

**Attachment 3
PPBEP COMMUNITY GRANT FINAL REPORT FORM**

Agreement No.:	FY2023-04		
Grantee Name:	Escambia County		
Grantee Address:	221 Palafox Place, Pensacola FL 32502		
Grantee's Representative:	Samantha Bolduc	Telephone No.:	850-595-3460
Project Title:	Escambia County Coastal Landscaping Workshop & Plant Giveaway		
Please submit any high-resolution photos related to the project, if available (include photo credit for possible use by PPBEP for use in our e-newsletter, annual report, social media, or website) with your report as image files to mtross@ppbep.org .			

1. RESULTS: Describe the progress made toward the goals and objectives as stated in the funded grant application.

Escambia County, Escambia Extension and the Florida Master Gardeners held 4 Coastal landscaping workshops in February & March with two large-scale public giveaways in April. The Coastal Landscaping Guide was updated to include more general landscape information and an expanded plant list, along with a Native Nursery & Landscaper insert. All workshop materials and the updated Landscaping Guide were uploaded to the Escambia County website [here](#) and are available for free download.

Two additional volunteer workdays at the Perdido Key Coastal Demonstration Garden served to increase awareness about the workshops and provide additional learning opportunities for workshop attendees.

Project staff worked closely with the Native Plant Company to provide a wider range of plants available at the giveaways and will continue to support their growing o coastal natives. Staff conducted outreach to 6 local nurseries to, 4 of which stock a selection of coastal native species, with more available by special order.

2. IMPACT: Summarize the organization's key evaluation results related to the funded grant (number of people reached, samples taken, etc.):

- 300 people reached through landscaping workshops & plant giveaways: most local, full-time residents within the 32507, 32561 and 32502 zip codes.
- 1200 native coastal plants given away to coastal residents.
- 200 Coastal Landscaping Guides distributed with digital files available for free download.
- 4 local nurseries engaged to stock native species or provide through special order.

3. SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES: Describe the significant successes and challenges the organization experienced related to the funded grant.

The workshops and plant giveaways were major successes—and far exceeded staff’s expectations for attendance. Workshops sold out within two weeks of posting and the most popular giveaway species were gone within the first hour of giveaway events. Many attendees who were familiar with the demonstration garden were excited to receive their own native species of yards and gardens. Expansion of the Landscaping Guide made it applicable to a wider-ranging audience and included requested topics such as hurricane and wind resistant species.

Additionally, this project engaged with local nurseries across the Panhandle to identify priority retail species, species currently/frequently in stock, and those that may be special ordered from specialty growers. While it is still more work that perusing big-box garden centers, this project addressed a major hurdle for homeowners looking to use native species—where to find them. Additionally, all of the nurseries engaged are small, local establishments, ensuring economic benefits as well as environmental.

However, for many nurseries, coastal natives draw a very niche audience and are less desirable to stock and sell compared to other species. More work could be done with local business owners to understand the most profitable way to stock and sell coastal natives, as well as continued education about the benefits of native species.

Additionally, even when stocked by local nurseries, many of the native available are grown by large scale nurseries in South & Central Florida and shipped north. Local growing operations are small and are not sufficient to support large-scale retail operations at this time. This is an overarching programmatic issue that will not be solved by as single entity, but staff is committed to working with local partners to address this issue.

4. LESSONS LEARNED: Describe what the organization learned based upon the results, successes, and challenges reported. Address programmatic, evaluative, or organizational changes that will be made based upon these lessons learned.

The availability of free plants was the driving force behind the high attendance at workshops—and the public giveaways were wildly successful. Just the availability of species outside the typical garden varieties was enough to spark conversations about the benefit of native species and their connection to the large-scale landscape conservation envisioned by the Perdido Key Habitat Conservation Plan. Given the elusive nature but high popularity of nesting sea turtles and beach mice, being able to provide a tangible way homeowners can benefit the larger environment is a powerful tool when trying to foster a sense of local stewardship, especially within the hobbyist gardening community who are already engaging with the natural environment in a meaningful way.

Native species and native landscaping will continue to remain a focus of the County's coastal conservation initiatives.

This report is submitted in accordance with the reporting requirements of Agreement No. FY2023-04 and accurately reflects the activities associated with the project.

5/31/2023

Signature of Grantee's Representative

Date

Samantha Bolduc, Env Program Manager

Print Name and Title