





ANNUAL REPORT

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE LAST YEAR









St. Lucie Board of County COMMISSIONERS

Chris Dzadovsky

DISTRICT 1VICE CHAIR

Cathy Townsend

DISTRICT 5
CHAIR

Larry Leet
DISTRICT 2

Linda Bartz DISTRICT 3 Jamie Fowler
DISTRICT 4



Cathy Townsend Chair

Annual reports are designed to inform shareholders about the progress a company has made over the past 12 months. While the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners isn't a publicly traded company, we produce an annual report to let our shareholders (residents and business owners) know how we've performed over the past year.

If you think of local government as a publicly traded company, where the elected county commissioners serve as the board of directors and the taxpayers are the shareholders, St. Lucie County has run an effective business. As a business or property owner in St. Lucie County - your investment (property value) most likely increased over the past year, meaning we have been fiscally responsible and created a positive return on your investment in our community. Because property values increased last year, county commissioners voted to reduce the millage rate for the fourth consecutive year without any cuts in services. In fact, most departments have increased services and programs for our residents and businesses.

People outside our region see what a great value St. Lucie County is and will continue to be. This is evident in the increase in development from residential communities to large-scale warehouses and manufacturing facilities.

Most of this progress can be seen from newly paved roads to upgraded playground equipment. But some of our investments are made behind the scenes from upgraded software that streamlines efficiencies to new programs that reduce operating costs.

As the St. Lucie County Board of County Commission Chair, I ask you to spend a few minutes looking over all the amazing work that's been accomplished by the more than 875 employees who carry out the board's vision and policies. These employees are also residents and taxpayers who care about the community they serve.

While we are proud of the work that we accomplished in 2023, we are even more excited to continue that progress into 2024. You can always stay up-to-date by visiting our website

(www.stlucieco.gov) and our social media channels (@stluciegov) as we continue to set the bar higher in the coming year.

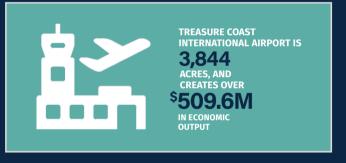
St. Lucie County STRATEGIC PLAN

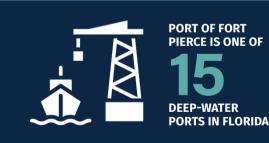


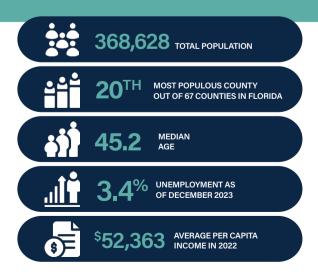
St. Lucie County

572 SQUARE MILES

21
MILES OF
COASTLINE









St. Lucie County invites you to learn more about county government and the work that the county team accomplishes and focuses on to serve the public.

Learn more at www.stlucieco.gov



ADMINISTRATION

St. Lucie County Administration consists of the County Administrator, two Deputy Administrators and four support staff who carry out the policies and procedures set by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners. Administration is responsible for the nearly 900 employees and oversees an overall budget of roughly \$759 million.



George Landry
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



Mayté Santamaria

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



Jason Davis
DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County resources and services are based on priorities established by the Board of County Commissioners with input from the public

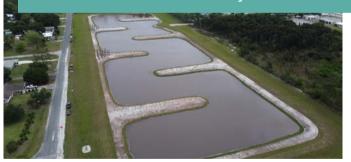
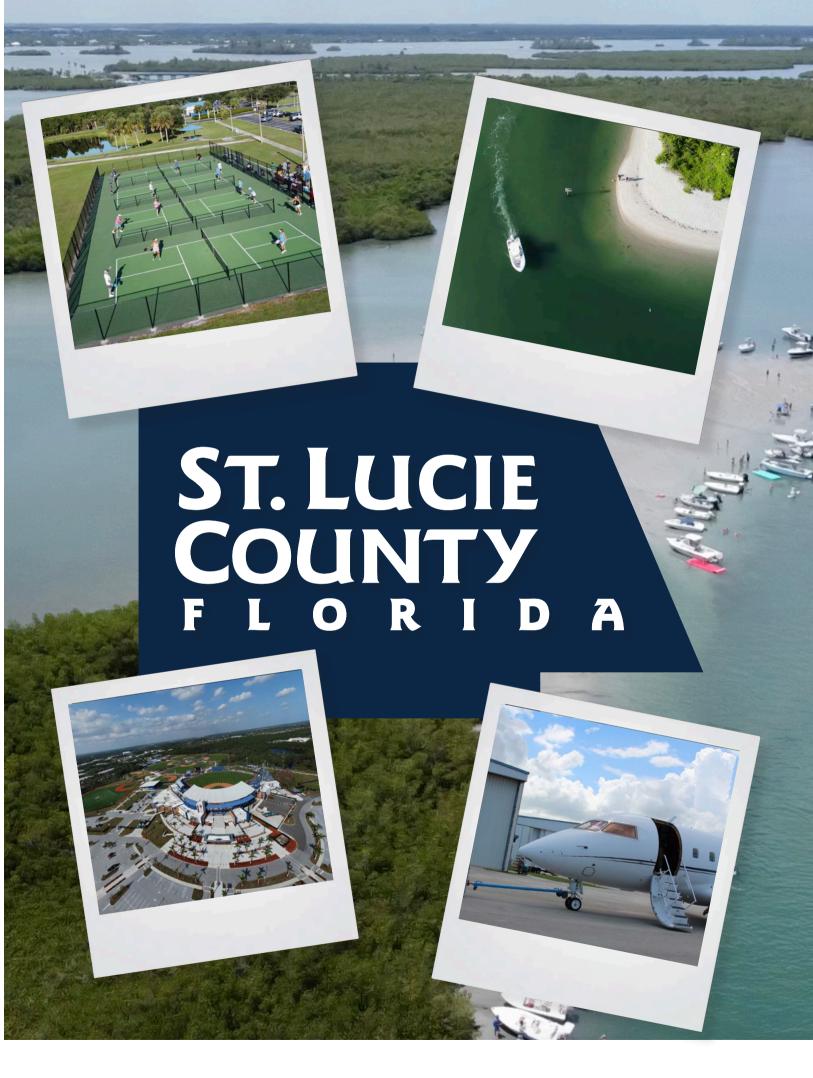






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Treasure Coast International AIRPORT

The Treasure Coast International Airport consists of 11 staff members who operate and maintain the airport.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ➤ Successful approval of the Airport
 Certification Manual by the Federal
 Aviation Administration. This document
 sets forth operational and safety
 standards and encompasses detailed
 procedures and protocols, including
 airfield maintenance, emergency response,
 self-inspection programs and wildlife
 hazard management. It serves as a critical
 document to ensure airport operators
 adhere to the stringent regulatory
 requirements established by the Federal
 Aviation Administration under Part 139 of
 Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Successful approval of the Airport
 Emergency Plan approved by the Federal
 Aviation Administration. This document
 encompasses a coordinated response

- procedures for emergency incidents and is designed to meet the rigorous safety standards set by the Federal Aviation Administration.
- ▶ Successful approval of the Wildlife Hazard Management Plan approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. This document defines the strategies and set of practices that are required to develop and implement to reduce the risk of wildlife strikes during aircraft operations.
- Successful Request for Federalization by the Transportation Security Administration. This transitions authority and responsibility for security screening operations to the Transportation Security Administration.
- Successfully filed a Commercial Service Application with the Federal Aviation Administration. This process involves documenting the necessary requirements to support commercial air service and is a pivotal step forward in expanding the airport's capacity.











COMMUNICA

The St. Lucie County Communications Division handles internal and external communications for all county departments/divisions under the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners. With a staff of six, the division produces and maintains all press releases, websites, social media accounts and SLCTV – the county's government access channel (Comcast 28).

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Worked with Tourism staff to create a new website for Treasure Coast International Airport. (www.flytci.com)
- Designed the first independent website for the Office of the Medical Examiner District 19. (https://ome19.com)
- Communications Manager Flynn Fidgeon earned his Accreditation in Public Relations from the Public Relations Society of America.
- Created an internal strategic communications guide for county departments and staff.
- Updated and expanded St. Lucie County's hurricane guide.
- Researched, designed and published a new St. Lucie County flood guide.

AWARDS:

- 2023 MarCom Awards Platinum Award in the Writing / Communication Plan category for its 2023 strategic communications plan.
- **2023 MarCom Awards -** Gold Award in the Video & Film / Marketing category for the Zora Neale Hurston Branch Library Let's Make Slime summer program video.
- 2023 MarCom Awards Honorable Mention in the Video & Film / Internal Communication category for a new employee onboarding orientation video.
- ➤ 2023 National Association of County Information
 Officers (NACIO) Annual Awards of Excellence Best
 in Category in the Campaigns / Public Safety Category
 for the Okeechobee/Midway Road improvements press
 conference.
- 2023 Vega Digital Awards Gold Award in Online Video / Government category for the coverage of the Vietnam Veterans pinning ceremony.

2023 Vega Digital Awards - Gold Award in the

- 2023 Vega Digital Awards Gold Award in the
 Online Video / Informational category for the St.
 Lucie County sand bypass trap project.
- 2023 Vega Digital Awards Silver Award in the Online Video / Government category for St. Lucie County Public Safety briefings for Hurricane Nicole.
- 2023 Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP) Hermes Creative Awards -Honorable Mention Award in the Electronic Media/ Website category for the county's internal intranet/ employee portal sites.
- ▶ 2023 Association of Marketing and Communication
 Professionals (AMCP) Hermes Creative Awards Honorable Mention Award in the Electronic Media/
 Web Element/Landing Page category for the
 county's sea turtle nesting season webpage.
- 2023 Association of Marketing and Communication
 Professionals (AMCP) Hermes Creative Awards Honorable Mention Award in the Print Media/
 Publication/Other category for the county's internal
 strategic communications plan.
- ➤ 2023 Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP) Hermes Creative Awards -Gold Award in the Print Media/Branded Graphics Suite category for the county's internal brand/style plan.
- 2023 Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP) Hermes Creative Awards -Platinum Award in the Photography/Social Media category for a drone image of Clover Park.



COMMUNITY The St. Lucie County Community Services

Services Department's mission is to provide assistance to St. Lucie County residents and improve quality of life through information, resources and services. The department is comprised of three divisions: human services, housing and veteran services. The human services division administers and manages local, state and federal grants to empower low-income residents to achieve self-sufficiency. The housing division provides housing assistance to lowincome families by managing grants, reviewing applications and building and fixing homes. The veterans services division helps veterans and their families apply for benefits and acts as their principal advocate to ensure they receive the care, support and recognition they've earned. The division also manages a transportation program that provides transportation to medical appointments at the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center and local medical facilities.

Human Services Division

- Received \$908,255 in grant funding for social services programs in support of healthcare and employment.
- Participated in the development of an annual report to guide the newly established homeless advisory committee to address homelessness in St. Lucie County. The Annual Report was completed in September 2023.
- Established a program to assist low-income seniors on a fixed income with their utility bills and partnered with Florida Power & Light Company and Fort Pierce Utilities Authority for referrals.
- Staff completed more than 117 hours of program training to improve the quality of services provided for the families they serve.
- Processed 225 applications for the WPSL's Christmas Kids Toy Program, a 45% increase.











- Qualified 23 homeowners for the housing rehabilitation program.
- Broke ground on 10 townhomes in partnership with St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity.
- Conducted a housing needs assessment to identify opportunities to create more affordable housing options.









Veterans Division

- Served 7,776 veterans, widows and families by processing benefit claims for compensation, pension, health care, education, burial, home loans, retrieved lost records, property tax exemptions and survivor benefits.
- Transported 2,082 veterans and caretakers to the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center and local community health clinics.
- Celebrated the first-year anniversary of the mental health pilot program to assess and diagnose veterans to expedite their claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. To date, 70 veterans have been evaluated.
- Participated in 141 community outreach events.

ENVIRONMENTAL Resources







The St. Lucie County **Environmental Resources** Department has 23 staff across 4 divisions: administration, environment regulation, environmental education, community outreach and natural resources management/ lands. The department focuses on preserving and protecting the natural resources through land acquisition, sustainable land management practices, conservation planning and development review, nature recreation opportunities, environmental education programs and community outreach. The department strives to be good stewards of public trust by creatively leveraging investments in our community through grants, partnerships, volunteerism and community stakeholder engagement.





ERD Administration Division

- ▶ Managed \$6,271,012 in grants.
- Initiated the development of a community-wide resilience plan and held four St. Lucie Community Resilience Steering
- Committee meetings.
- Worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and South Florida Water Management District to develop and refine a comprehensive statewide and regional resilience plan as established by Florida Statute 380.093.
- Received a Resilient Florida grant for \$181,000 through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to develop a natural resources vulnerability assessment.

Environmental Regulations Division

- Reviewed 3,985 Development Review Committee and Non-Development Review Committee applications, a 55% increase.
- Secured a total of ±135.54 acres of conservation easements consisting of ±97.70 acres of wetland and wetland buffer, as these are recognized as environmentally significant lands, and ±37.84 native upland & upland areas to satisfy tree mitigation requirements to offset development impacts.

Environmental Education & Community Outreach Division

- Provided 812 hours of environmental education to 7,198 individuals.
- ▶ Hosted 388 environmental programs, a 16% increase.
- ▶ Hosted 68 field trips at the Oxbow Eco-Center, a 3% increase.
- 860 volunteers donated 11,814 hours, the equivalent of \$353,814 of in-kind services.
- 803 residents visited 17 preserves during 101 guided nature programs.
- Reached 263 residents during the new First Step Program in partnership with Be Greater, Then...Inc. at Sheraton Plaza.

- Partnered with the St. Lucie Cultural Alliance and St. Lucie Public Schools to provide immersive, educational nature experiences to voluntary pre-kindergarten students at the Oxbow Eco-Center.
- ▶ 16 teens earned 40 community service hours during the inaugural Preserve Pals Camp by picking up 1,100 lbs. of trash and 300 lbs. of exotic plants.
- ▶ Served 731 children and 608 adults during 70 Little Acorns toddler programs.
- Provided 311 hours of environmental education to 612 youth aged 6-16 who participated in nature camps at Oxbow Eco-Center.
- ► Hosted more than 6,500 attendees during the St. Lucie Earth Day Festival at the Oxbow Eco-Center, with more than 70 exhibitors and 167 volunteers.
- Displayed the "World of Away" eco-art exhibition to more than 1,000 visitors at the Indian River Lagoon Science Festival.

Natural Resources Management/ Lands Division

- Managed more than 11,725 acres of nature preserves, restored approximately 1,925 acres of nature preserves and maintained approximately 61 miles of trails.
- ► Trained 60 St. Lucie County Fire District personnel in wildland fire operations, totaling 480 hours and 120 Indian River State College Fire Academy students in wildland fire operations, totaling 960 hours.
- Completed work camp sites at Bluefield Ranch Preserve and hosted 6 work campers who provided more than \$186,888 in Vservices.
- Treated 1,598 acres of invasive exotic plant species within 18 different preserves.
- Completed the design and permitting phases of the George LeStrange Preserve oxbow restoration project and the Cypress Creek watershed rehydration public-private partnership.
- Partnered with the University of South Florida to expand geographic information systems studies to create a new tool for identifying restoration priorities

TEAS St. Lucie County Extension

UF/IFAS St. Lucie County Extension's mission is to disseminate research-based knowledge in agriculture, human resources and natural resources to sustain and enhance the quality of life of all residents in St. Lucie County. Outreach, education and training are provided through community resource development, 4-H, natural resources, commercial fruit and vegetable production, urban and commercial horticulture and sea grant. The team consists of one part-time and 15 full-time and employees.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2023

- Master naturalist extension agent Ken Gioeli delivered an invited presentation at the Entomological Society of America Conference in National Harbor, MD, on the role of extension in invasive detection and response communication during the session titled Regulatory Entomology: Research, Extension, and Policy Supporting Invasive Species Response and Approach.
- ▶ Community Resource Development Agent Carol Roberts expanded community partnerships for programming by 40% through financial education services in conjunction with St. Lucie County Human Resources, the City of Fort Pierce, Graceway Village and Project Lift, in addition to ongoing programming with another six area social agencies.
- Community Resource Development Agent Carol Robert assisted in organizing the first annual meeting and awards program of the Florida Association of Community Development Extension Professionals, a new state chapter of a national professional organization.

- ▶ Ten backpacks filled with energy-efficient home devices and tools were donated to the St. Lucie County Library System for checkout by patrons desirous of exploring energy-efficient home living. Backpacks and supplies were purchased through donations and program funds were raised through registration fees.
- Community Resource Development Agent Carol Robert published a 4-course, self-paced online financial education series at the University of Florida's Canvas Course Catalog at: https://ifas. instructure.com/
- Acquired two significant 4-H program sponsors, including Vulcan Materials Company and the Doris
 M. Carter Foundation. Together, they contributed \$15,000 towards program development and scholarships.
- Increased 4-H club charters (new 4-H clubs) from 26 to 37, a 42% increase.
- Increased volunteer hours to 16,492 for a total value of \$524,446 (at \$31.80 per hour).









AWARDS 2023

- Master Naturalist Extension Agent Ken Gioeli received the UF/IFAS Extension Respect Award for the promotion of diversity, equity and inclusion in the field of extension education.
- Fruit and Alternative Crop Agent Amir Rezazadeh was awarded a \$9,046 research and extension grant from the University of Florida and USDA-NIFA.
- Fruit and Alternative Crop Agent Amir Rezazadeh was awarded an outstanding educational materials award at the 2023 American Society for Horticultural Science conference.
- Fruit And Alternative Crop Agent Amir Rezazadeh was awarded a state communication award for online content from the University of Florida.
- ▶ Extension Director and Commercial Horticulture Agent Grantly Ricketts was selected as a Distinguished Service Award winner to represent the University of Florida IFAS Extension in Des Moines, Iowa.
- ▶ \$65,000 was awarded to the urban horticulture program to provide vegetable garden education to the residents of St. Lucie County for the next five years.
- ▶ \$2,500 was awarded to the horticulture program to provide pollinator garden education in schools.



With a staff of three, the St. Lucie
County Government Relations
Division is responsible for overseeing
and coordinating the county's
legislative advocacy program. The
team is responsible for the annual
state and federal legislative platforms
in accordance with the strategic
priorities and policy direction of the
St. Lucie County Board of County
Commissioners. Staff aid in the grant
application and administration of major
infrastructure projects, including the
American Rescue Plan Act.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ► Successfully secured more than \$2.67 million in state appropriations, including:
 - ▶ \$800,000 for the Myers Stickle Preserve for people with unique abilities.
 - \$875,000 for the homeless veterans community village.
 - \$1 million for the planning and design of a new Office of the Medical Examiner District 19 facility.
- Supported the county in competitive grant programming.
- Administered more than \$63 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds.

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATIONS

St. Lucie County State Legislative Delegation

St. Lucie County Federal Legislative Delegation



◆ Senator

Gayle Harrell

215 SW Federal
Highway Suite 203
Stuart, FL 34994

772-221-4019



◆ U.S. Congressman Brian Mast

121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd, Room 187 Port St. Lucie, FL 34984 © 772-336-2877



◆ Senator

Erin Grall

3209 Virginia Ave.
Suite A149
Fort Pierce, FL 34981

772-595-1398



◆ U.S. Senator

Marco Rubio

4580 PGA Blvd.
Suite 201
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

D 561-775-33607



◆ Representative Toby Overdorf

151 Southwest Flagler Ave. Stuart, FL 34994-2139 • 772-221-4961



◆ Representative Dana Trabulsy

Indian River State College, Building S 3209 Virginia Ave Fort Pierce, FL 34981



◆ U.S. Senator Rick Scott

B3 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

© 202-224-5274





Our county team is the organization's most valuable asset











HUMAN Resources

The St. Lucie County Human Resources and Risk Management Department has 12 staff members who provide comprehensive programs to support all county employees throughout their employment and afterward. This includes recruitment, onboarding, total rewards, benefits administration for retirees, employee relations, labor relations, risk management and safety programs. Additionally, the department provides benefits administration for current employees and retirees of the constitutional offices.

TRAINING

- Implemented an on-demand language interpretation service to provide translation services and bridge language barriers for our limited English-speaking customers.
- ► Hosted the Summer of Success internship program with CareerSource to provide summer employment for local youth.
- Saved \$16,846 by contracting with a more costeffective and user-friendly learning management system.
- ▶ Implementing two new software platforms to improve the hiring process and utilize emotional intelligence to empower managers to improve communication and guide positive interactions.
- ▶ Staff participated in 358 in-house training, professional development, online and community partner training courses.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY

Conducted more than 300 hours of employee safety training, including de-escalation, situational awareness, active shooter/threat, CPR/AED and first aid training.

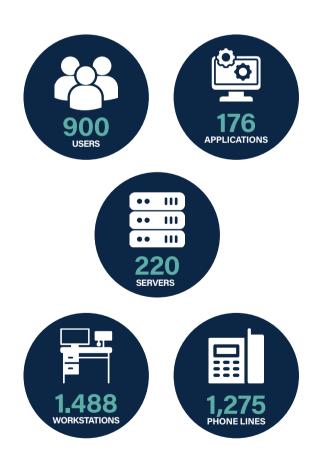
- Received the Safety Council of Palm Beach County Worker Safety and Vehicle Safety Awards.
- Completed 45 comprehensive safety surveys, resulting in the implementation of proactive solutions to resolve concerns related to employee and resident safety at various county facilities and worksites.

TOTAL REWARDS

- ▶ Successfully transitioned employee health and wellness center operations to a new provider to positively impact the health and well-being of the county's workforce and their dependents and serve as a mechanism for containing rising healthcare costs.
- Coordinated the largest annual employee health, wellness and safety fair to date, resulting in a 41% increase in both vendor participation and employee exposure and awareness of local and regional health and wellness resources.
- Successfully negotiated salary and benefits changes with the union, resulting in improvements in vacation, sick and holiday leave for all county employees.

Information TECHNOLOGY

The St. Lucie County Information Technology Department supports the county's mission by enabling greater transparency, accountability and citizen collaboration in government through the use of innovative and reliable technology. Our 32 full-time employees work to ensure information security, protect individual privacy and be good stewards of taxpayer resources by strategically combining technology with effective processes to serve citizens and visitors.



PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE & APPLICATIONS:

- Provided project management for implementation of the new St. Lucie County Public Works Department ElementsXS asset management and work order management system.
- Implemented DocuSign to reduce dependency on paper processes.
- Updated supported software profiles to assist with strategic planning and service catalog.

HELP DESK OPERATIONS:

- ▶ Completed more than 11,753 work orders.
- ▶ Help Desk responded to more than 5,680 calls.
- Implemented a new information technology service and asset management system to increase efficiency and improve asset tracking.
- Provided four Indian River State College students pursuing an IT degree with the opportunity for real-world experience working with new ideas, issues, organizations, and individuals.



NETWORK:

- Moved all equipment and configurations for the St. Lucie County Community Services Department to their new location at 714 Avenue C, Fort Pierce.
- ▶ Deployed Windows 11 county-wide.
- Rebuilt domain controllers for all domains from server 2012R2 to server 2022.
- Upgraded server 2008 to server 2016 or server 2022 for security, compliance, and currency purposes.
- Implemented standardized conference equipment in all major conference rooms.
- ▶ Moved the domain name system to a cloud solution.
- Implemented new equipment to ensure redundancy power supply for the data center.

SECURITY:

- Implemented hardware and software infrastructure changes to segment St. Lucie County from partners to increase security and performance.
- Awarded the Florida Cybersecurity Grant.
- Security Administrator Aaron Rice was honored as one of 2023's Rising Stars by Route Fifty and Nextgov/FCW
- ▶ Implemented multiple cloud-based cybersecurity systems.

TELECOM:

- ▶ Replaced the legacy ringdown system at Treasure Coast International Airport with a competitive system, saving more than \$300,000.
- ► Changed Lakewood Park Pool, Author Lee Boatwright Pool and St. Lucie County Regional History Center phone systems to Cisco IP phone systems.
- Relocated Community Services phone services from the 7th Street location to the Ave. C location.
- Added an auto attendant to St. Lucie County Regional
 History Center phone system to streamline customer service
 requests.

County ATTORNEY

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide the best legal representation and advice to the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners and its staff, attend meetings of the board and board advisory committee meetings and various other meetings as directed and provide legal services to the several constitutional officers.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

- Processed 19 ordinances.
- ▶ Processed 226 resolutions.
- ▶ Processed 976 public records requests.
- ▶ Processed 112 tax deed overbid claims.

PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS DIVISION

- Received and processed approximately 275 right-ofway permits, 74 revocable license agreements, and 11 right-of-way donations.
- Reviewed and provided comments on approximately280 planning and development applications.
- Concluded the exchange agreements with the City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County Fire District.
- Coordinated nine conservation easements for St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department for various developmental applications.
- Processed road impact fee credit agreements for the site plans for AgriCoastal Growers, 5501 West Orange Crossings, South Florida Logistics Center and St. Nicholas Oaks.
- Acquired right-of-way and drainage easements from

- 4 property owners for St. Lucie County Public Works Department for the Lennard/Tilton watershed improvements.
- Acquired a utility easement to provide public utilities to residents on North Hutchinson Island; drainage easement for St. Lucie County Public Works Department from a property owner along Citrus Avenue; Temporary access road and maintenance easement from South Florida Water Management District for Pinelands Preserve for St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department.
- Purchased a .31-acre parcel for St. Lucie County
 Utilities Department for a lift station as part of the
 North Hutchinson Island septic-to-sewer project.
- Sold two escheated county properties and donated a parcel to Habitat for Humanity.
- ► Facilitated the abandonment of Sandridge Road, Avenue M and a 30' strip of right-of-way located west of Brocksmith Road.
- Coordinated with the St. Lucie County Public Safety Department to review and approve street names for various new developments throughout the county.
- ► Acquired additional right-of-way for Avenue F and Avenue G.



PRETRIAL

ST. LUCIE COUNTY PRETRIAL/GPS PROGRAM

- ▶ 636 defendants supervised 24/7/365.
- ▶ 6,491 field/residential checks.
- ▶ 37,622 jail bed days saved for a cost savings of \$3,040,234 based on the rate of \$80.81 per day per inmate.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY PRETRIAL/GPS PROGRAM

- ▶ 61 defendants supervised 24/7/365.
- ▶ 784 field/residential checks.
- ▶ 4,378 jail bed days saved for a cost savings of \$343,979 based on the rate of \$78.57 per day per inmate.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY PRETRIAL/GPS PROGRAM

- Established pretrial services and GPS program.
- ▶ 51 defendants supervised 24/7/365.
- ▶ 238 field/residential checks.
- 7,318 jail bed days saved for a cost savings of \$713,066 based on the rate of \$97.44 per day per inmate.

ST. LUCIE DRUG SCREENING LAB

- Launched the "Late Night Pilot Program" at the Port St. Lucie site for customers who work during the day and need to drug test after normal business hours.
- ► Completed a Spanish-language version of the drug testing hotline.
- Completed the Florida Department of Transportation training program for employees.
- Conducted county employees' new hire drug testing while the employee clinic was not fully operational.
- ▶ Collected 22,665 drug tests, a 7.72% increase.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- Created and implemented a new task and call logging feature for internal use to better track and manage accomplished work for the purposes of reporting and management.
- Created a new early childhood court application for drug court use to allow for tracking cases and other relevant information related to early childhood court.
- Created a new "Journey Forward" program application that allows adding and maintaining clients and reporting statistics.









2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Successfully onboarded a new director.
- ► Increased summer reading challenge participation to 1,752,
- Increased summer program attendance to 7,349, a 57% increase.
- Increased in-house programming increased to 1,476, a 28% increase.
- ▶ Increased program attendance to 31,552, a 71% increase.
- ▶ Increased collection item circulation to 777,731, a 7% increase.
- ▶ Song & Associates completed the design for the 10,000-squarefoot branch in Port St. Lucie.
- Opened a new digital preservation station at the Morningside Branch.
- ▶ Awarded \$100,096 in Florida State Aid.

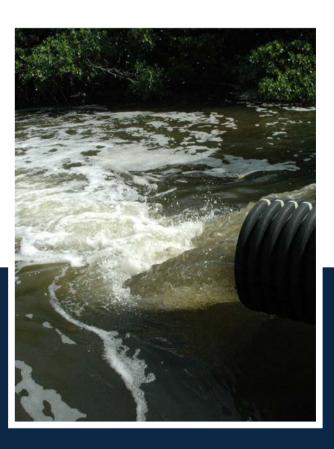
- ▶ Returned Monday service hours at the Kilmer and Lewis branches.
- Added 5 online remote resources: Value Line for stock market research; Weiss Financial Ratings with personalized Medigap reports; Kanopy for streaming movies; Hoopla for streaming movies, TV and e-books; and Mometrix eLibrary with online exam study guides in the fields of business, college admissions, construction, nursing, teaching and more.
- Increased public computer sessions to 57,496 users, a 26% increase.
- ▶ Provided 34,880 free public Wi-Fi sessions.
- Distributed monthly e-newsletter to 35,000 recipients.
- Facilitated 189,730 e-book and e-audio downloads.
- ▶ Accommodated 50,000 database downloads.
- ▶ Dispensed 71,000 hours of Freegal streaming music.



MOSQUITO Control

St. Lucie Mosquito Control District is staffed by 41 full-time and part-time employees and is comprised of three divisions: inspections, impoundments and administration. These divisions are responsible for the implementation of an integrated mosquito management program that promotes data-driven control decisions.

The plan combines numerous key components, including surveillance, mechanical control, biological control, chemical control and public education.



- Responded to more than 680 service requests, a 9% decrease.
- Performed more than 22 Florida Department of Health-initiated domestic inspections in county neighborhoods to prevent transmission of mosquitoborne diseases, a 25% increase.
- ▶ Collected 755 blood samples from 36 sentinel chickens for tests by the Florida Department of Health. 0 positive results for West Nile virus, Eastern equine encephalitis virus, St. Louis encephalitis virus or Highlands J virus were found.
- Collected 130 ramp mosquito pool tests. 0 confirmed positive results for West Nile virus were found.
- Performed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention bottle bioassays on disease-vectoring mosquito populations to enhance the effectiveness of the integrated mosquito management program.
- ▶ Replaced 3 stem walls and 8 outfall pipes throughout the impoundments to increase water control options and improve mosquito management.
- ▶ Rebuilt 4 inspection walkways in mangrove ecosystems to improve access for mosquito sampling and for better mosquito control strategies.
- Participated in 7 county-wide outreach events to educate residents on mosquito-borne disease prevention strategies, a 40% increase.
- More than 30 ultra-distance athletes participated in the 6th Annual St. Lucie Skeeter Skoot 100k and 50K Ultra Runs hosted on six mosquito impoundments.
- Placed rip-rap along one mile of dike road on impoundment 7 and restored more than a mile of dike road on impoundments 8B and 8C to protect sensitive mangrove marsh ecosystems and bolster mosquito management strategies.

Office of Management &

BUDGET

The St. Lucie County Office of Management & Budget is comprised of 11 employees within two divisions: budget and purchasing. The budget division oversees the preparation, monitoring and amevnding of the county's annual budget. The division also prepares financial analyses, reviews financing options and provides budget information to county departments and the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners. The purchasing division is involved in the purchase or contract for all supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services required by any county department. The division also prepares, monitors and manages all bids, requests for proposals and requests for qualification documents.

BUDGET DIVISION 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ▶ Improved tracking, coordinating and integration of strategic plan goals, objectives and initiatives in the budget submittal requirements to ensure prioritized allocation decisions and to achieve compliance with the Government Finance Officers Association's updated strategy alignment requirements.
- ▶ Earned the Distinguished Budget Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- Participated in the enterprise system needs assessment and vendor short-list process.
- Updated the general administrative charges in the cost allocation plan.

PURCHASING DIVISION 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Approved and processed 2,976 purchase orders totaling \$140,759,582.
- Printed almost 1 million copies for county departments and outside agencies.
- ▶ Advertised 77 formal solicitations.



WINNER

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

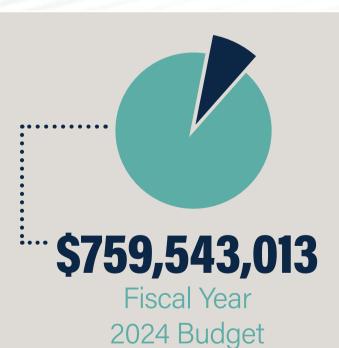






To view St. Lucie County's official approved budget, visit https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-and-services/management-and-budget/budget-documents/budgets or scan the QR code below.

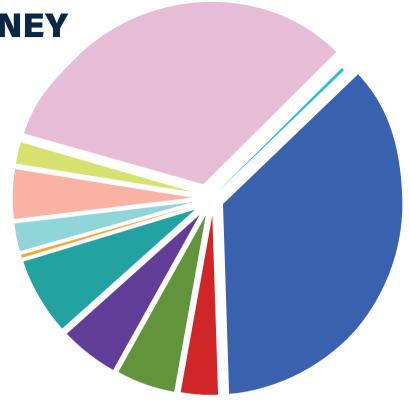






WHERE THE MONEY **COMES FROM**

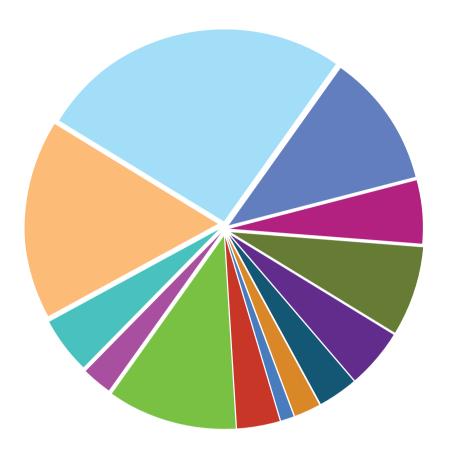
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS \$759,543,013



- Fund Balance (33.29%): represents the excess of fund assets over liabilities from the previous year.
- Internal, Services & Other (0.02%)
- Ad Valorem Tax (36.77%): property taxes from real
- Other Taxes and Fees (3.23%): revenues derived from the issuance of local licenses and permits.
- Licenses and Permits (5.42%): revenues derived from the issuance of local licenses and permits.
- Intergovernmental Revenues: (5.29%) revenues received from federal, state and other local governmental sources.

- Charges for Services (6.91%): funds generated from fees and/or services provided by the county.
- Fines and Forfeits (0.13%): include monies received from fines and penalties for the commission of statutory offenses, violation of lawful administrative rules and regulations or neglect of duty.
- Miscellaneous Revenues/Other (2.61%): interest and reimbursements account for the majority of miscellaneous revenues.
- Interfund Transfers-In (4.58%): represent transfers from one county fund to another.
- Proceeds from Loans/Bonds (1.75%): revenues from loans & bonds, which are used to finance projects

*Revenues are reduced by \$21,240,193 to reflect an allowance for uncollectible amounts.

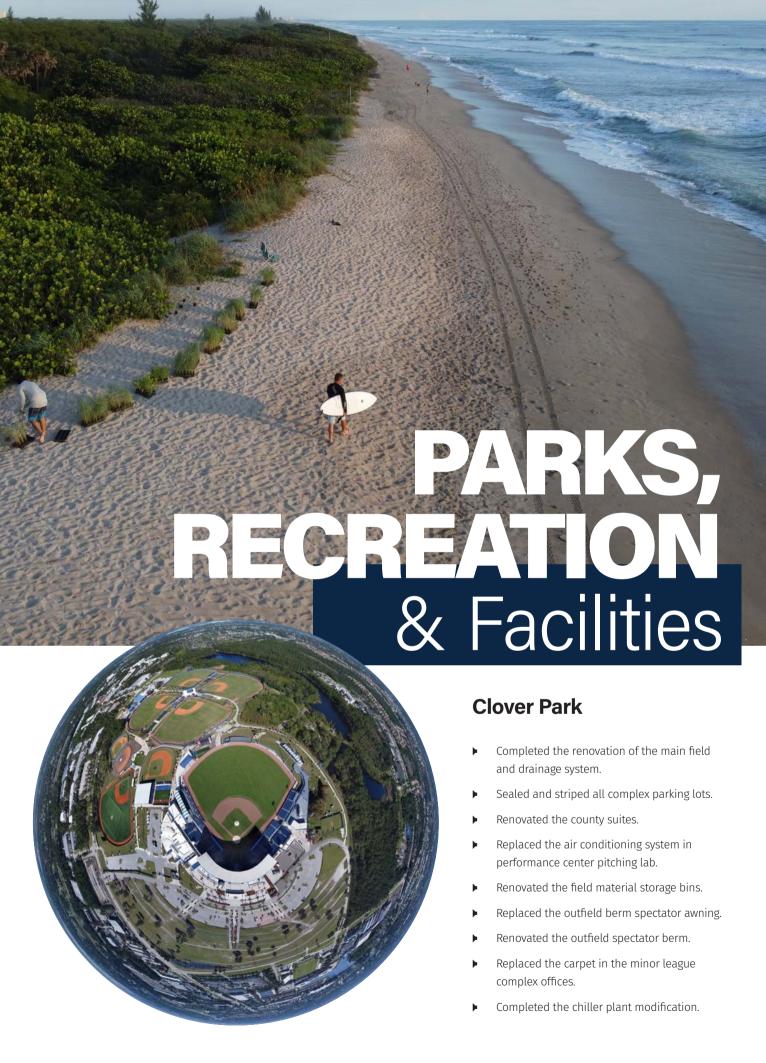


WHERE THE MONEY GOES

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS \$759,543,013
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

- **Estimated Ending Balance (26.28%):** the excess of fund assets over liabilities from the current year
- **General Government (10.98%):** services provided by the county for the benefit of the public and general governmental body as a whole.
- **Public Safety (5.37%):** services provided by the county for the safety and security of the public.
- **Physical Environment (7.43%)**: function performed by the county to achieve a satisfactory living environment for the community as a whole.
- **Transportation (5.19%):** expenditures for developing and improving the safe and adequate flow of vehicles, travelers and pedestrians.
- **Economic Environment (3.10%)**: expenditures for developing and improving the living conditions of residents.
- **Human Services (2.29%):** expenditures with the purpose of promoting the general health and well-being of the community as a whole.

- **Court Related: (1.09%)** includes court administration, public defender, state attorney, guardian ad litem.
- **Culture and Recreation (3.57%):** expenditures to provide residents with opportunities and facilities for cultural, recreational and educational programs.
- **Capital Outlay (10.98%):** includes the purchase of land, improvements to land and buildings.
- **Debt Service (2.41%)**: principal, interest and fees for debt service purposes.
- **Interfund Transfers (4.71%):** transfers from one county fund to another.
- Transfers to Constitutional Officers (16.59%): transfers to the St. Lucie County Clerk of the Circuit Court, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, St. Lucie County Property Appraiser, St. Lucie County Tax Collector and the St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections.



Fairwinds Golf Course

- ▶ Raised more than \$65,000 by collaborating with the United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee for their annual fundraising day and night golf tournament.
- Increased participation in the Fairwinds' Junior Development Program to more than 180 participants.
- Hosted two Florida State Golf Association junior golf events and one South Florida PGA Junior Tour event.
- Hosted 147 veterans during the PGA HOPE 6-week program at Fairwinds.

- Increased the Fairwinds Player Development Programs by 22%.
- Increased golf revenue by 15%, totaling \$2.3 million in revenue.
- Increased driving range revenue by \$58,000 by improving the practice facility, including the new 6-hole putting and chipping course.
- Partnered with the First Tee of the Treasure Coast to expand community outreach programs to Project LYFT, Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County and RICH House of Fort Pierce.
- ▶ Grew the Fairwinds Player Advantage Program to 1,422 participants, a 19% increase.





Parks

- Replaced picnic pavilion roofs at Frederick Douglass Beach Park.
- ▶ Installed a new ADA-accessible playground with dedicated playground sections for ages 2–5 and a separate section for ages 5–12, a toddler swing and fencing at Palm Lake Park.
- Completed multi-purpose field renovation at Pepper Park Beach Park.
- Renovated softball field #2 at Lawnwood Sports Complex with new turf, irrigation and improved drainage.
- Lawnwood Regional Park and Lakewood Park Regional Park hosted 15 different baseball tournaments.
- Replaced the chemical storage building at Lawnwood Maintenance Complex.
- ▶ Replaced the irrigation main at Elks Park.
- Replaced the Kahlil Mack Field press box stairs at Lincoln Park Regional Park.
- Installed new stairs at Ilous Ellis Football Field.
- Installed overhead netting and upgraded batting cage netting at Elks Park.





Events Hosted by Parks

N.Y. Mets Fantasy Baseball Camp (Lawnwood Baseball Complex) · St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Family Fun Day and softball tournament

- · St. Lucie Public Schools high school and middle school band showcase
- Southeastern Umpires Association training course · Indian River State
 College baseball and softball games · Florida Coast Spring Training games
 and practices · Special Olympics track meet · 6 yard sales St. Lucie
 Public Schools high school graduations youth flag football tournament
- Puerto Rican Festival (South County Regional Sports Complex) Stella Marine Environmental Camp at the St. Lucie County Regional History Center.

Recreation

- Partnered with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office to host approximately 300 children and their families during the first back-to-school event.
- Replaced electric service in Adams Arena at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds.
- Replaced high-bay lighting in Adams Arena at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds.
- Acquired new removable flooring for Adams Arena at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds.
- Created a new wall for new framed art in the Seminole exhibit at the St. Lucie County Regional History Center.
- The St. Lucie County Regional History Center exhibited at the St. Lucie County Fair.
- The St. Lucie County Regional History Center participated in history fest.
- Completed the outdoor Edwin Binney exhibit at the St. Lucie County Regional History Center.



Hosted by Recreation

Edu-Time, Women's Heart Health Walk, Summer Vamp 2023, kids open recreation and adult open recreation at Lincoln Park Community Center • First Annual Punt, Pass And Kick Competition (attended by 150 children and their families • Juneteenth event (Lawnwood Sports Complex) • Uncrowned Kings and Queens event (Havert L. Fenn Center) • Inaugural Rec & Roll Program • Splash Jam event (county pools, attended by approximately 600 families) • Trunk Or Treat event (Havert L. Fenn, approximately 2,000 families in attendance) • "Beat the Heat with Indoor Recreation" (Havert L. Fenn Center, which was featured on local news) • Healthy Heart Walk recreation program (Havert L. Fenn Center.) • Yoga classes (eight-week program at Havert L. Fenn Center) • "Get to Know Your Pickleball Game" (Eight-week program at the Havert L. Fenn Center) • Zumba classes (Havert L. Fenn Center) • Special Needs Fall Festival (Havert L. Fenn Center)

- Increased St. Lucie County Aquarium gift shop sales by 26%.
- Increased open recreation attendance at the Havert L. Fenn Center by more than 50%.
- Increased new business and events at the Havert L. Fenn Center by 15%
- Increased revenue at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds by \$110,418.
- Increased the number of events at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds to 147, a 15% increase.
- Increased revenue at the Savannas Recreation Area by \$29,742.

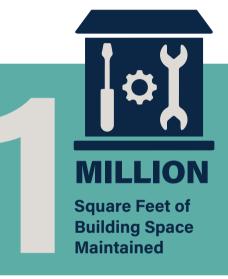
Facilities

- Completed a new parking lot expansion project at the county administration.
- Replaced the gazebo at the St. Lucie West annex building.
- Upgraded the St. Lucie West annex building CCTV and access control system.
- Demolished five county buildings, reducing the county building footprint by 32,500 square feet.

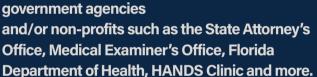
- Replaced the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds livestock barn roof.
- Replaced expansion joints and seating at Clover Park.
- Finished constructing ground floor and 2nd floor improvements at St. Lucie County Clerk of the Court building C.
- Installed lightning arrest system at the State Attorney's Office,

 19th Circuit.
- Installed a new roof at Kilmer Branch Library.

- Replaced a large section of air conditioning at the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Jail.
- Restored St. Lucie County parking garage in downtown Fort Pierce.
- Acquired a new Atlas Copco 125KW portable generator for emergency response.
- Replaced the HVAC rooftop for Communications Division.
- Completed HVAC replacement at the South Hutchinson Island utilities plant.



The Facility Division provides facility support for more than a dozen













Innovation & PERFORMANCE

The St. Lucie County Innovation & Performance Division is comprised of 2 staff members who oversee the county's strategic planning, performance management, Lean Six Sigma training and impact fee program. The division collaborates with departments and senior managers on improvements and administers the county impact fee program.

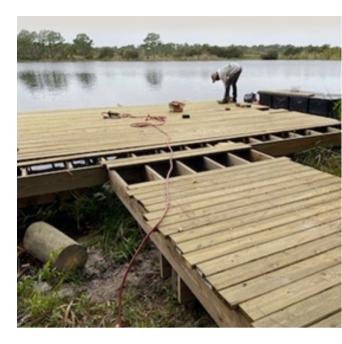


Impact Fees

- ▶ St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners adopted new impact fee administrative procedures manual.
- St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners adopted and executed new interlocal agreement with the City of Port St. Lucie for county park impact fees.
- ▶ St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners adopted and executed new funding agreement with the City of Port St. Lucie to provide \$4 million in park improvements at Torino Regional Park.
- ▶ St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners adopted and executed new funding agreement with the City of Port St. Lucie to provide \$1 million for new softball fields at a to-be-determined city park.
- ▶ St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners adopted and executed new funding agreement with the City of Port St. Lucie to provide \$1.5 million in intersection improvements at Peacock Blvd. and St. Lucie West Blvd.

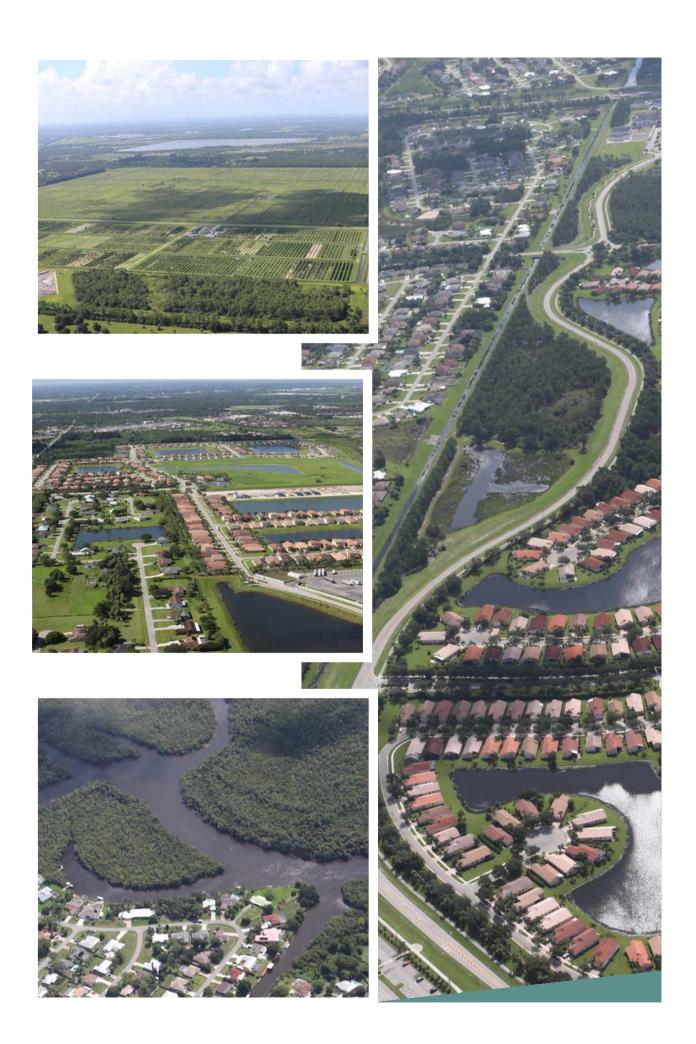
Performance

- ▶ Kicked off the 2024 St. Lucie County strategic plan update with the launch of the second Polco National Community Survey to solicit feedback from residents on county services and resident priorities. Survey results were distilled into the top ten county commission budget priorities for 2024 and informed the plan update.
- Completed a capital asset management and computer inventory assessment, resulting in:
 - ▶ Draft policy and administrative order for capital assets valued below \$5,000.
 - Recommendations for countywide capital asset tracking commencing with the onboarding process and concluding with asset disposal or write-off.
 - Inventory of computers, resulting in the ability to accurately assess resource allocations.
 - Observations and recommendations of information technology operations.
- Completed a review of county fleet asset management, purchasing, maintenance and assignment practices resulting in an updated draft light fleet policy manual and a draft heavy equipment manual advancing current best management practices for fleet.
- Advanced toward the county's Lean Six Sigma certification goals of 15% of staff achieving their Yellow Belts and 10% of staff achieving their Green Belt Certification with the completion of 20 staff members completing Yellow Belt training and five staff members completing their Green Belt training.
- Cooordinated the attendance of 15 staff members to attend the National Association of Counties High Performance Leadership Program.









PLANING &Development

The St. Lucie County Planning and Development Services provides professional guidance for development in unincorporated St. Lucie County. With a staff of 59 employees, the department provides building permit review to ensure compliance with the Florida Building Code, development review and public engagement for larger or more complex development processes, economic development concierge services for both small and large businesses, and code enforcement services to ensure our community continues to strive toward the county's adopted goals, standards and long-range vision to build a strong community.

BUILDING AND CODE REGULATIONS DIVISION

BUILDING PERMIT AND REVENUE DATA

Building activity increase by 12.5% and valuations were up 13.5%. Permitting activity increased to 15,440, which is a 250% increase since 2010.

Permit Activity	2021	2022	2023	% +/ -
Total Permits	13,502	13,727	15,440	+12.5%
Total Revenue	\$3,263,433	\$5,226,793	\$4,925,722	-5.4%
491 Reserve	\$3,092,168	\$3,102,388	\$2,947,542.00	-4.97%
Valuations	\$344,574,655	\$594,907,530	\$675,615,190	+13.5%

BUILDING DIVISION

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Tyler EnerGov online permitting software eliminated 85% of paper documents and the need to store paper records.
- ▶ Implemented tutorial videos for use of the customer self-service portal to assist customers.
- Maintained next-day inspection services while the number of inspections increased by 22.5%.
- Performed outreach to the community for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Building Code information at the Treasure Coast Builders Association Builder's Show, hosted flood certification workshop and staffed a booth at Oxbow Eco-Center for Earth Day.
- Implemented a roof decking and secondary water barrier affidavit to reduce the number of inspections and expedite the process.
- Implemented a reroof sheathing affidavit photo addendum to expedite the inspection process..
- Implemented a windows and bucks affidavit to reduce the number of required inspections.

CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION

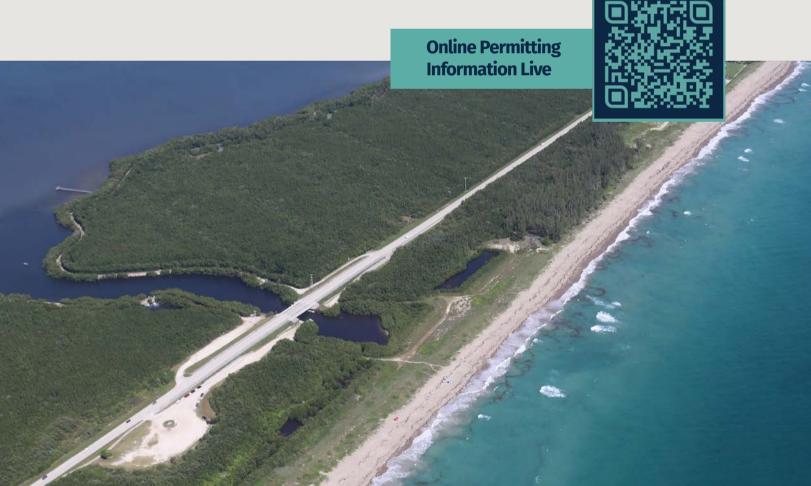
2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Code Enforcement activity generated 2,898 cases, which is 25% higher than in 2022. The cases resulted in 1,901 Notices of Violation. The overall percentage of abatement of all cases remained at 74%.

27 property owners participated in the 7th Annual Lien Amnesty Program. \$28,884 was collected, reducing the amount of outstanding liens to \$288,844.

- ▶ Collected \$141,879 for code fines and liens.
- Community requested neighborhood sweep of Sunland Gardens generated 64 cases.

Caseload Activity	2021	2022	2023
Total Number of Cases	2,291	2,308	2,898
Notices of Violations Issued	1,347	1,680	1,901
Cases Abated	989	1,113	1,548
Cases Carried Over	186	567	353

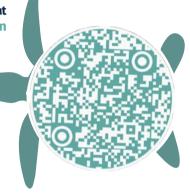


35 properties were cited and abated prior to the end of the sea turtle nesting season.

Sea Turtle Nests	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Loggerhead	2,078	2,619	2,184	2,193	2,026	3,288
Green	66	593	197	381	192	781
Leatherback	30	29	55	45	71	39



www.stlucieco.gov/seaturtleseason



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

INCENTIVE PACKAGES APPROVED IN 2023 INCLUDE:

- ► Treasure Coast Food Bank A \$99,375 job growth investment grant for the construction of a new 113,000-square-foot facility and creation of 53 new jobs.
- ▶ **Lactalogics** A \$117,000 job growth investment grant for the retrofitting of an existing 60,000-square-foot facility and creation of 60 new jobs.

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEUR SUPPORT

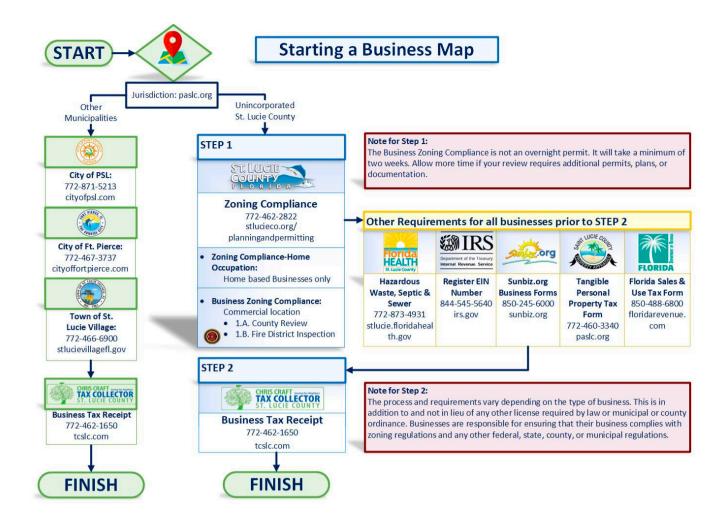
Entrepreneurship is the foundation of job creation as solo entrepreneurs evolve into small businesses and local employers. Guiding small businesses through permitting, licensing and code enforcement is a core function of the Economic Development Division.

In 2023, the economic development division assumed responsibility for zoning compliance review. Since the launch of the EnerGov system, the division has processed over 290 business zoning compliance applications.

PLANNING DIVISION

The Planning Division, a team of 8 employees, oversees current and long-range planning functions within unincorporated St. Lucie County. This includes all site plan applications, conditional use permits, zoning and future land use amendments, and lot splits. The Division coordinates with the other members of the Development Review Committee (DRC), which is composed of various public reviewing agencies such as Engineering, Public Works, Building & Code Regulations, Property Acquisitions, Utilities, School Board, Health Department, Fire District, and the Sheriff's Office. Through the DRC process, the Planning Division works to support predictable land use planning patterns and aesthetically pleasing development, while achieving and maintaining the desired level of service expected by the patrons of St. Lucie County.

In 2023, the Planning Division continued to enhance electronic project filing, review, and virtual collaboration with applicants with refinement of Energov – a complete land management suite. The Division maintained "Planner of the Day" service 5days a week to answer questions and assist property owners and developers exploring projects in St. Lucie County.



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Conservation of Public Lands: The planning division managed the county-initiated amendment to the adopted comprehensive plan to transition over 860 acres to the conservation public future land use category. This designation is intended for lands that exhibit unique environmental characteristics and are owned by federal, state, regional or local public agencies and supports the Florida Communities Trust assisted conservation land acquisition efforts.

Oak Ridge Ranches MXD: The division managed the Oak Ridge Ranches future land use map amendment which introduced a custom MXD activity area for +/-3,229.27 acres of agricultural land, with sub-area policies crafted to ensure development aligns with the county's goals, objectives, policies and vision, including maintaining a high level of public facilities and environmental stewardship.

P1 Motor Club Special District: The division administered the P-1 Motor Club future land use map amendment which created a special district to support private motorsport for high-performance vehicles with support amenities, research and development. The 629-acre site will be served by privately provided self-contained package treatment facilities for water and wastewater and provide a unique resort-like experience with various community partnerships.

TARGETED INDUSTRIES & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Conservation of Public Lands: The planning division managed the county-initiated amendment to the adopted comprehensive plan to transition over 860 acres to the conservation public future land use category. This designation is intended for lands that exhibit unique environmental characteristics and are owned by federal, state, regional or local public agencies and supports the Florida Communities Trust assisted conservation land acquisition efforts.

TARGETED INDUSTRIES & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Tambone Companies Orange 95 Commerce Center Phase 1: An approximately 350,000-square-foot distribution complex was approved on North Jenkins Road at Loop Road to support the Treasure Coast Food Bank's expansion and future users.

Tambone Companies Orange 95 Commerce Center Phase 2: The planned non-residential development rezone and preliminary site were approved to support multiple industrial buildings totaling approximately 374,000-square-foot and associated site improvements on North Jenkins Road.

SF Logistics 95: The South Florida Logistics Center 95 site plan adjustment and plat approval was secured in less than 8 weeks to support the sale and occupancy of over 1 million square feet.

Kings Highway Warehouse : The 658,000-square-foot cube warehouse/distribution facility was completed.

Contender Boats : Completed the 141,060-square-foot Contender Boats expansion approval.

Pursuit Boats' Expansion: Site plan adjustment was authorized for a series of open-air canopies which improve function and efficiency of the plat assembly lines.

A-1 Truss Expansion: Site plan adjustment was authorized to support the close out of the approximately 60,00-square-foot expansion.

Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Company: Secured a site plan revision to support enhancements to their 55,468-square-foot manufacturing and refrigerated warehouse facility.

United Teleports: Secured site plan approval for two new 10,000-square-foot buildings to expand their facility.

Florida Power & Light Solar Facility Expansion : Completed 74.5 MW solar generation stations known as Pineapple Solar Energy Center, Orchard Solar Energy Center, North Orange Solar and Buttonwood Solar.

Fort Pierce Air Center: Site plan approval to develop an 18,000-square-foot t-hanger structure and three 3,600-square-foot hanger expansion.

Avanti Industrial: Secured site plan approval for a two-phased development of a 43,918-square-foot office and flex industrial complex.

RESIDENTIAL INFILL & HOUSING VARIETY

Meadowood (Phase 2): A minor adjustment to the Meadowood planned unit development site plan, phase 2 was approved to adapt the approved 100-unit golf cottages, designed in the form of duplexes and nine-hole golf recreation area into a 47 single-family subdivision with active walking trails and passive preserves.

Eden Oaks: The comprehensive plan future land use map and associated preliminary planned unit development site plan was authorized for a new 200-unit residential development and a commercial outparcel.

Ibis Apartments: A final planned unit development plan was approved for the Wynne Building Group to construct 96 multi-family dwelling units, collocated with the Spanish Lakes commercial and residential community.

Eagle Bend: A preliminary planned unit development plan received an affirmative recommendation from the St. Lucie County Planning & Zoning Commission for up to 1,700 residential units via a diverse set of housing types with the preservation of an eagle's nest, wetlands and a 9.4-acre park.

Oak Ridge Ranches: The planned unit development rezoning and preliminary planned unit development site master plan to develop up to 8,600 dwelling units, through a variety of housing types, and up to 650,000 square feet of non-residential uses was approved, including the preservation of over 250 acres of wetlands and 450 acres of upland habitat.

Creekside: Secured site plan approval for the future 9,260-square-foot amenity center to include a pool, outdoor play area, gazebo, tennis/ pickleball court and an indoor event space to support this residential community.

LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TEXT AMENDMENTS

The Planning Division helped advance a variety of private and County initiated Text Amendment to refine the Land Development Code, including:

- backyard chicken standards
- architectural features & accessory structure height
- fence design standards
- Jenkins Road area plan roadway map & design guidelines
- ▶ dry model allowances
- solar facility guidelines
- > yard trash & vegetative debris recycling



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Designed and installed a historic sign kiosk at the St. Lucie County Regional History Center in partnership with the Fort Pierce Lions Club.











GIS DIVISION 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented GIS integration for the new St. Lucie CountRoad & Bridge Division asset management system.
- ► Contracted with Axim Geospatial to extract county building footprints and elevation data using existing LiDAR data for use with our enterprise GIS.
- ▶ Developed dashboard for 2023 sea turtle nesting season.
- Revised mosquito fogging zones and developed web application to facilitate future revisions.
- Developed interactive web map for new Treasure Coast International Airport website. Map provides information on land available for lease, as well as current tenant information.

- Developed mobile app for volunteers in St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department's Preserve Pals program to track work completed and other observations.
- ▶ Developed mobile data collection app for use by St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department staff during their fieldwork (mowing, trail maintenance, exotic treatment, wildfire maintenance, etc.). A corresponding web map was created for viewing and analysis of collected data.
- ▶ Implemented GIS integration with new next-generation 9-1-1 call handling system.
- Participated in 9-1-1 GIS data repository project that will enable data sharing between all counties in our region.



Information at your finger tips 24/7 https://maps-slc.hub.arcgis.com/



Analyzes site plans, petitions, and pre app's currently active i...

Explore



Address Master

Master Address Map for St Lucie

Explore



American Rescue F Projects

The County owns a 1.7-acre parcel along Oleander Avenue.

Explore



(ART)

Transit routes and bus stops

Explore



Area Regional Transit -Community Food...

Location of community food programs along bus routes, wi...

Explore



Demographic Data Gallery

View maps and apps showcasing demographic data

Explore



Emergency Shelter Locations throughout St Lucie County

Explore



ERD Public

Environmental Resources Division ERD GIS web app for...

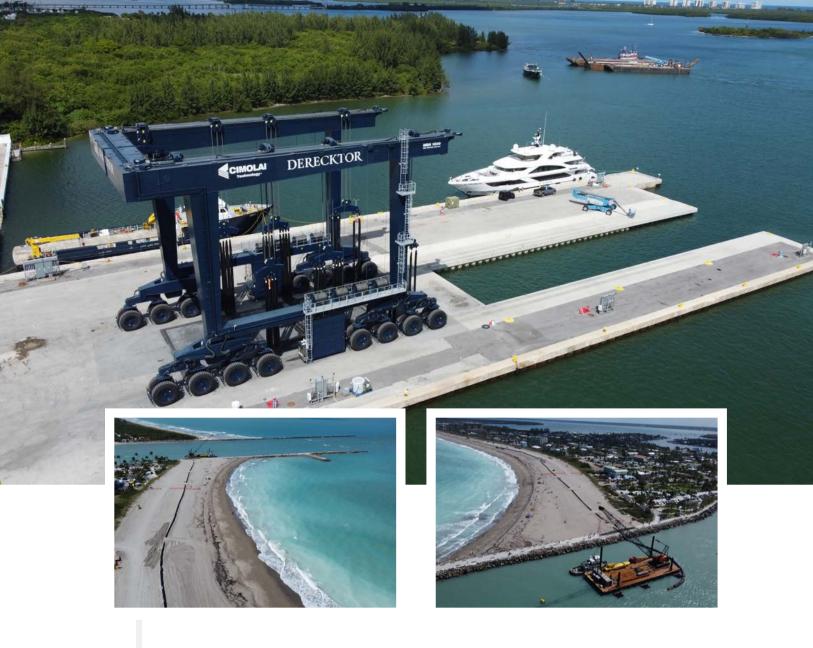
Explore











PORT, INLETS & Beaches

The goal of the St. Lucie County Port, Inlet & Beaches Department is to broaden and strengthen the economic base of our community by improving and maintaining our active waterfront areas. By providing adequate infrastructure and development processes for mixed-use port development, the department provides our region with new opportunities for economic growth. The protection of the county's 21 miles of Atlantic shoreline, through state and federal partnerships, reinforces our region's strong commitment to tourism and helps protect, improve and preserve the environment and our community's way of life.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ▶ Destin Beach, Inc., the largest private property owner within the port planning area, signed an agreement with St. Lucie County to convey several parcels critical to the development of the Port of Fort Pierce, including Harbour Pointe Park. This transaction identified the county's 10% interest in property owned by Destin Beach, Inc. and allows for a formal connection to the park.
- ▶ The Foreign Trade Zone 218A was approved by the Foreign Trade Zone Board for an area over the existing port terminal. This subzone designation allows Derecktor Shipyards to take advantage of duty reductions and/or deferrals, pending final approval by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
- ▶ St. Lucie County/City of Fort Pierce Roadway Exchange St. Lucie County and the City of Fort Pierce completed a historic exchange of roads that conveyed all roadways within the Port of Fort Pierce to St. Lucie County.
- Derecktor Shipyards completed the utility loop project, which established electric, potable water, fire lines and fiber optic data lines to service stations along the existing port terminal. Funding for this project was shared by Derecktor - Fort Pierce, LLC and the Florida Department of Transportation at a cost of approximately \$2.5 million.
- ▶ The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiated the planning, engineering and design phase of the operations and maintenance dredging effort scheduled for the Fort Pierce Inlet. This project is being combined with the next Fort Pierce Shore Protection Project and will include beneficially using beach-compatible spoil materials on the adjacent federal beach project.
- ► The department received a \$1.5 million grant for Derecktor Shipyards from the Florida Department of Transportation for future terminal improvements, including new drainage and structural pavement.

EROSION DISTRICT

Fort Pierce Shore Protection Project - Fort Pierce Beach (FPB)

- ► The 2023 Fort Pierce Shore Protection Project was completed in May of 2023. The project placed approximately 493,226 cubic yards of sand onto 1.3 miles of beach south of Fort Pierce Inlet.
- Secured new state funding for the Fort Pierce Shore Protection Project.

- \$150,000 for future, annual physical and biological monitoring efforts.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers initiated the planning, engineering and design phase of the Fort Pierce Shore Protection Project. The project is being combined with the next Fort Pierce Inlet operations and maintenance dredging effort.
- Section 403/203 resolution effort executed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, paving the way for the resolution of the county's conditional federal authorization, including coastal structures south of Fort Pierce Inlet and a new 50-year agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Annual physical and biological monitoring was completed for the recently completed project.

St. Lucie County, Florida Coastal Storm Risk Management

Project - South County Beach

- ▶ The county petitioned for and received a positive Project Information Report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for damages associated with Hurricane Nicole. This determination placed the federal project in the running for 100% rehabilitation assistance from Congress to be administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- ► The county was awarded a \$250,000 grant agreement from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection associated with Hurricane Nicole.
- Secured new state funding for post-construction monitoring efforts.
- ▶ \$195,705 secured for future annual physical and biological monitoring efforts.
- Year-1 post-construction physical and biological monitoring was completed for the recently completed federal project.

FORT PIERCE INLET

- ► The Fort Pierce Inlet phase I sand trap post-construction monitoring effort was completed.
- Successfully completed the 0.3-acre mitigation reef constructed to offset impacts associated with the Fort Pierce Inlet phase I sand trap project construction.

Public SAFETY

The St. Lucie County Public Safety Department consists of five divisions with 83 employees: animal safety services and protection, emergency management, ocean rescue/marine safety, public safety communications (911 & 800 MHz radio system) and radiological emergency preparedness. These divisions are responsible for providing critical services to ensure the health and safety of the community and develop and exercise methods and plans to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to and recover from disaster incidents.

ANIMAL SAFETY DIVISION

- 2,474 pet licenses were issued (2,070 dogs, 404 cats).
- ▶ 165 lost pets were reunited with their owners and 308 pets were transferred to animal rescue agencies.
- ▶ 153 cats were spayed/neutered, microchipped and vaccinated for rabies through the trap, neuter, vaccinate and return program.
- ▶ 203 pet owners participated in the spay/ neuter assistance program.
- Hosted three community events that provided free services to all county residents at a reduced price. More than 130 dogs and cats were seen throughout the three events.
- ▶ 1st Annual National Microchip Month: 19 (18 dogs, 1 cat).
- 2nd Annual Check the Chip Day: 39 (26 dogs, 13 cats).
- 2nd Annual World Rabies Day: 77 animals (61 dogs, 16 cats); rabies vaccines: 54 dogs, 12 cats; microchips: 57 dogs, 14 cats.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

- ► Hosted 25 incident command system/emergency response courses for local, regional and state responders.
- Emergency Operations Center staff participated in three exercises to practice and test the capabilities needed to support incident response and recovery.
- ► Conducted 17 community outreach and education presentations.
- Reviewed and revised the continuity of operations, continuity of government and comprehensive emergency plans to ensure procedures are established for emergencies, as well as the management structure for coordinating and managing responses to emergency situations.
- Created a damage assessment plan to include a response for the initial and preliminary damage assessment processes.
- Conducted six workshops, totaling more than 12 hours, to refine essential functions, orders of succession, delegation of authority and vital records.
- ▶ Improved the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System Class from a class 6 to class 5, increasing flood insurance savings from 20% to 25% for citizens holding policies.



Sign up for emergency notifications at **www.stlucieco.gov/alert**

OCEAN RESCUE DIVISION

- ► Monitored a total of 566,310 beachgoers, a 10% increase.
- ▶ Rescued 33 beachgoers from the ocean.
- ▶ Medically aided 27 beachgoers.
- ▶ Enforcement actions of four beachgoers.
- Found two missing persons.
- ► Educated approximately 150,000+ beachgoers on ocean hazards, including sharks, rip currents, erosion, stinging sea life and lightning, a 67% increase.

RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DIVISION

- Conducted a self-evaluated radiological plume exercise with county, regional and state partners.
- Participated in an ingestion pathway tabletop exercise with regional and state partners.
- Trained 1,125 first responders in radiological emergency preparedness and response.
- Performed a comprehensive update of 17 radiological planning documents.
- Conducted the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hostile action base, emergency worker decontamination and medical services exercises with our county, regional and state partners.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (911 & 800 MHZ RADIO SYSTEM)

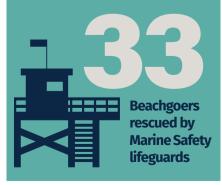
911 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

- Received a total of 457,880 calls (911 calls: 282,802 / administrative calls:175,078).
- ▶ Received 568 texts to 911.
- St. Lucie County Public Safety Communications Officers received a pay rate increase to ensure that pay is competitive with surrounding agencies.
- Completed and implemented the new Motorola Vesta call handling and core services project to allow digital information to flow seamlessly from the public to 911 to the first responders in the field.
- Awarded a regional GIS hub project grant for sharing GIS data.

800MHZ RADIO SYSTEM

- ▶ More than 4,528 subscriber radio contacts.
- 8,323.5 total hours of "talk time" over the radio system, averaging 23.9 hours daily.
- ▶ Completion of the point-to-point microwave replacement project. The data circuit option saved the county more than \$375,000 by replacing a microwave system.







Public UTILITIES TE

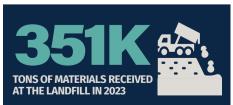
The St. Lucie County Solid Waste Division safely, efficiently and environmentally responsibly operates the baling facility, recycling facility and landfill. The department processes 1,118 tons of garbage daily, while diverting valuable materials from the waste stream.

SOLID WASTE DIVISION

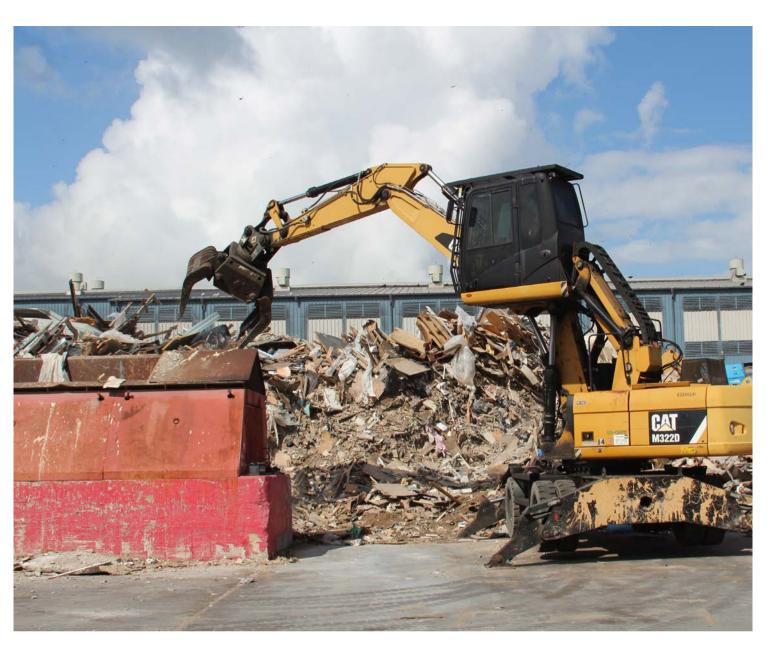
- Participated in a record number of community outreach events to promote recycling.
- Conducted a record number of facility tours for residents and community groups.
- ► Captured an additional 4 months of airspace at the landfill after an internal independent audit.
- ▶ Completed design for the reopening of phase II.
- Relined balers at single stream and operations, resulting in increased efficiency and improved performance.
- Expanded landfill gas collection system, resulting in increased gas collections.
- ▶ Implemented the second phase of the second amendment to the Waste Pro agreement, resulting in a lower assessment for residents than neighboring communities.

- Built bulk storage sheds to protect the integrity of recyclable commodities as well as expanded the single stream tipping floor space.
- Created \$30,000 in savings by creating online payment options for account holders.
- Installed a system of misting cooling fans on the recycling sorting facility, resulting in improved employee morale and heat safety.
- Purchased two additional waste shredders to shred household garbage, resulting in heavier and smaller bales, which saves landfill airspace.
- Collected 6% more hazardous and electronic waste. 115% increase since 2018, due to increased community outreach and marketing campaigns.

















Awarded the 2023 Florida Water Environment Association Collection System of the Year Award



Earned the Plant
Operations Excellence
Award from the Florida
Rural Water Association
for the South Hutchinson
Island Plant

Established in 1994, St. Lucie County Utilities provides water, wastewater and reclaimed water to the unincorporated areas of St. Lucie County. With a staff of 33, provides service via two water treatment plants and six wastewater treatment facilities to an estimated 19,770 customers. The wastewater treatment plants at Holiday Pines, North and South Hutchinson Islands are complete reclamation facilities, which means 100 percent of the wastewater is treated and redistributed as irrigation water which conserves potable water.

UTILITIES DIVISION

- Awarded \$2.5 million in funding from South Florida Water Management District for 2 surficial aquifer wells at the Taylor Dairy water treatment plant site.
- ▶ 148 new water and sewer connections.
- ► Completed the CityBase Kiosk upgrade. Now new and existing customers can view balances and make cash, card and check payments, 24/7 at the kiosk.
- ► Completed the North County repump station project.
- Completed Oak Drive water main extension project.
- Completed design of water main connection at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds water treatment plant.
- Implemented supervisory control and data acquisition system at North County water treatment facility.
- ► Awarded the 2023 Florida Water Environment Association Collection System of the Year Award.
- ▶ Launched a year-round program of guided educational tour at the wastewater treatment facility on South Hutchinson Island.



Public BKS

The St. Lucie County Public Works Department consists of 99 dedicated and diverse full-time team members serving the public within the following divisions and/or functions: public works administration, artificial reef program, engineering division, road and bridge division and the water quality division.

ADMINISTRATION

Public works administration provides administrative, fiscal and grant management support to the public works department.

- Finalized construction of the Taylor Creek muck dredging project, a water quality enhancement project fully funded using partner agency grants.
- Successfully submitted grant reimbursements in the amount of \$2,382,577.16 on various shoreline, water quality and roadway improvement projects.
- Continued progress on the St. Lucie County stormwater master plan, including holding public meetings and stakeholder interviews.

ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM

- Deployed 3,000 tons of mixed concrete and a 127' aluminum mega yacht, the M/V Time.
- Received a \$60,000 artificial reef grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- Collected 2,000 tons of mixed concrete for new artificial reefs.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

The road and bridge division is responsible for road and drainage maintenance on more than 540 miles of county roads, including resurfacing, traffic signals, striping and signs, pavement repairs, grading, drainage maintenance and mowing.

- Completed a validation study and reduced the posted speed limit on Indian River Drive.
- Upgraded 60 traffic signal modems with preemption for emergency vehicles.
- Completed phase I of the implementation of a new work order software system.

WATER QUALITY

The Water Quality Division manages the county's comprehensive stormwater program, a unique and diverse function that bridges the operational, capital and regulatory sectors.

- Re-profiled more than 15 miles of swale and replaced or rehabilitated 995 linear feet of drainage culverts.
- ▶ Moved all American Rescue Plan funded projects to the 60% design/permitting stage.



BETTER ROADS, MORE SIDEWALKS, AND CLEANER RIVERS.













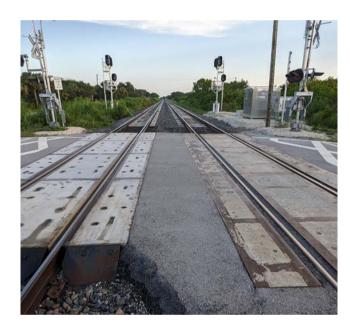
- Successfully completed construction of Melville Road stormwater improvement, including a new stormwater facility and updated surrounding infrastructure.
- ▶ Updated the county pump stations with new automated software at Indian River Estates and refurbished of two of eight pumps in the system.
- Continued growing and implementing the county's private culvert assistance program.

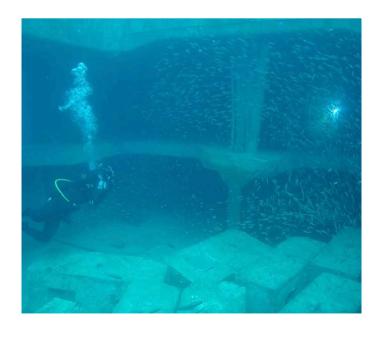
ENGINEERING

The Engineering Division is responsible for the planning, design, permitting and construction of various infrastructure projects, including, but not limited to, roadways, bridges, stormwater and pedestrian facilities.

- Completed culvert replacements at Birch Avenue at Savannah Street and Elm Avenue at Merritt Ditch. Two private culverts that cross under Johnston Road north of Indrio Road were also removed.
- Completed design plans to replace the Keen Road Bridge over Taylor Creek.
- Completed phase I of the bridge repairs for 25th Street over Ten Mile Creek.
- Evaluation of design improvement alternatives for phase 3 of the Indian River Estates drainage improvements project.









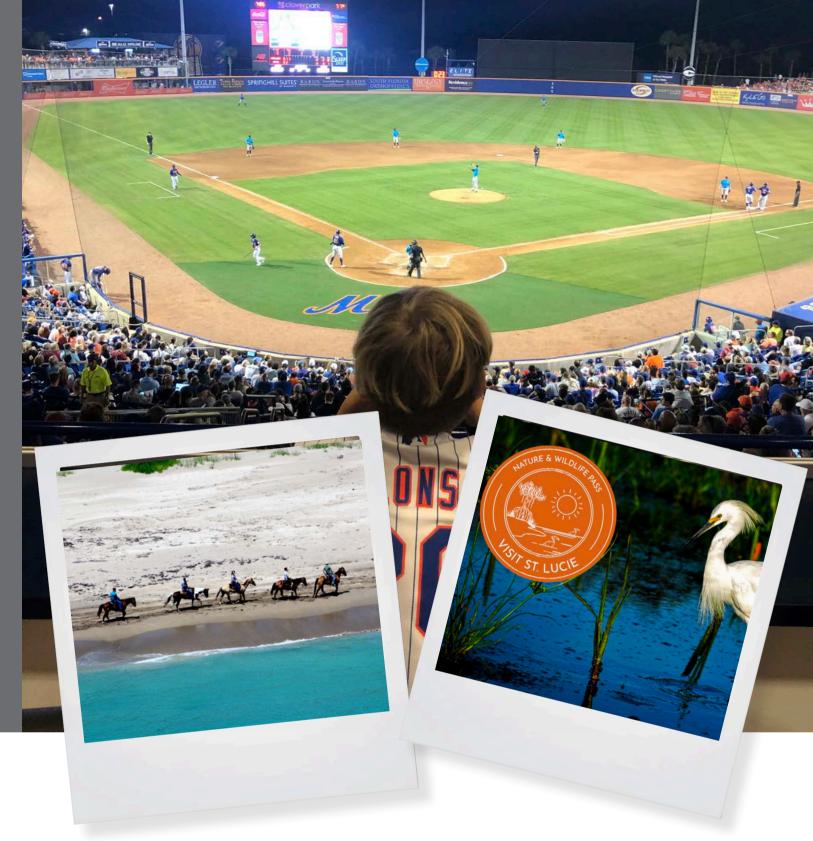




The Treasure Coast Research,
Education and Development Park
Authority is comprised of two
full-time employees with the goal
to design, build and operate a
technology and education park to
capitalize on and expand St. Lucie
County's economic development.

HIGHLIGHTS - SUNSHINE KITCHEN

- Increased the client base by 36 members.
- Advanced the partnership with the Florida Small Business Development Center at Indian River State College to support clients' businesses with financial and marketing development.
- Extended collaboration with the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association to offer monthly ServSafe Managers classes.
- Hosted the 3rd Annual Culinary Cook-Off Competition scholarship event in partnership with Indian River State College and St. Lucie County Public Schools.









COAST WINE & ALE TRAIL DIGITAL PASS

TOURISM

The St. Lucie County Tourism Division "Visit St. Lucie" is the county's official tourism marketing organization. The division is comprised of three full-time staff members who are responsible for the development, planning and implementation of all aspects of tourism-related work in coordination with the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners and the St. Lucie County Tourist Development Council's goals and objectives. Staff actively participates in industry membership events, maintains communication and effective relationships with the media, public officials, partner municipalities, the local and state hospitality industry and the general public. The division is also focused on communicating the economic value of tourism to the community through its education and outreach programs geared to the local residents and business owners of St. Lucie County.

MISSION

To market St. Lucie County and its cities as destinations and promote activities and assets that generate new or repeat visitors, thereby creating a positive economic impact for St. Lucie County.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

St. Lucie County's Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collected \$6,657,968, representing a 5.3% increase over the prior fiscal year and setting a new annual collections record for the TDT.

- Launched a free Nature & Wildlife digital pass encouraging visitors and residents to explore nine stops that feature St. Lucie's natural beauty and wildlife. Stops include county nature preserves, botanical gardens, eco-education centers and more. The pass generated 1,356 downloads with 763 active users and 752 check-ins.
- Transitioned the Treasure Coast Wine & Ale Trail pass from a paper passport program to a digital passport program. The new digital pass generated 1,709 downloads, 994 active users and more than 3,528 check-ins.
- Increased website traffic to VisitStLucie.com by 55% through investments in search engine marketing, remarketing and Google Ad programs.



TRANSIT

The St. Lucie County Transit
Department consists of six staff
members who administer the fixed
route, paratransit, microtransit and
special transportation services.

St. Lucie County Transit is also the designated Community Transportation Coordinator for the county service area and is responsible for coordinating and/or providing transportation to individuals who meet the requirements of transportation disadvantaged because of age, income, or disability, where the individual cannot drive or has no access to other transportation options. Transportation disadvantaged service connects qualified individuals to medical, employment, educational, nutritional or other life-sustaining trips.

GRANTS AWARDED

- \$3,278,966 Federal Transit Administration 5307 and 5339 Formula Grant.
- \$819,821 Florida Department of Transportation Section5310 Program.
- \$945,000 Florida Department of Transportation three-year service development grant for microtransit expansion. \$150,000 for capital purchases and \$795,000 for operating expenses.
- ▶ \$769,939 Florida Department of Transportation Block
- \$679,259 Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Trip and Equipment Grant.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Launched Microtransit North Zone Expansion from the northern border of original south zone which extends north through St. Lucie West and the Torino area north to Midway Road.
- Achieved a 23% increase in fixed route ridership and a 76% increase in microtransit ridership.
- Awarded the Urban Community Transportation
 Coordinator of the Year award from
 the Commission for the Transportation
 Disadvantaged. This award recognizes a
 Community Transportation Coordinator
 who performed in an outstanding manner
 as a part of the fully coordinated system
 for the community and the transportation
 disadvantaged population.
- Awarded two Florida Public Transportation
 Association marketing awards: Electronic
 Media/TV for Inside St. Lucie Erick Gill and
 Commissioner Townsend and Social Media for St.
 Lucie County ART Bus Artwork Unveiling.
- Continued Advantage Ride Treasure Coast
 Program Provided 40,837 intercounty trips to
 transportation disadvantaged eligible customers
 with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
- Continued Direct Connect Program Provided 11,494 after-hours and intercounty trips for eligible residents for work, education and medical needs.
- Obtained three new microtransit minivans and five paratransit buses.
- Finalized and incorporated Port St. Lucie
 Intermodal project stakeholder and outreach
 feedback for design phase submission.





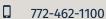
Endless Opportunity by Design

St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners

2300 Virginia Avenue • Fort Pierce, FL 34982



www.StLucieCo.gov











Tell us what YOU think!

Help St. Lucie County share our story with the local community. Fill out the survey by scanning the code, or by visiting

https://stluciecounty.formstack.com/ forms/2023_annual_report_feedback