

The background of the cover is a dark blue gradient. In the upper center, there is a stylized illustration of a sunset or sunrise. Several palm trees are silhouetted against a lighter blue area, with long, thin rays of light extending downwards towards the water. In the lower right, a small sailboat is depicted on the water. In the lower left, there are some stylized reeds or grasses. The overall design is minimalist and modern.

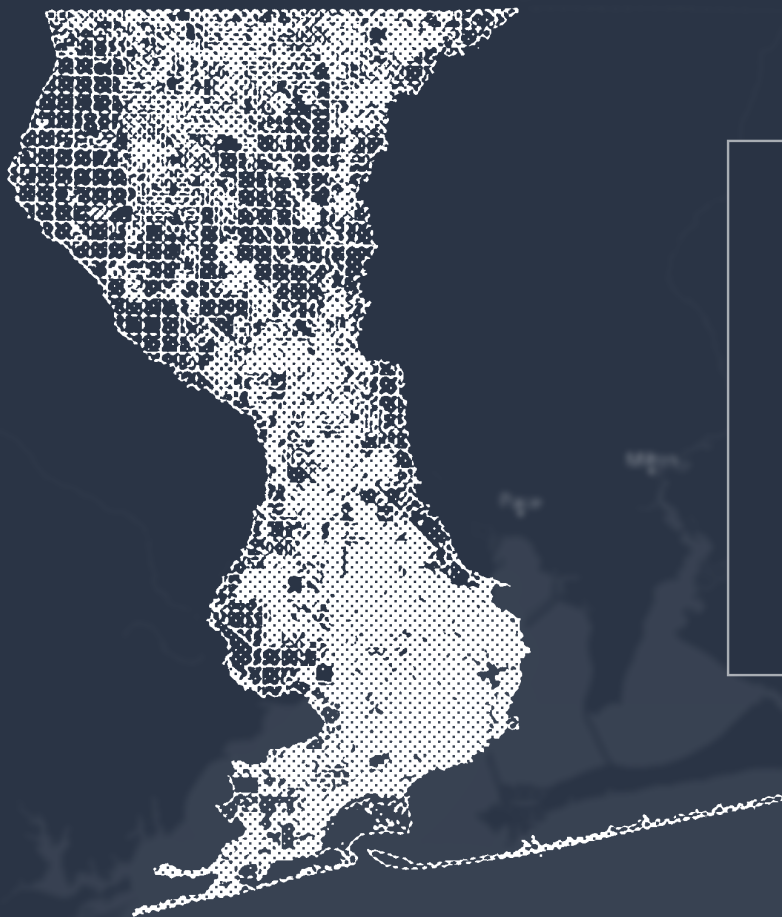
ESCAMBIA COUNTY **ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of **Escambia County** government is to provide efficient, responsive services that enhance our quality of life, meet common needs and promote a safe and healthy community.



ESCAMBIA COUNTY 2023-2024

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The board is the governing body of the county. The powers delegated by the state legislature are exercised by enactment of ordinances and resolutions, setting policy and through the county administrator, giving direction to county departments, commissions and agencies.

JEFF BERGOSH
DISTRICT 1



MIKE KOHLER
DISTRICT 2



LUMON MAY
DISTRICT 3



ROBERT BENDER
DISTRICT 4



STEVEN BARRY
DISTRICT 5



BCC MEMBERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024. PLEASE SEE PAGE 7 FOR CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS.



FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

It has been a significant year for Escambia County, and I am truly proud of everything our team has been able to accomplish together.

It would be impossible to capture every achievement and activity from the past fiscal year, but I hope this Annual Report will provide an overview of the hard work that our dedicated employees do every day to serve Escambia County residents and improve our quality of life.

From providing quality parks for young families to enjoy, to offering essential programs for local youth, to improving public safety, to enhancing our roadways, sidewalks, and infrastructure – plus so much more – we are always working to make our county an even better place for the more than 300,000 residents who call Escambia County home.

I'm proud to say that we moved forward with more than \$100 million in projects last fiscal year, and I am confident that we will continue that positive momentum in the coming year and beyond. The future is bright for Escambia County, and I look forward to working with the Board of County Commissioners, our residents, and county staff to keep us moving forward.

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "Wesley J. Moreno".

WESLEY J. MORENO, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

LOOKING AHEAD

The **Escambia County Board of County Commissioners** installed the newly elected and re-elected commissioners at the installation and reorganization meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, marking the next chapter for Escambia County. During the meeting, District 1 Commissioner Steve Stroberger, District 3 Commissioner Lumon May, and District 5 Commissioner Steven Barry took the oath of office for their term through November 2028. District 4 Commissioner Ashlee Hofberger took the oath of office for her term through November 2026.

The BCC also reorganized to appoint District 2 Commissioner Mike Kohler as chairman and District 4 Commissioner Ashlee Hofberger as vice chair through November 2025.



Current Board of County Commissioners



Commissioner Stroberger is sworn in as the District 1 Commissioner



Commissioner May is sworn in as the District 3 Commissioner



Commissioner Hofberger is sworn in as the District 4 Commissioner



Commissioner Barry is sworn in as the District 5 Commissioner

ESCAMBIA COUNTY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



Casino Beach Pier Repairs

\$100 MILLION IN PROJECTS COMPLETED

Escambia County moved forward with more than \$100 million in county projects in Fiscal Year 2023, with a variety of impactful projects including road resurfacing, drainage and sidewalk improvements, infill housing, a new library, and much more.

It was a very productive year for the county, with projects including:

- Road resurfacing: Over \$12.6 million
- Jones Creek Floodplain Restoration and Jackson Creek Floodplain Restoration: \$2.95 million
- Perdido Key Multi Use Path Construction: Over \$4.2 million
- Macky Bluffs Restoration (FEMA) Construction: \$937,076
- Artificial Reef Construction: Over \$1.1 million
- Casino Beach Fishing Pier Repairs: Over \$4.27 million
- And much more!

COUNTY CELEBRATES RIBBON CUTTINGS FOR SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

Escambia County celebrated several ribbon cuttings this fiscal year:

- Ashton Brosnaham Athletic Park Multi-Use Facility
- Beulah Fire Station
- Perdido Bay Boat Ramp
- Perdido Key Multi-Use Path



Ashton Brosnaham Athletic Park Ribbon Cutting



Beulah Fire Station Ribbon Cutting

STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS MOVE FORWARD

Escambia County completed numerous stormwater projects in Fiscal Year 2023-24, with a goal of mitigating flooding issues in flood-prone areas. Here are just a few project highlights:

- **Eleven Mile Creek Basin Stormwater Improvement Project:** Stormwater improvements to the Eleven Mile Creek basin, including the addition of a stormwater pond at West Roberts Road to help reduce flooding in surrounding neighborhoods. The approximately \$4.26 million project was funded by RESTORE Direct Component Pot 1, and it is designed to reduce the frequency of flooding while protecting surrounding homes from flooding in a 100-year storm event.
- **Surrey-Windsong Stormwater Improvement Project:** Stormwater improvements in the Surrey Drive and Windsong Lane neighborhood, which included the expansion of an existing stormwater pond on Windsong Lane to help reduce flooding in the area during rainfall events. This pond rehabilitation project enhanced the pond's storage capacity, provided positive outfall for the detention pond and provided an increased capacity to the stormwater conveyance system in order to reduce flood risks to the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Moreno Street Stormwater Pond and Sidewalk Improvement Project:** Included construction of a stormwater pond designed to help alleviate flooding, along with a sidewalk to provide a safer walking path for area residents. The stormwater pond was constructed north of Moreno Street between Q Street and R Street, which is a low-lying area that has previously experienced flooding. New stormwater piping and inlets were also constructed upstream of the pond to help facilitate drainage into the pond during heavy rainfall. The project also included the addition of three benches along the walking path.

ANIMAL RESCUE HIGHLIGHTS

Escambia County Animal Welfare officers are always ready for anything, and several recent rescues highlighted their dedication to the safety and well-being of animals.

- **Muscovy Duck:** Animal Welfare officers responded to a call about an injured Muscovy Duck with an arrow stuck in its wing, which was spotted by several concerned residents. Lead Animal Welfare Officer Meridith Roberson tracked down the elusive duck and transported her to the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida for treatment and recovery.
- **Bald Eagle:** Animal Welfare officers received a call from a resident about a large bird hitting their window, and they were surprised to discover that it was a juvenile bald eagle. Animal Welfare officers transported it to the Wildlife Sanctuary for treatment.
- **Baby Opossum:** Escambia County Animal Welfare officers rescued an injured baby opossum from a trap, highlighting the potential unintended dangers of certain types of animal traps. Animal Welfare received a call reporting the injured opossum, which was stuck in a mole trap in a Pensacola resident's yard. Officers worked quickly to free it from the trap and transport it to the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida to receive veterinary care.



ESCAMBIA COUNTY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



Lexington Terrace Regional Park

NEW PLAYGROUNDS AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Escambia County Parks and Recreation completed numerous park improvements, providing additional play and recreational opportunities for residents throughout the county. Improvements included:

- Aero Vista Park: New playground
- Avondale Park: New playground
- Ebonwood/Oakcrest Community Center and Park: New playground
- Escambia County Extension Services: New playground
- Garcon Bayou Nature Park: New playground
- Harvester Homes I: New playground
- Lakewood Park: New playground
- Lexington Terrace Regional Park: New playground, disc golf course, pavilion, and dog park play features
- Lincoln Park: New shade sail and play structure
- O'Connor-Colling Community Park: New playground
- Westernmark Park: New playground

YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN COUNTY SUMMER CAMP AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Escambia County hosted another successful year of the Play, Learn, & Grow Summer Camp, along with the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Play, Learn & Grow Summer Camp

More than 200 local youth participated in this fun, educational and recreational program over the summer. This year's six-week summer camp was hosted at four Escambia County community centers, offering a variety of activities including recreational games and sports, arts and crafts, educational instruction, and more. The Play, Learn, & Grow Summer Camp also partners with Feeding the Gulf Coast to provide youth with breakfast, lunch and a snack during camp.

Summer Youth Employment Program

Nearly 200 local youth participated in this year's Summer Youth Employment Program, gaining valuable on-the-job experience while working toward their future career goals. Through the paid internship program, participating youth worked up to 30 hours per week in various county departments, learning a variety of practical job skills along with workplace etiquette such as professional dress, timeliness and respect.



Play, Learn & Grow Summer Camp

COUNTY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS PROVIDE OVER \$3.2 MILLION TO RESIDENTS IN NEED

Escambia County provided assistance totaling over \$3.2 million this fiscal year to residents in need, helping residents with housing rehabilitation, down payment assistance, wheelchair ramps, emergency repairs, and even constructing new homes through county programs.

This total represents more than a 100% increase in projects from the previous fiscal year, with 123 projects completed since Oct. 1, 2023. These programs are implemented using State Housing Initiatives Partnership, or SHIP, funding that Escambia County receives each year, which is designated for assisting low- and moderate-income residents with a variety of housing-related needs. Many of these residents would be unable to complete repairs or purchase homes without this financial assistance, making these programs vitally important for Escambia County residents.



JACKSON CREEK FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

Escambia County completed the Jackson Creek Floodplain Restoration Project, restoring a section of Jackson Creek and the surrounding floodplain, along with planting 4,100 trees in the area. The project included significant ecosystem restoration and invasive species removal, which improved wetland habitat and provided natural

stormwater treatment for the Bayou Chico watershed. A floating litter trap was also added to catch trash and other debris and help prevent it from flowing into connecting waterways.

NEW SIDEWALKS

Escambia County completed numerous sidewalk projects this fiscal year, providing safer walking routes for residents including students walking to and from school. Project highlights include:

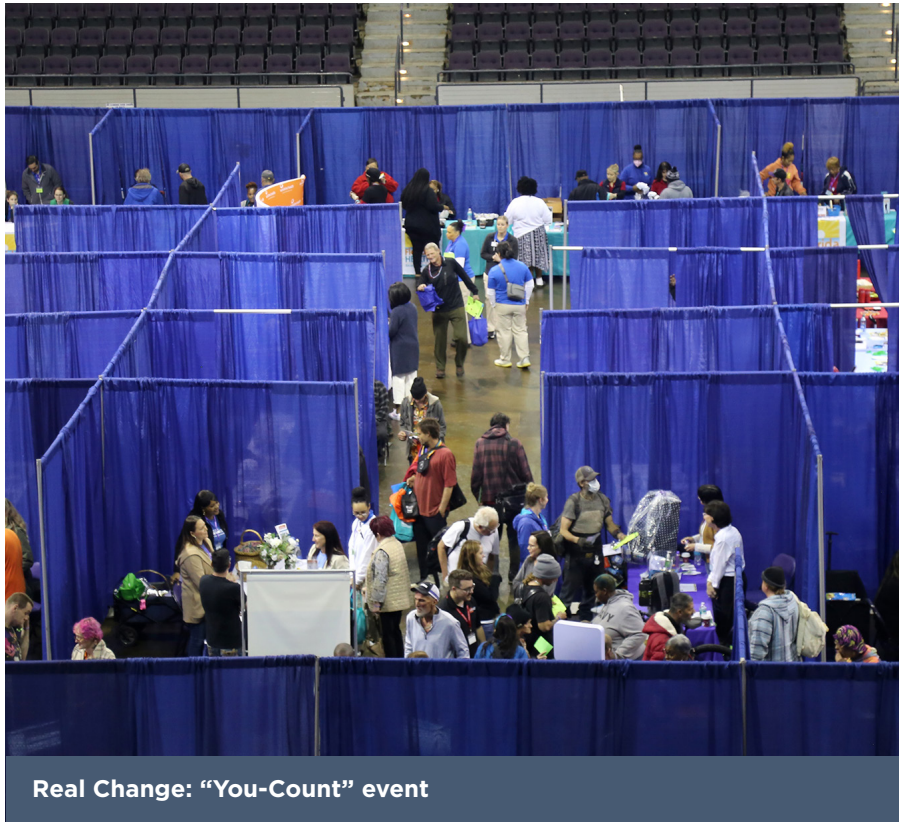
- **9 ½ Mile Road Sidewalk Project:** Added approximately 4,600 feet of 5-foot sidewalks near Pine Meadow Elementary School from Edendale Lane to Cove Avenue, expanding existing sidewalks that were installed as part of the Safe Routes to School initiative.
- **Lee Street Sidewalk Project:** Added 5,066 feet of sidewalks on West Lee Street from S Street to Green Street, connecting to existing sidewalks recently added near the Brownsville Community Center. This sidewalk project is in addition to more than 4 miles of new sidewalks previously added in the Brownsville area.
- **Moreno Street Stormwater Pond and Sidewalk Improvement Project:** Included construction of a stormwater pond designed to help alleviate flooding, along with a sidewalk to provide a safer walking path for area residents. The new sidewalk was constructed around the stormwater pond along Moreno Street, R Street, Mallory Street and Q Street, providing a recreational walking path for the neighborhood to enjoy.



Floating litter trap at Jackson Creek in action

ESCAMBIA COUNTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

County Administration moved forward with numerous initiatives this fiscal year, including Real Change programs, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects, Rebuild Florida Hurricane Sally Grants and more. Here are a few highlights.



REAL CHANGE

Escambia County's Real Change initiative aims to help connect the community with resources and assistance. Working with our community partners, our goal is to help provide services that make a real change in the lives of individuals in need.

Shelter and Food Dashboard:

[MyEscambia.com/community-shelter-dashboard](https://myescambia.com/community-shelter-dashboard)

Escambia County created both a food and shelter dashboard to help the community locate available beds and food programs in one location for those in need.

Real Change Project Reconnect:

[MyEscambia.com/projectreconnect](https://myescambia.com/projectreconnect)

This program offers free transportation assistance to eligible individuals experiencing homelessness in Escambia County who are seeking to reunite with their family, friends, or other support networks. To date, the program has successfully relocated 82 unhoused individuals.

Real Change Automotive Assistance:

[MyEscambia.com/autoassistance](https://myescambia.com/autoassistance)

This new program offers free automotive assistance to eligible homeless Escambia County individuals who own a vehicle that either needs minor fixing, towing to a known location, or even taken to a junk yard for scrap parts.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN: CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND

- The American Rescue Plan includes \$61.8 Million in direct local recovery assistance for Escambia County.
- Escambia County's plan will follow the U.S. Treasury Department's Interim Final ARP Rule, including allocating all funds prior to Dec. 31, 2024, and completing all expenditures by Dec. 31, 2026, as required.
- Escambia County gathered public input and assessed county needs to prioritize, design, and implement the American Rescue Plan funds, ensuring that our programs support our community and citizens while promoting the approved expenditure categories.
- To learn more about ARP funding, visit MyEscambia.com/american-rescue-plan



REBUILD FLORIDA HURRICANE SALLY GRANTS

- MyEscambia.com/sallyrecoverygrant
- Total Grant Funding Awarded: Approximately \$82.99 million
- Funding awards include:
 - **Rebuild Florida Subrecipient Housing Repair and Replacement Program:** \$9 million
 - **Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program:** \$3,170,114.80
 - **Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program:** \$5 million
 - **New ECAT energy-efficient Escambia County Transit Center:** \$26.55 million
 - **Regional stormwater projects:** \$26,396,768
 - **Century Drainage and Road Improvements:** \$2,862,137
 - **Century Evacuation Shelter/Multi-Purpose Facility Construction:** \$10,015,000



ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **ANIMAL WELFARE**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the **Escambia County Department of Animal Welfare** is to provide safety and service to the citizens and companion animals of our community. We do this through education and mediation by Officers in the field, and by providing exceptional care for all the animals in the Animal Welfare Care and Adoption Center. We assist in reuniting owners with their lost pets, offer pet retention assistance, arrange transfers to rescue partners, provide temporary citizen assisted fostering of pets that may need a little extra attention, and adoptions to the public. The diligent work of all staff reflects our calling, to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.



DIRECTOR JOHN ROBINSON
CONTACT 850-595-3075
jarobinson@myescambia.com

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ANIMAL WELFARE & ENFORCEMENT

- Responded to 10,439 calls for service.
- Assisted officers from other departments 550 times.
- Investigated 5,322 complaints of nuisance or cruelty situations.
- Addressed 3,756 roaming at large complaints.
- Responded to and provided aid for 183 injured wildlife calls.
- Removed 540 deceased animals from roadways and public areas.
- Animal welfare officer successfully completed University of Missouri's National Animal Cruelty Investigations School.
- Promoted an Officer to Animal Welfare Officer II.
- Developed and trained an Animal Search & Rescue team to be deployed during disasters. This team is comprised of Escambia County Animal Welfare employees and Firefighters and is trained to do swift water rescue, slack water rescue, large animal rescue, and rope training. Grants from the ASPCA helped fund this team.
- ASAR teams responded to assist at Gulf Beach highway fires and Hurricane Idalia.
- Partnered with the Florida Department of Health to host a rabies vaccination clinic.
- Provided an Animal Welfare Officer at Pensacola Beach to address issues on the island.



ANIMAL WELFARE & ADOPTION CENTER

- Kept 302 lost pets safe until they could be reunited with their grateful families.
- Found new forever homes for 1,840 pets through adoption.
- Transferred 249 pets to partner rescue organizations.
- Trap, Neutered, and Released 324 cats in targeted areas to control cat population.
- Participated in multiple offsite community outreach and adoption events to provide humane education and awareness for the shelter.
- Opened a pet pantry in partnership with Jojo's Paws, to assist struggling families with pet food and other needs that will allow them to keep their pets instead of surrendering them.
- Hosted a Dogs Playing for Life seminar to train our staff and volunteers, as well as volunteers and staff from other local area organizations, to mix dogs together in playgroups. This improves the quality of life for the dogs in our care by providing them the enrichment that they need. It also allows the staff to spend more time with our animals and learn more about them for adoption.
- Developed a reentry program for our two teams from corrections that will help them find careers when they move on from our program.
- Completed a feasibility study for a new Animal Welfare and Adoption Center that will provide a dramatic improvement in the capacity for care for the animals in our community.



ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **BUILDING SERVICES**

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Escambia County Department of Building Services** provides a safeguard for the health, safety and welfare of Escambia County citizens, property owners, businesses and visitors by enforcing State of Florida mandated construction regulations in the unincorporated areas of Escambia County. Building Services also requires proper licensing of individuals engaged in the business of contracting. The department investigates contractor complaints, unpermitted construction, and unlicensed building activities. These objectives are accomplished by reviewing construction drawings, performing building inspections, providing education and guidance through the construction process.

DIRECTOR TIM TOLBERT
CONTACT 850-595-3550
jttolbert@myescambia.com



FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- So far in 2024, the department has issued 32,910 building permits, with 1,863 new residential projects and 258 new commercial projects.
- Conducted same-day review of 70% of residential plans submitted, 95% of residential plans within three days, and 80% of commercial plans within 15 days.

- Improved Escambia County's CRS Rating from 7 to 6, resulting in a 20% discount on flood insurance for Escambia County citizens.
- Reviewed 56 applications for Examination for Certificate of Competency licensure that were approved by the Contractor Competency Board and Board of Electrical Examiners.
- Received and reviewed 42 written complaints against licensed contractors, with 23 disciplinary actions taken by the boards and four licenses being suspended or revoked.
- Implemented Forerunner, a floodplain management software that provides citizens with complete access to all floodplain related items.
- Provided two information workshops, which were open to the public.
- Participated in the annual Home Builders Association Product Expo.
- Provided all services without use of taxpayer funds – only using funds from permitting fees.





ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND MEDIA RELATIONS

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Escambia County Department of Community and Media Relations** proactively facilitates the accurate, effective, timely and consistent flow of public information to internal and external parties, while also providing community outreach and serving as the county's liaison with its media partners. The office provides services to enhance the relationship between Escambia County government, its citizens and the media through positive public and media relations.

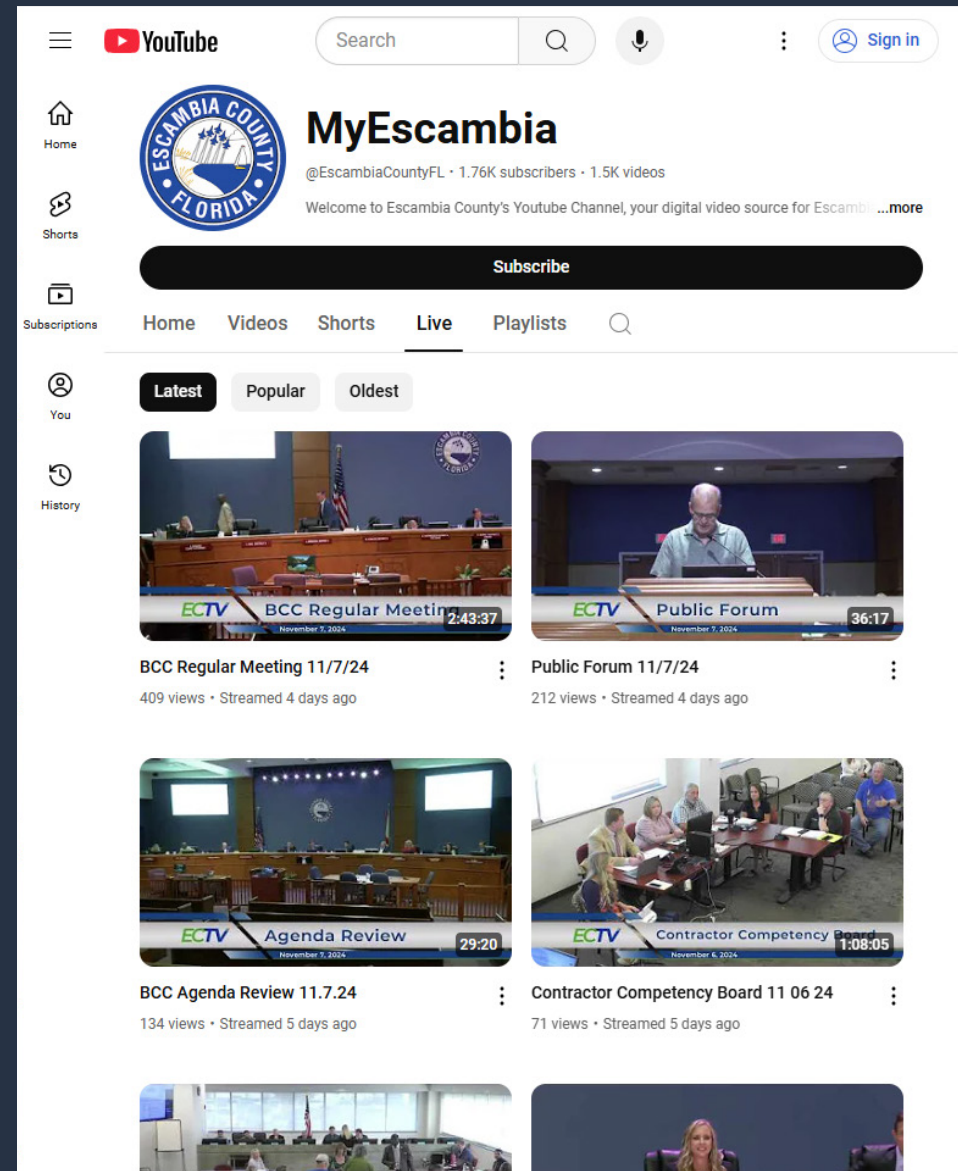
DIRECTOR DAVID HEROUX
CONTACT 850-595-3629
dmheroux@myescambia.com



Public Safety Public Information Officer Davis Wood is honored as Employee of the Month.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Distributed over 971 news releases to provide local citizens and media with consistent, up-to-date information on county activities, seasonal safety campaigns, policies and programs.
- Responded to more than 1,039 local, state and national media requests including EMS and fire response, commission agenda items, staff changes, county budget, animal control, road projects and more.
- Scripted, filmed and edited over 120 informational videos for the web and TV.
- Maintained the county's social media accounts, posting approximately 2,093 times.
- Ensured the flow of up-to-date information during crisis events such as inclement weather was available to residents and the media.
- Coordinated or assisted with county-wide special events, including ribbon-cutting ceremonies, park openings, groundbreakings and community meetings.
- Created hundreds of design products including business cards, flyers, brochures, postcards, posters, signage and more.
- Broadcasted 85 county commission meetings, workshops and special forums live on ECTV, which can be found on channel 98 for Bright House, Cox Cable and Mediacom (Pensacola Beach) subscribers and channel 99 for AT&T U-verse subscribers. Meetings are also available on MyEscambia.com on demand.



The Escambia County YouTube page where the Community and Media Relations department streams and archives all BCC meetings



ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **CORRECTIONS**



MISSION STATEMENT

We are a dedicated team of professionals, devoted to serving the public by maintaining a balanced, safe, and secure correctional system of institutional and community corrections programs. Collectively, we provide a healthy environment for criminal offenders to maximize opportunities through accountability for actions, treatment, education, and positive reinforcement within a safe, secure, and fair Corrections Department.

The Corrections Department includes the following divisions: Jail Division, Community Corrections Division, and Work Annex Division.

DIRECTOR CHIEF WILLIAM “RICH” POWELL
CONTACT 850-595-3107
wrpowell@myescambia.com

JAIL DIVISION

- **Detention:** The jail staff is committed to the care, custody and control of inmates incarcerated in our county. Every inmate will be treated fairly and professionally while maintaining a safe, secure, healthy, and humane environment. The Escambia County Jail is committed to providing programs for inmates who would benefit from learning how to become successful and productive members of Escambia County, therefore reducing recidivism.
- **Medical Services:** The Escambia County Inmate Medical Section is committed to providing effective and efficient health care services to all incarcerated individuals. All incarcerated individuals have access to care to meet their medical, dental, and mental health needs. In addition, staff will maintain professionalism and ensure HIPAA laws and regulations are adhered to.

WORK ANNEX DIVISION

- This division provides a supervised inmate labor force to support the Road Department and other departments of Escambia County by providing cost effective housing of inmates, working on special projects and teaching inmates skills that they may use upon their release. The Work Annex offers inmates the opportunity to participate in a welding program where they can earn national certifications, Servsafe program with certification, GED classes with the opportunity to receive a diploma, and a Life Skills class.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIVISION

- **Misdemeanor Probation**
- **Pre-Trial Release**
- **Pre-Trial Diversion**
- **Check Diversion/Restitution**
- **Community Service**

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Corrections K-9 teams successfully thwarted 46 attempts to introduce contraband into the facilities.
- 20 inmates received the welding course completion certificates, and two inmates achieved the American Welding Society (AWS) National Certification.
- 17 inmates have received their GED from the Jail, and 19 inmates have received their GED from the Work Annex.
- Harvested over 144,500 pounds of vegetables, teaching inmates horticulture while also supplementing the food cost for the Work Annex population.
- Completed over 3,822 work orders throughout the county with the use of inmate labor.
- The Sidewalk Beautification Inmate Crews have completed one round of their scheduled route, which is approximately 324 miles of sidewalks.
- The Litter Inmate Crews have collected 7,787 bags of trash, which is approximately 2,595 cubic yards. These numbers do not take into consideration larger items like tires, boxes, grocery buggies, etc.
- Holding Pond Inmate Crews have mowed 2,435 acres, which includes 380 ponds.
- Corrections was awarded \$393,292 in federal grants.
- Corrections has completed two academies this fiscal year, with 22 students graduating from the first two academies and an additional 13 currently enrolled in the third academy.
- Corrections K-9 team assisted local law enforcement agencies in numerous search, rescue, and recovery tasks.

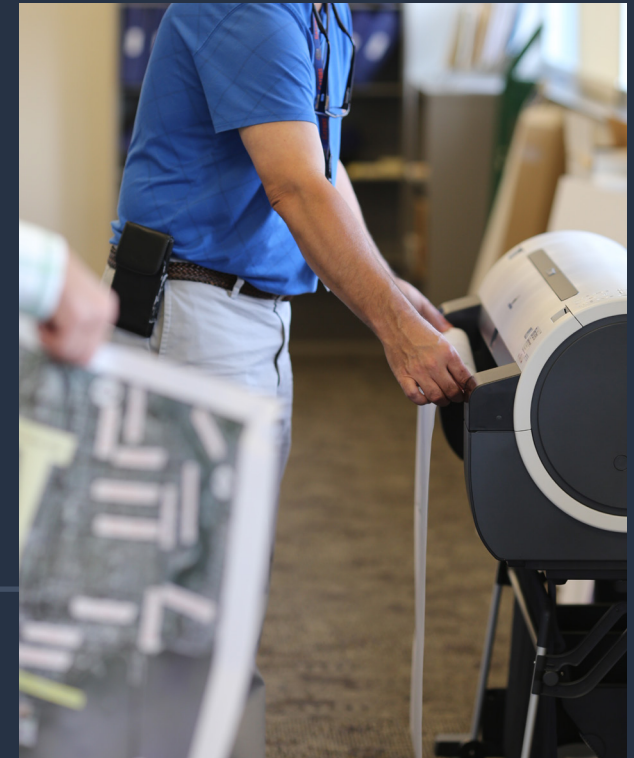


ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Escambia County Department of Development Services** is comprised of three divisions: Development Review, Planning and Zoning, and Geographic Information Systems, or GIS. The Development Services Department provides field inspections, site plan reviews and mapping, along with implementing long-range plans and monitoring federal and state legislation impacting municipal governmental planning activities. The department also provides land use information to the citizens of Escambia County in accordance with the county's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code to maintain quality and sustainable growth within Escambia County.

DIRECTOR HORACE JONES
CONTACT 850-554-8210
hljones@myescambia.com



GIS staff printing a map.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Development Services Department processed **272 cases** total, including:

219 DRC projects (does not include pre-application submittals)

- 20 construction plans
- 17 final plats
- 14 minor (unplatted) subdivisions
- 2 master plans
- 20 preliminary plats
- 117 major site plans
- 28 minor site plans
- 1 planned unit development

29 Planning Board cases

- 22 rezonings
- 6 small-scale amendments
- 1 opt out of Sector Plan

24 Board of Adjustment cases

- 20 conditional uses
- 4 variances

4,015 permits issued

- 3,295 land use
- 118 land management
- 439 rights of way
- 163 driveways



Development Services staff assisting citizens.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- Handled more than 240 general GIS website requests.
- Issued over 1,600 letters regarding addresses/verification of maps or data findings.
- Created 1,480 structure addresses.
- Added 31 streets to GIS and processed via petition and/or subdivision plat and named by BCC.
- More than 1,400 maps created, printed or provided electronically for outside agencies/boards working with the BCC.
- Conducted more than 25 meetings/consultations/advisements to organizations attempting to implement their own spatial data program (high schools, volunteer organizations, economic, environmental/hazard awareness and recreational agencies).
- Updated approximately 2,600 addresses for the U.S. Census Bureau's Local Update of Census Addresses.
- Assets added in GIS and Lucity databases:
 - 15 stormwater ponds
 - 370 stormwater structures
 - 538 stormwater conduits (e.g., pipes, ditches)
 - 5 county facilities
 - 108 street segments



ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **ENGINEERING**

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Escambia County Department of Engineering** provides high quality, exceptional engineering services that are needed to maintain, enhance, and grow the infrastructure system in a manner that continues to promote economic growth and improve the quality of life for all. Engineering is responsible for the design and construction of civil site projects, transportation and drainage infrastructure which includes projects such as building and improving roadways, ponds, drainage systems, pedestrian paths, boat ramps and bridges.

DIRECTOR JOY BLACKMON
CONTACT 850-595-1023
jdblackmon@myescambia.com

9 ½ Mile Road Sidewalks



ENGINEERING DIVISIONS

Transportation and Traffic Operations Division

- The goal of the Transportation and Traffic Operations Division is to create a safe, efficient transportation network which serves all modes of travel by planning, programming, and delivering transportation improvement projects for Escambia County. Through transportation maintenance and improvements, the health, safety, and welfare of the county’s residents, businesses, and visitors improve outcomes to achieve continued economic vitality, healthier residents, and reduced injury crashes within our county. In addition, this division is responsible for monitoring the safety and efficiency of the transportation network and working with the Florida Department of Transportation on various projects.

Stormwater Division

- The goal of the Stormwater Division is to protect the safety and welfare of the citizens through the proper collection, delivery, and storage of stormwater runoff through new and existing drainage systems which is accomplished through a comprehensive program of engineering projects, flood mitigation, natural resources protection, drainage infrastructure maintenance, and public involvement.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Construction Management

- Awarded 45 design project contracts totaling more than \$11.3 million.
- Awarded 67 construction project contracts totaling more than \$32.8 million.
- Currently managing more than \$7.2 million in open contracts for projects in the design phase.
- Currently managing more than \$51.1 million in open contracts in the construction phase, including Beach Haven Phase 2, Lingleaf Drive, Gibson Bridge Replacement, Chemstrand South Sidewalks, and Massachusetts Avenue Sidewalk & Drainage Improvements.
- Resurfaced 18.47 miles of roadway.
- Paved two dirt roads: Rocky Branch Road and Four Star Farm Road.
- Secured more than \$124 million in grant funding, including:
 - ARPA: \$36,617,345
 - Resilient: \$27,157,819
 - Legislative: \$440,000
 - CDBG: \$32,519,020
 - HMGP: \$15,346,553
 - HMGP-DEO: \$32,519,019

Transportation and Traffic Operations

- Maintained 211 traffic signals throughout the county, including 45 signals at county intersections and 166 signals at FDOT intersections.
- Maintained 125 school zone beacons.
- Completed 150 miles of road striping.
- Added or replaced 1,898 sign panels.
- Added 84 traffic calming devices (speed bumps).
- Added 9 miles of sidewalk, or 47,776 linear feet.
- Maintained 2,134 streetlights.
- Added 292 new streetlights, with another 373 new streetlights pending.
- Facilitated more than 3.9 million vehicles through the Bob Sikes Bridge toll plaza as of August 2024, an increase of over 385,117 vehicles from 2022 to 2023.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IFAS ESCAMBIA COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of **UF/IFAS Escambia County Extension** is to develop knowledge in agricultural, human, and natural resources, and to make that knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life.

DIRECTOR NICK SIMMONS
CONTACT 850-475-5230
n.simmons@ufl.edu

FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Coordinated two half-day stormwater workshops with district team for a combined 97 participants. Speaker topics ranged from ecological function, maintenance, and updated regulations for low impact development to sea level rise and resiliency projects in Cedar Key.
- Secured a \$45,000 grant from the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program for Heritage Roots: A Native Plant Garden Celebrating Culture and Ecology in Northwest Florida.

MARINE SCIENCE

- Conducted the Pensacola Scallop Search with 168 volunteers participating in scallop surveys, including volunteers from Chicago and USM marine science programs.
- Surveyed 15 grids of one nautical mile each, covering 15,200 square meters and logging 183 scallops.
- Secured a \$16,500 grant from the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program for the Panhandle Terrapin Project – Education and Monitoring of Diamondback Terrapins.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Escambia County 4-H helped facilitate the statewide Florida 4-H Tailgating Contest, which was developed in 2016 to teach youth the art and science of safely preparing beef, pork, poultry, and seafood in an outdoor setting.
- Created the Tailgate Day Camp in Escambia County to teach youth to grill safely for their families and to prepare them for the contest.
- Since 2016, Escambia County youth have earned \$9,250 in prize earnings and an additional \$10,500 in college scholarships.
- Secured a \$999 grant from Florida Ag in the Classroom for the 2024 Tailgating Day Camp.
- Secured a \$28,000 grant from AT&T for AT&T Linking the Digital Divide Through Technology with Escambia County 4-H.

HORTICULTURE

- In 2024, UF/IFAS Extension joined the Great Southeast Pollinator Census as a means to utilize citizens scientist to gather important data on the variety of pollinators in landscapes.
- The Escambia Extension Horticulture program co-hosted an educational webinar that had 211 views and offered two in-person opportunities to count pollinators.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

- Hosted the 2024 Extension Farm Field Day, an annual multi-state crop field day held at the West Florida Research and Education Center in Jay.
- This year's event set a record with 175 attendees, including over 120 farmers, industry representatives, and crop consultants. The Extension Agent had the privilege of hosting the event.
- Secured a \$11,350 grant to explore cover crop impacts on cotton yield and agricultural viability.
- Secured a \$22,500 grant for advanced cotton farming, to include enhancing yield and sustainability with drone technology.

FOOD & CONSUMER SCIENCE

- Provided nutrition education for elder adults at West Florida Council on Aging dining sites, senior living facilities, and community centers.
- Distributed 2,088 Senior Table Talk newsletters through the Council on Aging Meals on Wheels program and Aging Congregate Meal Site.
- Reached more than 68 seniors through nutrition education programs.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK

- Hosted the Panhandle Cattlemen's College, a three-day, hands-on cattle management field event.
- Over the program's two-year tenure, 27 participants have been certified as an Artificial Insemination Technician, 32 participants have completed the Chute Side Skills Track, and 68 have completed the Beef Quality Assurance certification.
- Received the UF/IFAS Entrepreneurial Team Award.
- Awarded \$10,000 to create an innovative online platform to connect livestock producers from across the Southeast to bridge the gap in large and small producer needs.

EXPANDED FOOD & NUTRITION PROGRAM

- Graduated 91 youth and 59 adults, reaching more than 172 individuals.
- Reached nearly 6,500 people through community outreach events, including the Northview High School Fresh from Florida Event and Escambia Counts event.



Escambia County Master Gardeners

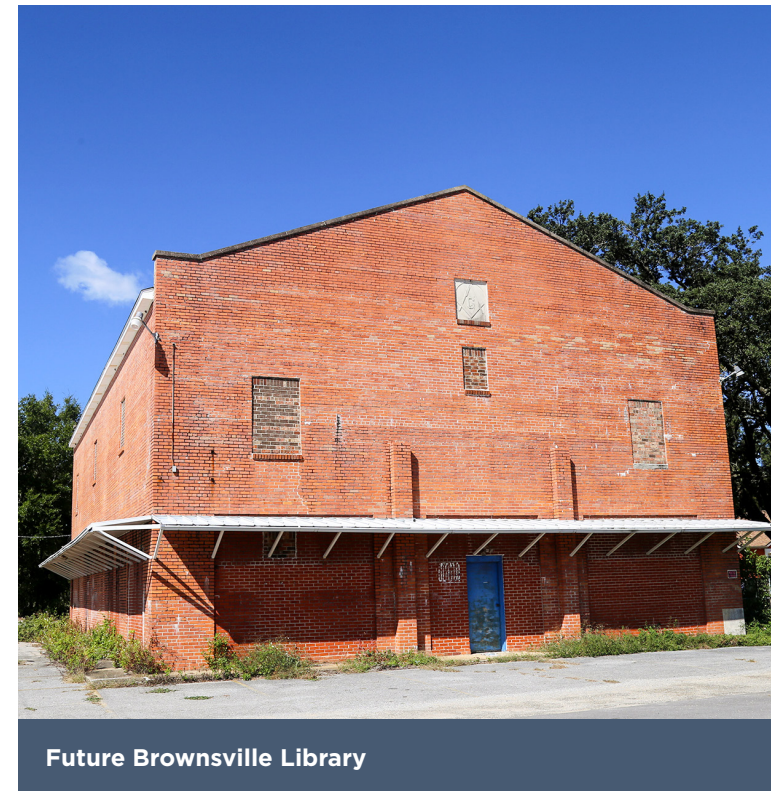


ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Escambia County Department of Facilities Management** is responsible for the maintenance, repair and security of county-owned and leased buildings, along with utilities, capital lease management, space needs planning and oversight of capital improvement and renovation projects at all county facilities. Its divisions include Custodial Services, Design & Construction Administration Team, Maintenance and Utilities.

DIRECTOR ROB HOGAN
CONTACT 850-595-4626
rehogan@myescambia.com



Future Brownsville Library

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 29,945 Facilities Maintenance work orders.
- 10 major construction projects of various sizes were completed or are in progress.
- Installed LED lighting upgrades and new HVAC units in various county buildings.
- Implemented a north-end maintenance team to maintain facilities north of Nine Mile Road while improving customer service.
- Completed 71 real estate transactions including lease renewals, vacations, acquisitions, and dispositions.
- Currently managing 46 acquisition projects that include 275 parcels.
- Created new surplus auction process to increase the number of potential bidders. Revenues received for real property sales, furniture sales, and recycled items from October 2023 to June 2024 totaled \$120,060.
- Completed the new Beulah Fire Station and the Brentwood Tax Collector's Office.
- Constructed new work platforms and stairs for the HVAC system at the Public Safety Building on Pensacola Beach.
- Completed a new digital message sign at the back gate of NAS.
- Completed remodel of the upstairs office of the Public Works Road Operations Building.
- Completed camera and lighting upgrade projects for various community centers.
- Installed new flooring at the Beulah Community Center.
- Repaired and painted the inside of the Felix Miga Community Center.
- Installed 19 new generators at various county facilities.
- Completed security system upgrades for various buildings throughout the county.



Newly renovated Davisville Community Center

- Completed the Barrineau Park Community Center roof replacement.
- Managed construction of new maintenance/office facility at Solid Waste Landfill by recycling old steel building structure from another county-owned property.
- Completed design of the New Fire Training Academy.
- Completed renovations and upgrades to the new District 4 Community Center.

UPCOMING PROJECTS (IN THE DESIGN PHASE)

- New Century Community Center/Emergency Shelter
- New Englewood-Palafox Community Center
- New Brownsville Business Incubator
- New Cantonment Community Center
- Various roofing replacements/rehabilitations of county buildings



ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

MISSION STATEMENT

The Escambia County Department of Human Resources serves the needs and best interests of Escambia County citizens, employees, and elected officials. In support of our County's principles, values, vision and mission, it is the mission of human resources department to support the total operation in meeting its goals through its most valuable resource — its people. The Human Resources Department provides a multitude of services including innovative HR leadership and operations to BCC employees and managers in the areas of classification, compensation, training and development, recruitment and placement, employee and labor relations, employee benefits, as well as health and safety.

DIRECTOR NIKKI POWELL
CONTACT 850-595-3279
nlpowell@myescambia.com



FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continues to serve approximately 2,100 active employees and 1,000 retirees.
- Filled 280 job vacancies.
- Processed approximately 8,500 job applications.
- Facilitated 21 employee retirements.
- Processed approximately 5,000 personnel actions.
- Facilitated more than \$24.2 million in medical claims and more than \$992,000 in dental claims for employees.
- ECAT (ATU) Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiated, finalized, and ratified.
- Conducted a job market analysis of all job descriptions within the BCC.
- Conducted 14 supervisory trainings for front line management.
- Restructured the Performance Evaluation Process to include workflows and performance review questions that are specific to job titles and classification.
- Implemented AxiomPro (Image API), to include digitizing employee's files.
- Conducted three Recruitment Career Fairs.
- Attended career events for local high schools and Pensacola State College, including Santa Rosa County.
- Created training checklist for HR Liaisons, allowing the HR Department to provide a more well-rounded training experience for HR Liaisons.
- Increased engagement with departments and with interview processes, helping facilitate relationships between the HR Liaisons, the department and the HR personnel.
- Created timelines for completing HR actions including job posting, hiring, etc. with great success.
- Updated and streamlined the new employee orientation presentation.
- Assisted and supported the Summer Youth Employment Program.



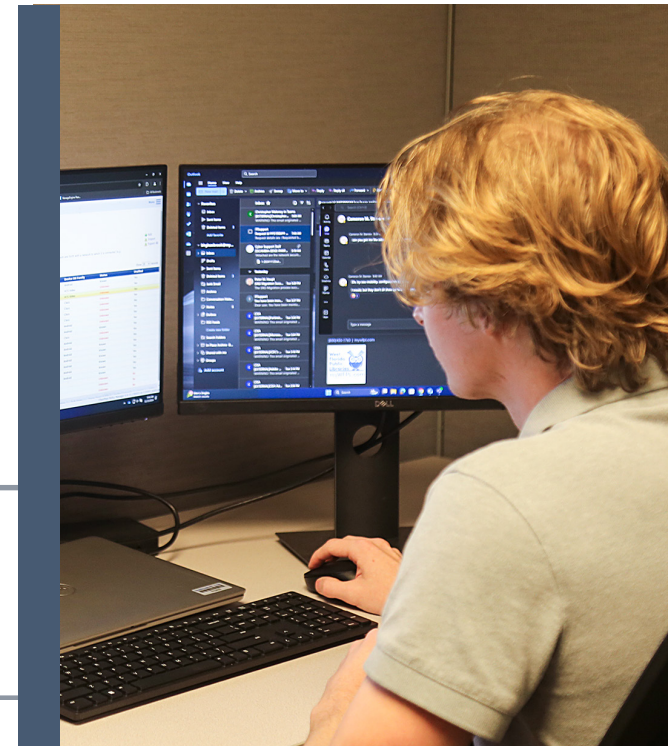


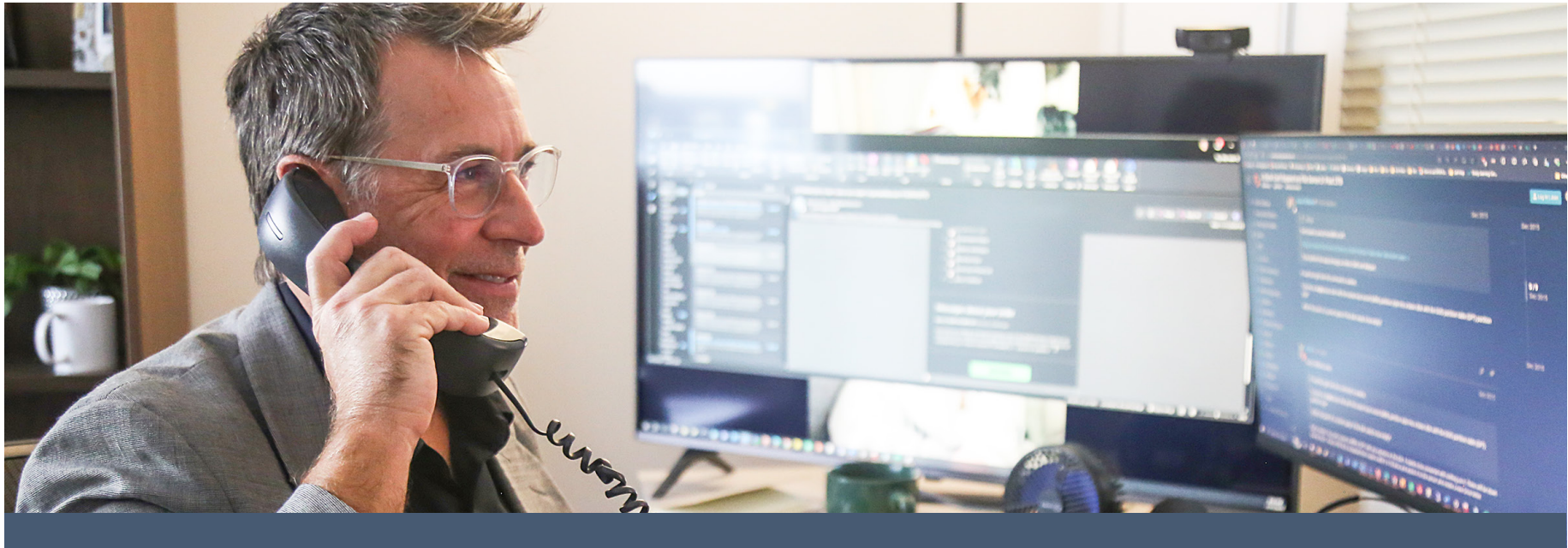
ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Escambia County Department of Information Technology** provides technology-related services to the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Clerk of Court, State Attorney, Public Defender, and Court Administration. The Information Technology Department provides an efficient, reliable, and secure computing environment through integrated business systems, wired and wireless local and wide area networks, managed servers and storage systems and personal computer systems.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER AARON CORRILO (INTERIM)
CONTACT 850-595-4995
facorrilo@myescambia.com





FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed more than 5,500 work orders, achieving a 96% customer satisfaction rating.
- Completed 89.32% of Service Level Expectation (SLE) on time.
- Recovered from a global technology outage with minimal disruption to county operations.
- Prioritized network security, adopting the NIST framework to elevate operational efficiency and protect against ever-evolving cyber threats.
- Integrated a new Security Operations Center for Corrections, ensuring compliance with stringent Criminal Justice Information Services standards.
- Implemented on-site and cloud-based backup repositories to help protect against data loss.
- Deployed new firewalls to further reinforce the county's security, also yielding significant annual operating cost savings.
- Introduced advanced technologies such as the Brightly application, Tele911, and the UKG Pro Mobile app to enhance service delivery and streamline communication.
- Implemented Twilio for Escambia County Fire Rescue callouts.
- Deployed of 60 iPads for Escambia County EMS.
- Migrated Verizon services to a state contract for cost efficiency.
- **By the numbers:**
 - Average Number of Users per IT Service Desk Personnel 1:450
 - Average Number of PCs per IT Service Desk Personnel: 1:414
 - Average Monthly Visits to MyEscambia.com: 174,705
 - Verizon Devices (Phones/Tablets): 1,117
 - Computers: 1,659
 - FirstNet Devices: 71

ESCAMBIA COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES



VISION STATEMENT

To be a welcoming heart of our diverse community; Where all come to learn, discover, create, and connect.

MISSION STATEMENT

Engage all community members in meaningful exploration, learning, and fun by providing equitable access to a wide range of resources, programs, equipment, and services.

DIRECTOR TODD HUMBLE
CONTACT 850-530-0116
tjhumble@mywfpl.com

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Welcomed over 392,568 visitors, with Escambia County residents checking out more than 931,093 items throughout the year.
- Provided over 102,062 Wi-Fi connections and supported over 70,000 public computer sessions.
- Hosted over 2,221 library events, including story times, book clubs, tech classes, and live performances, drawing over 62,490 attendees across all locations.
- Organized over 900 STEAM events, attracting more than 16,000 participants to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.
- Ranked eighth largest in the State of Florida for public library family programming events.
- Hosted the 2024 Summer Reading Club from May 23 to August 3, with children reading over 2.4 million minutes.
- In partnership with Feeding the Gulf Coast, distributed 15,826 meals to children during the summer of 2024.
- Introduced new sensory programming to support children with sensory sensitivities.
- Expanded the popular “Read with a Dog” program, encouraging young readers to build literacy skills through interactive sessions with certified reading therapy dogs.
- Provided free tax assistance to 256 senior citizens through the AARP TaxAide Program.
- Expanded the Library of Things collection of items that can be borrowed by adding large print keyboards, STEM kits, jewelry-making kits, and lighthouse passes, and other items, enhancing community access to unique resources.
- Partnered with the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections to serve as early voting locations at the Southwest Branch Library, Bellview Library, and Pensacola Library. Also established the Pensacola Library and Bellview Library as new polling sites.



Summer Programming: Michelle's Magical Poodles

- Launched bilingual programming with the introduction of English/Spanish Storytime.
- In collaboration with the Supervisor of Elections, launched the Kids' Votes Count campaign, where over 600 children cast votes for their favorite literary characters, promoting civic engagement among young readers.
- Engaged in many community outreach events, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, Fall Literary Nights, Juneteenth celebrations, Pensacola Maker Faire, and more.
- Hosted summer programming for local community centers, including the Ebonwood and Brownsville Community Centers.
- Launched a dedicated Instagram page, expanding the library's digital presence and enhancing engagement with a broader audience.
- Filled more than 6,262 Interlibrary Loan requests, ensuring access to a wide range of resources from partner libraries.
- Acquired new educational software for children, including Tumbleweed Math and Tumbleweed Audio, to support learning in fun and interactive ways.



ESCAMBIA COUNTY OFFICE OF **MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**



MISSION STATEMENT

The Escambia County Office of Management and Budget is responsible for all aspects of the budgetary accounting system, including budget preparation, expenditure and revenue forecasting, monitoring and reporting, and supports the policy and program initiatives of the Board of County Commissioners and County Administrator by providing professional municipal finance and budget analysis assistance to functions under the Board.

DIRECTOR STEPHAN HALL

CONTACT 850-595-4954

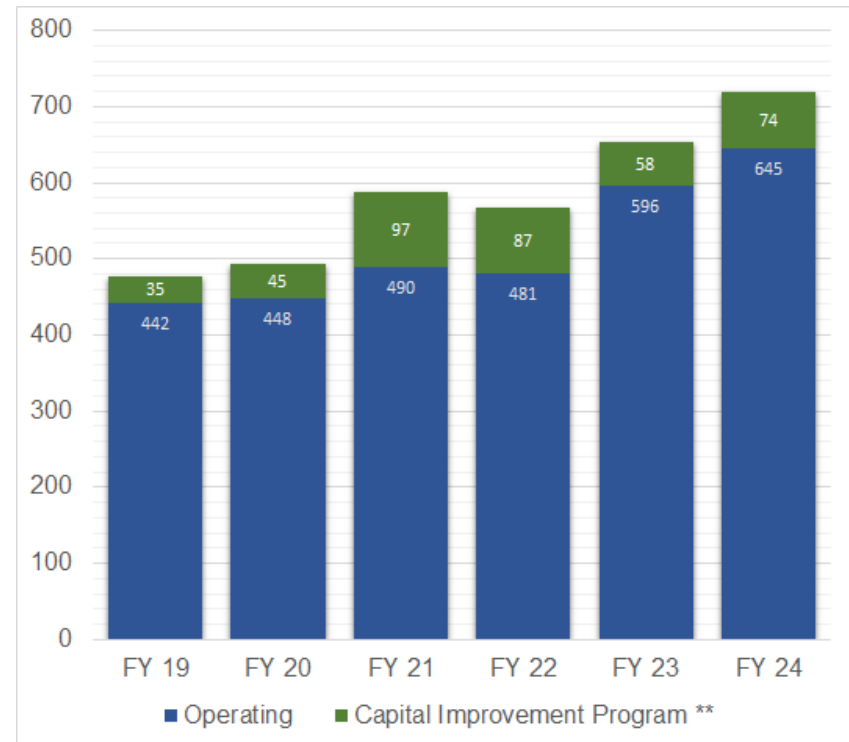
sdhall@myescambia.com

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Managed 32 agreements and miscellaneous appropriations for local nonprofits and outside agencies.
- Processed 243 budget amendments totaling roughly \$499 million in various funding.
- Maintained 197 Municipal Service Benefit Units, or MSBUs, by department.
- Collected \$1.77 million by 194 MSBUs annually.
- Added 26 new MSBUs for street lighting, holding pond maintenance, and construction improvements to the roll in Fiscal Year 2023-24.
- Reviewed approximately 1,492 Personnel Action Forms to confirm budgeted salary and position, and correct cost center.
- Adopted Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget in the amount of \$718,681,245.
- Achieved zero TRIM violations. The TRIM, or Truth in Millage, is a state law that establishes the statutory requirements that all taxing authorities levying a millage must follow, including all notices and budget hearing requirements.
- Through Administration and Board Action, developed and adopted the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget in the amount of \$798,672,479, per F.S. Chapter 129.
- Millage Rates remained stable for Fiscal Year 2024-25 at the FY 23-24 level of 6.6165 county-wide, .685 Law Enforcement MSBU, and .359 for the Library MSBU.
- The Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget is in compliance with Truth in Millage (TRIM) Certification for Escambia County per F.S. 200.065. By remaining in compliance, no penalties are levied upon the Escambia County Government by the State of Florida and our board-adopted Millage Rates remain at the amounts presented to the public.

- Created and published both an interactive online and a printable FY 23-24 Adopted Budget book.
- For the 28th year, the Office of Management and Budget received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 23-24 Budget from the Government Finance Officers Association.

TOTAL BUDGET HISTORY





ESCAMBIA COUNTY

MASS TRANSIT

MISSION STATEMENT

Escambia County Area Transit's purpose is to provide public transportation in Escambia County for the benefit of the general public, specifically by:

- Owning, operating, and managing a public transportation system in Escambia County on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the general public
- Providing an efficient and coordinated public transportation system servicing rural and urban areas that will facilitate economic and desirable urban development, reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, reduce energy consumption, and provide mobility for the economically disadvantaged, the elderly, and persons with disabilities
- Educating and informing the general public about the benefits of mass transit
- Improving public welfare by establishing better access between home and work, facilitating the public's participation in society, and promoting independent living and economic self-sufficiency

DIRECTOR THADDEUS DAVENPORT (INTERIM)
CONTACT 850-595-3229
tjdavenport@myescambia.com



FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued the Student Transit Empowerment Program, or STEP, which offers free bus rides for students.
- Implemented fixed-route operational and maintenance software for scheduling, run-cutting, performance dashboard, and other operational efficiencies.
- Purchased nine small buses for the fixed route service to better manage fixed route services. Purchased 13 (replacement or additional) ADA vehicles for use in the Paratransit Services.
 - ECAT's Fleet Maintenance Manager served as the Chairman/Vice Chairman of the Florida Transit Maintenance Consortium, providing ECAT with information and input on innovative transit programs available across the state.
 - Secured grant funding totaling \$31.5 million to construct a new transit facility and to add/replace bus shelters.
 - Secured more than \$21.2 million in grant funding for the purchase of nine 35-foot electric buses, four ABC Optimal electric cutaways, one charging station, and workforce training regarding electric bus repair and functionality through FTA's Low-to-No-Emissions 5339 competitive grant.
 - Secured \$847,500 through FDOT's competitive Service Development Grant to establish and develop a Micro Transit Program within Escambia County. ECAT received the largest award out of FDOT's Region 3 agencies.
 - Installed high-speed wireless Internet access to all ECAT buses.



Escambia County Area Transit Staff

- ECAT was nominated by peer transit agencies across the state to become a voting member of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA).
- Developed and initiated a Safety Stand Down to provide Safety awareness and in-service training for all department staff.
- Provided multiple rider outreach/engagement opportunities to provide ridership education and appreciation.
- Installed eco-friendly bottle refill stations to reduce the amount of plastic in the county landfill.
- Successfully completed the FTA Triennial Review Process.
- Provided emergency transportation services to assist in evacuating flooded areas in the county and allowed route access to individuals participating in Escambia County's Homeless Point in Time Count.

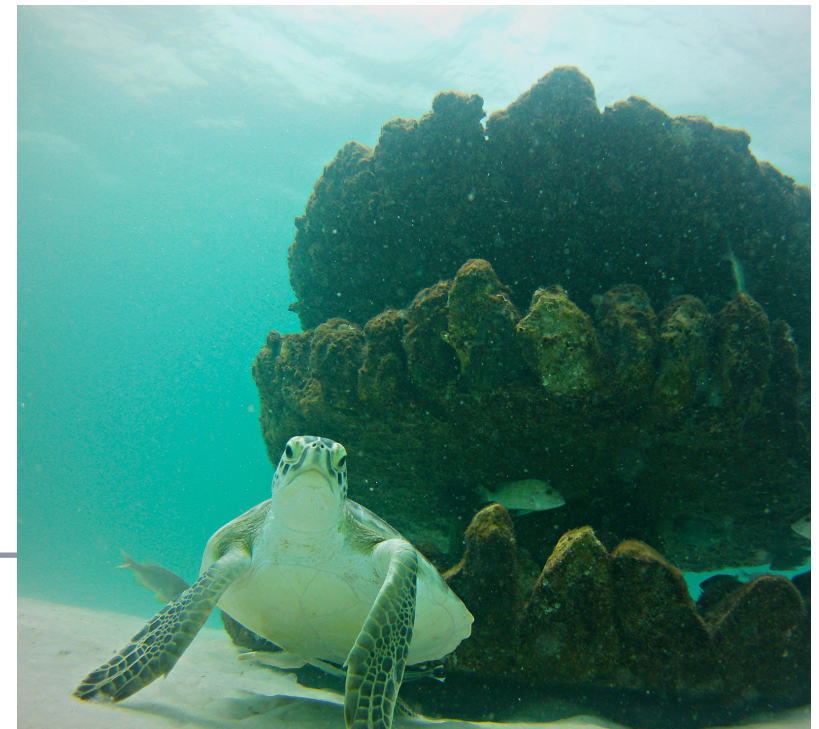


ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide efficient responsive services that enhance the quality of life, meet common needs, and promote a safe and healthy community. To conserve, restore, and protect our natural and built environments through ecologically sound and sustainable development principles. To ensure compliance with policies, codes, rules, regulations and permits in a proper, timely manner as prescribed by the law and enforcement codes. The department consists of the following county divisions: Environmental Enforcement, Marine Resources, Mosquito Control, Natural Resources Conservation, RESTORE, Resiliency, and Water Quality & Land Management.

DIRECTOR CHIPS KIRSCHENFELD
CONTACT 850-595-1630
jtkirsche@myescambia.com



Green turtle at Park East Snorkeling Reef

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Environmental Code Enforcement Staff

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Environmental Enforcement enforces and investigates code, ordinance, state statute and administrative code violations committed in Escambia County. The Escambia County Environmental Enforcement Division operates under Chapter 162 of the Florida Statutes and Chapter 30 of the Escambia County Code of Ordinances.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Investigated approximately 6,688 Environmental Code Enforcement cases.
- Successfully closed 5,388 cases.
- Removed at least 68 dilapidated and non-compliant structures.
- Completed over 250 lot abatements.
- Celebrated two years of being part of a joint neighborhood task force, which includes the Escambia County Sheriff's Office, Environmental Health, Animal Control, Property Appraiser's Office, Tax Collector's Office, State's Attorney's Office and the Road Department.



Environmental Enforcement Services Coordinator Chinnia Moore with Code Enforcement Intern Lamaria Brown

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

MOSQUITO CONTROL

The mission of the **Mosquito Control Division** is to achieve and maintain levels of control of mosquitoes and other insects of public health or nuisance importance to protect human health and safety and improve the quality of life of people, promote economic development of the County, and facilitate enjoyment of its natural attractions by reducing the number of pestiferous and disease-carrying mosquitoes.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- State-certified and licensed personnel implemented integrated mosquito management, or IMM, measures, including source reduction, biological control, and chemical applications to control mosquitoes without an unreasonable adverse effect on the environment, as per Chapter 388, Florida Statutes.
- Responded to more than 244 service requests, averaging less than 24 hours response time from the initial call to on-site inspection performed.
- Emphasized public education and public awareness.
- Improved surveillance and species identification.
- Focused on management of domestic mosquito impacts as both nuisance and public health mosquito-borne disease risks may be concerned.
- Worked to achieve and maintain control of mosquitos countywide, in compliance with state regulations and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System regulations, and in a manner consistent with the protection of the environmental and the ecological integrity of all lands and waters.



Escambia County Mosquito Control staff taking samples

MOSQUITO CONTROL FY2023-2024 BY THE NUMBERS

- Service requests received and responded to: 244
- Independent field inspections: 6,236
- Larvicide applications: 129
- Acres treated: 129
- CDC light traps and BG Sentinel Trap missions: 83
- Biological Control Methods (Gambusia Fish installations): 139
- Acres Treated by Adulticiding: 19,153

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

The **Natural Resources Conservation Division** provides assistance to Escambia County citizens with agricultural concerns, as well as information regarding aerial mapping, soil conservation, and forestry management. The division partners with the Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District to bring about conservation of land, water, and related resources. The division also assists in land management activities, such as prescribed burning and invasive species control, on county-owned conservation lands.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided technical assistance to 180 citizen requests concerning natural resources topics, ranging from soil conservation, agricultural conservation programs, forestry and wildlife management, and invasive species treatment.
- Conducted 92 acres of prescribed burning and 6 acres of forestry mulching at the Jones Swamp Wetland Preserve, as part of the Florida Forest Service Hurricane Sally Wildfire Prevention Grant (\$239,000) awarded to the county.
- Completed an update to the Jones Swamp Wetland Preserve's 10 Year Management Plan.
- Treated 28 acres of invasive species on county lands. This includes 9 acres of cogon grass treated at the Escambia County Equestrian Center that was covered by a grant awarded to the county through the FWC Habitat Management Assistance Grant (\$6,500) for gopher tortoise habitat improvements.
- Maintained and expanded the Escambia County Geocaching Tour. The tour currently has nine locations (geocaches) and had approximately 500 visitors this year.
- Installed gopher tortoise education signs at O'Connor Collings Park to help in educating the public about the resident gopher tortoise population located in the park. The signs were donated by the Florida Wildlife Federation.
- Installed four wood duck boxes at the Jones Swamp Wetland Preserve and one box at the Southwest Escambia Sportsplex, as part of a continued partnership with the Northview High School FFA Chapter to further enhance wood duck habitat in the Jones Swamp Wetland Preserve and other county conservation lands.
- Secured a Florida Forest Service Urban Forestry Grant (\$23,500) for the establishment of a tree arboretum at the Byrneville Community Park, in partnership with the Northview High School FFA Chapter. The tree arboretum will serve as an educational environment for the public and schools to use for many years.
- Assisted with the District 1 FFA Forestry Contest at Optimist Park in Pensacola.



Installation of wood duck boxes

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

RESTORE DIVISION

The RESTORE Division manages programs, projects and activities funded by the RESTORE Act, which was established after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill to assist impacted communities.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Multi-Year Implementation Plan 3 approved for eight projects totaling \$11.65 million.
- Closed RESTORE, NRDA, and NFWF projects totaling \$10,663,181:
 - Jones Swamp construction: \$1,474,430
 - Perdido Bay Boat Ramp construction: \$4,545,653
 - Perdido Key Multi-Use Path construction: \$4,253,659
 - Highway 297A design: \$110,449
 - Due diligence land acquisition and stormwater pond retrofit master plans: \$278,990
- Started RESTORE design projects totaling \$3,349,056:
 - CRA Infrastructure Complete Street design: \$1,366,630
 - Brownsville Business Incubator: \$285,211
 - Escambia County Workforce Development design: \$899,800
 - Cantonment Community Center: \$216,195
 - Beulah Master Plan: \$581,220
- Received Restore, NRDA, FDEP grants totaling \$2.7 million:
 - OC Phillips: \$2 million
 - Perdido Bay Boat Ramp – Kayak: \$200,000
 - Stormwater Retrofit Ponds: \$500,000
- Currently managing grants, design, CEI and construction totaling \$108 million.



Perdido Key Multi-Use Path



Jones Swamp

MARINE RESOURCES

The **Marine Resources Division** provides access to safe, healthy and productive waterways. The division's management strategy is to balance resources use with resources sustainability. Marine Resources Division programs include artificial reefs, waterways access, waterways management and special projects.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided staff support for monthly meetings of Escambia County Marine Advisory Committee.
- Deployed six new artificial reefs and maintained 11 others.
- Planned and coordinated for 2024 Northwest Florida Artificial Reef Workshop.
- Completed construction of new Perdido Bay Boat Ramp and dredged navigation channel.
- Established new idle speed and No Wake Zone at Navy Point Public Boat Ramp.
- Monitored and maintained 13 Florida Uniform Waterway Marker permitted sites.



Marine Resources intern and staff participate in a Fishing Rodeo event on Pensacola Beach

- Monitored and maintained seven public boat ramps.
- Established floating structures ordinance.
- Managed Sea Turtle Permits for 10.1 miles of Gulf beaches; trained and coordinated 47 volunteers; marked and monitored 32 sea turtle nests.
- Responded to 33 stranded/hooked/entangled sea turtles, transporting 19 injured sea turtles for treatment.
- Conducted monthly waterways surveys; documented 45 vessels of concern; removed nine derelict vessels funded by \$137,000 in Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission grants.
- Provided 22 Internships for college/university students and recent graduates.
- Conducted 10 marine-themed children's educational programs.
- Planned and conducted six marine-themed workshops/symposia.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The **Escambia County Resiliency and Sustainability Division** is a grant-funded effort housed within the of Natural Resources Management Department. Established in 2022, the Resiliency Program was expanded to the Resiliency and Sustainability Division and includes the Brownfields Program, Support for the Environmental Justice Committee, Sustainability Initiatives, Air Quality Monitoring, and project and grant management for environmental, resiliency, and sustainability projects in Escambia County.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Escambia County Vulnerability Assessment – An FDEP-funded initiative that will result in a county-wide assessment of the sensitivity and exposure of Escambia County’s critical infrastructure to flooding based on future flooding scenarios.
- Escambia County Adaptation Plan – An FDEP-funded initiative that will result in a prioritized list of adaptation projects to mitigate the sensitivity and exposure of critical infrastructure to flooding.
- Air Quality Monitoring – A network of 12 real-time PurpleAir sensors located in Escambia County’s Population centers. These sensors are publicly available at myescambia.com/airquality.
- Second Annual Northwest Florida Regional Resiliency Seminar – A one-day event that brought approximately 80 representatives from regional local governments, regulatory agencies, non-regulatory agencies, and private organizations sharing recent initiatives and discussing strategies for enhancing Resiliency in Northwest Florida.

- Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) – This locally-funded initiative includes the baseline measurement of electricity, water, and natural gas consumed by Escambia County’s facilities and gallons of fuel consumed by Escambia County’s fleet vehicles. The GHGI will track progress toward reductions in utilities and fuel consumption as sustainability initiative are developed.
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation- This DOE-funded initiative allows Escambia County to develop electric fleet vehicle charging infrastructure, seed a solar energy program, and conduct building energy audits in some of the most consumptive facilities identified in the GHGI.
- Community-Wide Brownfields Assessment - Escambia County made substantial progress on a Community-Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant funded by the US EPA. Assessment activities have been completed at eight locations supporting redevelopment, ecosystem restoration.



Staff conducts an assessment on the future site of the Perdido Bay Boat Ramp

WATER QUALITY & LAND MANAGEMENT

Water Quality & Land Management serves the community through the development and oversight of local environmental resource focused projects and programs. WQLM also provides environmental support services, on an as needed basis, for multiple county departments, the city of Pensacola, and other local partners. Staff scientists have expertise in various disciplines, including environmental science, marine biology, chemistry, urban forestry, and wildlife management.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Maintained certification from the Florida Department of Health.
- Performed 5,152 different analyses during in the year, a 24 percent increase over last year at an estimated cost savings of more than \$50,000.
- Conducted surface water quality monitoring at 55 long-term ambient stations located throughout Escambia County. Data generated by this program is used to determine water quality status and trends.
- Continued implementation of the Carpenter Creek, Bayou Texar, and Eleven Mile Creek Bacteria Pollution Control Plans.
- Supported Basin Management Action Plan monitoring efforts by conducting monthly surface water quality monitoring at stations located throughout the Bayou Chico watershed
- Developed and began implementation of a new water quality monitoring program designed to target local bays, bayous, and sounds.
- Coordinated activities related to the county's National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems permit.
- Conducted an annual county-wide sweep of seldomly tested local waterways in search for illicit connections and other sources of pollution, testing over 200 different surface water sites.
- Completed annual upload of county surface water quality to the State of Florida's Watershed Information Network. Escambia County has become the second largest WIN data provider in the western panhandle.
- Conducting required project-based monitoring for environmental restoration projects including Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline, Jones & Jackson Creek Floodplain Restorations, NRCS Pensacola Bay Nutrient Reduction Project, and Navy Point.
- Renewed Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf Environmental Measurement and Modeling Division for another five-year term. The agreement allows Escambia County and the U.S. EPA to continue to work together on projects of joint interest.
- Assisted with the development, deployment, and maintenance of a county-wide air monitoring network. Data was available in near real-time on the county website and other public and private platforms.
- Monitored county permitted recycling facilities for airborne particulates. Data generated was used to determine permit compliance.



Staff performs water quality testing in the lab



ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD AND HUMAN SERVICES



Play, Learn & Grow Summer Camp

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the **Department of Neighborhood & Human Services** is to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Escambia County. The department achieves this through a variety of community-based programs and initiatives that provide efficient and effective services that improve the quality of life for the citizens of Escambia County. The department oversees the Community Redevelopment Agency, Neighborhood Enterprise Division and the Safe Neighborhood Program. In addition, Neighborhood & Human Services administers the Youth Employment Program, Human Assistance Program, the Indigent Burial Program and various Community and Resource Centers. These divisions and programs help and serve more than 310,000 residents and businesses within Escambia County.

DIRECTOR CLARA LONG
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FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMUNITY CENTERS

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted the Play, Learn and Grow Summer Camp Programs with more than 300 youth participating at the Brownsville Community Center, Ebonwood Community Center, Wedgewood Community Center, and the Dorrie Miller Community Center.
- More than 35 youth participated in the Brownsville Community Center Performing Arts Club.
- Offered food pantries at the Brownsville Community Center, Ebonwood Community Center, and Wedgewood Community Center, providing over 45 families with clothing, food and hygiene items.
- Provided formal dresses to more than 100 teens through Project Formal at the Brownsville Community Center.
- More than 100 youth participated in the county's after school program "The Youth Connection" at the Brownsville and Ebonwood Community Centers.
- More than 200 senior citizens participated in senior programs at several county community centers.
- Provided county community centers for various neighborhood watch and homeowner association meetings.
- Received a \$15,000 Justice Assistance Grant for the "Be Smart Don't Start" mentoring program at the Brownsville and Ebonwood Community Centers, with more than 200 youth participating.
- Yoga and Zumba fitness programs hosted at the Brownsville and Wedgewood Community Centers, with more than 70 participants.
- Hosted 40 events with community partners at Brownsville Community Center.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The mission of the **Escambia County Community Redevelopment Agency** is to revitalize and enhance the quality of life within the designated redevelopment districts by encouraging private sector reinvestment, promoting economic development, and providing public sector enhancements. The CRA administers plans for nine redevelopment districts: Atwood, Barrancas, Brownsville, Cantonment, Englewood, Ensley, Palafox, Oakfield, and Warrington.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Awarded 15 grants through the Residential Rehab Grant Program, totaling \$66,167.
- Awarded 31 grants through the Residential Exterior Painting/Hazardous Tree Program, totaling \$100,119.
- Awarded 10 grants through the Income-Based Roofing program, totaling \$119,416.06.
- Conducted 16 CRA and Safe Neighborhood cleanups, removing over 1,000 tons of bulk and yard waste and 100 tons of tires.
- Facilitated the Summer Youth Employment Program, which employed 165 local youth. Five summer interns ended up being hired full-time.
- Added more than 2,131 streetlights throughout all CRAs and Safe Neighborhood Districts, totaling a \$1,024,119.18 investment.
- Completed more than \$3.2 million in capital improvement projects in CRA districts, including \$18,532 for signage, \$425,859.45 for playgrounds, and \$2,784,947.09 for sidewalks.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND HUMAN SERVICES

HUMAN ASSISTANCE

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Managed the Indigent Burial/Cremation Program, which is designed to provide payment of the expenses incurred for the disposition of deceased persons declared unclaimed or indigent (by program standards), or resident or non-resident if the death occurred in Escambia County.
- Assisted 255 families with Indigent Cremation, expending \$162,000.
- Assisted 285 families with Indigent Transport to local participating Indigent Program Funeral homes, expending \$28,500.
- Managed the Emergency Mortgage, Rental, and Utility Assistance Program, which provides help for those who qualify for emergency utility bill payment assistance, and mortgage/rental payments. This program will be considered a last resort after all means of acquiring assistance have failed. This program was administered through the NHS Low Income Direct Assistance Program (LIDEAP) and Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).
- Assisted 359 households through the Emergency Mortgage, Rental, and Utility Assistance Program, expending \$426,975.
- Six students received an Entry Level Carpentry Certifications through the Block-By-Block Program.
- Spent \$15,000 to provide the Block-By-Block Program.

- Managed the Workforce Development Block-By-Block Program, which assists Escambia County citizens ages 16-24 on the job workforce training in various skills such as carpentry, electrical, HVAC, masonry, plumbing, welding and cybersecurity. Qualified applicants attend a 6-10 week comprehensive classroom training with the goal of attaining basic certifications and being placed in high paying jobs. This program focuses on minorities and low-income populations. The county partners with Pensacola State College for the classroom training.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENTERPRISE

The **Neighborhood Enterprise Division** seeks to increase the supply of decent, affordable housing through a variety of rental and home-ownership programs for low- and moderate-income residents. We are committed to fostering economic development and community empowerment by encouraging neighborhood sustainability through the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing stock. Additionally, we aim to enhance community development by investing in infrastructure projects that bring essential amenities, such as sewer systems, lighting, and sidewalks, to low-income neighborhoods, thereby strengthening the overall resilience and vibrancy of our communities.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Wheelchair Ramp and Accessibility Program: Launched a permanently funded Wheelchair Ramp and Accessibility Program to assist homeowners in gaining functional access to critical amenities in their properties.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

- Escambia County Homeownership Initiatives – First Time Homebuyers Program
 - Each participant benefited from comprehensive pre-purchase and home maintenance counseling.
 - 55 First-Time Homebuyers funded through the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program.
 - 10 First-Time homebuyers funded through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.
 - Total expended: Over \$1.4 million in assistance
- Housing Rehabilitation
 - 60 Low-to Moderate Income Households received Rehabilitation Projects funded through State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
 - Total expended: \$1 million in assistance
- Emergency Repair Program
 - 30 Households were assisted in the Emergency Repair Program for urgent repairs in low-income households, ensuring safe and stable living conditions.
 - Total expended: \$165,000 in assistance
- Demo and Replacement Program
 - Addressed homes beyond repair, resulting in the demolition and replacement of four houses for low-income families. This initiative has provided these low-to-moderate families with a much-needed fresh start and serves to further prevent homelessness among those most vulnerable in our community.
 - Households assisted: 4
 - Total expended: \$800,000 in assistance



Resident celebrates new home with family and District 3 Commissioner Lumon May

- Public Service Contracts: Administered three public service contracts with the Council on Aging of West Florida, Escambia-Pensacola Human Relations Commission, and Legal Services of North Florida, funded through the Community Development Block Grant.
- Infrastructure Development: In collaboration with ECUA, completed a major infrastructure project in the Brownsville CRA, which included sewer tie-ins and new sidewalks, totaling nearly \$2 million in funding from Community Development Block Grant and Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus allocations.
- Future funding expansion: Staff successfully applied for an additional \$14 million in funding beyond our entitlement grants, with \$9 million already secured through Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds to support Hurricane Sally recovery efforts.



ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide efficient, accessible, and responsive services that enhance the quality of life, meet common and diverse needs, and promote safe and healthy recreation opportunities to a growing community. The inventory of parks ranges from Perdido Key to Century, Florida inclusive of boat ramps, regional, neighborhood, and athletic parks. In addition to the vast array of park options, the department also manages the Escambia County Equestrian Center and the Lake Stone Campground in Century, Florida. Youth athletics are managed by local athletic associations at county parks, with the department serving as a liaison to enhance the efforts of each organization. These organizations provide open athletic opportunities for the local youth of Escambia County. Adult athletic leagues are managed through the department, which include softball and soccer leagues. The Parks and Recreation Department also partners with eight local associations that coordinate the daily activities and programs for youth and adults at local community centers.

PLAYGROUND OR PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Lincoln Park: New shade structure and additional amenities
- Ebonwood Park: New playground
- Westernmark Park: New playground
- Extension Office: New playground shade structure
- Harvester Home Park: New playground
- Lakewood Park: New playground
- Doug Ford Park: New playground and new swings
- Cowley Park - Pensacola Beach: New playground

DIRECTOR MICHAEL RHODES
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FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Proudly partnered with various youth athletic association partners that offer youth sports including baseball, tee-ball, softball, soccer, football, lacrosse, and cheerleading at county-owned athletic parks across Escambia County. Hundreds of local youth participated, thanks to the support of numerous volunteers.
- Offered multiple adult sports leagues throughout the year, including men's, co-ed, and church league softball and soccer.
- Created a local youth recreation-based all-star baseball tournament in summer 2022. The third tournament was hosted in summer 2024, with great success.
- Partnered with eight organizations in the management of eight county-owned community centers, offering residents a location for events, community activities, entertainment, recreation, and various educational activities and programs for youth and adults.
- The Escambia County Equestrian Center hosted 53 events, comprised of horse shows, dog shows, rodeo, 5K runs, musical events, and other special events that yielded a total local economic impact of approximately \$7.2 million. The Equestrian Center has proven to be a multi-use venue for regional events.
- Hosted the SEC Women's Soccer Tournament at the county's Ashton Brosnham Athletic Park for the second year in a row, which drew thousands of attendees.



- Continued teaming up with the Marine Resources Division, Water Quality and Land Management Division, and the Road Department on various maintenance including dock repairs, boardwalk repairs, shoreline restoration, and other recreation or common areas that are county-maintained. The county opened the new Perdido Bay Boat Ramp this spring, an example of the collaboration between several county departments including Parks and Recreation.

PARK PROJECTS

- Ashton Brosnham Multiuse Building: Added a new facility at the Ashton Brosnham Athletic Park, which can serve as meeting space, office space, or additional locker rooms for events like the SEC Soccer Tournament, lacrosse events, and other field sports.
- Ashton Brosnham Parking Improvements and Internal Road Enhancements: Completed improvements in advance of the fall soccer season along with the 2024 SEC event.
- Cowley Park - Pensacola Beach: Resurfaced walking track and added new fencing around roller hockey rink and tennis courts.
- Lexington Terrace Park: Added a new 18-hole disc golf course, shade structure for the dog park, and a new playground.
- Fairfield Retention Walking Track: Added an ADA-compliant walking track with outdoor workout equipment.
- Navy Point Boat Ramp: Resurfaced and restriped the boat ramp parking area at this popular boat launch, along with completing drainage enhancements.
- Perdido Key Beach Access #2: Resurfaced and restriped the parking lot at this popular beach access location, along with removing the dilapidated restroom facility.
- Model Airplane Park at Fritz Field: Completed upgrades at this facility, including ADA sidewalks and a new shade structure.
- Miracle League at John R. Jones Junior Athletic Complex: Installed new LED lights on the game fields.
- International Paper and Escambia County Recreation Area: Work has started on the former IP Golf course, which is being transformed into a recreation area with an 18-hole disc golf course, walking track, playground and pavilion.



ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **PUBLIC SAFETY**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the **Escambia County Department of Public Safety** is to provide security and safety for all residents and patrons in the county through oversight and execution of strategic operational practices. The department continues to improve community and first responder safety through training, technology, fleet upgrades and increased community visibility, as well as enhancing collaborations across all public safety divisions. Department divisions include **Emergency Communications**, **Emergency Medical Services**, **Emergency Management**, **Escambia County Fire Rescue**, and **Water Safety**.

DIRECTOR ERIC GILMORE
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EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The mission of the Emergency Communications Division is to provide accurate, timely and professional care and support to our community and responders. The Emergency Communications Division provides the critical link between Emergency Management, Escambia County EMS, Escambia County Fire Rescue, law enforcement services and the citizens who call for emergency assistance.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Dispatched approximately 83,700 EMS calls.
 - Dispatched approximately 17,100 Fire Rescue calls.
 - Answered approximately 200,00 9-1-1 calls.
 - Answered approximately 326,000 non-emergency calls.
 - Provided CPR instructions approximately 825 times.
 - Provided choking instructions approximately 160 times.
 - Provided airway instructions approximately 2,100 times.
 - Maintained an Emergency Medical/Fire Dispatch Compliance Score of 96% or better.
 - Established enhanced cybersecurity for the 9-1-1 system/call center.
 - Replaced microwave radio battery back-up systems.
 - Replaced aging safety climb equipment at radio towers.
 - Established emergency radio jump kits for the ARES unit.
 - Installed new repeaters for ARES unit.
 - Upgraded Computer Aided Dispatch software.
 - Began transition of legacy 9-1-1 traffic to the ESInet for IP delivery and collaborated with Region One counties on the ESInet buildout. ESInet is the Emergency Services IP Network, which is used for emergency telecommunications services to provide a reliable network to support 9-1-1 calls.



Emergency Communications dispatcher in action



PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Escambia County Emergency Medical Services' mission is innovative in our pursuit of being a community-focused, employee-engaged, performance-driven provider of emergency health services. EMS provides services that range from Advance Life Support, Basic Life Support, Critical Care transports, special details, and Bariatric transports for Escambia County's over 300,000 citizens. EMS also helps enhance the health and safety of our community by offering educational opportunities to our citizens, including American Heart Association courses and hands-only CPR demonstrations. EMS also provides incident management and medical support at large-scale events such as the Blue Angels airshow, concerts, and other large gatherings.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Responded to over 67,403 calls for service.
- Completed over 43,960 transports.
- Facilitated more than 930 CORE appointments, which is a free recovery program for those struggling with opioid use.
- Participated in over 277 special events.
- Added eight new ambulances and three new supervisor SUVs to the fleet.
- Added 14 additional full-time EMS positions.
- Increased recruitment efforts by participating in community events, attending high school career fairs, participating in high school health education programs, and being active with college EMS programs. A \$10,000 recruitment bonus for Paramedics was also added in an effort to improve recruitment.



Life Flight training

- Sent an additional three EMTs to Paramedic School at Pensacola State College, slated to finish in December 2025.
- Added Tele911 to the capabilities of EMS. This allows for access to a physician on scene for patients who do not require EMS transport to a hospital to help facilitate treatment at home. Tele911 has been used more than 830 times so far during this fiscal year.
- Updated EMS protocols and began rollout and training to provide the most up to date emergency medical care and treatment available to the citizens and visitors of Escambia County.
- **Training Division:**
 - Hosted 179 American Heart Association classes, instructing over 900 students.
 - Certified all non-medical Escambia County Jail personnel in Heartsaver, resulting in nearly 300 employees becoming certified in CPR.
 - Provided a Heartsaver class for HERRricane at Public Safety, a day camp for middle school girls that aims to empower them to pursue careers and leadership roles in emergency management.
 - Provided a Heartsaver class for the West Florida Public Libraries, resulting in 42 employees becoming certified in CPR.



Hurricane Exercise at the Emergency Operations Center

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In an effort to support and enhance the Escambia County mission, the Emergency Management Division will continue to develop and enhance the efforts of an all-hazard, multi-jurisdictional, multi-organizational plan through prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation disaster activities. It is this mission that drives us to continuously evaluate our plans and procedures to better our preparedness and response activities for citizens.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- EM staff and the mobile command unit, THOR, deployed in support of the response and recovery efforts for several regional and national disasters, including the May Oklahoma tornado event, Hurricane Debbie, Hurricane Helene, and Hurricane Milton.
- Provided command and control assets for the Blue Angels Air Show on Pensacola Beach, with a smooth and successful event.
- Hosted numerous preparedness discussions to educate community groups before and during hurricane season
- Continuously monitored all severe weather events and communicated pertinent information to the public.

- Hosted the inaugural HERricane day camp for middle school girls, which aims to develop and elevate women as leaders in emergency management. HERricane Escambia was provided to participants completely free of charge, with over \$12,000 of in-kind and monetary donations received.
- Became Tsunami Ready with the National Weather Service, which will potentially help county residents with flood insurance premiums in the next FEMA Community Rating System evaluation.
- Worked with county departments to achieve the best score possible for the Florida Recovery Obligation Calculator, earning a score of 52% for Debris Removal and 53% for Emergency Protective Measures, out of a possible score of 60%. This process enables the county to receive monies up front upon declaration of a disaster.
- Worked with Human Resources to ensure all county employees are assigned an Emergency Critical or Emergency Essential position for emergency response.
- Responded to the Somerville Court/Camshire Meadows Fire in April 2024, issuing an evacuation order using Alert Escambia and establishing a temporary shelter for evacuees at Liberty Church Blue Angel. This response highlighted the importance of partnerships during emergencies, with numerous local agencies coordinating to ensure the public's safety.
- Conducted another successful countywide Hurricane Exercise on May 23 at the Escambia County Emergency Operations Center.
- Worked with Waterfront Rescue to establish a cold weather sheltering plan, helping better accommodate anyone in our community who needs shelter during extreme cold weather.
- Established the Real Change initiative, which aims to help connect the community with resources and assistance. Within Real Change, Project Reconnect was established, which provides individuals experiencing homelessness with the opportunity to reconnect with family or other resources outside of our area. So far, this program has relocated 72 homeless individuals including three children to various locations throughout the United States back to family, friends, and supportive services.

PUBLIC SAFETY

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

Escambia County Fire Rescue is committed to providing effective and efficient fire-rescue services that meet the community's needs in life protection, property conservation, preservation of the environment, and fire prevention programs. ECFR proudly operates as a combination fire service, utilizing the talents and diversities of volunteer and career firefighting personnel. Volunteer firefighters operate throughout the county and fully staff 2 districts, while career firefighters operate out of 16 districts throughout Escambia County. ECFR also offers other emergency services such as hazardous materials response, special operations, swift water rescue, open water rescue and ALS non-transport.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Responded to 20,358 incidents.
- Responded to 1,359 calls for fire suppression, 260 of which were structure fires.
- Responded to 8,773 calls for medical emergencies and motor vehicle accidents.
- Responded to 2,339 incidents of false alarm system or sprinkler activations.
- Responded to 10 weather-related incidents.
- Installed 321 smoke detectors in homes at no cost to the homeowners/residents.
- Completed 118 public relations events.
- Chief Adam Harrison was promoted as the new Fire Chief for Escambia County Fire Rescue.



Fire Chief Adam Harrison speaks at a press conference

- Acquired property for the Paradise Beach fire station.
- Acquired property to build a new station around Kingsfield Road and Highway 297.
- Acquired four new fire engines, one ladder truck, two air carts and four support vehicles for ECFR.
- Upgraded all portable radios in the field.
- Hired a Fleet Service Coordinator.
- Hired 17 firefighters and cadets.
- Promoted six lieutenants.
- Offered a stand-alone minimum standards class using in-house instructors. This course allows the attendee to obtain their state certification to become a professional firefighter.
- Received a \$1 million state grant award to assist with funding the ECFR training site.
- Opened the newly constructed Beulah Fire Station.
- **Fire Marshal's Office:**
 - Building plans reviewed: 965
 - Development Review Committee plans reviewed: 509
 - Fire system permits issued: 716
 - Fire safety inspections/permits: 4,220
 - Annual fire safety inspections: 2,200
 - Revenue: \$169,102.76

PENSACOLA BEACH LIFEGUARDS

The mission of Pensacola Beach Lifeguards is to educate and protect the public who visit Escambia County beaches, including Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key. The division's core competency is dealing with incidents that develop in the aquatic environment. We contract with Gulf Islands National Seashore to provide lifeguard services to Langdon Beach and Johnson Beach. Lifeguards provide coverage year-round with our operations split between two seasons: tower and beach patrol. The beach patrol operates mid-October to the start of tower season, which generally begins March 1. During the beach patrol season, the primary function is implementation of the surf warning system, responding to aquatic emergencies and maintenance of equipment. In tower season, lifeguards staff six Gulf-front towers on Pensacola Beach, one tower on Quietwater Beach, and one on Perdido Key. During the beach patrol season, lifeguards patrol the beach with the use of patrol vehicles.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Added a new lifeguard tower at Perdido Key public access number 2, with logistical support from the Road Department. With this addition, Pensacola Beach Lifeguards expanded service to guard the public access points on Perdido Key seasonally.
- 21 new personnel completed training, bringing the team's total to 61.
- With fellow public safety agencies, provided safety and security for the Pensacola Beach Blue Angels Air Show.
- Lifeguards conducted 208,745 preventative actions, educating beachgoers about rip currents, general water safety, and more.
- Assisted EMS with 36 medical transports from the beach.
- Performed 223 water rescues.
- Conducted two sessions of the Junior Lifeguard program.
- The Water Safety Division conducted water rescue training with Escambia Fire Rescue and Air Methods.





ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **PUBLIC WORKS**



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the **Escambia County Department of Public Works** is to provide efficient, responsive services that enhance the quality of life, meet common needs, and promote a safe and healthy community. The department maintains the county's network of roads and stormwater drainage systems including right of way mowing, street sweeping, holding pond mowing and maintenance, sidewalk maintenance, dirt road grading, tree trimming and removal, pothole patching, ditch cleaning, sign maintenance, and repair/construction of drainage infrastructure. Additionally, this department responds to natural disaster events, prepares dirt roads for paving, resurfaces older rural roads and supports community initiatives such as Clean Sweeps.

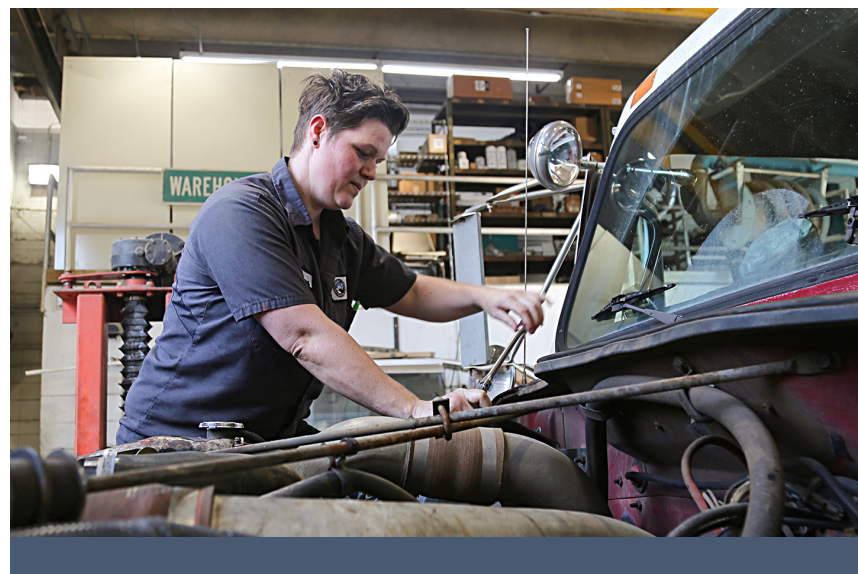
DIRECTOR JAMES HIGDON
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FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 10,713 work requests.
- Removed 840 cubic yards of debris through street sweeping.
- Completed four rounds of sidewalk maintenance, totaling 108 miles of sidewalks.
- Maintained 252 county-owned lots.
- Rehabilitated 45 holding ponds.
- Maintained 700 holding ponds totaling approximately 960 acres, completing four mowing cycles of the holding pond areas.
- Patched 7,447 potholes while completing 1,784 requests.
- Mowed 5,741 miles of county right of way.
- Completed 35 clean sweeps.
- Fleet Maintenance completed 3,578 work orders, completing preventative maintenance and repair on a variety of county vehicles and equipment, including heavy equipment.





ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **PURCHASING**

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide efficient, responsive services that enhance our quality of life, to provide high quality goods and services to county departments and citizens in an efficient and effective manner, while maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct and professionalism. This mission is achieved by ensuring transparency, fairness, and accountability in all procurement activities as we work to obtain the best value for taxpayers while promoting healthy competition, supporting local businesses, meeting common needs, and promoting a safe and healthy community.

DIRECTOR LYNDSEY STEVENS
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FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Solicitations
 - Invitations to Bid: 88
 - Requests for Proposal: 24
 - Requests for Letters of Interest (Architect & Engineering Services): 11
 - Request for Qualifications (Architect & Engineering Services): 15
 - Purchase Orders Issued: 2,055, for a total of over \$464.4 million
- Completed countywide Purchasing training for employees, including Purchasing 101, OpenGov, formal solicitations, entering a change order, and purchasing card training.
- Completed training with Purchasing staff, including:
 - Creating a Purchasing Made Easy training guide to assist new employees on performing their duties.
 - Conducting training during weekly meetings on POs, COs, backup documentation, assembling agreements and more.
 - Attending the Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers (FAPPO) Conference.
 - Attending the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) Forum.
- Launched the Escambia Supplier Excellence Academy to educate vendors on how to do business with the county, hosting three webinars to date.
- Conducted a How to Do Business with Escambia County workshop at the Brownsville Community Center.
- Participated in the How to do Business with Local Government event hosted by the Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce.
- Presented at a National Association of Women in Construction chapter meeting.
- Conducted an informational session on Governmental Purchasing for a class at the University of West Florida.
- Added 791 minority vendors to the vendor list in OpenGov, for a total of 1,700.



- Created a Vendor Guide and implemented a “This Week in Purchasing” section to the County Purchasing Facebook page.
- Awarded the Central Gulf Coast Chapter of NIGP Purchasing Manager of the Year and Purchasing Specialist of the Year.
- Selected to present Escambia County’s Vendor Recruitment program during the Procurement Excellence Showcase.
- Completed solicitations for dirt road paving, bridge replacements, widening and drainage projects, and home rehabilitation programs
- Facilitated continuing contracts for engineering professional services and construction-related projects including paving, drainage and sidewalk repair.
- Notable Projects:
 - Casino Beach Fishing Pier: Awarded to Southern Road & Bridge - \$4,271,359
 - Ferry Pass Community Center (Site Improvements Only): ARPA-awarded to Site & Utility, LLC - \$658,045
 - Cantonment Community Center - Design Services: Awarded to Dean Design Build, Inc - \$216,195
 - EMS Medical Director Services: Awarded to JDG Emergency Physician Services - \$270,000
 - Program Management for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Voluntary Home Buyout Program (VHBP): Awarded to ICF, Incorporated, LLC - \$1,333,915



ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **WASTE SERVICES**



MISSION STATEMENT

The **Escambia County Department of Waste Services** has consistently striven to provide services for recycling and disposal of solid waste in order to help protect the environment and human health of the citizens of Escambia County. In addition, we have endeavored to achieve and maintain environmental compliance and implementation of community service initiatives.

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FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Handled approximately 406,038 tons of waste, diverting approximately 22,162 tons of waste from the Perdido Landfill through recycling initiatives.
- Began the Perdido Landfill expansion planning project, which includes preliminary layouts of a new Beulah Road, work consisting of FDEP & Army Corps of Engineers discussions, wetland delineations, property assessments, alternative analysis and feasibility studies, gas to energy plant location review, and new landfill expansion concepts.
- The department's Re-blended Paint Program diverted approximately 8,781 gallons of unused latex paint from the waste stream. This paint was re-blended and beneficially used for various projects throughout the county. This program is also available to county residents bi-weekly, providing free re-blended paint in exchange for a new five-gallon bucket with a lid.



Re-blended Paint Program

- The Waste Services Department/Perdido Landfill Gas-to-Energy Program again remained in compliance and has continued to deliver the necessary collected methane to the Florida Power and Light facility to produce enough renewable energy to power more than 1,000 homes. The Perdido Landfill Gas-to-Energy Program is a partnership with Florida Power and Light that collects the landfill gas produced from the decay of garbage and contains approximately 50% methane.
- Conducted six tours of the Perdido Landfill and continued public education and community outreach through support of the following Community Service Projects and Public Recreation Areas:
 - Keep Pensacola Beautiful
 - Countywide illegal dumps/right of way pickup (Approximately 1,694 tons removed)
 - Neighborhood Clean Sweeps - Natural Resources Management/CRA - 35 Clean Sweeps conducted
 - Marine Resources Derelict Vessel Program
 - UWF and Emerald Coast Waste consulting
- Successfully maintained an "In Compliance" rating with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Diverted the following waste from the Perdido Landfill during this period:
 - Waste tires - 341.40 tons
 - Yard waste - 12,841 tons
 - Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) - 69.50 tons
 - Clean concrete - 8,747 tons
 - Scrap Recycling (Southern Recycling) - 98.50 tons
 - Electronics Recycling (Wise Recycling) - 65.30 tons