



# WILDWOOD CONNECTION

## WILDWOOD WINS DISTINGUISHED BUDGET AWARD FOR FIFTH STRAIGHT YEAR

The City of Wildwood has been named a Distinguished Budget Award winner by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Fiscal Year 2023 budget. It is the fifth consecutive year the city has been so honored.

"Winning this award is something we strive to achieve each year," said Cassandra Smith, Wildwood's assistant city manager and chief financial officer. "It provides a rigorous framework and extensive list of criteria to ensure our budget is not only sound fiscally, but presented to the public in a format that is transparent and understandable."

According to the GFOA, the program was developed in 1984 to assist local and state governments in preparing budget documents "of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting." The awards recognize entities that succeed.

The program sets criteria requiring the budget to serve not only as an impeccable financial plan, but also an exceptional operations guide, policy document, and communication tool.

"It's critical our constituents have access to this information," added Commissioner Joe Elliott. "It's equally important they can understand it. Our staff have deliberately and successfully taken steps over time to prepare and present very detailed information in a way that is user friendly."

"I'm proud of the work we do here," said Lynzey McClellan, assistant CFO and finance department director, who prepares and submits the budget. "Winning this award is a goal every year, but requirements are very strict, so it is never guaranteed. It requires a great deal of input from all department heads, and I'm thankful for their cooperation and collaboration throughout the entire process."

McClellan explained that financial integrity is of the utmost importance in her role as a public-sector manager, and is at the forefront of her daily work and planning.

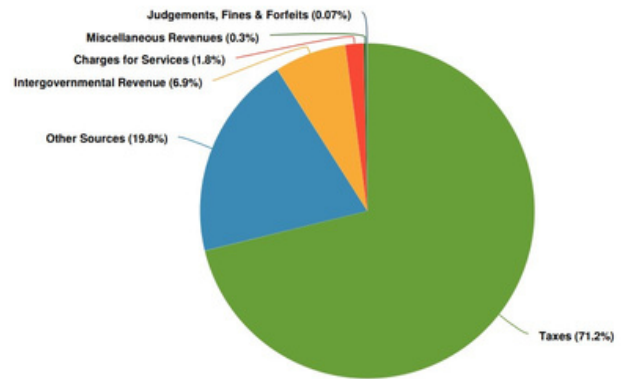
"We strive to do the right thing and to be transparent in everything we do," she said. "Receiving this honor is validation that we are living up to not only our own high standards, but those of financial professionals across North America."

The City of Wildwood's approved budget can be found at [www.wildwood-fl.gov/finance](http://www.wildwood-fl.gov/finance).

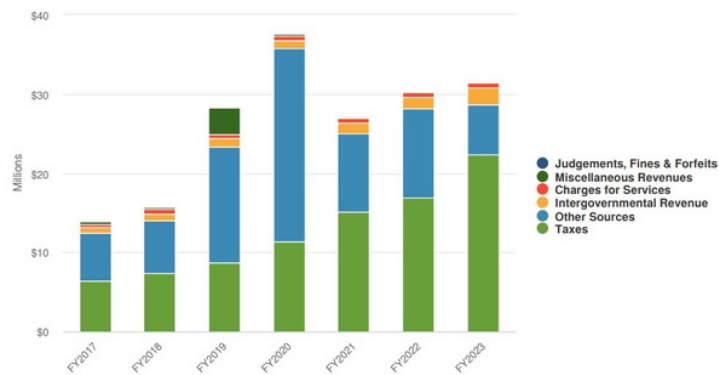
## Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Adopted Version - 10/01/2022

### Revenues by Source

Projected 2023 Revenues by Source

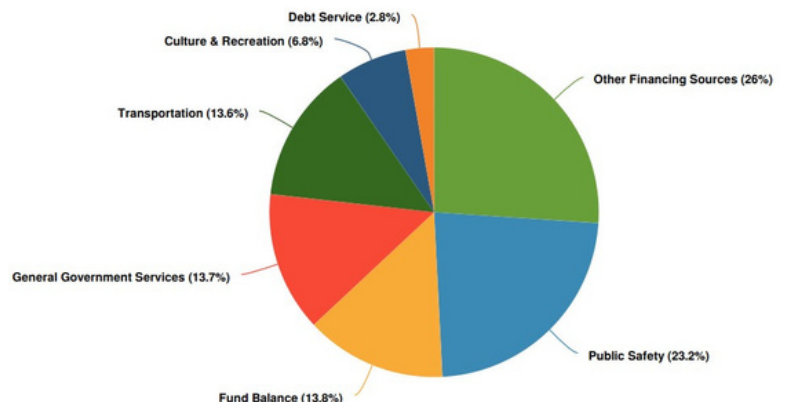


### Budgeted and Historical 2023 Revenues by Source



### Expenditures by Function

Budgeted Expenditures by Function



### WOMEN HELP LEAD WILDWOOD'S WORKFORCE AND FUTURE

In recognizing International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8, 2023, the City of Wildwood celebrates the achievements and contributions of women everywhere who create a better world for us all.

Wildwood is a diverse and rapidly growing community benefitting from the skills, knowledge, education, and creativity that women share every day. Wildwood's mayor pro tem is a woman, its chief financial officer and assistant manager is a woman, and four of the city's ten departments are directed by women.

From its elected officials, who represent a diversity of gender, race, culture, and political philosophy, all the way through its workforce—22 percent female and 21 percent racial minorities—the city relies on different backgrounds and perspectives to cultivate creative, effective problem-solving, planning, and teamwork.



"We don't always agree initially," explained Mayor Pro Tem Pamala Harrison-Bivins, "but we work together to achieve goals we all have in common. Our diversity is our strength; without it, we would not understand issues as deeply or how they affect everyone involved. We are better leaders and better able to serve our residents because we are different. "

IWD's mission is to elevate women forging change via technology and sustainability in communities, workplaces and beyond. John Deere, IWD's 2023 partner, affirms that "diverse, equitable, and inclusive teams of individuals generate better ideas, make better decisions, and act more effectively."

The equipment manufacturing company explains its future "depends upon these types of teams to deliver the products, technologies, and solutions that their agricultural and construction customers around the world will use to revolutionize their work and in so doing help sustain us all."

Eleanor Roosevelt offered this advice: "Remember always that you not only have the right to be an individual, you have an obligation to be one."

The City of Wildwood honors all individuals who make a positive difference every day. As the community grows and diversifies, it will continue to work together, support one another, and forge a brighter future for the city, region, and all generations to come.

Shown above, from left to right, are Finance Director and Assistant CFO Lynzey McClellan, HR Director Melissa Tuck, Assistant City Manager and CFO Cassandra Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Pamala Harrison-Bivins, City Clerk Susan Patterson, Development Services Director Melanie Peavy, and Parks and Recreation Director Amanda Salazar.

### FLEET SERVICES DEPARTMENT KEEPS CITY MOVING

Wildwood's Fleet Services Department is small in personnel, but its responsibilities are mighty. Other departments depend on Fleet and its technicians, who never stop working behind the scenes to keep all of the city's vehicles and equipment operating smoothly.

The department recently moved into its new facility in the Municipal Services Complex at 743 Huey Street. In addition to expanded work and storage space, the new facility allows the team to do even more work in house, saving on both time and funds.

Pictured at left, Nate Archambeault replaces the front crankshaft seal on a city truck.



### GARTH LAYNE NAMED OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Wildwood Officer Garth Layne was recognized at the February 13, 2023, city commission meeting as Wildwood Police Department’s Officer of the Year 2022.

Officer Layne, who has been with the department approximately three and a half years, was named to a newly created traffic unit last summer. According to Chief Randy Parmer, Officer Layne was a natural fit for the position due to his skill and interest in this area of law enforcement.

“As the head of our police force, I am always looking for individuals who demonstrate passion for their work, critical thinking, and good judgement,” Parmer said. “Officer Layne exhibits all these traits, as well as excellent people skills. When the city’s continued growth drove the formation of a unit focused specifically on traffic, it was obvious to me as to the best officer to head it up.”

Officer Layne’s interest in law enforcement began in high school when he had an opportunity to participate in a criminal justice program. He enjoyed the field as a whole, but found himself drawn to traffic enforcement after a tragedy that exponentially focused his motivation.

“I lost a good friend who was hit by a drunk driver coming home from a football game,” he explained. “It made me want to do whatever I could to prevent other DUIs and to make our streets safer.”

When a retail career after graduation didn’t provide fulfillment, Layne’s wife urged him to pursue his calling. He applied for and enrolled in the academy while still holding his full-time job.

“Those were long days, for sure,” he remembers. “I’d start at 6:00 a.m. to get to work and wouldn’t end my day until 11:00 p.m. I had to drive an hour to get to the academy. But I was—and still am—grateful for the opportunity to help make a difference.”

Between June 2022 and January 2023, Officer Layne performed a total of 381 traffic stops that resulted in 113 warnings, 268 written citations (87 of them criminal), and 17 physical arrests.

Mayor Ed Wolf noted that Wildwood continues to enjoy a low violent crime rate, but experiences other challenges as a growing, diversified community.

“As we continue to expand, so do our residents’ needs,” Mayor Wolf stated. “As elected officials, we strive to provide critical public services in the most efficient and intelligent ways we can. I believe we have the best police force anywhere, and Wildwood’s streets and residents are safer thanks to Officer Layne’s outstanding work.”

In addition to the award presented by Chief Parmer, American Legion Tri-City Post 18 recognized Officer Layne with a Law Enforcement Certificate of Commendation for outstanding public service benefiting our community, state, and nation.

### WILDWOOD CODE ENFORCEMENT IN THE VILLAGES®

Who handles code compliance in the Wildwood section of The Villages®?

If you live in one of the community development districts located within the City of Wildwood, you may have asked this question.

As explained in last month’s issue of the Wildwood Connection newsletter, an increasing portion of The Villages® overlaps city boundaries, resulting in more residents who live both in The Villages® and in the City of Wildwood. So whose rules apply? In short, both.

All residents of Wildwood are subject to the city’s code of ordinances, passed and adopted by the city commission through a public process. Enforcement is handled by Wildwood’s code compliance manager. Contact Tara Tradd at ttradd@wildwood-fl.gov or 352-661-6067 with any questions you may have regarding these ordinances.

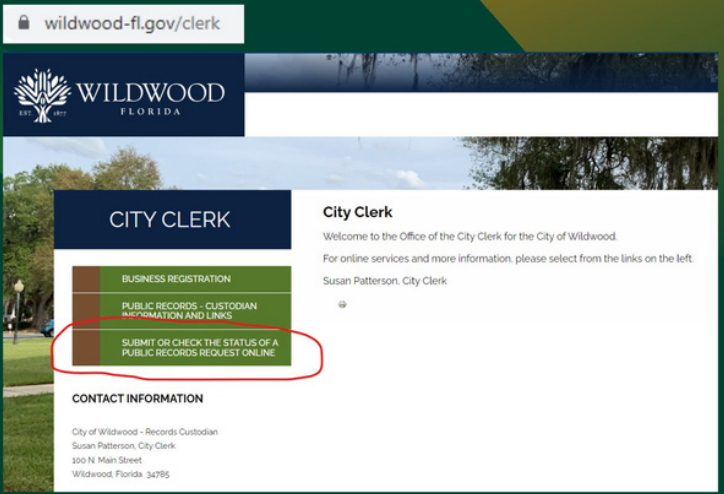
All residents of The Villages® are subject to their own deed restrictions, which are enforced by The Villages®’s Community Standards division. You can contact their office at 352-751-3912.

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





# Need a Public Record?



Making a request has never been easier:

Go to [www.wildwood-fl.gov/clerk](http://www.wildwood-fl.gov/clerk)

and click on

Submit or Check the Status of a Public Records Request Online

## CITY LAUNCHES RECORDS REQUEST PORTAL

A new public portal is available to request records.

Accessible through the city's website, the JustFOIA system allows users to request public records quickly and conveniently at any time, then track the status of that request.

"As Wildwood continues to grow, we are always looking for ways to serve our community better," said Mayor Ed Wolf. "Technology can be overwhelming, but this new system really is very easy to use. The integration with our existing website and recordkeeping is seamless, and I'm confident our citizens are going to love it."

According to City Manager Jason McHugh, public records requests range from obtaining a traffic incident report to asking for budget details, along with everything in between.

While those requests can still be made in person, by phone, or via email, this system adds the convenience of all-hours, online access and tracking.

"It's another way we are making things easier for residents and increasing transparency at the same time," explained City Clerk Susan Patterson. "We want to offer options for everyone, and understand that different people have different needs and preferences."

To use JustFOIA, go to [www.wildwood-fl.gov/clerk](http://www.wildwood-fl.gov/clerk) and click on the link at the bottom of the left menu. Then select New Request or Check Status.

## STREET SWEEPERS NEWS

The Wildwood Street Sweepers completed another successful clean-up event last month, collecting 528 gallons of trash along Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. and along Gray, Lime, Lemon, Orange, and York streets.

While cleaning up rights of way along city streets, participants had an opportunity to interact with residents and learn more about one another.

Following the collection, volunteers gathered at the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center to socialize and enjoy a lunch generously provided by Pizza Hut and Publix.

Shown left to right in top photo at right: (front) Amanda Salazar and Tara Tradd; (back) Richard Devine, Susan Wassung, Evone Jackson, Silas Daniel, Mark Francis, Roni Wood, Susan Thomas, and BJ Rolli.

The group is in the process of seeking Keep America Beautiful affiliate status.

To learn more or to volunteer, contact Tara Tradd at [TTradd@wildwood-fl.gov](mailto:TTradd@wildwood-fl.gov) or 352-661-6067.



### UTILITIES MOVES INTO MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMPLEX

The city's water and wastewater crews recently moved into new offices in the Wildwood Municipal Services Complex at 743 Huey Street.

The facility includes workstations for an expanding team as the city and its extensive infrastructure continue to grow. It also has meeting/collaboration areas and amenities such as lockers and showers for field workers.

The customer service team remains at City Hall to assist residents with account set-up, billing, payments, service starts/stops, and general questions. It can be reached by phone at 352-330-1336.



### WATER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Wildwood's Utilities Department crews continue to replace older galvanized two-inch water lines with new polyethylene lines that will improve water quality for residents.

Recent line replacement occurred along Milray Drive, as shown in these photos, as well as on Evans, Second, and Third streets. Work requires brief interruptions in service for nearby homes, which are notified in advance.

The skilled team works carefully but rapidly during the replacement to ensure everyone in affected neighborhoods is back in service as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions regarding your city water, please call 352-330-1336 for assistance.



**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](mailto:parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov)**

**CITY OF WILDWOOD PARKS & RECREATION**

# Spring Break Camp 2023

**WILDWOOD FLORIDA**

**NOW ENROLLING!**

March 6th - 10th

Jackson Street Community Center  
610 Jackson Street  
Monday through Friday 7:30am to 5:30pm

- 5 days of games, crafts, and more!
- Registration is \$90 for the week; financial assistance available!
- Ages 5 to 12

Register online at [wildwood-fl.gov](http://wildwood-fl.gov)

**CALL 352-461-0134 FOR MORE INFO**

**PARKS AND RECREATION SPECIAL EVENTS**

For more programs, activities, and events, visit [wildwood-fl.gov/parksrec](http://wildwood-fl.gov/parksrec) and click on Recreation Programs.

# 2023 MARCH WILDWOOD MADNESS

**MAR. 11 3V3 TOURNAMENT 10AM**

**18+ YEARS OLD TO PLAY**

**SINGLE ELIMINATION**

**MLK PARK**  
600 WALKER ROAD

**\$10/TEAM**

**REGISTER YOUR TEAM  
NO LATER THAN MARCH 8TH  
[PARKSANDREC@WILDWOOD-FL.GOV](mailto:parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov)**

**FOR QUESTIONS,  
CALL (352) 461-0134**

# COMMUNITY GARDEN SPRING PLANTING DAY

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023, 9:00 A.M.  
CLARKE PARK, 605 WILSON STREET**

**Produce prices got you down?  
Grow your own!**

No garden? No tools or supplies? No experience?  
Don't sweat--we have you covered...

We have individual garden plots, seeds, tools, and UF/IFAS Extension horticulturist Dr. Norma Samuel.

Come play in the dirt and find out how gratifying gardening can be.

For more information or to reserve your spot:  
Melissa Tuck at 352.661.6664 or [mtuck@wildwood-fl.gov](mailto:mtuck@wildwood-fl.gov)

**MUCH MORE**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Code Compliance

March 7, 2023  
1:00 p.m.

### Local Planning Agency

March 7, 2023  
2:00 p.m.

### Planning and Zoning

March 7, 2023  
2:15 p.m.

### City Commission

March 6, 2023 (workshop)  
9:00 a.m.

March 13, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

March 27, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

### Project Review Committee

March 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](http://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 from February 1942 shows a train derailed. 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:ewolf@wildwood-fl.gov)

Pamala Harrison-Bivins  
Mayor Pro Tem  
[pbivins@wildwood-fl.gov](mailto:pbivins@wildwood-fl.gov)

Joe Elliott  
Commissioner  
[jelliott@wildwood-fl.gov](mailto:jelliott@wildwood-fl.gov)

Marcos Flores  
Commissioner  
[mflores@wildwood-fl.gov](mailto:mflores@wildwood-fl.gov)

Julian Green  
Commissioner  
[jgreen@wildwood-fl.gov](mailto:jgreen@wildwood-fl.gov)

### City Hall

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

### Directory

City Manager  
Jason McHugh  
352-330-1332  
[jmchugh@wildwood-fl.gov](mailto: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