

Commission Agenda Date: November 19, 2013

Item No. Presentation

Community Water-Wise Award

The Community Water-Wise Awards recognize property owners who demonstrate outdoor water conservation by adopting the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Practices promoted by Pinellas County Extension. This annual awards program is sponsored by Tampa Bay Water, Pinellas County Extension's Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program and Pinellas County Department of Environment and Infrastructure.

Nominations are accepted in several property categories, including: Single Family Residential, Multi-Family Property, Builder/Developer, Commercial, Governmental, and Schools.

This year the Community Water-Wise Award in the **single family residential category** is presented to Sandy Neither of Clearwater.

Sandy has been transforming her landscape adjacent to Alligator Creek into a fine example of a Florida-Friendly Landscape since she purchased the property nine years ago. Upon purchasing the property, her immediate challenge was to stop the erosion of her topsoil into Alligator Creek. She accomplished this by planting low-maintenance shrubs and groundcover along the bank to hold the soil in place on her property.

Over time, she has reduced the size of her turf grass areas and discontinued the use of pesticides and regularly scheduled irrigation. Native plants and other drought-tolerant plants that survive primarily on rainfall have been used in plant beds throughout the property. Any special care plants that require supplemental watering are watered by hand.

In addition to being a Florida-Friendly Landscape, her landscape is also registered as a Back Yard Habitat by the National Wildlife Foundation.