



SUNBRIDGE®

# Native Plant Garden

Welcome to our experimental native plant garden. This garden promotes healthy soils, water conservation and habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. The garden installation and studies are being done through a collaboration with The University of Florida, University of Central Florida, Life Soils, The Nature Conservancy, Cherrylake, and the OUTSIDE Sustainable Landscape Collaborative.

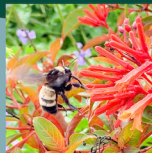
Researchers are testing different strategies to regenerate soils, root the landscapes with native plants, enhance habitat for wildlife, save water by reducing irrigation needs, and protect water quality by reducing fertilizer and pesticide needs. So, you may notice a difference between how the garden looks or what you see in one area of the garden versus another. This is likely because of the different "treatments" used from one section of the garden to the next. We call these types of experiments "Living Labs" since they are an in-the-ground living part of the community being studied to enhance and strengthen our connections with nature.

Our goal is to learn what works best and apply it throughout Sunbridge as part of our sustainability vision because we want our community to be healthy from the ground up. Let's give our children spaces to feed their curiosity, let's enjoy evening strolls and step into the backyard and enjoy nature.

For more information on this garden and tips for what you can do in your own yard, please scan the QR code below.



Early results show that soil conditions can have a large indirect impact on the pollinators. Plots with compost had nearly twice as many flowers, resulting in increased pollinators, like bees and butterflies, compared to plots without compost.



#### Irrigation Treatments

AN- irrigate as needed  
R- regular irrigation schedule

#### Compost Treatments

C- with compost  
NC- no compost

AN

AN

R



YOU ARE HERE

