



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BILL WELSCH

TEAM Punta Gorda volunteers Mona Viereg and Peggy Jensen plant Florida-friendly plants along Marion Avenue.

Marion Avenue spruced up by TEAM, Crossroads volunteers

PROVIDED BY BILL WELSCH
TEAM PUNTA GORDA

The landscaping along Marion Avenue is more Florida-friendly now that volunteers from TEAM Punta Gorda and Crossroads Wilderness Institute have completed an upgrade project for the plants along the downtown roadway.

The goal was to plant Florida-friendly species, such as buttonwoods, coonties, flax lillies and ice plants, along the roadway. Many of the plants that were previously on Marion Avenue have been relocated to other Punta Gorda parks.

"We felt it was important to have Florida-friendly species along a major thoroughfare in our community," Suzanne McCormick, TEAM Punta Gorda beautification chairperson, stated. "The

species we are planting not only look great all year round, they use less water and are easier to take care of."

The project was a joy for the kids and representatives of Crossroads, a non-profit organization for at-risk youth with a goal of helping the kids become better citizens by promoting the importance of an education while offering mentoring and discipline.

"Our young people love working on these projects," Aram Wheatley, a Crossroads supervisor, stated. "It gives them a chance to be outdoors and be of service to their community."

The Marion Avenue beautification project was funded using proceeds remaining from the Xtreme Makeover event as well as with funding from the sales of TEAM Punta Gorda Pavers.



Suzanne McCormick, TEAM Punta Gorda beautification committee chair, oversees the planting of Florida-friendly plants along Marion Avenue.