p>Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach</p>	<p>Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squashes, Luffa, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach</p>
 <p>USE SEEDS</p> <p>Carrots, Onions (bunching), Radish, Turnips</p>	<p>Carrots, Onions (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Turnips</p>	<p>Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Peas (English, southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips</p>



Our Nature Initiatives

The Plantation Parks & Recreation Department is dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting sustainability in our parks and programs. Through environmental initiatives and community partnerships, we are working towards a cleaner, greener future.

Earth Day Celebration (launched in 2022)

1. Features a tree giveaway, educational vendors, youth environmental activities, park clean-ups, and a sustainability fair.
2. Expanded in 2023 with corporate volunteer partnerships and increased marketing efforts.
3. Attendance increased from 2,537 in 2022 to 3,008 in 2023, representing an 18% rise

Arbor Day / Tree Planting Events

Focused on expanding the city's tree canopy and educating the community about native plantings.

The Great Plantation Campout

Encourages family engagement with nature and outdoor recreation.

Nature-Based Programs at Parks

Environmental crafts and eco-awareness activities are integrated into youth camps and park events.

Environmental Responsibility Policy

Guides departmental practices in reducing waste, promoting energy conservation, and implementing sustainable operational procedures.

Sustainable Procurement Practices

Transitioned to recyclable and compostable materials at events and removed Styrofoam from city events.

Stormwater Management Practices & Native Landscaping

Used in parks and facilities to improve water quality and reduce flooding risks.

Plantation Community Garden

- A collaborative initiative with multiple city departments and the Plantation Garden Club.
- Promotes urban agriculture, sustainability, and community engagement.

Teen Garden Club

Engages local teens in sustainable gardening practices and environmental education.

The Nature Corner

A dedicated digital magazine created to promote environmental awareness, green initiatives, and nature-focused programming.



Upcycling: A Smart, Sustainable Solution for Everyday Waste

By Megan Dias
P&R Recreation Services Manager

In today's world of fast consumption and ever-growing landfills, finding creative and practical ways to reduce waste is more important than ever. One solution gaining popularity is upcycling—repurposing old or discarded items into something new, functional, and often even beautiful.

Unlike recycling, which typically involves breaking materials into raw form, upcycling keeps the original item intact and gives it a new function. It's a simple, cost-effective way to reduce waste, conserve resources, and reduce our environmental impact.

Small Changes, Big Impact

Upcycling reminds us that sustainability doesn't have to be complicated. By making small changes in how we think about waste, we can contribute to a greener, more resourceful community—one item at a time. Whether turning a worn-out t-shirt into a reusable bag or giving an old piece of furniture a fresh coat of paint, each upcycled item helps extend the life of materials and reduce landfill waste.

Upcycling in Action

Here in Plantation, upcycling is more than a trend—it's becoming a key part of our sustainability efforts.

This year marked the inaugural 'Trash to Treasure' Upcycling Challenge at our Annual Earth Day Celebration, where residents were invited to create functional or decorative items using reused or repurposed materials.

Community gardens have also embraced upcycling by transforming items like wooden pallets into compost bins or rain gutters into vertical planters. These efforts reduce waste and engage residents in hands-on environmental learning.

Getting Started

You don't need to be an artist or DIY expert to try upcycling. Start with what you already have at home.

Old T-shirts can become cleaning rags or reusable shopping bags. Tin cans can be cleaned and painted to be desk organizers or plant pots. Even worn-out furniture can be given a second life with a little sanding and paint.

If you're looking for ideas, many online platforms offer upcycling tutorials and inspiration for every skill level. And don't forget to check out local workshops and sustainability events hosted by the City of Plantation.





Right Tree - Right Place

Five Easy Steps to Smart Landscaping

Want a yard that's both beautiful and safe? Here's how to plant smart and avoid potential hazards—all while keeping your home and neighborhood looking great.



1. Pick the Perfect Tree

Not all trees grow the same way! Some shoot up tall, some spread out wide, and others have roots that stretch deep underground. Before you pick one, make sure you know how big it'll get when fully grown. This helps you avoid future problems with power lines or your home's foundation. Need help choosing? Check out the University of Florida's "Trees and Power Lines" website for great tree suggestions for our area.



2. Choose a Safe Spot

Take a quick look up—do you see any power lines? Where you plant matters! Always think about how your tree will grow over time and how close it'll get to those lines. Planting with enough space helps avoid outages and makes storm clean-up a whole lot easier.



3. Call Before You Dig

Planning to dig in your yard? Call 811 first—it's the law! This free service will show you where underground cables and pipes are located so you don't accidentally damage anything. Just call at least two business days before you start, or go online to www.Sunshine811.com.



4. Keep Green Boxes Clear

Those green utility boxes (called transformers) need space to work properly. Keep at least 8 feet of space in front of them and 3 feet on the other sides. That way, crews can safely get in for repairs if needed.



5. Stay Safe Around Power Lines

If you've got trees or tall plants growing near power lines, don't try trimming them yourself—hire a trained professional. It's just not worth the risk. And whether you're planting, trimming, or even just picking fruit, always keep yourself and anything you're using at least 10 feet away from power lines—or 30 feet for big transmission lines.

Smart landscaping means planning ahead, staying safe, and being mindful of your surroundings. Let's keep our yards green, safe, and storm-ready!



PLANTATION

Parks & Recreation

Where Community and Fun Become One!



Bird House – Plantation Community Garden

For questions, suggestions, or additional information, contact:
NatureCorner@psd.plantation.org