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## **2004 Emerald Award Winners Announced** ***NatureScape recipients honored for "Florida Friendly" Landscapes***

Water conservation and native plants took center stage this week when Broward County Mayor Kristin Jacobs presented the 2004 Emerald Awards. The Emerald Award program is designed to recognize businesses in Broward County that demonstrate a commitment to protecting and preserving the environment. A new component of the Emerald Awards program includes awards for NatureScape Broward landscapes. Each NatureScape recipient has created a unique and visual landscape designed to conserve water and enhance the environment.

NatureScape awards were given in a number of categories: Homeowners, Municipality or Government and for Special Achievement in "Florida Friendly" landscaping. The following a list of Emerald Award winners in the NatureScape category.



**NatureScape Homeowner: Barbara Bartz and Rick McKenzie (Pompano Beach) and Linda and Jerry Avery (Plantation).** Bartz and McKenzie have re-created mini ecological niches that represent various Broward County environments. Their home's landscape is a showcase of 40 native species old and new. The Averys have created a pleasant, park like atmosphere in their yard, using mainly native plants (38 native species) to encourage wildlife.



**NatureScape Municipality/Government: Coconut Creek City Hall and the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (in Fort Lauderdale.)** At Coconut Creek City Hall, careful planning and attention to the needs of wildlife and plants provide a splendid window of nature for the city employees and residents. Butterfly gardens are a prominent feature of the City Hall's entrance, and an interior atrium is dedicated to the reintroduction of the Atala butterfly. Coconut Creek is the

first city to apply for Florida habitat certification. The landscaping at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center showcases many features of a well-designed and Florida friendly landscape.

**NatureScape Special Achievement: Wilton Manors NatureScape Broward Team Leaders and the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club. M.E.**

DePalma and Diana Fitzpatrick of Wilton Manors have initiated a movement to get the City of Wilton Manors certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. The Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club organized the transformation of two former concrete atriums in the center of the chemotherapy unit of Holy Cross Cancer Center into two special gardens designed to ease patients undergoing cancer treatments.



NatureScape Broward is a program of the Broward County Environmental Protection Department and is part of its Water Matters outreach initiative. The NatureScape program aims to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation and improve the quality of Broward's water resources by encouraging the use of Florida-friendly landscape practices, including planting native plants and integrated pest management. NatureScapes are "Florida Friendly" yards and landscapes that:

- Conserve water by using native plants in place of lawn
- Provide food, water and shelter for resident and migrating wildlife from birds to butterflies
- Use integrated pest control practices
- Reduce storm-water contaminated by pesticides and fertilizers
- Recycle yard waste into mulch and compost

Broward County businesses that went beyond environmental compliance and demonstrated a commitment to preserving and protecting the environment also received Emerald Awards. The following is a list of the winners in each category.

**Pollution Prevention/Hazardous Waste Reduction - Large Business: Imperial Point Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale.** Amongst a number of achievements, Imperial Point Medical Center created a "Waste Busters" Team, which decreased waste disposal costs by \$2,866, reduced biohazard waste by 48 percent and reduced photo developer and fixers by 42 percent.

**Pollution Prevention/Hazardous Waste Reduction - Small Business: Preferred Automotive, Inc. in Hollywood.** This facility purchased and utilizes multiple "closed loop" systems that maximize the use of resources while minimizing environmental impacts by reducing hazardous waste generation and eliminating the emissions of pollutants to the atmosphere.

**Recycling - Large Business: Publix Deerfield Distribution Center in Deerfield Beach.** Publix recycled approximately 27,038.321 tons of solid waste in the past year.

**Green Product/Practices - Large Business: Wild Oats Markets Inc. in Fort Lauderdale.** Wild Oats Market utilizes “corn containers,” which are plastic containers made from corn that is compostable for “To Go” items on their salad bar. In addition, Wild Oats provides Fair Trade coffee and bananas to customers. Fair Trade deals directly with farm cooperatives to avoid brokers and intermediaries to guarantee higher prices for farmer’s goods.

**Innovative Procedures/Process Improvement - Large Business: Coral Springs Medical Center.** Coral Springs Medical Center uses pre-filled tissue specimens to reduce formalin use and exposure from spills/hazards. The hospital has also installed a radiation alarm to monitor all trash leaving the building.

**Environmental Business of the Year: City of Deerfield Beach Recycling Program.** The City of Deerfield Beach’s Recycling program is recognized as the Environmental Business of the Year. This facility collected more than 6,200 tons of residential recyclables during the previous fiscal year. It has also been the recipient of a Green Seal Award, given to its Purchasing Department for buying recycled content sanitary paper products. Deerfield Beach is also the only city in Broward County to provide a special waste drop-off center.

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*Media Note: If you’d like to do a story or feature an Emerald Award recipient please call the media contacts mentioned above. We’d be happy to set-up interviews and arrange for appropriate news coverage. Thanks!*