

FACT SHEET: Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden

LYNN BARBER, B.A.

FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS AGENT



Interested in new ideas for your landscape? Need a mini get-away? Well then, now is a great time to visit the Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden, located in the courtyard of the Hillsborough County Extension office, located near the I-4/I-75 interchange. This teaching garden is named for Bette Walker, the first Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers, a professional association of nurserymen who provided seed money and plant materials to showcase the horticulture industry and educate the public.

Although small in scale, the Discovery Garden features a collection of six themed gardens which convey landscape design and maintenance ideas based entirely on the nine principles of the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program (FYN). These principles include: right plant/right place, water efficiently, mulch, recycle yard waste, fertilize appropriately, control yard pests responsibly, reduce stormwater runoff, attract wildlife and protect the waterfront.

The garden rooms featured are: Florida-Friendly, Asian Influence garden, Bird/Wildlife Habitat garden, Backyard BBQ area, Sensory garden and four water features. Each garden has its own landscape theme and function. For example, one of the water gardens simulates a natural lake or pond and is aqua-scaped with native Florida plants. Recycled products, various types of pervious surfaces, mulches, plant materials and micro-irrigation are showcased. Many Florida native plants are included, as are numerous winners of the “Plants of the Year” program sponsored by the Florida Nurserymen, Growers and Landscapers Association (FNGLA).





Discovery Garden group tours can be scheduled by calling 813-744-5519 x 145. Individual garden strolls need not be scheduled. The garden is open from 8:15 am until 4:45 pm, Monday through Friday. Whet your gardening appetite—visit the Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden soon!

Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden
Hillsborough County Extension office
5339 County Road 579, Seffner
813-744-5519 x145

Take Exit 10 from I-4 and go south $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. The Extension office is located on the left at the southeast corner of County Road 579 and Old Hillsborough Ave.

