Parks and IFAS

UF/IFAS Martin County Extension has 3 faculty members focusing on Commercial Horticulture, Residential Horticulture, Family Nutrition Program and Youth Development. Utilizing over 100 volunteers and strategically developing overlapping programs our office has been able to provide a wide segment of the community impactful education. Working with our Parks and Recreation Department Health Department and other community partners we believe we can develop and deliver valuable programs that can positively impact community health on the macro level and provide individuals with meaningful information that can lead to lifelong health improvements. Together we can.

**Florida Yards Neighborhoods**

BMP program-Parks sponsors the program with use of building and allowing employees to attend these programs during working hours. Subject matter includes pesticide & fertilizer application, plant care, various other topics including gang impacts on parks, lagoon and estuary education, storm water contents, sources and impacts, etc.

**UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program (FNP)**

FNP offers free programs to limited-resource families in Florida.

The UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program (FNP) is SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) in Florida. We educate SNAP-eligible Floridians, using evidence-based approaches, about eating healthier and being active on a budget. FNP strives to decrease the risk of chronic disease and improve the quality of life at every age. We serve numerous counties throughout the state with free programs for limited-resource individuals and families.

In addition to education, FNP provides community-based environmental approaches to increase food access and encourage healthier food choices.

[**Regional Coordinator for Public Health Approaches**](http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/493476/regional-coordinator-for-public-health-approaches)

This position is responsible for providing support to assigned counties with public health approaches that complement nutrition education for the UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program. Responsibilities include: researching and reviewing existing public health issues and policies within assigned counties; identifying opportunities for collaboration within specified communities to design and implement relevant public health projects; designing and implementing evaluation of projects; and collaborating with regional and county obesity prevention coalitions.

**Family Nutrition Program**

**District Coordinator**

The District Coordinator (DC) is responsible for creating an environment that promotes healthy food choices and active lifestyles for limited resource individuals and works specifically in the following areas:  healthy food procurement, farmer relations, fostering partnerships with IFAS professionals, teacher trainings, farmer trainings, farmers markets, school gardens, and community gardens.  The DC meets these responsibilities as a member of a team known as the Farm to School, Farm to Community team (F2SC).  The F2SC affects the Florida food system on multiple levels from the micro scale (gardens) to the macro scale (distribution to schools) and ultimately provides Policy, Systems, and Environment changes to promote healthy food consumption for SNAP eligible (formerly Food Stamps) Florida residents.

**4H Youth Development**

**Jr. Sustainable Gardeners** is a new youth development program designed to utilize intergenerational learning through the interactions of the Master Gardeners and 4H youth. The program will introduce youth to the basics of gardening and through gardening develop a greater understanding of biology, chemistry, math and science. Additionally, it is anticipated that participating youth will be provided greater opportunities to sample fresh fruits and vegetables and be more apt to adopt healthier eating habits.

**Champion Kids Finding Champion Trees** is a pilot program that will utilize intergenerational learning to encourage youth to learn more about the biology, value and importance of community trees. Youth in this program will be taught how to identify over a dozen different trees, how to measure the truck diameter and canopy size. Participating youth will learn navigation basics by determining the GPS location of identified champion trees. GPS coordinates will be accumulated and placed on a GIS map that will allow regional governments an inventory (location, size and type) of many large specimen trees.

**4H After School Programs**

4H After school programs provide youth a variety of short interactive learning opportunities that supplement school activities. Sample topics from this year include-hazardous household products, nutrition basics, plant biology (potato in a shoe box), math games, team work development, etc.