

KANAPAHA MIDDLE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL TEACHING PONDS

What is it?

An infiltrating wetland – a pond with natural plants that removes nutrients and allows water to percolate into the ground.

An ecosystem – an area where plants and animals live together in a natural environment.

Why is it here?

Water cycle – this wetland returns clean water to the aquifer, making it an important part of our local water cycle.

Aesthetics – creates a beautiful area for our community to enjoy.

What does it do?

Cleans the water – removes nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus.

Creates habitat – for plants and animals.

Recycles treated water – returns it to the aquifer.



Reclaimed Water

The water supplied to this study area is from GRU's Kanapaha Water Reclamation Facility, where our wastewater is treated and cleaned.

GRU is using this wetland to study water infiltration rates as well as the ability of the wetland to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from the water.



Fragrant Water Lily
(*Nymphaea odorata*)

This water lily is native to Florida. It provides food and shade for wetland inhabitants. Our wetland is home to numerous insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish.



Black-bellied Whistling Duck

(*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

Breeding pairs most often partner for life and share responsibilities of incubation and brood rearing. Nests are usually located in tree cavities, nest boxes, or on the ground in grassy areas or under brush.



Dragonfly

(Order: *Odonata*)

Dragonfly nymphs (the first stage after hatching) live in the water for 1 to 3 years and eat mosquito nymphs and tiny fish. After becoming adults, they only live for a few weeks. There are over 100 species of dragonflies in Alachua County!



Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

Cypress trees can live for hundreds of years. This cypress dome helps improve water quality and returns water to the environment through transpiration and infiltration.



Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)

While foraging for food, the egret walks slowly, stands, and stabs prey with a quick lunge of the bill.



Pickeral Weed
(*Pontederia cordata*)

Wetlands further clean the reclaimed water and increase water infiltration.

Bumble Bee (*Bombus* sp.)
There are over 200 types of bumble bees in the world. Fifty types can be found in North America. They are all valuable pollinators.