

City Manager's

ANNUAL REPORT

We put the "Port" in
Port St. Lucie

City celebrates the grand
opening of The Port District
and Pioneer Park.



CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
HEART OF THE TREASURE COAST

Vision

To be a leader in finding innovative solutions that put residents first and support opportunities for all people to thrive.



Mission

To provide exceptional services that enhance our community's safety, beauty and quality of life through innovation, engagement and fiscal responsibility.



Our Values

Ethics

Accountability

Customer Service

Stewardship

Teamwork

Diversity



Port St. Lucie
City Council

Shannon M. Martin



Jolien Caraballo



Stephanie Morgan



David Pickett



Anthony Bonna, Sr.



Shannon M. Martin

Mayor

Jolien Caraballo

Vice Mayor & District 4

Stephanie Morgan

District 1

David Pickett

District 2

Anthony Bonna, Sr.

District 3

Dear residents,

Here in the City of Port St. Lucie, we are driven by a shared mission: to provide services that enhance the safety, beauty and quality of life you deserve. Every decision we make is guided by a commitment to fiscal responsibility, engagement with our residents and a focus on building a stronger, more connected community.

Port St. Lucie is truly the Heart of the Treasure Coast — a place where natural beauty, family-friendly neighborhoods and growing opportunities come together. As our City grows and evolves, we remain focused on preserving the qualities that make our community so special while continuing to enhance the services and amenities that help us thrive.

In 2024, we celebrated many milestones that strengthened our City — expanding parks and recreation opportunities, improving infrastructure and bringing more jobs to Port St. Lucie. These accomplishments were guided by your feedback, ensuring that we're building a city that reflects the needs and aspirations of our residents.

As we look to 2025, we are excited to continue this momentum. Together, we'll foster innovation, encourage engagement and create new opportunities that will allow Port St. Lucie to grow while maintaining its identity as a safe, beautiful and welcoming place to call home.

Thank you for being an essential part of this incredible community. It is an honor to serve as your mayor, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

Sincerely,



Shannon M. Martin, Mayor



Dear residents,

As we reflect on all the City of Port St. Lucie accomplished in 2024, it is also a time to look forward to what we are building for the future.

Our investments in infrastructure, such as the expansion of roadways and sidewalks, seek to make getting around the City smoother and safer. We continued to demonstrate our commitment to public safety by breaking ground on a new Port St. Lucie Police Department training facility, partnering with Indian River State College on a unique program that trains recruits specifically for PSLPD and providing mental health support for officers and staff.

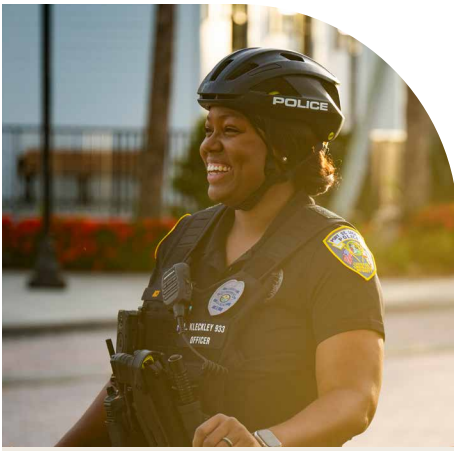
Economic development has been a cornerstone of our strategic planning. We have created opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs through incentives, support programs and access to resources. Our thriving business community continues to grow, creating jobs and stimulating the local economy.

In everything we do, our plans are designed to ensure a bright and sustainable future for the City and its residents. We are committed to long-term projects that will continue to enhance infrastructure, expand our economic base and improve community services. Working together, we are creating vibrant, connected neighborhoods, increasing access to recreational and entertainment activities, and maintaining our reputation as the safest large city in Florida.

I am proud of the progress we have made and excited about the opportunities ahead. As we move forward, we will continue to build on our successes, guided by our shared commitment to making Port St. Lucie the best possible place to live, work and thrive.

Sincerely,

Jesus Merejo, ICMA-CM, City Manager



Goal 1
Safe, Clean & Beautiful



Goal 2
Planning for a
Thriving Future



Goal 3
Smart & Connected City

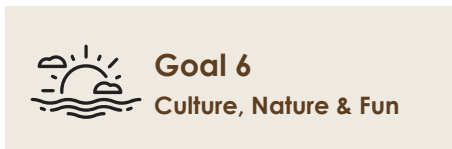


Goal 4
Diverse Economy &
Employment Opportunities

Strategic Goals



Goal 5
High-Quality
Infrastructure & Facilities



Goal 6
Culture, Nature & Fun



Goal 7
High-Performing
Government Organization

To provide exceptional services that enhance our community's safety, beauty and quality of life through innovation, engagement and fiscal responsibility.

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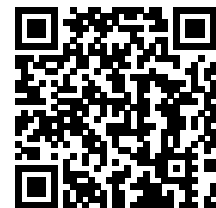
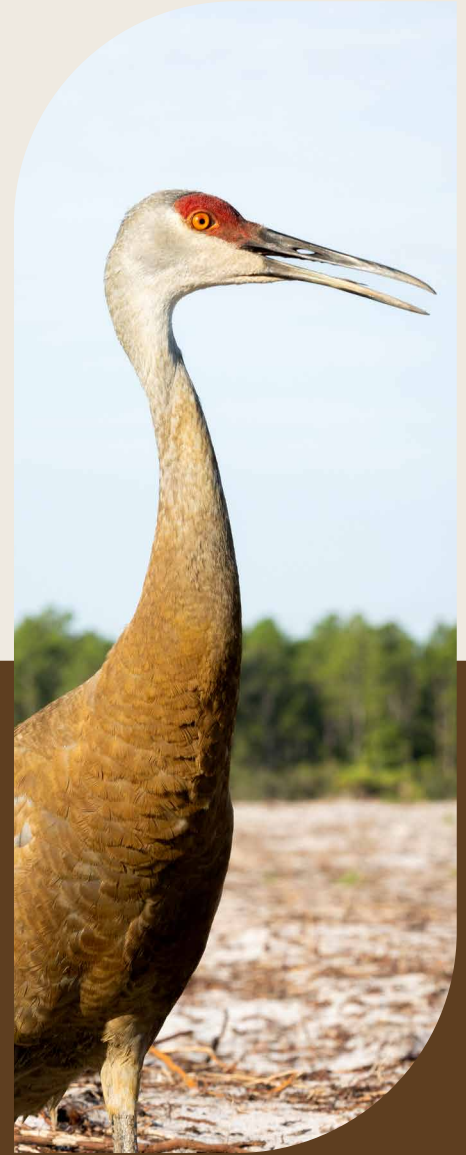
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HEART OF THE TREASURE COAST



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SAFETY



PSLPD earns re-accreditation

The Port St. Lucie Police Department has demonstrated its dedication to professionalism and excellence through its voluntary accreditation achievements.

Accreditation involves a thorough review of the department's organization, management, operations and administration to ensure compliance with established policing standards. This process includes setting clear goals and objectives, evaluating resources, analyzing trends and addressing internal issues proactively.

The department has been awarded prestigious recognitions for its efforts. It received its first Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) international accreditation in 1991 and in November 2024, it was awarded its 10th Meritorious accreditation, signifying continuous accreditation for more than 15 years. Additionally, it earned its first Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CFLA) accreditation in 1997 and received its ninth Excelsior accreditation in 2022, marking five successful reaccreditation cycles. In 2025, PSLPD will again be assessed for accreditation.

Together, these achievements ensure Port St. Lucie residents are served by officers who adhere to the highest standards.



New Chief of Police appointed

For nearly three decades, Leo Niemczyk has been serving as a police officer in the communities he has called home, including six years with the New York City Police Department, before joining the Port St. Lucie Police Department in 2002.

Through the years he served in a variety of roles that have given him an in-depth perspective of the community. That made him the perfect choice to be appointed as the new Chief of the Port St. Lucie Police Department on Nov. 6.

Chief Niemczyk, who had been Assistant Chief since November 2023, replaced Chief Richard Del Toro, who was elected St. Lucie County Sheriff.

In his time with the City of Port St. Lucie, Chief Niemczyk implemented innovative new programs that have strengthened PSLPD. He founded the Peer Support Team, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program and was the first supervisor of the drone/UAV unit. He implemented the first police

academy class specifically for PSLPD in an effort to increase the number of officers and keep up with the City's population growth.

Chief Niemczyk holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the State University of New York and a master's degree in public administration from Barry University. He is also a graduate of the Southern Police Institute Administrative Officer's Course at the University of Louisville, Class 137.

"Chief Niemczyk is an exceptional law enforcement leader with a proven track record of success in public safety," said Mayor Shannon Martin. "His deep understanding of our City, gained through years of dedicated service, is critical as Port St. Lucie continues to grow. With his strong focus on community policing and proactive crime prevention strategies, I am confident that Chief Niemczyk will uphold our commitment to keeping Port St. Lucie the safest large city in Florida."



Looking after the mental health of PSLPD officers and staff

The Port St. Lucie Police Department serves one of Florida's largest and fastest-growing communities, which is why it is committed to enhancing the mental well-being of its officers and civilian staff.

To assist with that effort, PSLPD has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to support officer mental health. The grant, provided through the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA), will fund the department's peer support team over two years.

With this funding, a dedicated clinical director will be appointed to train and coach the peer team, coordinate with external resources and offer trauma-informed care and crisis intervention. This initiative aims to provide easy access to mental health care for all personnel.

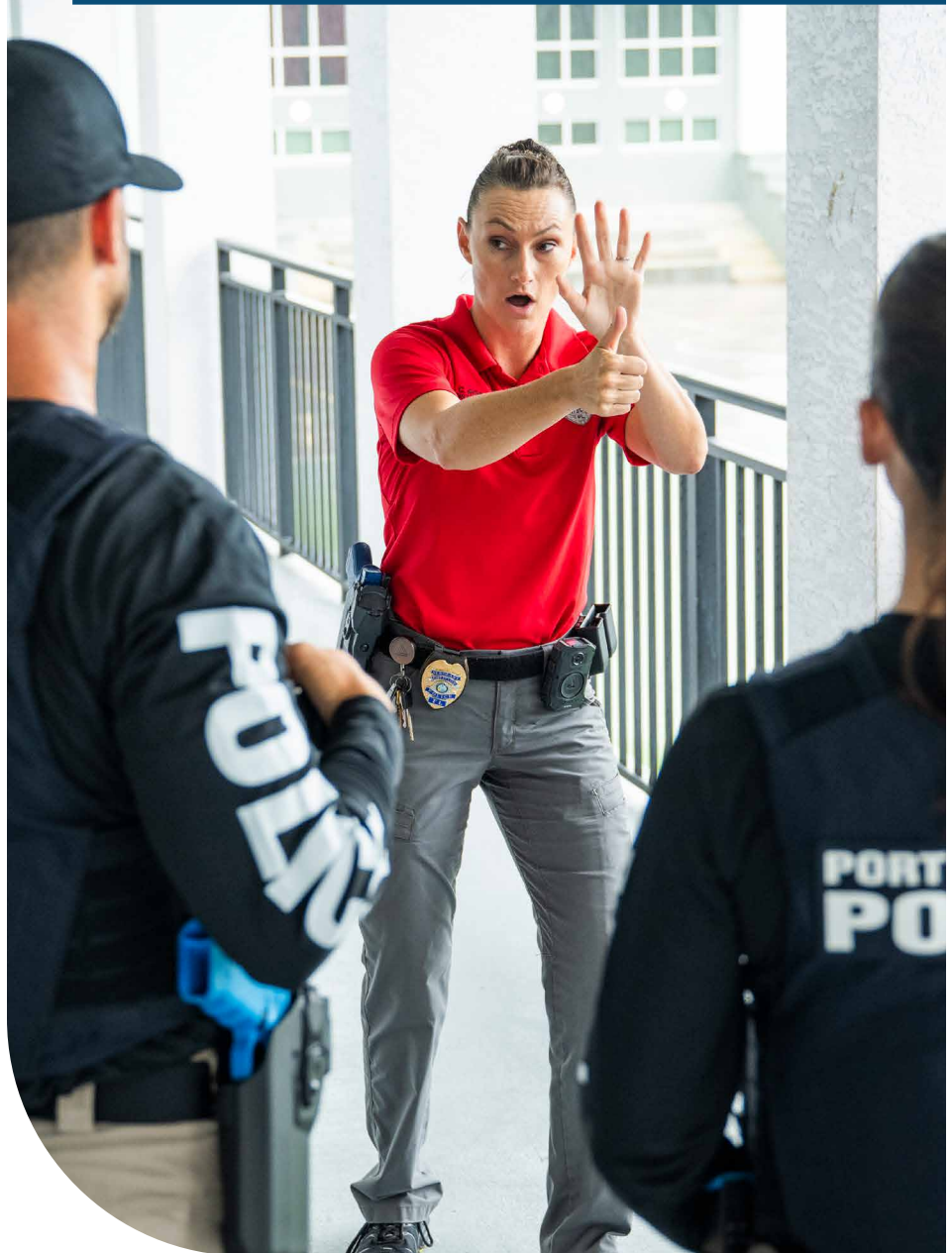
Additionally, the department's peer support team, consisting of 12 active members, will receive advanced training to better support its colleagues. This effort ensures officers are well-equipped to handle the stress and trauma associated with their duties, fostering a resilient and supportive culture within the department.

Academy trains class for PSLPD

The Port St. Lucie Police Department and the Treasure Coast Public Safety Complex at Indian River State College, in a collaborative effort, created the first all-agency academy class for the four-county area.

On May 28, the academy was established to address the increasing demand for officers because of rapid population growth. More than 500 applications were reviewed with 30 cadets selected to begin training. After meeting the rigorous requirements, 25 cadets graduated in December.

The academy was designed to recruit and train officers effectively to maintain public safety and high quality of life for the community. With the success of the first academy, PSLPD plans to start its second academy class March 24, 2025.



Safety Statistics



25

Number of cadets that graduated from the Treasure Coast Public Safety Complex at Indian River State College and will begin to work at the Port St. Lucie Police Department. It was the first all-agency academy class in its history.



\$200,000

Grant amount received by the Port St. Lucie Police Department to support mental health by its officers and staff.



54,000

Approximate square footage of the Port St. Lucie Police Department training facility that broke ground in 2024.



40

Number of hours PSLPD officers are required to complete in specialized and continuous training annually. By comparison, state statutes require all certified officers to complete 40 hours of training every four years to maintain their certification.



City breaks ground on training facility

The City of Port St. Lucie broke ground July 31 on a new state-of-the-art training facility that will provide the City's police department with a vital resource for ensuring the ongoing safety and well-being of the community.

Florida statute mandates that all certified officers must complete 40 hours of training every four years to maintain their certification. The Port St. Lucie Police Department has set a higher standard, requiring officers to complete 40 hours of specialized and continuous training annually.

The three-story, 54,000-square-foot police training facility, which will be the first in the department's 44-year history, is expected to be complete by fall 2025. It will provide intensive and specialized training for PSLPD officers and feature:

- An indoor firearms range
- Supporting training areas
- A virtual simulation room
- A defensive tactics area
- A multi-purpose training classroom
- A tactical building training area

The new training facility demonstrates the City's commitment to enhancing public safety and maintaining the high standards of the Port St. Lucie Police Department.

Assessments help City prepare for risks, increase readiness for threats

The City of Port St. Lucie recently completed the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) project, a multi-year initiative led by the Office of Emergency Management. Funded by the Florida Commerce Department, this project brought together public, private and nonprofit stakeholders throughout St. Lucie County to identify potential natural and manmade threats and hazards. By inventorying available resources and identifying gaps, the THIRA

project enables participants to apply for grants and funding to enhance community resilience.

Additionally, Port St. Lucie participated in the Florida Division of Emergency Management's Florida Recovery Obligation Calculation (F-ROC) program and completed the Disaster Readiness Assessment. This program, supported by FEMA, allows communities to demonstrate their readiness to administer FEMA public assistance funds. The City's

high score of 78.5 out of 80 (98%) ensures Port St. Lucie will receive at least 70% of disaster disbursements up front, speeding up financial support after a disaster.

These projects collectively enhance the safety of Port St. Lucie residents by improving the City's preparedness and resilience. Through collaboration and strategic planning, the City is better equipped to handle emergencies and protect the well-being of its community members.



Preparing for storm season with Hurricane Expo

The 18th annual Hurricane Preparedness Expo took place June 1 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center and attracted more than 2,000 residents to learn more about how to best get ready for storm season.

The Expo featured informative presentations from meteorologists, emergency managers, City of Port St. Lucie staff and community organizations that can assist with hurricane preparations. The exhibitor's hall featured local government partners, businesses and vendors with expertise in a variety of different specialties related to storm readiness.

Committed to fighting human trafficking

On Aug. 30, the City of Port St. Lucie became the first municipality in Florida to achieve induction into the 100 Percent Club, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody's campaign to end human trafficking.

The Training and Development Division of Human Resources, in collaboration with City staff and the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking, took 52 days to deliver human trafficking training to 100% of its City employees. The training is designed to increase awareness and understand how to spot and report human trafficking to strengthen the safety of our community.

On Dec. 6, Attorney General Moody visited City Hall to commemorate the City's membership in the 100 Percent Club and reinforcing its commitment to end human trafficking in the community by raising awareness, providing training and saving lives.



BEAUTY

A team approach to litter prevention

One of the many things people say they appreciate most about Port St. Lucie is how clean and beautiful it is across the City.

Much of that cleanliness is because of the dedicated employees and volunteers who work tirelessly to keep our community litter-free.

Our Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful litter crew plays a pivotal role in this mission. With a seven-person team, they maintain 240 miles of main thoroughfares, 94 pet waste stations and 136 trash cans and assist in removing illegal dumping. Between January and mid November this team collected 4,006 bags of litter, totaling 45,178 pounds.

In addition to a committed staff, volunteers play a crucial part through the Adopt-A-Street Litter Prevention and Collection Program. This year, 84 active groups, including 13 new ones, have contributed significantly to the City's cleanliness.

They performed 707 cleanups, worked 2,689 hours and collected 2,015 bags of litter, weighing an estimated 30,225 pounds. Each summer, we honor these volunteers with an appreciation breakfast, celebrating their dedication and hard work.

Together, our employees and volunteers ensure that Port St. Lucie remains a safe, clean and beautiful place for all residents, demonstrating a strong community spirit and commitment to a cleaner future.



And the sign says, 'Please Stop Litter'

This summer, the Office of Solid Waste partnered with the Communications and Planning and Zoning departments to create a striking new banner for the fencing at the Convenient Drop-off Center, located at the corner of Crosstown Parkway and Cameo Boulevard.

Spanning 300 feet the banner features litter prevention messaging aimed at educating the community about the importance of not littering. It proudly showcases the City's new branding, "Heart of the Treasure Coast" along with a clever play on Port St. Lucie's abbreviation, "P.S.L.", through the message "Please Stop Litter."

Additionally, the covering highlights key landmarks and attractions in Port St. Lucie, reinforcing the City's pride and commitment to environmental stewardship.



Enhancing the MIDFLORIDA Event Center's look

The MIDFLORIDA Event Center continues to be a premier showcase for events in Port St. Lucie and 2024 saw several improvements to enhance its appeal.

More than 15 facility enhancement projects were completed, including installation of a new paver patio system on the east side, the replacement of aging turf with a new paver and cable management system at Village Square and the full carpet replacement in the Emerald and Ruby ballrooms.

Additionally, pre-planning and initial design work commenced for the complete upgrade of the men's and women's restrooms, setting the stage for these enhancements in Fiscal Year 2024-25. These beautification projects help make sure the MIDFLORIDA Event Center remains a top destination for hosting memorable events, reflecting the City's commitment to providing state-of-the-art facilities for residents and visitors alike.



Cleaning up after Hurricane Milton

After Hurricane Milton struck Florida on Oct. 9, it left a substantial amount of damage in its wake. While the storm spared Port St. Lucie the severe damage that our neighbors to the north and south experienced, it did leave a lot of debris. The Office of Solid Waste worked closely with vendor FCC Environmental to manage storm debris cleanup in the wake of the hurricane.

Through the end of November, FCC collected more than 45 million pounds of vegetative and bulk debris, and removed 3,683 large piles.

Port St. Lucie continues tradition as a Tree City USA

The City of Port St. Lucie has been recognized for its efforts to develop and maintain its urban forest landscape. The City is committed to planting trees, which offer several benefits such as reducing carbon emissions, cooling temperatures and adding natural beauty.

This dedication has earned the City its 19th consecutive Tree City USA Award and its 18th consecutive Tree City USA Growth Award, as well as international recognition as one of only 170 Tree Cities of the World for the second year in a row.

The City has planted more than 75,000 trees as part of the Port St. Lucie Tree Challenge and distributed approximately 14,000 trees since 2004 through the Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful Tree Giveaway program. In 2024, approximately 1,000 Florida-friendly avocado and Barbados cherry trees were given away to Port St. Lucie residents.



550

avocado trees



450

Barbados cherry trees

In 2023, the City received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service to enhance urban forestry over a four-year period. In 2024 alone, more than 75 trees were planted, with plans to continue adding trees along transportation corridors, key development sites and private properties. The grant also supports a Youth Forestry Apprenticeship Program that is in development with the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County to support the next generation.

Additionally, a \$25,000 grant from state and federal agencies in 2022 enabled the City to update the inventory of trees along Crosstown Parkway. The work was completed in 2024, providing data that will help assess the urban tree canopy coverage and inform future planting efforts.

These initiatives collectively benefit the City of Port St. Lucie by improving public safety, increasing resilience and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents, demonstrating the City's ongoing commitment to a sustainable and beautiful urban environment.

Beauty Statistics



35.669

Estimated weight in tons of litter collected by City staff and volunteers from January 2024 to mid-November 2024.



891

Number of vehicles that came to the City's two hazardous waste collection days. A total of 15.71 tons of hazardous waste was collected.



207

Number of volunteers who participated in the Caring Community Cleanup. A total of 920 pounds of trash was collected.



15.32 million

Estimated total pounds of debris collected in the City after Hurricane Milton.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Assessment looks at housing needs in community

The Neighborhood Services Department's housing team completed a Housing Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan in collaboration with the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) and partners from St. Lucie County and the City of Fort Pierce.

The goal was to assess housing needs and develop recommendations to create affordable and workforce housing – one of the City's newest Strategic Plan initiatives. The project had three main components: the assessment, a recommendation and implementation plan and public education and outreach.

The project team conducted research, market analysis, stakeholder outreach, workshops and public surveys to gather data and develop ideas. This data will help the City explore grant opportunities and community partnerships, aligning with state housing goals and legislation.

The City also will work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a recipient of the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Award.

This support will help develop innovative solutions for housing needs, focusing on providing housing for working families near transportation hubs and job centers. The HUD assistance will help Port St. Lucie create an action plan to address housing challenges and ensure accessible housing options for all residents.



Expanding roadways to meet the demands of growth

Building on the City's infrastructure is one of the most important opportunities to improve quality of life, which is why roadways, sidewalks and utilities are among its highest priorities.

As the City continues to see more people moving to the area, which puts an emphasis on improving existing roads, planning for future upgrades or building new infrastructure. The City has been actively working on projects to accommodate those needs.

The second phase of the Floresta Drive improvement project was nearing completion at the end of the 2024. The improvements provide a two-lane roadway with landscaping, lighting, sidewalks and bicycle lanes from the Elkcarn Waterway to Crosstown Parkway.

The improvements provide traffic calming while preserving the integrity of the neighborhood, as well as improved safety for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, alleviates congestion and provides more efficient traffic flow. It also added new stormwater ponds to help improve water quality before it drains into the St. Lucie River, while also reducing flooding risks.

The Floresta Drive improvements were made possible thanks to the voters of St. Lucie County and the City of Port St. Lucie approving the one-half cent sales tax referendum in November 2018. Floresta Drive Phase 3 is anticipated to start construction in 2025.

Other projects include:

- Working with the Florida Department of Transportation on the south Port St. Lucie Boulevard widening.
- California Boulevard is in the design phase to widen the two-lane road to four lanes from St. Lucie West Boulevard to Crosstown Parkway.
- Designs for Savona Boulevard and Paar Drive intersection are underway.
- Feasibility study proposals are underway for improvements to St. Lucie West Boulevard.
- Becker Road and Crosstown Parkway are being extended to Range Line Road.

Keeping the community entertained all year long

The year 2024 was one for the record books at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

It set an overall attendance record of more than 140,000 visitors to the Event Center. Additionally, it set a record of 413 “event days” in the past fiscal year. What does that mean? Given there are 365 days in a calendar year, the 413 represents the total number of events it hosted in during the fiscal year and demonstrates that during that same period, there were nearly 50 days where the Event Center hosted more than one event on the same day – and in some cases as many as three. The overall revenue generation was nearly \$1 million or 91% of plan.

The Event Center is driven by the City’s Strategic Goal of providing residents with access to culture, nature and fun. Fiscal Year 2023-24 featured six City-sponsored concerts, including:

- Sister Hazel and Soul Asylum
- Clay Walker
- Forever Motown
- The Pop 2000 Tour featuring Chris Kirkpatrick of NSYNC, O-Town, LFO and Ryan Cabrera
- Gin Blossoms
- A salsa music extravaganza featuring Puerto Rican Power with special guest Charlie Cruz

The Event Center also welcomed other local cultural music events in partnership with the Treasure Coast Haitian Flag Day Festival and Caribbean American Cultural Group. Several popular street festivals such as Seafood Fest, the Strawberry Festival, Christmas in July and the Bacon & BBQ Festival also returned to entertain the community.



140,000

Approximate number of people who visited the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

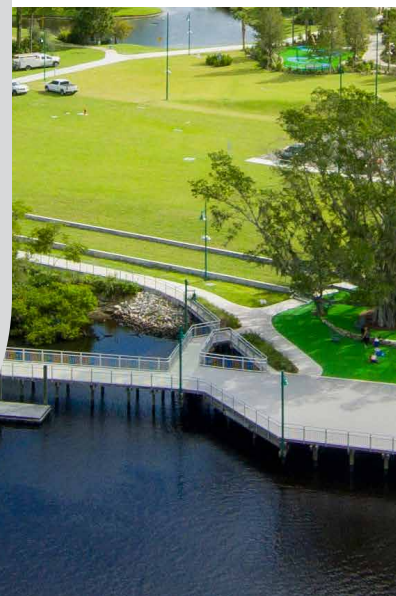




Connecting communities with sidewalks

The City of Port St. Lucie's Sidewalk Master Plan is designed to take a strategic approach to connect sidewalks throughout the City to make it more walkable and safer for pedestrians.

More than 200 miles of sidewalks are owned and maintained by the City and it's adding more each year. In Fiscal Year 2023-24, Public Works completed five sidewalk projects and oversaw two new pedestrian crossings designed to enhance safety and improve connections away from intersections.



Quality of Life Statistics



86%

Percentage of Port St. Lucie residents who positively rated their neighborhood as an excellent or good place to live.



517,223

Number of participants at Recreation Center facilities, a 3.6% increase from the previous year.



3,912

Number of Parks and Recreation facilities rented, a 40% increase from the previous year.



499

Number of septic-to-sewer conversions in 2024.



4.2 million

Number of gallons of water withdrawn from the C-23 Canal by way of the City's water quality project located at the McCarty Ranch Extension. This project is designed to keep up to 21% of excess freshwater from entering the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

Bringing new parks for residents of all ages

The City continued to create new and exciting opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, participate in recreational activities, enjoy live entertainment and much more. By creating places where people can come together and connect, the City can build on the quality of life for its residents.

In 2024, the City celebrated the opening of two new parks, including Pioneer Park at The Port District, and the groundbreaking for two others that will be unique to the area.

In July, the City cut the ribbon on the 12-acre Riverland Paseo Park, which is a collaboration between the City and homebuilder GL Homes. It offers lighted softball and multipurpose athletic fields for the humans and a dog park for our four-legged residents.

That same month the City also broke ground on the first regional park in Port St. Lucie.

Tradition Regional Park is the first of two regional parks currently being planned, which are collaborative efforts between the City, St. Lucie County and developers.

Tradition Regional Park will be built on 124 acres and will include athletic fields as well as a USA BMX Adaptive All-Wheel Park that is one of the first of its kind. The park will bring in BMX riders from around the region, state and country. But the park also can be used for skateboarding or inline skating and it includes a kids' zone where toddlers can learn to ride a bike in a safe area.

And in April the City broke ground on Stars and Stripes Park, which pays tribute to our nation's veterans and first responders. Located on 26 acres in Tradition and constructed by Mattamy Homes, the park will feature open green spaces, scenic ponds as well as themed art installations.





78,000

Total number of estimated visits to Pioneer Park since it opened in June. Of those, more than 50,000 were unique visitors.



The Port District opens, delivers exceptional experiences for visitors

The Port District opened in June with a fun-filled celebration that attracted an estimated 5,700 partygoers and it has hardly slowed down since.

A new and unique destination located along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, The Port District has quickly become a beloved destination for residents and visitors alike. The vibrant area hosts a variety of activities, such as Yoga by the River, holiday lights displays and concerts. Pioneer Park, located in the heart of The Port, draws families year-round. And the natural beauty of the St. Lucie River continues to inspire and offer a serene backdrop for people to enjoy every day.

The Port District was envisioned years ago as City leaders recognized the river's historical significance and its vital role in the community's economic and recreational life. The City of Port St. Lucie embarked on redevelopment of the area to enhance access and enjoyment. The City listened to the desires of residents, business owners and visitors, ensuring The Port District's development aligned with the natural environment and retains the City's unique character.

And there is more to come. A waterfront restaurant is in development for an incredible dining experience along the river. Walking trails soon will be available to enjoy in a wooded preserve at the southern portion of The Port District.

New name, growing vision for Walton & One

walton
& one

As the vision for the area formerly known as the Port St. Lucie City Center continues to come into focus, this year it was rebranded to Walton & One. The new name connects the development to its location within the City and provides a unique identity as a destination.

Walton & One will be a transformative, multi-year redevelopment project that aims to create a vibrant, walkable destination in eastern Port St. Lucie. Anchored by the MIDFLORIDA Event Center and Village Square, the vision for Walton & One would feature retail, office, entertainment, cultural, restaurant and residential spaces.

In April 2022, City Council engaged the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council to develop a master plan for Walton & One. In November 2023, City Council approved the master plan design concept, paving the green light for CRA staff to bring it to life.

This initiative will pave the way for future growth, making Walton & One a premier destination on Port St. Lucie's east side.



Maintaining the life of roads, one mile at a time

With approximately 917 centerline miles of roads to maintain, the City of Port St. Lucie has plans in place to preserve and improve roadways in a fiscally responsible manner.

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, Public Works resurfaced nearly 44 miles of roads across the City. Resurfacing roadways supports safety and mobility until future improvements can be incorporated.

In addition to resurfacing, Public Works is extending the life of its roadways with asphalt rejuvenation. The program, which started in 2022, helps reduce future costs of repaving, saves taxpayers money, extends the life expectancy of a roadway and helps ensure a smooth ride on roadways for years to come. Public Works rejuvenated 32 centerline miles of City-owned streets in FY 2023-24.



Popular new event celebrates Black culture, recognized with statewide award

In February, the Parks and Recreation Department hosted a new event to celebrate Black culture through food, art and music. The inaugural FAM Fest event was an instant success, attracting an estimated 1,500 attendees!

A committee comprised of Black City employees selected entertainment, food and artists featured at the event, while working closely with local nonprofit agencies such as the Treasure Coast Black Chamber of Commerce, Caribbean American Cultural Group and PSL Black Women Walk.

In recognition of the event's innovation in community programming through creativity, inclusivity and cultural significance, the Florida Recreation and Park Association (FRPA) selected FAM Fest as the winner of the 2024 Innovative Programming for Community Building Award.

Getting into the swing of golf with new learning environment at The Saints

In golf, practice truly does make perfect. The Saints Golf Course proudly opened its newly redesigned driving range in 2024 to help golfers work on their games.

Featuring improvements to cart parking, replacing natural turf with artificial turf hitting bays and the addition of much-needed shade structures over the hitting bays, these improvements are part of a phased vision for additional improvements to the practice and learning facility at The Saints.

These improvements have provided an average increase of 40% in monthly revenues. In addition to these new improvements, The Saints also has introduced a new membership program for the driving range, which provides an affordable and convenient option for frequent range users. In the first month of the range membership program, 30 golfers had already joined!



Utility Systems earns national accreditation

The Port St. Lucie Utility Systems Department completed the evaluation phase of the American Public Works Association (APWA) accreditation process in October, led by Accreditation and Performance Manager Summer Burdick.

The onsite visit from three APWA accreditation representatives included facility tours, presentations and thorough reviews of the department's standard operating procedures.

Because each division in Utility Services met or exceeded the recommended practices outlined in the APWA Public Works Management Practices Manual, and demonstrated that it's in full compliance with at least 95% of the applicable practices, the APWA Accreditation Board granted Port St. Lucie's Utility Services accreditation.



The results are formalized in the final accreditation phase of the process, and the department will present the accreditation to City Council.

Utility Systems must submit a mid-term report on year two of accreditation and apply for re-accreditation every four years to ensure the agency is keeping up-

to-date information and making continuous improvements.

This recognition supports Utility System's mission to provide outstanding customer service and its vision to be the vanguard of environmental stewardship and innovation through advancement in utility operations.

Comprehensive Plan update provides vision for future

The City of Port St. Lucie Comprehensive Plan guides future development, maintains quality of life and provides for economic development. It also regulates land use and provides the basis for zoning regulations.

In 2024, the City began a year-long process to update the Comprehensive Plan for the next 20 years. The update, Charting Port St. Lucie 2045, includes public workshops, stakeholder interviews, data review and much more to determine the City's vision for the future.

The City's Comprehensive Plan includes 11 elements:

- Future land use
- Transportation
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Conservation and coastal management
- Intergovernmental coordination
- Recreation and open space
- Economic development
- Capital improvements
- Public school facilities



The update began in September 2024 and is expected to be completed between August and October 2025.

INNOVATION



1,000+

As part of its innovation work through the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, the City engaged more than 1,000 people and generated more than 1,000 ideas.

Port St. Lucie selected as one of 40 cities in the world for the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative

The City of Port St. Lucie was one of 40 cities from around the world to participate in the seventh class of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative. Over the past year, Mayor Shannon Martin, City Manager Jesus Merejo and Deputy City Manager Kate Parmelee joined other city leaders in a year-long journey to improve data use for problem-solving, cross-department collaboration and community impact.

Port St. Lucie also participated in the Innovation Track led by the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University. It provided an opportunity for a cross-departmental team to learn human-centered design techniques that can help increase residents' access to nature and green spaces – a top issue identified at the Citizen Summit. The City was recognized for its successes in the program and delivered the keynote presentation to the next innovation cohort.

The Strategic Initiatives & Innovation team continues to expand innovation citywide, teaching human-centered design to all departments through the Innovate PSL Innovation Academy, in partnership with the Human Resources Department.



Port St. Lucie achieves What Works Cities silver certification

The City of Port St. Lucie was one of 12 new cities in the United States and Latin America awarded What Works Cities Certification for establishing exceptional data capabilities to inform policy decisions, allocate funding, improve services, evaluate program effectiveness and engage residents.

What Works Cities Certification continues to set a standard of excellence for data-informed local government. The standard reflects the practices, policies and resources municipal governments must have in place to effectively harness data for better decision-making.

Port St. Lucie is continually working to be more data-driven, and among various efforts launched a PSL STAT, a focus on delivering improved outcomes for residents through reviewing data tied to the Strategic Plan. The City follows a data-driven process to update its Strategic Plan each year that centers the voice of residents, through the National Community Survey™ and its interactive #IAMPSL Citizen Summit, collectively engaging 3,164 residents last year.

2

Number of cities in Florida to earn What Works Cities certification.

Miami was the first, Port St. Lucie is the second.



Using data, technology helps Code Compliance improve services

Code Compliance has made significant strides in modernizing its operations and enhancing service delivery. By integrating Geographic Information System data into its case management software, a higher level of efficiency and analytical capability has been achieved.

This integration allows for better tracking of case data, as well as providing valuable insights into trends and patterns. The system provides a visual representation of violation locations, which enables officers to quickly identify problem areas and prioritize enforcement efforts.

In addition, the division has streamlined its citation process by purchasing mobile printers that are now in the vehicles of all Code Officers. This technology enables our Code Officers to issue parking tickets and citations directly from their vehicles, eliminating the need for time-consuming paperwork and manual data entry. The result is a more efficient workflow, allowing Code Officers to dedicate more time to addressing violations and serving the community.

The department's commitment to constantly improving systems and finding efficiencies also has come through in its key performance indicators, which have shown significant increases in the number of cases processed because of these efficiencies.

The City is growing at an unprecedented rate and the population has grown to more than 250,000 residents. The City's 14 Code Zones cover all Port St. Lucie's 121 square miles, which includes about 100,000 residential units. the Code Compliance Team is keeping up with the growth through these improvements to practices and procedures.

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, Code processed 21,190 cases with a steady 93% compliance rate. This further demonstrates how the Neighborhood Services Department is working with residents to educate them about the City's Code of Ordinances to keep the City safe, clean and beautiful.

IT improves workflows for departments across the City

The City of Port St. Lucie's IT Department works closely with other departments to use technology that can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their efforts.

Three examples this year included: an invoice application, which allows City retirees to submit payments for insurance and other uses; a human resources intake application that tracks specific HR tasks, workflow and reporting abilities; and a project that integrated project costs into the City's Project Tracker website for the public to view.

New websites offer streamlined access to City info, services

In August, the City launched a rebranded and revised website to provide residents, businesses and visitors with improved access to information, services and resources.

The new website was designed to create a user-friendly and informative online platform to serve the community. It incorporates best practices in web design and functionality to enhance the overall user experience. Extensive feedback was solicited during the design and testing phases to ensure the website is as accessible, navigable and user-friendly as possible.

Along with updates to the CityofPSL.com website, two additional City-related sites also were refreshed and a page was added for the Port St. Lucie Police Department:

- MIDFLORIDAEventCenter.com offers venue information, updates and ticket purchasing for events taking place at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.
- SaintsPSL.com provides golfers with detailed information about The Saints Golf Course amenities, tee times, rates and special events.
- PSLPolice.com offers insights about the department, information on community resources and access to services.

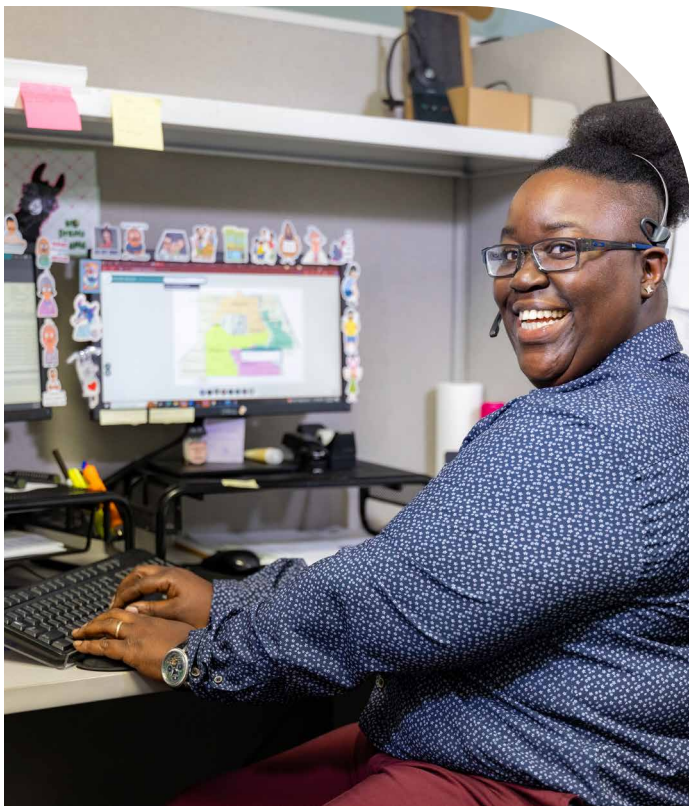
Finding new ways to communicate with the public

The City of Port St. Lucie Communications Department is always looking for ways to expand on its abilities to communicate with residents.

This year, the City added new digital signs in two strategic locations. The first was installed on Westmoreland Boulevard at the entrance to the newly opened Port District. The second was added in front of City Hall at the corner of Port St. Lucie and Airoso boulevards.

The digital signs are part of an ongoing project to expand signage at key areas of the City and replace the need for vinyl signs currently used. This will reduce printing costs for vinyl signs and allows for a variety of information to be shared quickly, including for emergency situations such as approaching hurricanes.





Using data, technology to enhance traffic conditions, improve safety

The Public Works Department works hard to improve traffic, mobility and safety City-wide through planned infrastructure projects and improvements, as well as system upgrades and using innovative technologies.

One example last year was the installation of a new mast arm traffic signal at the intersection of SW Bayshore Boulevard and SW Lakehurst Drive. After reviewing data that showed high-traffic volumes and a substantial number of crashes historically, Public Works concluded a new signal would reduce the risk for accidents.

The project included vehicle video detection equipment, pedestrian signals and detectors, signal cables, sidewalk curb ramps, signs and pavement markings – all with the goal to make the intersection safer for the public.



45

Total number of traffic studies and data collections related to traffic by the Public Works Department.

Finding efficiencies to reduce septic-to-sewer conversion times

Thanks to streamlining, efficiency, and staffing efforts, the wait time for residential septic to sewer conversions has been reduced from the 2023 average of eight to 10 weeks to approximately four to six weeks.

The Port St. Lucie Utility Systems Department has worked with a contractor to help with the high conversion demand, but even with the extra help, wait times were still quite high – in some cases, taking several months.

Staff analyzed the process and identified several areas to streamline. It created an electronic spreadsheet to document each step of the conversion progress, from the initial application to completion, which was implemented to track the workflow. Also, the owner's permit acknowledgment was previously the responsibility of the contractor and homeowner to complete and return to the City, and it is now part of the application process.

Improvements in staffing, training and employee retention also have contributed to the decrease in conversion wait times, leading to improved customer satisfaction.



40% to 50%

The improvement rate for the average amount of time residents wait for septic-to-sewer conversions. In 2023, it took eight to 10 weeks, today it takes four to six weeks.



ENGAGEMENT



Mobile Club demonstrates power of collaboration

When the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County and the City of Port St. Lucie established a Mobile Club, it demonstrated the value of strong community partnerships and dedication in addressing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

By using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, this initiative was kick-started to expand services outdoors during the pandemic.

The Mobile Club partnership has proven successful even after the pandemic and has continued for several years. Since February 2021, the Mobile Club has reached more than 6,000 children across various City neighborhoods.

The idea behind the initiative was to make sure school-aged children did not lose pace and fall behind when they had to attend school virtually. It also brought access to areas that didn't have a Clubhouse or school-based Club. From fitness and outdoor games to virtual reality and homework help, the Mobile Club can bring all aspects of being a Club member directly to underserved neighborhoods. Plus, Mobile Club participants enjoy free admission and free meals at each site, making this program even more accessible to all Port St. Lucie residents.

The activity has been recognized nationally by the Boys and Girls Club of America by being awarded the Roxanne Spillett Program Excellence Award for the best new program and was a finalist for the Best Neighborhood Program in the USA by Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA). The project serves the City's Strategic Plan by furthering youth education initiatives, healthy communities and intergenerational connectivity.

This year, City Council recognized representatives from the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County and staff from the Neighborhood Services Department with the City's Team of the Year Award.

Outreach, education key part of budget preparation process

The Office of Management and Budget is focused on working with departments, leaders and City Council to develop a budget that meets the needs of the community. When a proposed budget is submitted, OMB also works hard to ensure residents understand what it means for them.

This year, OMB increased community engagement during the budget process to provide greater transparency about the City's budget and taxes by supporting Council at townhalls, attending various community events, hosting budget information sessions, creating new budget/taxes informational videos and social media content.

OMB also continued to use the City's Tax Receipt Tool, which provides residents specific insights into what City services their taxes support.

All of these elements are designed with one goal in mind: to be transparent and informative when it comes to taxes and the City's budget.

Job fair attracts more than 800 people

In August, the City's Human Resources Department partnered with CareerSource Research Coast to host the fourth annual Community Job Fair at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.

The job fair drew 818 job seekers eager to explore new career opportunities and more than 60 employers from Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties. Attendees could connect directly with a variety of employers from various industries, creating professional relationships and opening doors to future employment.

Clothing drive provides resources for job seekers

The Human Resources department introduced a new initiative with support from CareerSource Research Coast and nonprofit organization GraceWay Village, aimed at supporting job seekers in the community.

Recognizing the importance of first impressions, Human Resources collected 506 pounds of professional clothing from City staff and the public for job fair attendees to use for work interviews. This addition to the City's Community Job Fair has inspired others partnering with CareerSource to do the same.



International Fest brings together people, cultures from around the world

The Port St. Lucie International Fest offered residents an opportunity to take a trip around the world without leaving the City.

The second annual event was held Nov. 23 at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center and provided a variety of international cuisine, drinks and cultural experiences.

The free cultural extravaganza showcased the diverse music, food and traditions of people from around the world. It also provided a day of dancing, ethnic cuisine and unforgettable entertainment.

Approximately 2,700 people attended the festival, which featured music performances, plus unique activities and experiences at every country-themed station. In addition to music, there were exhibits, vendors, giveaways and specialty food vendors offering delicious dishes from around the world.

The Arts and Ideas exhibit inside the MIDFLORIDA Event Center lobby featured interactive booths, where participants shared feedback on arts, culture and diversity, viewed international fashion displays (including many owned by Port St. Lucie residents and City staff) and admired an impressive art exhibition.

The language lab workshop provided lessons in how to communicate in Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Creole, Spanish, Hebrew and American Sign Language. Residents laced up their dancing shoes to learn dances such as samba and salsa at a workshop led by professional instructors.

"Port St. Lucie is an incredible melting pot, with people from across the globe who live and work here," said Sarah Prohaska, Communications Director. "This festival is a way to demonstrate the diversity of our City, to celebrate the many cultures represented in our community through arts, entertainment and music."



Largest City University class ever learns about and engages with PSL

For 10 weeks this fall, residents from across Port St. Lucie received an inside look at municipal operations through the annual City University program. This year's City U was the largest class ever, with approximately 70 residents graduating from the program in October.

Through interactive classes held once a week, participants engaged with local elected officials and City staff, gaining a deeper understanding of how decisions are made, how funds are allocated and how various departments operate.

Participants could tour City facilities and participate in lively discussions. City U helps residents actively engage with their community and promotes a collaborative environment – fostering a sense of civic engagement, transparency and community involvement – that creates well-informed individuals who serve as ambassadors for the City.



"It's been really fun just being able to connect our ideas and make sure that other teens in the City are being heard," said Enrique Rosario, now in his second term. "If anyone is thinking of joining the Youth Council, I would say go for it because it's an amazing opportunity."

Youth Council develops tomorrow's leaders

The City of Port St. Lucie Youth Council was established in 2023 as a way for young people in the community to share their voices and be part of the decision-making process. It also provides students with an opportunity to:

- Learn about local government
- Earn community service hours
- Build leadership skills
- Build public speaking and training opportunities
- Provide their input and feedback to City leaders

The inaugural Youth Council featured nine students from seven schools across St. Lucie County and exploded in popularity for the 2024-25 school year, with nearly 50 students participating.

Members visited state legislators in Tallahassee and attended the National League of Cities Conference in Tampa, while also advocating for youth in the community. Youth Council members helped create new events aimed at teens and have volunteered at City events such as Citizen Summit, International Fest and the PSLinLights Party.



LOVE YOUR BLOCK

PORT ST. LUCIE

Grant provides opportunity for residents, City to collaborate on community projects

In May, the City of Port St. Lucie received grant funding that offers a unique opportunity for residents and City staff to work together on projects that can make a difference at the neighborhood level.

Port St. Lucie was one of 16 newly selected cities to receive a Love Your Block grant from the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University. Locally, the grants will fund resident-led, neighborhood revitalization projects in Port St. Lucie's Whispering Pines neighborhood for two years.

The City joined the largest cohort in the history of the Love Your Block program – which reached nearly 50,000

community members who have improved nearly 4,000 public spaces – creating nearly 800 art displays, cleaning 102,000 square feet of graffiti and removing 6.7 million pounds of trash in cities nationwide since its creation in 2009.

The City has begun planning and laying the groundwork for the Love Your Block program, which will allow Port St. Lucie residents to apply for mini-grants for neighborhood improvement projects. The program will officially launch in the Whispering Pines community on Valentine's Day 2025. The City is exploring the use of this model in other neighborhoods throughout Port St. Lucie in the future.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

City continues to lower millage rate, reduce debt

The City of Port St. Lucie Office of Management and Budget developed the 2024-25 budget to meet the growing demands of the City while reducing the millage rate for the ninth consecutive year to 5.0550, representing a total savings of \$34.4 million for taxpayers.

The budget adopted by the Mayor and City Council in September also supports continued long-term debt reduction, a 16-year strategy that has resulted in a 44% reduction in debt principal.

The City of Port St. Lucie has lowered the millage rate for the past

9

consecutive years.



“

We take a very conservative approach to our finances. When we look to our history, this City back in 2009 was a billion dollars in debt. Being able to turn that around, with the City Council setting the foundation and setting the goal to reduce the debt, and to reduce it by \$450 million, that's something to be proud of.

And on top of that, being able to reduce our millage rate is a tremendous accomplishment. It takes that type of commitment for a City of our size to be financially fit. We are in a good position for the next round of major projects because of how we have lowered our debt.

”

City Manager Jesus Merejo
at the Port St. Lucie City
Manager's Update in
October



The City Manager's ADOPTED BUDGET IN BRIEF

FY 2024/25

121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984 | CityofPSL.com

The Fiscal Year 24/25 Adopted Budget allocates resources to support Port St. Lucie's Strategic Plan goals.

BUDGET

FISCAL YEAR

24/25

19.98%

INCREASE
FROM FY 23/24
DUE TO INFLATION AND
CAPITAL PROJECTS

TOTAL BUDGET

\$851,042,015

GENERAL FUND

17.41%

\$30.8M INCREASE
OVER FY 23/24

TOTAL BUDGET

\$207,460,424

Crosstown Voter Debt Reduced

The voter-approved debt service millage for Crosstown Parkway is reducing to 0.3743 in FY 24/25 from 0.4943 for FY 23/24.

Operating Millage

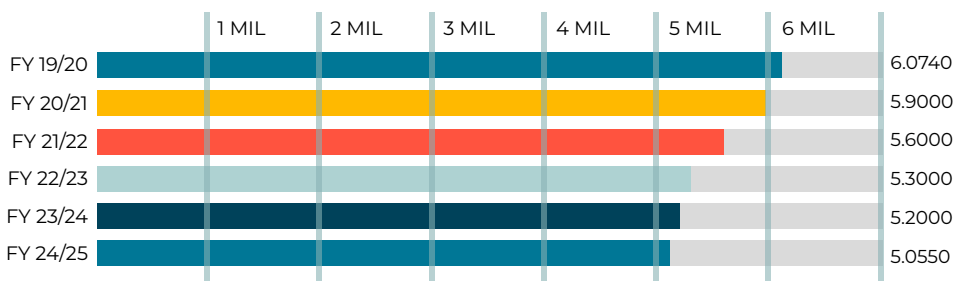
Operating Millage is reducing from 4.7057 to 4.6807.

Tax Base Increase

The 2024 certified taxable value increased by 15.4% over 2023 certified value, because of increased growth and property appreciation, from **\$19.8 billion (FY23/24)** to **\$22.8 billion (FY24/25)** as of July's certification.

MILLAGE RATE

Millage rate is the tax rate per \$1,000 of taxable property value. The City's Operating Millage rate is **4.6807** per thousand for **FY 24/25**. The adopted total millage rate is **5.0550**. This is the ninth year the millage rate is reduced.



Assessed impact of millage reduction on City taxes for a median home with a homestead exemption increased by the Save Our Homes law limit of 3%

	FY 23/24 Tax Year City Taxes	FY 24/25 Assessed Value	FY 24/25 Tax Year City Taxes
Assessed Value	\$201,040	\$207,071	\$207,071
Exemption Amount	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Taxable Amount	\$151,040	\$157,071	\$157,071
City Total Millage Rate (Per \$1,000 of value)	5.2000	5.2000	5.0550
Total City Taxes per Year	\$785.41	\$816.77	\$793.99
Difference with Adopted Millage Reduction			(\$-22.78)

Although the median market value of an average single-family home in PSL is \$346,700, the median assessed value by the County Property Appraiser is \$207,071. The assessed value is used to determine the annual property tax.

STORMWATER

Stormwater Fee is adopted to increase by \$5 for a total of \$183, for residential and \$137.25 for vacant property.

SOUTHERN GROVE

Southern Grove debt and tax payment reduced to **\$2.6 million**, which is supported by the Governmental Finance Fund.

SOLID WASTE

The Solid Waste Assessment Fee will increase to \$446.44 per contractual obligations with the City's solid waste vendor.

UTILITY SYSTEMS

The Utility Operating System is increasing the water rate by 5.5%, while sewer rate remains the same.

Median market value for
a single-family home in

Port St. Lucie

\$346,700

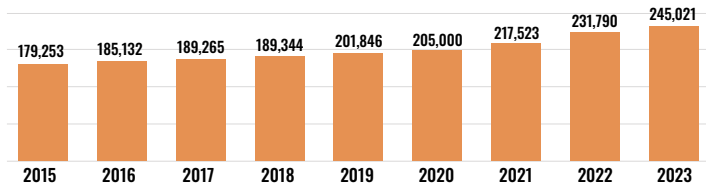
STAFFING

FY 24/25 adopted budget includes a net change of **60** positions for a total of **1,474.35 FTEs** which is **19.1%** more than the number in FY 08/09. In FY 08/09 the population was estimated at **154,844** residents compared to a current population of over 245,021 residents; a nearly **58.2%** increase.

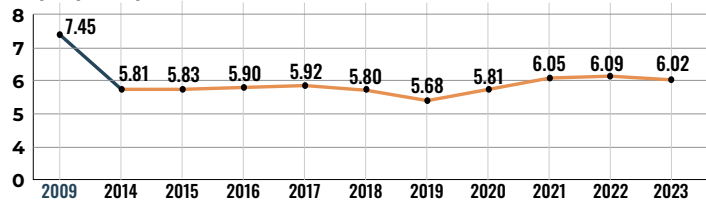
HISTORY OF AUTHORIZED POSITIONS



Population Growth Data from U.S. Census Bureau



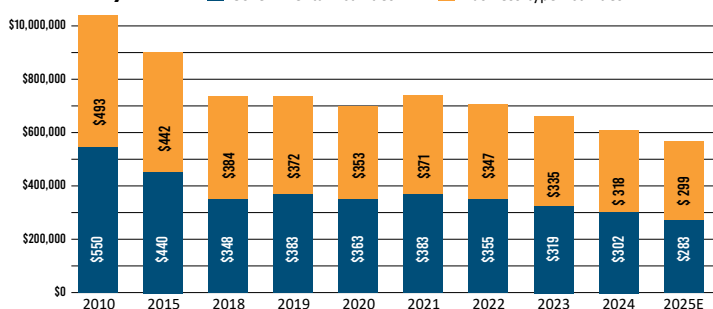
Employees per 1,000 residents Units in thousands



DEBT REDUCTION

The City's long-term debt has been reduced as a result of principal payments and refinancing, when appropriate, from a high of more than \$1.042 billion in debt in FY 09/10 to a **projected \$583 million for FY 24/25** based upon the budgeted principal payments. This will represent a **44% reduction in debt** over the past 15 years.

Total City Debt Governmental Activities Business-type Activities



GENERAL FUND:

City Council:

1 Executive Assistant

Police:

6 Police Officer
2 Digital Forensic Examiner
1 Crime Analyst Manager
1 Detective Sergeant Major Crimes
6 Shift Lieutenant
1 Crime Scene Investigator I-II
1 Sergeant (SID)
1 Accreditation Specialist
1 District Support Sergeant-Community Outreach

Information Technology:

1 IT Executive Project Manager
1 Application Support Specialist
1 Contract and Licensing Agent

Parks & Recreation:

2 Capital Improvement Project Manager

Keep PSL Beautiful:

1 Maintenance Worker

UTILITY SYSTEMS FUND:

1 Connection Support Specialist
1 Connection Support Leader
1 Capital Improvement Project Budget Analyst
2 Water Meter Technician
1 Project Coordinator
1 Administrative Operations Coordinator
1 Mapping Technician
1 Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Inspector
2 Field Technician Trainee
1 Utility Locator
1 Utility Inspector
1 Fiber Optic Technician

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND:

1 Project Coordinator
.5 Administrative Operations Coordinator
1 Project Manager, Traffic Operations
1 Project Coordinator

Finance:

1 Grants and Project Analyst
1 Accountant I

Human Resources:

1 HR Generalist I-III

Risk Management:

1 Project Manager

Management and Budget:

1 Procurement Contracting Officer III

MIDFLORIDA Event Center:

2 Event Technician

Neighborhood Services:

1 Code Compliance Supervisor

STATE HOUSING INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP FUND

1 Housing Specialist

SOLID WASTE FUND:

1 Customer Service Specialist

BUILDING FUND:

2 Plans Examiner

STORMWATER FUND:

.5 Administrative Operations Coordinator
1 Large Culvert Inspector

NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES):

1 NPDES Inspector

MEDICAL FUND:

1 Benefits Analyst

STAFFING INCREASES FOR FY 24/25:

Employee increases are directly related to continued growth in the City.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The City is prudently planning projects while slightly decreasing the current debt load. Projects planned over the five-year period are projected to cost **\$645.3 million**.

UTILITY SYSTEM UPGRADES

\$236.4M

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

\$32.1M

STREET RESURFACING

\$42.3M

OTHER PROJECTS

\$282.4M

TORINO & TRADITION REGIONAL PARKS & O.L. PEACOCK PARK

\$36.7M

SIDEWALK PROJECTS

\$15.4M

Grants provide funds for variety of projects and programs

The City's interdepartmental Grants and Advocacy Team has secured more than \$72 million in grants over the past two years (and more than \$22 million in FY 2023-24). These funds supplement local taxpayer dollars and allow the City to deliver more projects for residents. Key grants awarded in the past year include:

- Public safety: Funding to support hiring police officers from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program for \$250,000; and funding to support officer mental health from the U.S. Department of Justice Law Enforcement and Mental Health Wellness Act Implementation Project for \$200,000.
- Tree planting: Funding to plant trees and develop a youth urban forestry apprenticeship program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Grant for \$1 million.
- Transportation and infrastructure: Federal appropriation for SW California Boulevard for \$2 million.
- Water quality: Federal appropriation to support construction of portion 7A of the St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Project for \$1 million; and funding to support the Westport Wastewater Treatment Facility from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Protecting Florida Together Program for \$23.27 million.
- Neighborhood improvement: Port St. Lucie was one of only 16 cities nationally chosen to participate in the Love Your Block Program by the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University with \$100,000 in funding.

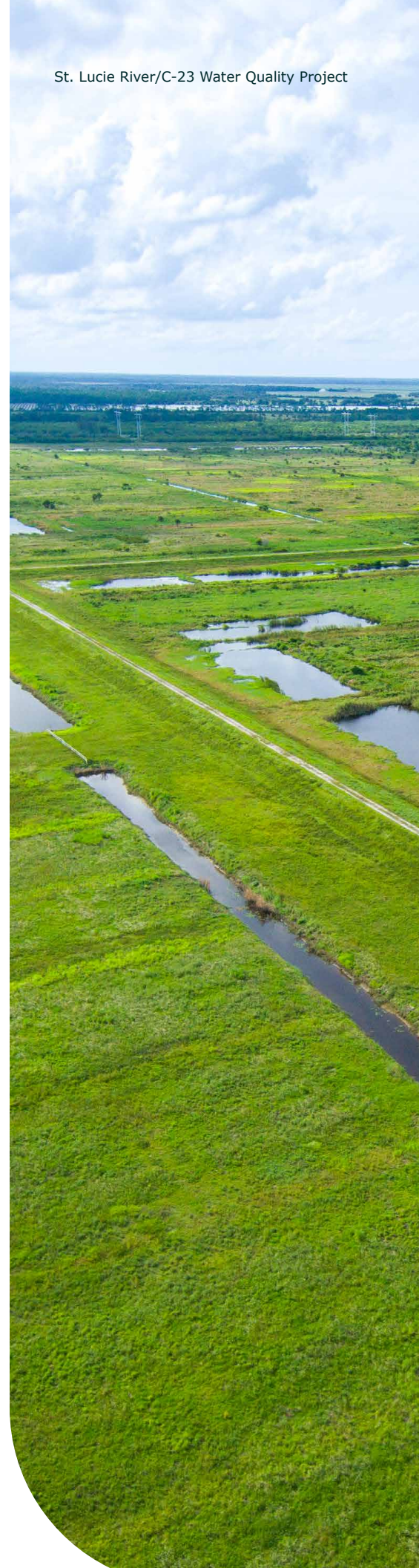
American Rescue Plan funds used for critical projects

The City of Port St. Lucie administered approximately \$24 million in funds allocated through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA). The City successfully used ARPA funds to complete several critical projects, including:

- Supporting public health in planning for future emergencies
- Addressing negative economic impacts through mortgage assistance
- Constructing infrastructure in the City's jobs corridor, increasing residents' access to jobs
- Expanding the City's fiber infrastructure to all water treatment facilities, laying the groundwork for future smart city investments
- Funding infrastructure necessary for the future Torino Regional Park
- Expanding stormwater and flood prevention improvements, including constructing stormwater treatment areas, improving culverts and swales

Fitch Ratings upgraded the City of Port St. Lucie's Utility System Revenue Bonds to AA with a Stable Outlook. The rating agency noted the Utility System had solid revenue streams and effective operational management.

St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Project





Taking steps to save insurance costs for residents

The City of Port St. Lucie takes a proactive, comprehensive approach to ensure it is taking advantage of opportunities to provide financial savings for residents and business owners in the community.

For example, the City received high ratings in 2024 for its building code enforcement practices that were higher than national and state averages for commercial and residential buildings. Those higher rankings can translate to lower property insurance premiums for Port St. Lucie residents and business owners.

The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) is a program administered by the Insurance Services Office (ISO), an advisory and rating organization for the property and casualty insurance industry. The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule evaluates building departments across the country based on their building code adoption and enforcements, then grades them. BCEGS helps communities reduce the damage caused by natural disasters, lower insurance costs and promote the construction of safer buildings.

This year, Port St. Lucie scored better than state and national averages. Insurers use the assigned grading to determine property insurance values and premium credits for buildings constructed under strictly enforced codes.

"Effective building code enforcement leads to safer buildings, less damage from natural disasters and other catastrophic events and lower insured losses," said Joel Dramis, the City's Building Department Director. "This can lead to savings for insured property owners."

In April, the City announced that an improved rating as part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) could help Port St. Lucie residents see a drop in flood insurance rates.

The City of Port St. Lucie has been actively participating in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) since 1991. The rating system provides credit for a full range of public outreach efforts. Because of the City's involvement in the program, Port St. Lucie's rating improved from Class 8 to Class 5, which means residents will see a 10-25% discount on their flood insurance premiums renewals as long as the City maintains the rating.

Funding available for small businesses impacted by pandemic

In partnership with the Florida Small Business Development Center at Indian River State College, the City awarded \$358,333 in grant funds to eligible small businesses in Port St. Lucie. The COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program was created through the Florida Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program and was designed to help financially support eligible businesses that were impacted by the pandemic.



Fulfilling the promise of the Southern Grove jobs corridor

When the City acquired a portion of Southern Grove in western Port St. Lucie, the land was earmarked to become the City's Jobs Corridor. In 2018, there were estimates that this process could take upwards of two decades to sell and development of nearly 1,200 acres. However, by the end of 2024 a little more than 100 acres remained available for purchase.

In 2024, the City entered into five purchase and sale agreements with developers that totaled more than 110 acres. These projects represent approximately:

- 500,000 square feet of industrial
- 470,000 square feet of retail
- 95,000 square feet of office
- 390 multi-family units
- 140 hotel rooms

In addition, Costco Warehouse Distribution Center purchased a 192-acre parcel that will ultimately bring 500 well-paying jobs to the City of Port St. Lucie. The 1.8-million-square-foot facility will be constructed in phases, with the first phase currently underway.

To provide necessary infrastructure for the Jobs Corridor, two spine roads are currently under construction. These roads will provide north/south traffic flow intended for commercial use, limiting large vehicles utilizing SW Village Parkway. Anthony F. Sansone Sr. Boulevard is under construction and anticipated to be complete in early 2025, while Tom Mackie Boulevard is just beginning construction.

New electronic bidding platform now available for vendors, suppliers

The City of Port St. Lucie has transitioned to a new online bidding platform that vendors and suppliers will use for the electronic solicitation process. OpenGov is the leader in modern cloud-based software for government operations, serving more than 1,900 public organizations, and replaces a previous product (DemandStar) at Port St. Lucie.

All new City contracting opportunities will use OpenGov. The new electronic bidding portal will allow prospective vendors and suppliers the ability to:

- Register to receive notifications of future opportunities by signing up for a new e-Procurement Portal.
- Receive updates to existing opportunities. This will allow all interested bidders to receive amendments and additions automatically.
- Submit questions and receive answers online regarding open bid opportunities.
- Use a guided process of responding electronically to bids, ensuring bids have been accurately completed.
- Receive timely support for bid questions.
- Have one location for all bid opportunities issued by the City of Port St. Lucie.

Award-Winning City

These are some of the accolades the City earned in 2024.

Building

- Joel Dramis awarded the Robert K. Becker Lifetime Achievement Award

CRA

- 2024 American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Florida Design Awards—Award of Honor for The Port District Master Plan

Communications

- 2024 National Association of Government Communicators — Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Award, Event/Community Engagement Forum, #IamPSL Citizen Summit
- 2024 Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) Treasure Coast Chapter—Communicator of the Year in promoting diversity and inclusion: Maritza Diaz-Ott
- MarComm Awards—Honorable mention for the City website launch
- MarComm Awards—Gold Winner for A Growing City with a Family-Friendly Atmosphere video

- Florida Municipal Communicators Association—Honorable mention for 2024 Citizen Summit
- Florida Municipal Communicators Association—Winner, Podcast of the Year, PSL On The Mic
- 2024 Public Relations Society of America (PRSA)—Winner for 2024 Citizen Summit
- 2024 AVA Digital Awards—Honorable mention for We are PSL
- 2024 AVA Digital Awards—Gold Winner for Understanding the budget process for the City of PSL

Human Resources

- Best Places to Work
- The Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health (Gold)

Office of Management & Budget

- Received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report -- the 334d consecutive year it has received the award.
- Maintained the National Institute for Governmental Reporting Outstanding Accreditation Achievement Award for 22 consecutive years and the Florida Association of Public Procurement Officials Award for Excellence in Public Procurement for 21 consecutive years.

Neighborhood Services

- NSD City Team of the Year Award

Parks & Recreation

- 2024 Florida Recreation & Park Association — Innovative Programming Award for FAM Fest
- 2024 Florida Festivals & Events Association — Community Impact Award for FAM Fest

Police

- CALEA Re-Accreditation

Public Works

- Department of the Year
- Project Manager of the Year, Emily Seitter
- American Association of Landscape Architects, Design Awards, Award of Merit - Crosstown Parkway Plaza



