Eduscape: Water-wise Landscapes That Educate Communities

High school students enrolled in Principles of Engineering and Environmental Science classes will collaborate to convert an underutilized, turfgrass area to a Florida friendly pollinator garden located between two buildings at P.K Yonge Developmental Research School. The goal of this project is to have students apply best management practices in water conservation and Florida Friendly Landscaping ™ as they modify an existing monoculture landscape into a biodiverse teaching area that will be used to educate students and families about implementing sustainable landscape practices that save water and protect water quality.

Project goals

1. Students will design and build a rain barrel system to irrigate a Florida Friendly landscape on campus using roof water.
2. Students will convert an underutilized, turfgrass area to a teaching garden that incorporates a rain barrel system for irrigation using the Florida Friendly ™ landscaping principles.
3. Students will measure soil drainage, soil pH, amount of light and other growing conditions to choose appropriate Florida Friendly landscape plants to attract pollinators.
4. Students will revise some of the St. Johns River Water Management District's water-conservation activities to align with this water-conserving landscape and use these activities to educate our K-5 students.
5. Students will use maps to demonstrate how water runoff from the school campus travels through multiple watersheds until it reaches the St. Johns River watershed emphasizing the impacts of stormwater runoff on surface and groundwater.