



WILDWOOD CONNECTION

BUSINESS FAÇADE MATCHING GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

Wildwood's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is now offering grants to enhance the city's downtown revitalization.

Applicants may include both commercial property owners and business lessees in the CRA area.

The program is designed to assist with building improvements that create a more enticing downtown district. The CRA may award a 50% reimbursement up to \$10,000 for a qualifying project.

Eligible projects include rehabilitation and improvements of existing business facades visible from the street or public right-of-way, including storefronts, cornices, gutters and downspouts, signs, exterior lighting, canopies, awnings, painting, and masonry cleaning.

Roofs, structural foundations, billboards, security systems, non-permanent fixtures, interior window coverings, personal property and equipment, security bars, razor/barbed wire fencing, streetscape, landscaping, sidewalks, and paving projects are not eligible.

The grants complement redevelopment projects now underway on city-owned property on US 301/Main Street. Last month, geotechnical engineering work began as part of preconstruction activities for the new parking garage and Railyard commercial project across from City Hall.

"Wildwood's Downtown Master Plan is the product of our community's vision for a more vibrant downtown area," said City Manager Jason McHugh. "It's a long-range, forward-thinking plan integrating a multitude of projects and components, both public and private. Now that we've planted the seeds, we look forward to seeing those projects take root and grow."

The grant program is managed by Development Services Director Melanie Peavy, who has been involved in every step of the Downtown Master Plan's evolution.

"In the 20-plus years I've worked here, I've seen Wildwood grow from a tiny town into the city it is today," Peavy explained. "That growth has brought many changes and challenges, as well as tremendous opportunity. Our goal with these grants is to help local businesses overcome some of those challenges so they can seize opportunities at hand."

Program details and applications are available at www.wildwood-fl.gov/bc-cra or by calling 352-330-1334.

Business Facade Grants

The City of Wildwood's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is offering 50% matching reimbursement grants (up to \$10,000) to encourage revitalization of the city's downtown.

See details and download an application at

www.wildwood-fl.gov/bc-cra

or call

352-330-1334



WILDWOOD
FLORIDA

THE BASICS

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

- Commercial property owners in CRA area
- Business lessees (with owner approval) in CRA area
- (see website for detail of grant area and ineligible businesses)

WHAT'S ELIGIBLE?

- Rehab of and improvements to facades visible from the street
- Examples:
 - storefronts
 - cornices
 - gutters and downspouts
 - signs
 - exterior lighting
 - canopies
 - awnings
 - painting
 - masonry cleaning

MAP



CRA area shown in blue
(see website for map detail)

Wildwood, Florida

- About 25,000 residents
- Among fastest-growing cities and regions in country
- Roots in railroad and agriculture

Wildwood, Florida

Welcome to Wildwood



FIRST WELCOME TO WILDWOOD A SUCCESS

The City of Wildwood hosted its first free Welcome to Wildwood event on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

City staff offered presentations on city government and services to more than 50 attendees while local businesses and organizations distributed information and spoke with citizens about what they offer.

"Public engagement is one of the fundamental goals in our strategic plan," explained City Manager Jason McHugh. "We created Welcome to Wildwood to not only educate citizens, but encourage them to engage in the process. As we work to get more information out, receiving information from residents is even more important. We want that two-way communication to help us better serve the community."

Attendees heard from McHugh as well as a dozen other presenters who provided an overview of the city itself, its growth, and its government. Department directors and others shared information about Wildwood's budget and finances, development services, law enforcement, utilities, public works, fleet, human resources, information technology, parks and recreation, and more.

The Q+A sessions provided an opportunity for citizens to ask about those topics as well as other issues of interest or concern. Questions ranged from traffic to security to construction projects currently underway by private developers.

Outside in the courtyard, exhibitors included businesses such as Atomic Cool Kartz, Bark Busters, and VyStar Credit Union; organizations including American Tri-City Post 18, Habitat for Humanity Lake-Sumter, and Your Humane Society SPCA; numerous churches; and public agencies such as Sumter County Economic Development, Florida SBDC at the University of Central Florida, and Florida Department of Health in Sumter County.

Feedback provided by attendees in the post-event survey was positive.

"Very excited for the future for Wildwood. Wonderful presentation," wrote one citizen.

"I have no complaints, only compliments!" wrote another.

When asked to identify something they learned at the event, one attendee responded, "So much. Loved it. I'm new."

Under other comments/suggestions, another attendee shared, "Very informative, nice to meet all departments in City of Wildwood. Great job! To all!"

Building off the inaugural success, city officials are reviewing all feedback received, looking to improve and enhance future events to educate both new residents and those established in Wildwood for some time.

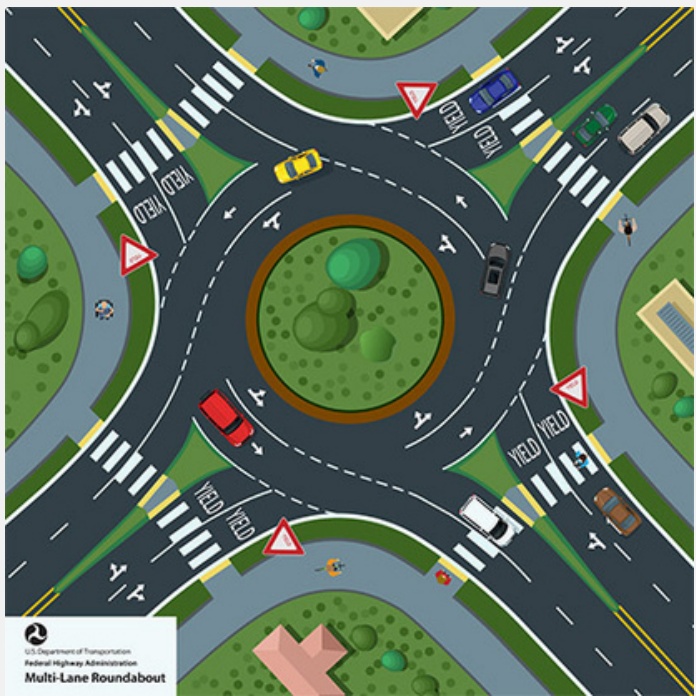
Details of upcoming events will be provided in future issues of the Wildwood Connection newsletter when available.

AUTISM AWARENESS FUN RUN

Wildwood's Police Department hosted a 5K fun run at Millennium Park on Saturday, April 22, 2023, in support of autism awareness. A total of 71 runners registered for the event, with proceeds going to the Jack and Allie Foundation.

Clockwise, from right: the starting line, youth runners receive medals, Carolyn Stevens is presented with a trophy for her second-place overall (first female) finish, Jonathan Figueroa crosses the finish line, and Terri Howard accepts an appreciation award on behalf of Abels Academy.





ROUNDAOBOUTS IN WILDWOOD

For new residents not accustomed to using roundabouts, they can be intimidating and seemingly everywhere, particularly in The Villages® sections of Wildwood.

Why are there so many? According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration,

"The modern roundabout is an intersection with a circular configuration that safely and efficiently moves traffic. Roundabouts feature channelized, curved approaches that reduce vehicle speed, entry yield control that gives right-of-way to circulating traffic, and counterclockwise flow around a central island that minimizes conflict points. The net result of lower speeds and reduced conflicts at roundabouts is an environment where crashes that cause injury or fatality are substantially reduced."

FHWA has a short video on rules of the roundabout at <https://youtu.be/peUf2NRdWxs>.

Sumter County has a brochure to help navigate roundabouts at <https://www.sumtercountyfl.gov/documentcenter/view/3939>.

MARSH BEND TRAIL TEMPORARY CLOSURE

The following information is from an April 13, 2023, press release issued by Sumter County.

For more information, please contact County Administrator Bradley Arnold at 352-689-4400 or bradley.arnold@sumtercountyfl.gov.

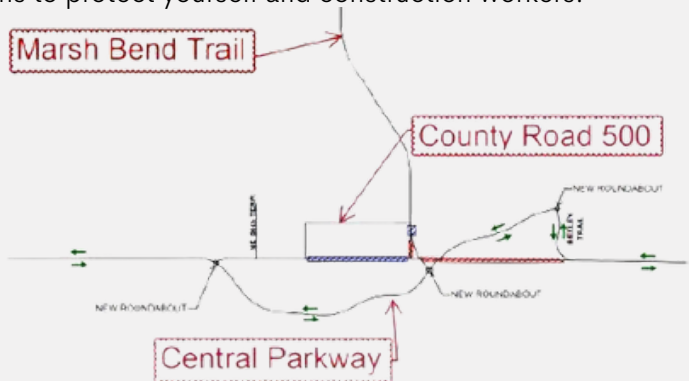
Sumter County, FL – Marsh Bend Trail between CR 500 and C-470 will be closed for reconstruction for four weeks beginning April 23, 2023. In addition, the older section of C-470 will be temporarily closed from CR 500 to Marsh Bend Trail, with a section of C-470 from Marsh Bend to Bexley Trail to be permanently removed.

There is a new roundabout where C-470 connects to Central Parkway (old C-470) just west of NE 54th Terrace in which drivers will take Central Parkway to the South of C-470 where it will connect to a new roundabout at Marsh Bend Trail. Central Parkway then curves north over the removed section of Central Parkway where it connects with another roundabout at Bexley Trail. Drivers will divert to Bexley Trail to return to Central Parkway.

The best detour for those needing to go North on Marsh Bend Trail is to take US 301 to Warm Springs Avenue and then to Marsh Bend Trail.

Detour signs will be setup on Sunday, April 23. The detour lanes will begin on Monday, April 24. Please follow the posted detour signs. The detour is expected to continue through the end of May.

Please use caution when traveling Central Parkway, US 301, Warm Springs Avenue, and follow the traffic signs to protect yourself and construction workers.



Safety Benefits:

Two-Way Stop-Controlled Intersection to a Roundabout

82%
reduction in fatal and injury crashes.¹

Signalized Intersection to a Roundabout

78%
reduction in fatal and injury crashes.¹

For more information on this and other FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures, please visit <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/> and <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/roundabouts/index.cfm>.

FHWA-SA-21-042

PARKS & RECREATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

MAY 12, 2023

**CONTINENTAL COUNTRY CLUB
WILDWOOD, FL**

8:30AM
SHOTGUN START

CONTESTS!

DOOR PRIZES!

LUNCH!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT WILDWOOD BASEBALL

**COST PER
FOURSOME:**
\$360

REGISTER NOW

<https://secure.rec1.com/FL/wildwood-fl/catalog>

Wildwood Community Center
(352) 461-0134

Mermaid Mother's Day 5K Race

**Saturday,
May 13th
9a - 1p**

**City Hall
100 N. Main Street**

\$5/person

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER
OR CALL 352-461-0134

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

Community Garage Sale

Saturday, May 27th
Wildwood Community Center
9:00am - 2:00pm

Bring all your gently used items to sell in a group setting and get exposure! All vendors keep their profits!

\$10.00 per 10x10 space
1 table and 1 chair provided per space

For More Information:
352-461-0134
parksandrec@wildwood-fl.gov

kids Summer camp

Kids Ages 5 to 12

Fun & Creative Activities, Crafts & Trips

June 5 - August 4
at Jackson Street Youth Center
610 Jackson Street, Wildwood
Camp Hours: 7:30am - 5:30pm

Weekly rate of \$90/child includes:

- Weekly Field Trips
- Arts & Crafts
- Fun Games
- Great Camper to Adult Ratios

Register Online Today

Financial Assistance Available

For more information:
www.wildwood-fl.gov
or call 352-461-0134

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Code Compliance

May 2, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Local Planning Agency

May 2, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Planning and Zoning

May 2, 2023
2:15 p.m.

City Commission

May 22, 2023
7:00 p.m.

May 8, 2023
9:00 a.m.

May 22, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Project Review Committee

May 9, 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.

GROW WITH US: CITY CAREERS

Working for Wildwood is more than just a job. The city offers long-term career opportunities along with a great benefits package.

Leadership regularly reviews compensation plans to ensure they remain competitive and recognize strong performance.

Employees work hard and have fun doing it, in an environment that focuses on superior, friendly service with a strong sense of community.

See current openings and submit a streamlined application at 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 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>



A LOOK AT WILDWOOD HISTORY

This photo shows Wildwood School's second-grade class from 1935-1936. The photographer is unknown.

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