



WILDWOOD CONNECTION

WASTEWATER FACILITY EXPANSION

As the City of Wildwood grows, so, too, does its wastewater flow.

In recognizing the need for a proactive approach to future infrastructure needs, city officials last year sought out the assistance of experts in wastewater engineering.

Consulting engineering firm CPH, Inc. was hired to conduct an analysis of the city's historic, current, and projected flow rates, along with a comprehensive evaluation of Wildwood's existing wastewater treatment facility.

In a presentation to the city commission on September 19, 2022, CPH described its findings. Among them were significant increases in recent and projected flow rates along with inefficiencies of the current treatment facility related to its original design many years ago.

CPH proposed a conceptual plan to modify the existing facility with improvements that will add capacity while a new, much larger treatment facility is incrementally planned and designed to handle projected future flow rates.

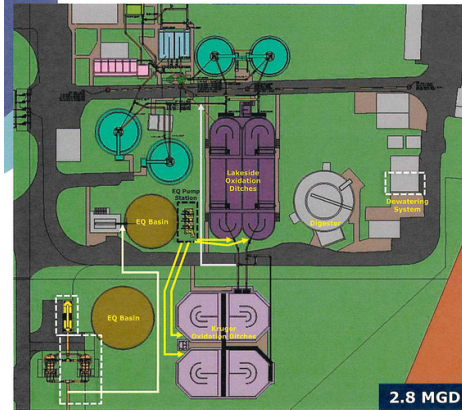
The project's first phase addresses the current facility's efficiency and increases its functional operating capacity from 2.3 to 2.8 million-gallons-per-day (MGD). A new facility then would be strategically phased to bring on increased capacity over time, as needed, to a total of 6.0 MGD.

This phasing will enable a more cost-efficient project rollout than if the entire facility were designed and built at once.

At its October 10, 2022, meeting, the city commission approved CPH's conceptual design report and proposed scope of services for design and permitting of the project. City staff subsequently advertised a request for proposals from qualified firms interested in providing Construction Management at Risk services for the project.

Those proposals are currently under review and a contract with the winning applicant is expected to be awarded this month.

Phase I Improvements – Existing WRF



- New EQ Pumps, Piping, Modulating Valves and Flow Meters
- Instrumentation Improvements to the Oxidation Ditches
- Install new piping to collect the effluent from the Kruger Ditches and convey it to the existing influent pipe to the two 50-foot diameter clarifiers
- Close an existing valve to convey the Lakeside Ditches effluent to the two existing 40-foot diameter clarifiers
- New Screening System
- New Master Lift Station and Piping
- New dewatering screw press
- Electrical, Controls, Instrumentation and SCADA improvements 33

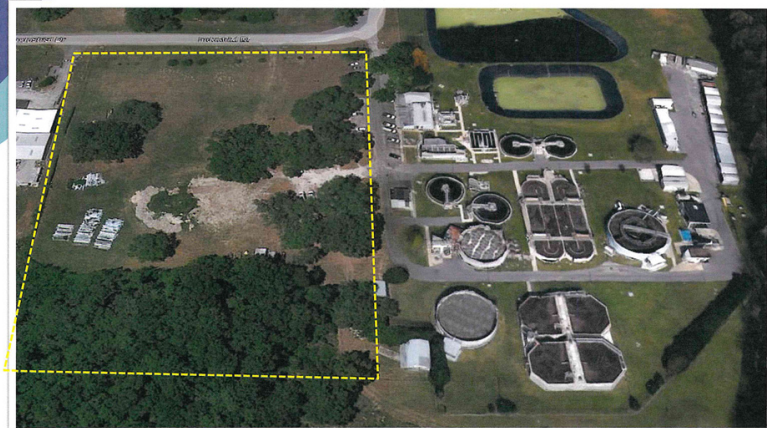
Phase V Improvements – New WRF



- Addition of fourth 5-Stage BNR AWT Treatment Train (overall BNR capacity of 6.0 MGD)
- Addition of 4th Secondary Clarifier and additional RAS/WAS Pumps
- Installation of equipment in the fourth Aerobic-Facultative Digestion System reactor and 5th PD blower
- Electrical, Controls, Instrumentation, and SCADA System Improvements
- Demolition of remaining portions of old WRF

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- Open space available for expansion of facility





WILDWOOD'S DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN WINS DIAMOND AWARD

The City of Wildwood's Downtown Master Plan was honored on January 18, 2023, by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council with a Diamond Award.

Commissioner Julian Green accepted the award on behalf of Wildwood, and City Manager Jason McHugh participated in a panel discussion with other award recipients.

"I am thrilled our plan was chosen for the category of Innovative Places," said Commissioner Green. "It recognizes all of the collaboration that is going into forming and carrying out a thoughtful, creative vision to integrate our city's past, present, and future into a vibrant hub serving the entire community."

Wildwood's Downtown Master Plan is a short-, mid-, and long-range strategy for redevelopment of the city's downtown area, as envisioned by its citizens while incorporating proven best practices and a strategic, sustainable approach to implementation.

"The city hired Ayers Associates to help us develop this plan," explained McHugh. "We worked with them to engage our stakeholders, who can have competing priorities, and bring them together around common goals and a shared vision for our diverse community. Now it's up to us to implement it."

The plan's initial redevelopment will provide an anchor in the downtown area for new investments of regional significance. As it enhances connectivity between new and existing employers, housing, and a rapidly growing, diversified population and workforce, it will provide a balance of live-work-play resources for the community and the region.

Wildwood's Railyard project, announced last fall, is a major component of the plan's first implementation phase. That project will add approximately 125 new parking spaces in a garage on Main Street/US 301 and about 8,000 square feet of new commercial space once constructed.

"It's an exciting time for our city," McHugh added. "We have a passionate commission of elected officials who are committed to seeing this plan and these projects through and making Wildwood the very best city in central Florida."



SO WHAT ARE AD VALOREM TAXES?

Often referred to as property taxes, ad valorem taxes are determined by the value of the property being assessed.



NEXT UP:

THE MILLAGE RATE

Rate of tax per thousand dollars of taxable value.

This rate determines the amount of ad valorem taxes that will be generated by the city.



THE ROLLBACK RATE

Rate that would generate the same amount of property tax as approved for the prior year.

Any rate higher than the rollback rate is considered a tax increase per Florida law.

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE:



Your home's assessed value is \$200,000



You receive two homestead exemptions totaling \$50,000



This brings your home's taxable value down to \$150,000



Wildwood's millage rate of 3.0 is applied for a total tax amount of \$450

WILDWOOD TAX FLYER NOW AVAILABLE

How do local taxes work? Where does the revenue go? How does Wildwood stack up against other local municipalities?

Check out our latest tax flyer to learn all about Wildwood's ad valorem taxes. It is now available on the city's website.

Go to www.wildwood-fl.gov/city-manager and click on the link at left (or go directly to <https://tinyurl.com/WWTaxFlyer>).

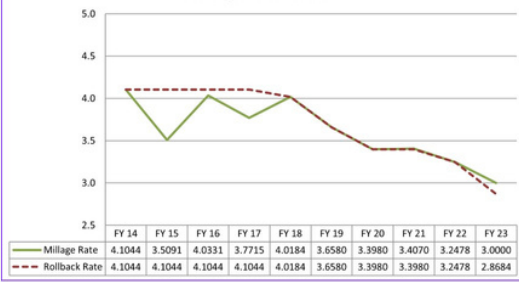
HOW WE MEASURE UP TO COMPARABLE CITIES

City Operating vs Total County

FY 23 Operating Tax Rate		
County	City	Operating Millage Rate
Sumter	Wildwood	3.0000
Lake	Lady Lake	3.3962
Sumter	Bushnell	3.5692
Lake	Fruitland Park	3.9134
Lake	Leesburg	4.0192
Polk	Auburndale	4.2515
Polk	Bartow	4.6080
Lake	Groveland	5.2000
Lake	Minneola	5.8000
Lake	Mount Dora	5.9603
Polk	Lake Wales	6.3626
Marion	Ocala	6.6177
Lake	Eustis	7.5810
Polk	Haines City	7.5895
Citrus	Inverness	7.7600

FY 23 Total Millage Rate Comparison		
County	City	Total Millage Rate
Sumter	Wildwood	13.4000
Sumter	Bushnell	13.9692
Lake	Lady Lake	15.6863
Marion	Belleview	15.9924
Lake	Fruitland Park	16.2035
Lake	Leesburg	16.3093
Lake	Clermont	16.8501
Lake	Groveland	16.9901
Polk	Bartow	17.0450
Lake	Minneola	17.5901
Marion	Ocala	17.6101
Lake	Mount Dora	18.2504
Polk	Winter Haven	19.0270
Polk	Haines City	20.0265
Citrus	Inverness	21.6075

Millage Rate Trend



Although the city's approved millage rate of 3.0 is slightly above the rollback rate of 2.8684, this figure shows that the city is committed to reducing the millage rate.



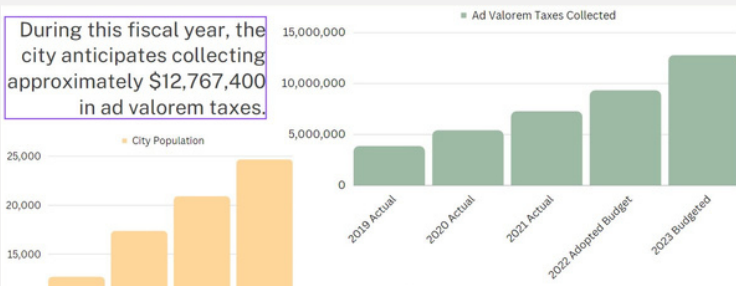
ELECTED OFFICIALS SWORN IN

At the city commission's January 9, 2023, meeting, Judge Paul Militello administered the oath of office to Mayor Ed Wolf, Commissioner Pamala Harrison-Bivins, and Commissioner Marcos Flores, shown left to right, below, as they were sworn into a new term.

Commissioner Bivins was nominated and elected by the commissioners as mayor pro tem. In that role, she will serve as mayor in any absence of Mayor Ed Wolf.

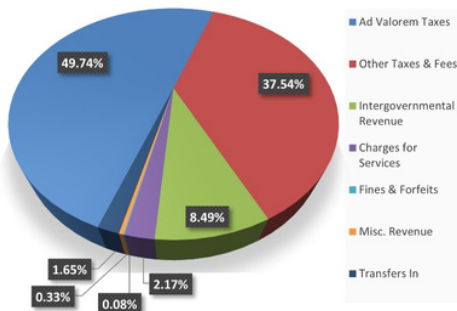
You can read more about Wildwood's elected officials at <https://www.wildwood-fl.gov/directory>. Click on each name for details.

During this fiscal year, the city anticipates collecting approximately \$12,767,400 in ad valorem taxes.



Here you'll see the direct correlation between our community's steadily growing population and the amount of ad valorem taxes collected, which enables the City Commission to approve lower tax rates!

GENERAL FUND REVENUE DISTRIBUTION



DO I LIVE IN THE VILLAGES® OR IN WILDWOOD?

City staff members are often asked this question by new residents. While many people live in one or the other, an increasing number of residents live in both.

The City of Wildwood, within Sumter County, Florida, was established in 1877 as a municipality. Per Chapter 166 of the Florida Statutes, "municipalities shall have the governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal purposes, except when expressly prohibited by law."

The Villages® encompasses both incorporated and unincorporated areas of Lake, Marion, and Sumter counties, and is organized into community development districts that oversee a variety of maintenance, recreation, utility, and public safety services.

According to Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes, "'community development district' means a local unit of special-purpose government which is created pursuant to this act and limited to the performance of those specialized functions authorized by this act; the governing head of which is a body created, organized, and constituted and authorized to function specifically as prescribed in this act for the purpose of the delivery of urban community development services; and the formation, powers, governing body, operation, duration, accountability, requirements for disclosure, and termination of which are as required by general law."

The City of Wildwood has grown as development in the region has grown. Its boundaries have expanded as land has been annexed into the city by property owners. As The Villages® continues to grow, an increasing portion overlaps city boundaries, resulting in more residents who live both in The Villages® and in the City of Wildwood.

Wildwood and county officials work collaboratively with The Villages® community development district leaders to ensure services are provided effectively and efficiently. For example, those living in both The Villages® and the City of Wildwood are served by the Wildwood Police Department for law enforcement and by The Villages® Public Safety for fire and EMS services.

To determine whether you live within Wildwood's city limits, go to www.wildwood-fl.gov/building, select City Maps from the menu at left, and click on City Boundary Map. Alternatively, you may call Development Services at 352-330-1334 to speak with a staff member who can look up your specific address.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WILDWOOD COMMUNITY CLEANUP

THE WILDWOOD STREET SWEEPERS

FEBRUARY 17, 2023 | 9:00 AM
VACANT LOT ACROSS FROM
805 HENCE STREET
 Let's keep Wildwood Clean!
 Volunteers can sign up with Tara Tradd, Code Compliance
 352-661-6067.



STREET SWEEPERS NEWS

Congratulations to Wildwood resident Christy Smiley (above), who submitted the winning entry in the City of Wildwood's Street Sweepers logo contest.

The Wildwood Street Sweepers is a recently formed community group focused on beautifying the city through initiatives spearheaded by members. The group is in the early stages of seeking Keep America Beautiful affiliate status.

The group's next event will be Friday, February 17, 2023, and includes a demonstration on "Only Rain Down the Drain," a local street clean-up project, and lunch for all participants.

To learn more or to volunteer, contact Tara Tradd at TTradd@wildwood-fl.gov or 352-661-6067.

FLEET SERVICES DEPARTMENT FINDS MORE SPACE AT NEW WILDWOOD MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMPLEX

Wildwood's Fleet Services department moved during January into its new facility at the Wildwood Municipal Services Complex.

Among the features are four high-ceiling work bays with 16-foot overhead doors, allowing work on large and heavy equipment such as loaders, excavators, dump trucks, water/wastewater trucks, and all of the city's other fleet vehicles, including its police cars.

The new facility provides much-needed additional space for not only vehicle service bays, but storage of equipment and supplies, as well as parking.

Wildwood's highly skilled and trained technicians do as much work as possible in-house, saving both time and taxpayer dollars.





MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF PARMER

Wildwood is a great place to live, work, play, raise a family, and retire. We have a vibrant, diverse, and growing community that enjoys abundant resources and low violent crime rates, and our police force takes pride in serving and protecting both our residents and visitors.

With the holidays now behind us, we turn our attention to all the opportunities 2023 brings. Many of us are focusing on developing and reinforcing healthy habits. I encourage you to consider two important ones:

1. Eliminate the path of least resistance for criminals. Taking a few minutes each night before bed to double-check that your doors, vehicles, garage, storage sheds, and other belongings are locked makes a huge difference in protecting yourselves, your families, and your property. Many burglaries and thefts can be prevented by this simple routine.

2. Please don't drink and drive. Not only does this apply to cars and trucks, it extends to golf carts, bicycles, and other vehicles. Driving under the influence endangers everyone around you as well as your own personal safety. Designate a driver, take a shuttle, use a ride service, or call a taxi. In my 40 years of law enforcement, I have seen far too many tragedies that could have been prevented by this simple step, and have had to notify far too many loved ones. Don't ever take the risk of causing one of those tragedies.

By incorporating these two healthy habits into your new year, you can improve your own future, your family's, and that of our entire community. I look forward to sharing a happy and healthy 2023 with you as a fellow resident and as your chief of police.

- Randy Parmer

WILDWOOD POLICE
EST. 1877

Stop by to receive your **FREE Vial of Life Kit** today!

Available to City of Wildwood residents

Vial of Life
WHEN SECONDS COUNT!

Be prepared in advance for an emergency

Fill out the paperwork, place the blue vial inside of your refrigerator and blue sticker near your front door so first responders can react quickly

WILDWOOD POLICE DEPT
VIAL OF LIFE

Pickup your Vial for Life at:
Wildwood Police Department
3939 E. County Road 462
Wildwood, FL 34785
(352) 330-1355

Made with PosterMyWall.com

WILDWOOD POLICE
EST. 1877

WILDWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT is now offering **Child Passenger Safety Seat inspections!**

CHILD SAFETY SEAT CHECK

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

Expecting parent to 7 years

To make an appointment email:
communityoutreach@wildwood-fl.gov

Wildwood Police Department
3939 E. CR 362, Wildwood, FL 34785

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THE CITY OF WILDWOOD PRESENTS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



FEB 2023

WILDWOOD CITY HALL CELEBRATES WITH A MONTH-LONG DISPLAY

100 N. Main Street, Wildwood, FL 34785

PARKS AND RECREATION SPECIAL EVENTS

For more programs, activities, and events, visit wildwood-fl.gov/parksrec and click on Recreation Programs.

CITY OF WILDWOOD PARKS & RECREATION

Father Daughter Dance

2023

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

WARFIELD AUDITORIUM
98 S. WARFIELD AVE.

DINNER, DJ, DANCING, CARACATURE ARTISTS!
\$10/PERSON
RSVP 352-461-0134 OR SCAN:





City of Wildwood
Parks and Recreation

March 4, 2023
9am - 1pm

Art in the Park

City Hall Courtyard
100 N. Main Street
Wildwood, FL 34785

Live Music, Food Trucks, Vendors, Crafters, and More!

Free to attend and be a vendor!

If you would like to register your booth, please email parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov




Astronomy Night

Join the astronomy clubs of The Villages, Fruitland Park, and Embury-Riddle for a whole afternoon of telescopes, stars, planets, food trucks, and beyond!

Saturday, February 25th
2:00p - 10:00p
Wildwood Community Center

Free to attend and enjoy!

For questions, please call 352-461-0134



2023

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

February 7, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

February 7, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

February 7, 2023
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

February 13, 2023
9:00 a.m.

February 27, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Project Review Committee

February 14, 2023
10:00 a.m.

General Information

Unless otherwise specified, all meetings are held at City Hall, 100 N. Main St.

Agendas and minutes are posted on the city's website. Go to www.wildwood-fl.gov and click on Agenda.

Meetings are open to the public. Attend in person or remotely by going to the city website and clicking on Government > Attend a Meeting Virtually.

Anyone wishing to be heard must be sworn in and speak at the designated time.



A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

This photo shows Wildwood's Majestic Hotel in 1952. The photographer is unknown.

GROW WITH US: CITY CAREERS

In its quest to be the best place to work in central Florida, the City of Wildwood has contracted with Evergreen Solutions.

A firm that has conducted 900 similar studies nationwide, Evergreen will analyze the city's current salary/classification system, conduct a market survey of peer organizations, and produce recommendations for appropriate adjustments.

Results are expected by early summer.

Working for Wildwood is more than just a job. To see current openings, visit www.wildwood-fl.gov/hr.

STAY UP TO DATE ON CITY HAPPENINGS

You can keep up with Wildwood news and happenings in a variety of ways:

1. Check [wildwood-fl.gov](http://www.wildwood-fl.gov) for general information.
2. Sign up for **notifications** at wildwood-fl.gov to have news delivered directly to your inbox.
3. Follow us on **Facebook** and get news in your feed:
 - City of Wildwood page: <https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodFlorida>
 - Parks and Recreation Special Events page: <https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodParksRecEvents>
 - Police Department page: <https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodPoliceFL>

CITY INFORMATION

Commission

Ed Wolf
Mayor
ewolf@wildwood-fl.gov

Pamala Harrison-Bivins
Mayor Pro Tem
pbivins@wildwood-fl.gov

Joe Elliott
Commissioner
jelliott@wildwood-fl.gov

Marcos Flores
Commissioner
mflores@wildwood-fl.gov

Julian Green
Commissioner
jgreen@wildwood-fl.gov

City Hall

100 N. Main St.
Wildwood, FL 34785
352-330-1330
www.wildwood-fl.gov
[facebook.com/WildwoodFlorida](https://www.facebook.com/WildwoodFlorida)

Directory

City Manager
Jason McHugh
352-330-1332
jmchugh@wildwood-fl.gov

Development Services
352-330-1334

Human Resources
352-330-1340

Parks and Recreation
352-461-0134

Police (Non-Emergency)
352-330-1355

Police (Emergency)
911

Public Works
352-330-1343

Utilities
352-330-1336