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# ESCAMBIA COUNTY 2024-2025 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 the county departments, commissions and agencies.

Steve Stroberger District 1 Mike Kohler District 2 24-25 Chair Lumon May District 3 Ashlee Hofberger District 4 24-25 Vice Chair Steven Barry
District 5



# ESCAMBIA COUNTY 2024-2025 FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

As we wrap up another great year in Escambia County, I am proud to present our annual report highlighting the hard work our team puts in every day for the residents of Escambia County.

We always strive to provide the best possible quality of life for the 320,000-plus residents who call Escambia County home, and our dedicated employees are continuously working to achieve this goal. This fiscal year, we've invested in public safety improvements, completed numerous projects to enhance our sidewalks, roadways, and essential infrastructure, upgraded our parks and playgrounds throughout the county, and opened the new Brownsville Library, Ferry Pass Community Center, and Paper Park in Cantonment – just to name a few.

Although it would be impossible to highlight every achievement and activity from the past fiscal year, I hope this annual report will provide a good overview and give a closer look at how your local government works behind the scenes to meet the needs of our residents.

While there is always room for improvement, I am proud of the work we are doing and the strides we are making to better serve our residents each day.

Escambia County is a wonderful place to call home, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Board of County Commissioners, our residents, and dedicated county employees to keep the positive momentum and make our corner of Northwest Florida the best it can possibly be.

WESLEY J. MORENO COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

'my C/M/

# ESCAMBIA COUNTY 2024-2025 NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

#### Public Safety Responds to Nearly 1,000 Emergency Calls Throughout Winter Storm

Despite icy roadways and dangerous conditions in the snow, Escambia County first responders never stopped responding to emergency calls before, during, and after severe winter weather in January 2025, running nearly 1,000 calls in three days.

From 7 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23 Escambia County Emergency Communications dispatched 960 calls for service throughout the county, including 568 Emergency Medical Services calls and 392 Fire Rescue calls.

As with any emergency or natural disaster, Escambia County Public Safety has plans in place to increase staffing and remain ready to respond quickly to calls for service. Even during the height of the snowstorm when visibility was low and road conditions were dangerous, first responders were out running emergency calls.











### Project Reconnect Program Helps More Than 300 Individuals

Escambia County's Real Change Project Reconnect Program celebrated a milestone of helping more than 300 individuals, including 13 children, reunite with their family, friends, or other support networks through free transportation assistance.

Real Change Project Reconnect was launched in February 2024, with a goal of reducing homelessness in Escambia County. The program offers resources and assistance for individuals to travel to locations where they have a better support system to help them get back on their feet.

For more information about Project Reconnect and other Escambia County Real Change programs and resources, visit MyEscambia.com/realchange or email homelessness@myescambia.com.

### **County Completes Jones Swamp Floodplain Restoration**

Escambia County completed the Jones Swamp Floodplain Restoration Project in December 2024, restoring 10-plus acres of historic wetlands and wildlife habitat, along with planting over 16,000 trees and plants.

The project included excavating approximately 50,000 cubic yards of dirt and fill material, with a goal of restoring the area back to its natural wetland state. Loafing logs and brush piles were installed to help provide wildlife habitats, along with treating exotic and nuisance species to promote native plant growth.





#### 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 400 local youth participated in this fun, educational and recreational program over the summer.

This year's seven-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**

More than 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.



#### **County Engineering Highlights Road Resurfacing and Improvement Projects**

The Escambia County Engineering Department has completed numerous road resurfacing, drainage upgrades and other improvement projects throughout the county, with a goal of maintaining and enhancing county infrastructure and improving the quality of life for residents.

Escambia County Engineering awarded more than 42 million in project contracts, with 25 design project contracts and 52 construction project contracts. The Construction Management Division resurfaced 17.64 miles of roadway in Escambia County. Oct. 1, 2024 to Sept. 30, 2025.



### Some of the many projects completed by Escambia County Engineering include:

- Bauer Road Paved Shoulders Safety Upgrade
- County Road 164 Widening Improvements
- County Road 196 Barrineau Park Road
- Jacks Branch to County Road 99
- Delano Street Drainage Project
- Havre Way and Marseille Drive Resurfacing
- Lake Charlene Drainage Improvements
- McElhaney Road Culverts Repair
- Moreno Street Drainage Pond
- Oak Valley Drive Bridge Replacement

   (Woodridge Subdivision)
- Old Corry Field Road Resurfacing
- Patton Drive Resurfacing
- Perdido Bay Boat Ramp
- Riola Place FEMA Repairs
- Siguenza Cove Resurfacing
- Vista Park Hurricane Repairs
- Woodrun Bridge





### EMS CORE Program Celebrates 400th Patient Milestone

Escambia County Emergency Medical Services reached a significant achievement in its Coordinated Opioid Recovery Effort program in August 2025. The CORE program successfully assisted its 400th patient, reaching a major milestone in its mission to combat the opioid crisis and provide comprehensive care to individuals battling opioid addiction.

CORE is a state-funded addiction recovery program that expanded to Escambia County in late 2022, with the county accepting its first CORE patient in February 2023. Since its inception, the CORE program has worked diligently to offer personalized, non-judgmental support to individuals suffering from opioid use disorder.

For more information about the CORE program, visit MyEscambia.com/CORE, or contact CORE at 850-477-HELP or 850-377-4965.









## Parks and Recreation Adds Five New Playgrounds and Parks

Escambia County Parks and Recreation installed three new playgrounds and opened two new parks in 2025, providing additional play and recreational opportunities for county residents and visitors.

### New playgrounds were added at the following locations in 2025:

- Ferry Pass Community Center
  - 8800 N. 9th Ave.
- Jack Reddix/Falcon/Oakcliff Park
  - 6601 Oakcliff Road
- Jennings-Gonzalez Park
  - 1552 Goldenrod Road \*New Park\*
- Paper Park
  - 109 Mintz Lane \*New Park\*
- Raymond Riddles Athletic Park
  - -1704 N "W" St.



## **County Continues Nature Trail Improvements at Southwest Sports Complex**

The Escambia County Natural Resources Management Department is continuing to make improvements to the 1.3-mile nature trail at the Southwest Escambia Sports Complex, including ongoing conservation efforts, trail maintenance, plant species monitoring and more.

Escambia County Natural Resources Conservation Division staff planted 10 White-Topped Pitcher Plants along the trail in April 2025 as part of the county's ongoing conservation efforts in the area, in conjunction with celebrating the 55th anniversary of Earth Day.

The Southwest Escambia County Sports Complex nature trail has been designated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System, adding it to the state's network of greenways and trails throughout Florida.





# ADMINISTRATION

County Administration continued to move 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. Collaborating with our community partners, our goal is to help provide services that make a real change in the lives of individuals in need.

• You-Count Event: Hosted the 2025 You-Count Homeless Connect Event at the Brownsville Community Center in January, which helped connect homeless individuals with valuable resources and services from a variety of vendors and community partners. The event featured free services including haircuts, health screenings, ID services from the Escambia County Tax Collector's Office, and more.



# • Shelter and Food Dashboard: 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

### Real Change Project Reconnect: 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. Since launching in February 2025, the program has successfully relocated over 300 unhoused individuals. On average, it costs taxpayers \$35,000 per unhoused individual for supportive services, saving the county an estimated \$10 million+ through the Project Reconnect Program.

#### 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

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS



In addition to many other initiatives, County Administration facilitated responses to numerous public records requests for more than 30 county divisions and departments.

#### Florida Opioid Abatement Allocation

Florida was the epicenter of the nation's ongoing prescription drug epidemic, particularly the unregulated pain clinics that are cited as significant contributors to the opioid problem. To reduce the opioid abuse, the state adopted legislation regulating pain clinics and instituted a prescription drug-monitoring program. Efforts to reduce the demand for opioids have shifted local government's focus from punishing drug users to spending millions on treatment and prevention programs.

- Funding Received to Date: \$5,498,458.51
- Funding Allocations to Date: \$3,647,362.36 (Approved by the Opioid Abatement Board and the Board of County Commissioners)
- Escambia County Sheriff's Office: \$484,348 for 14 narcotic analyzers that will enable deputies and other personnel to safely scan for more than 498 suspected controlled substances.
- Pensacola Police Department: \$152,445.00 for five TruNarc Handheld Narcotics Analyzers that can identify more than 530 suspected narcotics in the field, protect officers from exposure and help get dealers off the streets.
- **Escambia County Corrections:** \$53,427.40 for two Mobile Trace Narcotic Units to assist, prevent, detect, and seize the use of contraband of illicit drugs within correctional facilities.
- Escambia County CORE Program: \$692,286.75 for FY 24-25 and FY 25-26 to cover any funding needs once state funding is exhausted, allowing the opioid recovery program to continue operating and helping individuals struggling with opioid addiction.
- NOFA FY 24-25 Awardees
  - Community Health Northwest Florida: \$500,000 to expand the CORE program.
  - Ministry Village at Olive: \$775,000 to expand housing for their women's recovery program.
  - Waterfront Mission: \$338,878 to expand housing for their men's recovery program.
  - Lakeview Center Community Action Team: \$224,705.87 to provide services for adolescent substance abusers ages 5 to 18.
  - Lakeview Center OPUS Program: \$348,477.00 to expand opioid addiction services for anyone over 18.

#### **VETERANS SERVICES**

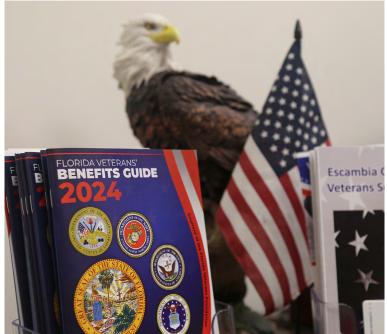
Veterans Services Officers (VSO)
Stevan E. Davis, CVSO and Lisa Horan, CVSO
CONTACT 850-595-2409

EMAIL VSO@myescambia.com

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Office of Veterans Services is to advocate with purpose and passion for Escambia County Veterans and link them to superior services, benefits and support.







#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In addition to meeting with veterans daily, Escambia County Veterans Services attended numerous events and participated in outreach initiatives including:
  - Homeless Veteran Stand down at the Brownsville Community Center
  - Unaccompanied Burial Event at Barrancas National Cemetery
  - Veterans Memorial Park outreach event
  - Beggs Lane homeless encampment outreach
  - Brentwood Tax Office community outreach event
  - Two nursing home outreaches
  - Six home visits to veterans in need of assistance.
- Hosted three community outreach events at Byrneville Community Center, Davisville Community Center and Molino Community Center, which were all well attended and continued to grow with each event. These outreach events are an important part of the service provided by the Escambia County VSO, as many Escambia County residents are unaware of their VA benefits. Many attendees were not aware of the Veterans Service Office and expressed their gratitude for the assistance provided, with many calling the help they received "life changing." These outreach events in northern Escambia County are particularly important to support elderly veterans who are hesitant to drive into Pensacola traffic, or those without reliable transportation or the financial means to travel.



#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In just three days of outreach events, the VSO established approximately \$20,896.61 in new recurring monthly income and approximately \$142,441.22 in retroactive payments for those veterans who attended the events. This is only a snapshot of what the VSO provides to the citizens of Escambia County.
- Indigent/Unclaimed Veteran Burials: Worked closely with Neighborhood and Human Services for six indigent/unclaimed veteran burials they processed. Recouped \$5,358.00 from the Veterans Administration for these burials, allowing this money to be returned to the Neighborhood and Human Services budget for other community projects.
- Homeless Veterans: The VSO is the first point of contact for organizations and individuals (Priority Veterans, 90Works, Volunteers of America, Waterfront Mission, VA Homeless Social Workers, etc.) for assisting homeless veterans in securing their benefits. The VSO provided on-site training to MSW, LCSW, and case workers for priority veterans and 90Works staff to enable them to better serve veterans. The VSO had over 130 homeless veteran contacts over the past years.
- Incarcerated Veterans: Assisted incarcerated veterans in securing and managing benefits while incarcerated, as well as those participating in Vet Court and other diversion programs. Helped reestablish benefits for veterans as part of their reintegration back into society after incarceration.











# ANIMAL WELFARE

DIRECTOR John Robinson

CONTACT 850-595-3075

EMAIL jarobinson@myescambia.com

#### 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.





LARGE HORSE RESCUE TRAINING



ANIMAL SEARCH AND RESCUE PELICAN RESCUE

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **ANIMAL WELFARE & ENFORCEMENT**

- Responded to more than 10,289 calls for service.
- Assisted other departments 578 times.
- Conducted 2,740 investigations for animal cruelty, animal attacks, bites, and dangerous dog complaints.
- Responded to 2,357 nuisance complaints.
- Responded to 3,245 stray animal calls.
- Responded to and provided aid for 201 injured wildlife calls
- Removed 425 deceased animals from roadways and public areas.
- Partnered with the Florida Department of Health to host a rabies vaccination clinic, providing vaccines for 99 dogs and 40 cats.
- Animal Search and Rescue team responded to Hurricane Helene to assist Taylor and Citrus counties.
   ASAR was also prepared to respond to Hurricane Milton if needed, remaining on standby if requested by impacted areas.
- ASAR Trainings Hosted a certification and recertification training for 22 individuals representing seven different agencies, including Escambia County's nine-member team, two boat rescue operation trainings, and one rope rescue training.



#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **ANIMAL WELFARE & ADOPTION CENTER**

- Kept 337 lost pets safe until they could be reunited with their grateful families.
- Found new forever homes for 1,814 pets through adoption.
- Transferred 262 pets to partner rescue organizations.
- 148 cats went through the trap, neuter, release program to help control cat population in targeted areas.
- Facilitated 3,585 animal intakes at the shelter, including:
  - 969 owner surrenders
  - 1,815 strays
  - 523 confiscations
  - 108 safety holds
- Pet Pantry with JoJo's Paws assisted 2,425 families in need with:
  - 25,793 pounds of dog food
  - 9,800 pounds of cat food
  - 6,654 cats helped
  - 5,366 dogs helped
- Performed 1,763 spay and neuter surgeries.
- Nearly 3,000 volunteer hours contributed to shelter operations and special events, with an average of 400 military volunteer hours per month.
- Participated in multiple offsite community outreach and adoption events to provide humane education and awareness for the shelter.
- Hosted a Dogs Playing for Life training for 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. Also allows the staff to spend more time with our animals and learn more about them for adoption.

# 1,814 SPETS ADOPTED



PETPALOOZA ADOPTION EVENT





PAW-DI GRAS EVENT



# BUILDING SERVICES

CONTACT 850-595-3550

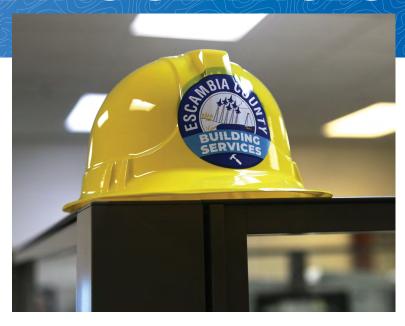
EMAIL jttolbert@myescambia.com

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Building Services Department provides a safeguard for the health, safety and welfare of Escambia County citizens, property owners, businesses and visitors by requiring the certification of individuals engaged in the business of contracting within the county, investigating contractor complaints, regulating contractor licenses and policing unpermitted or unlicensed building activities. The department also conducts plan reviews and inspection services to ensure the integrity of all new structures and major improvements to existing structures built in the unincorporated area of the county, while ensuring all residential and commercial construction is in compliance with state and local building codes.







#### ► FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued to ensure all permitted residential and commercial construction activity is in compliance with state and local building codes.
- Issued 26,348 building permits, with 1,114 new residential projects and 160 new commercial projects.
- Conducted same-day review of 61% of residential plans submitted, 93% of residential plans within three days, and 80% of commercial plans within 15 days.
- Performed 66,374 inspections on new construction, renovations, and alterations.
- Issued 520 Fire-Life Safety permits.
- Performed 784 Fire-Life Safety inspections.
- Maintained Escambia County's current CRS Rating of 6.
- Adopted the new 2025 FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Escambia County, which were last updated in 2006.
- Reviewed 64 applications for Examination for Certificate of Competency licensure that were approved by the Contractor Competency Board and Board of Electrical Examiners.
- Received and reviewed 34 written complaints against licensed contractors, with 72% resulting in resolution between the parties.
- Received and investigated 61 reports of unpermitted construction, with 90% of complaints coming into compliance.
- Participated in the Homebuilders Association's Home Expo, where staff provided citizens with information on permitting, inspections, floodplain management, licensing, and Fire/Life Safety practices.
- Provided all services without use of taxpayer funds only using funds from permitting fees.



### ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND MEDIA RELATIONS



FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Distributed over 496 news releases to provide residents and media with consistent, up-to-date information on county activities, seasonal safety campaigns, policies and programs.
- Responded to more than 923 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 200 informational videos for the web and TV.
- Maintained the county's social media accounts, posting approximately 1,633 times.
- Ensured the flow of up-to-date information to residents and the media during crisis events such as inclement weather.



PROJECTS DESIGNED BY CMR

DIRECTOR David Heroux
CONTACT 850-595-3629
EMAIL dmheroux@myescambia.com

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Escambia County Office 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.





#### ► FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Coordinated or assisted with county-wide special events, including ribbon-cutting ceremonies, park openings, groundbreakings and community meetings.
- Created more than 435 design products including business cards, flyers, brochures, postcards, posters, signage and more.
- Broadcasted 111 meetings for the Board of County Commissioners and county boards/committees live on ECTV, which can be found on channel 98 for Bright House, Cox Cable and Mediacom w(Pensacola Beach) subscribers and channel 99 for AT&T U-verse subscribers. Meetings are also available on MyEscambia.com on demand.



**BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY RIBBON CUTTING** 



FERRY PASS COMMUNITY CENTER RIBBON CUTTING



JENNINGS-GONZALEZ PARK RIBBON CUTTING



MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE RIBBON CUTTING



PAPER PARK RIBBON CUTTING



# CORRECTIONS

#### ORIDA CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXECUTIVE I

**DIRECTOR** Chief William "Rich" Powell **CONTACT** 850-595-3107 **EMAIL** wrpowell@myescambia.com

#### 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.





**IN2WORK PROGRAM** 



#### **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.

- Misdemeanor Probation: The program conducts investigative work, performs counseling, issue warrants and supervises sentenced probationers.
- Pre-Trial Release: This program is for defendants arrested on misdemeanor offenses and some felony offenses, depending upon the severity of the crime. The program manages and monitors defendants, assuring their appearance in court.
- Pre-Trial Diversion: This program is designed to afford alternatives to the traditional court disposition and reduce county court dockets to manageable levels. It is most often utilized by first offenders as referred by the court.
- Check Diversion/Restitution: This program assists in reducing the overwhelming docket (for worthless checks) of the Escambia County Court System and assists with alleviating jail overcrowding.
- Community Service: This program provides supervision to defendants to ensure that they successfully complete court-ordered community service work hours.





#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Corrections K-9 teams successfully thwarted 42 attempts to introduce contraband into the facilities and thwarted one escape attempt.
- 60 inmates received the welding course completion certificates, and 67 inmates achieved the American Welding Society National Certification.
- 13 inmates received their GED from the Escambia County Jail.
- The Animal Care Technical Training Re-entry Program through the Escambia County Animal Shelter issued eight program completion certificates.
- The Parenting Program has issued 19 certificates since June 1, 2025.
- The Holistic Life Skills Re-entry Program has issued 104 certificates since June 1, 2025.
- The Anger Management Program issued 268 certificates.
- Harvested over 149,000 pounds of vegetables, teaching inmates horticulture and supplementing the food cost for the Work Annex population.
- Used inmate labor for the Work Annex parking lot paving project.
- Completed over 4,741 work orders throughout the county with the use of inmate labor.
- The Sidewalk Beautification Inmate Crews completed one round of their scheduled route, which is approximately 600 miles of sidewalks.
- The Litter Inmate Crews collected 28,304 bags of trash, which is approximately 9,435 cubic yards.
   These numbers do not take into consideration larger items like tires, boxes, grocery carts, etc.
- Holding Pond Inmate Crews mowed 10,735 acres.
- Corrections had 36 academy graduates from three completed academies.
- Corrections K-9 team assisted local law enforcement agencies in search, rescue, and recovery tasks.



# ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

DIRECTOR Horace Jones
CONTACT 850-595-3625
EMAIL hljones@myescambia.com

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Escambia County Development Services
Department 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.



#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Development Services Department processed 201 cases total, including:

#### 160 DRC projects (does not include pre-application submittals)

- 12 construction plans
- 13 final plats
- 19 minor (unplatted) subdivisions
- 1 master plan
- 17 preliminary plats
- 1 preliminary plat/construction plan
- 89 major site plans
- 8 minor site plans

#### 26 Planning Board cases

- 15 rezonings
- 6 small-scale amendments
- 2 Comprehensive Plan amendments
- 3 opt-outs of Sector Plan

#### 15 Board of Adjustment cases

- 12 conditional uses
- 3 variances

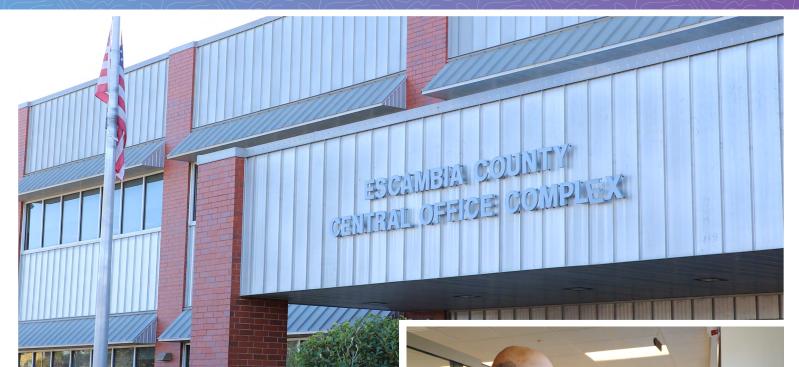
#### - 3,926 permits issued

- 3.085 land use
- 120 land management
- 505 rights of way
- 216 driveways



# PERMITS ISSUED





#### **Geographic Information System Statistics**

- Handled more than 240 general GIS website requests.
- Issued over 579 letters regarding addresses/verification of maps or data findings.
- Created 37,910 structure addresses.
- Added 22 streets to GIS and processed via petition and/or subdivision plat and named by BCC.
- More than 1,032 maps created, printed or provided electronically for outside agencies/boards working with the BCC.
- Created 15 new web mapping applications for public access.
- 96 assets added in GIS:
  - 6 stormwater ponds
  - 91 street segments







# ENGINEERING

DIRECTOR Joy Blackmon, P.E.

CONTACT 850-595-3440

EMAIL jdblackmon@myescambia.com

#### MISSION STATEMENT

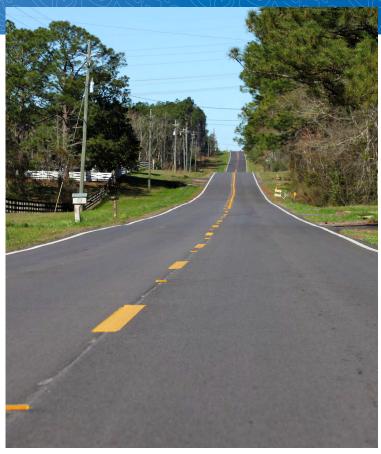
Provides high quality, exceptional engineering services that are needed to maintain, enhance, and grow the infrastructure system in a manner that continues to promote economic growth and improve the quality of life for all. The Engineering Department is responsible for the design and construction of 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.



**WOODRUN BRIDGE** 



PATTON DRIVE RESURFACING



**COUNTY ROAD 196 RESURFACING** 

The Engineering Department includes the following divisions:

#### **Transportation and Traffic Operations Division**

The goal of the TTO 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.



HIGHWAY 164 RESURFACING

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **Construction Management/Stormwater**

- Awarded 25 design project contracts totaling more than \$9.8 million.
- Awarded 52 construction project contracts totaling more than \$33 million.
- Currently managing more than \$23 million in open contracts for projects in the design phase.
- Currently managing more that \$54 million in open contracts in the construction phase, including Beach Haven Phase 2, Longleaf Drive, Devine Farms Bridge Replacement Chemstrand South Sidewalks, Palmetto/Live Oak Drainage, Bayou Grande Drainage, and Chandler Street Drainage.
- Resurfaced 17.64 miles of roadway.
- Paved two dirt roads: Rockey Branch Road and Four Star Farm Road.
- Currently managing more than \$146 million in grant funds:

ARPA: \$36,617,345Resilient: \$27,157,819Legislative: \$440,000CDBG: \$32,519,020

HMGP: \$15,346,553HMGP-DEO: \$32,519,019

- Ian: \$2,043,777

#### **Transportation and Traffic Operations**

- Maintained 211 traffic signals throughout the county, including 45 signals at county intersections and 166 at FDOT intersections.
- Maintained 125 school zone beacons.
- Completed 170 miles of road striping.
- Added or replaced 1,979 sign panels.
- Added 35 speed tables (traffic calming devices).
- Added 7 miles of sidewalk.
- Maintained 2,141 streetlights.
- Added 95 new streetlights, with another 259 new streetlights pending.
- Facilitated more than 4 million vehicles through the Bob Sikes Bridge Toll Plaza as of September 2025.





SIGUENZA COVE RESURFACING



GIBSON ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT



# EXTENSION SERVICES

CONTACT 850-475-5230
EMAIL n.simmons@ufl.edu

#### 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.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **Natural Resources**

- Taught Green Industries Best Management Practices to 47 pest control providers as part of a continuing education course, and 32 attendees at Santa Rosa Correctional Institute over two training sessions.
- Organized and facilitated two half-day online Stormwater Webinars for 100 development professionals and two-day Oyster Restoration Workshop for 56 attendees.
- Coordinated and led Uplands, Coastal, and Environmental Interpretation Florida Master Naturalist classes for 49 students, for a total of 1,500 teaching and field hours. Twenty-six of these students created original final projects that will be used to educate the community on a variety of ecological concepts.
- Gave presentations on Florida-friendly landscaping techniques to 118 members of six community organizations.
- Wrote and published 41 articles for "Weekly What is it" natural resources blog, which reached 18,675 clientele by social media and 27,880 by email.
- Provided information on tree species for UWF Arbor Day celebration and coastal plants at giveaway on Pensacola Beach. Gave away 360 native fruit trees to 180 households for Arbor Day and 3,300 coastal plants to approximately 475 Escambia County residents.
- Led 8 field trips or class sessions on stormwater, marine science, bats, and composting to 273 K-12 students.



CENTURY BACK TO SCHOOL EXPO

#### **Sea Grant-Marine Science**

- Conducted a total of 76 trainings, events, and presentations, drawing approximately 4,430 attendees.
- Conducted scallop search training, with 134 volunteers participating in scallop surveys.
- Conducted horseshoe crab watch volunteer training for 50 volunteers.
- Offered 3 invasive species presentations to educate the public.
- Offered 7 coastal wildlife presentations, drawing 460 attendees.
- Offered a water quality presentation to the public for 18 attendees.
- Conducted 6 Florida Master Naturalist courses for 44 participants.
- Hosted 10 natural resource presentations and events, with a primary focus of educating the public about local snakes.
- Facilitated 11 youth presentations, events, and field schools, with topics including bats and coastal ecology.
- Secured two grants from the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program for the Panhandle Terrapin Project: one totaling \$16,500 and another totaling \$58,907.
- Sea Grant citizen science volunteers logged 952 hours. Based on value of volunteer time by the independent sector, this was a value of just under \$32,000 saved by the county, and other agencies, by using volunteer work.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **4-H Youth Development**

- During the 2024-2025 4-H year, 13,914 youth throughout Escambia County participated in 4-H programs (28% of the county's youth population ages 5-18).
- Approximately 150 volunteers donated over 2,600 hours of 4-H programming, with an economic value to Escambia County exceeding \$83,000.
- Secured a \$2,500 grant from Florida Ag in the Classroom for the 2025 Tailgate Day Camp.
- Four 4-H judging teams were crowned state champions in their respective state contests.
- At 4-H University, the state 4-H conference, Escambia County had the state winners in the following categories: Public Speaking, Share-the-Fun (talent), Demonstrations, Photography, and Graphic Design.
- The Escambia County 4-H Team earned a national 4-H award for Excellence in 4-H Volunteerism.

#### **Horticulture**

- The Master Gardener Volunteer Program utilized grant funds totaling \$1,000 to renovate the educational vegetable gardens. Volunteers utilized the new educational features to offer five educational programs for the public on soils, starting gardens, composting, pest management, and saving seeds.
- The Horticulture Program offered eight specialized training sessions for 188 horticulture professionals.
- Developed a partnership with Bellview Library to create a pollinator garden and offer four hands-on gardening experiences for youth.



**BELLVIEW LIBRARY POLLINATOR GARDEN** 

# \$3,914

# YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN 4-H PROGRAMS

#### **Agriculture & Natural Resources**

- Conducted 4 large-scale educational events, reaching more than 530 participants: Farm Day Extension Meeting, Corn & Soybean Field Day, Extension Farm Field Day, and Panhandle Landowner Assistance Expo.
- Conducted more than 100 producer/site visits and one-on-one consultations.
- Conducted approximately 20 drone/remote-sensing scouting missions, scanning 3,000-4,000 acres.
- Submitted or interpreted approximately 150 soil/tissue/water samples.
- Leveraged \$37,500 in grant funding through FDACS BMP Mini-Grants and sponsors.
- Engaged numerous industry/civic partners for a variety of initiatives and programs.
- Hosted a Farm Day Extension Meeting with 80 participants, bringing together growers, specialists, and industry partners to share the latest research and recommendations for peanut and row-crop production.
- Hosted a Corn and Soybean Field Day with 50 participants, which included a research demonstration, fertility and disease updates with UF/IFAS specialists.
- Hosted Extension Farm Field Day with 100
   participants, bringing together growers, specialists,
   and industry partners at WFREC to review current
   research and trials. Participants learned about
   cotton and peanut varieties, fertility management,
   pest and disease control, and emerging challenges
   like deer herbivory.
- Conducted on-farm research and demonstrations, including:
  - Exploring Cover Crop Impacts on Cotton Yield
  - Advanced Cotton Farming: Enhancing Yield and Sustainability with Drone Technology
  - Cotton Variety and Management Checks
  - Peanut Variety Trials: Five total varieties are being tested to provide county data regarding variety selection for farmers.



MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **Food & Consumer Science**

- Taught a series of educational programs on diabetes, food safety, prevention of lifestyle diseases, elder nutrition, food preservation, financial management, and mental health. Programs reached approximately 61,370 Escambia County residents.
- Distributed 347 Senior Table Talk nutritional newsletters through Council on Aging of West Florida, Meals on Wheels, and nutrition food sites.
- Home and Community Education volunteers contributed \$218,545.71 with a total of 7,431 volunteer hours to the community.
- Participated in annual community programs, including Farm to City and the Peanut Butter Challenge.

#### **Commercial Livestock**

- Designed and implemented a new, integrated cattle breeding website aimed at bridging large and small livestock producers to industry representatives and veterinarians. The program focuses on genetic proficiency and collaborations.
- Received the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Distinguished Service Award.
- Hosted the third annual Panhandle Cattlemen's College. This annual event teaches new and beginning farmers about safe cattle handling, vaccinations, breeding, and nutritional management. The PCC team was recognized nationally for their efforts and program success.
- Provided 46 individual client consultations related to cattle management, horse management, forage selection and hay testing.

#### **Expanded Food & Nutrition Program**

- Reached 123 adults at 10 sites and 1,490 youth at 25 sites.
- Participated in 10 events across the county, including school supply distributions, Farm to City peanut butter and food safety information distribution, and more.
- Participated in professional development trainings, including the UF Professional Business Conference in Gainesville, EFNEP Annual Training in-Hillsborough County, and the 1890s Multi State Symposium.
- Assisted in REAP Maxwell House getting a \$10,000 Pathways to Wellness -Project for Peace Grant.
- Members of the EFNEP Team traveled to Gainesville to assemble and bring back over 300 dental and health kits for the homeless and residents at the REAP houses (ongoing project).
- Members of the EFNEP Team participated in the EFNEP Cost Benefits Analysis (CBA).
- Conducted an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) project (ongoing project).



4-H PROGRAMMING



#### **ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF**

# FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

**DIRECTOR** Rob Hogan **CONTACT** 850-595-4626 **EMAIL** rehogan@myescambia.com

#### 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, Real Estate.





**NEW BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY** 



#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 24,925 Facilities Maintenance work orders from April 2024 through April 2025.
- From Oct. 1, 2024, through May 2025, Maintenance received 15,865 new work requests and completed 12,022 work orders.
- Installed LED lighting upgrades in various county buildings including the Ernie Lee Magaha Parking Garage and Employee Health Clinic.
- Installed new HVAC units in various county buildings.
- Repaired/upgraded chiller plant serving the five office buildings of the downtown governmental complex.
- Installed a new cooling tower at the M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building.



#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Replaced 19 heat pumps at the Public Safety Building.
- Currently managing 31 county projects that involve 235 parcels in need of acquisition or easements, of which, two projects (five parcels) are a partnership with the U.S. Navy.
- Received \$2,592 in surplus revenues for used furniture sales and recycled items from July 2024 through May 2025.
- Completed the Brentwood Tax Collector's Office and the Brownsville Library construction projects.
- Completed the new District 4 Community Center in Ferry Pass using internal Facilities Management Maintenance resources.
- Installed 27 new generator pads for community centers, fire stations, and ponds.
- Implemented security system upgrades for various buildings throughout the county.
- Facilitated implementation of the new Brightly CMMS Asset Management software platform across seven departments.
- Managed construction of a new maintenance/office facility at Solid Waste Landfill by recycling old steel building structure from another county-owned property.
- Renovated Ensley Fire Station's living quarters.







FERRY PASS COMMUNITY CENTER

#### **UPCOMING PROJECTS (IN THE DESIGN PHASE)**

- District 1 Medical Examiner's Office
- Four new fire stations (Kingsfield Road, Myrtle Grove, Paradise Beach, and Pleasant Grove)
- New Regional Traffic Management Facility
- Pensacola Bay Center capital improvement/upgrade projects
- Pensacola Bay Center Capital Improvement Plan coordination
- State Attorney's Office renovations
- Casino Beach traffic study

- New Animal Shelter facility project
- New Englewood Community Center
- Community Development Block Grant –
   Disaster Recovery (CDBG) Design and
   Construction Services New Escambia County
   Transit Authority facility
- Community Development Block Grant –
   Disaster Recovery (CDBG) Environmental
   Consultant Negotiations Century Community
   Center/Emergency Shelter



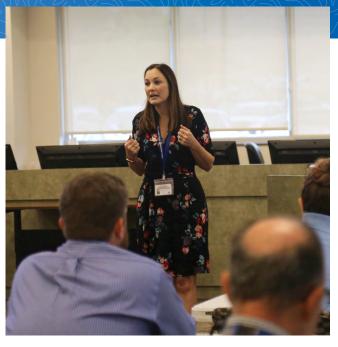
# HUMAN RESOURCES

CONTACT 850-595-3279

EMAIL nlpowell@myescambia.com

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Human Resources Department 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.



#### ► About HR

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. The Human Resources Department also ensures BCC is following all applicable employment-related local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Additionally, Human Resources administers the group medical, dental, vision, life, retirement, deferred compensation, and cafeteria plan benefits to all county employees serviced by the BCC HR staff. HR also manages benefits and for all other county constitutional offices (Clerk of the Court's Office, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, Santa Rosa Island Authority, Court Administration and Housing Finance Authority).



#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **Benefits**

- Hosted the annual health fair at the Brownsville Community Center in May, with 35 vendors and county departments. Over 160 employees attended the event.
- Benefits Manager completed the 18-month Certified Public Manager (CPM) course with Florida State University.
- Worked closely with the Payroll Department to ensure a streamlined process for completing open enrollment, eliminating manual entries.
- Continues to manage all benefits for county employees, retirees and Constitutional Offices, totaling over 3,500 individuals.
- Completed the RFP process for the employee health clinic.
- Completed the RFP process for broker services.



#### JOB VACANCIES FILLED

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **Employment**

- Filled 347 job vacancies.
- Modernized HR forms to be more user-friendly, resulting in smoother submissions and fewer errors.
- Developed checklists to streamline personnel processes and improve efficiency across multiple workflows.
- Enhanced Onboarding Process: Added an additional communication step in onboarding to ensure applicants receive timely updates. This has boosted applicant satisfaction and created a more positive candidate experience.
- Promotions: Promoted three HR Associates into HR Specialist roles, strengthening the HR team's capacity and expertise.
- Created the role of Personnel Coordinator to better support departmental operations and workload balance.
- Completed a reorganization of two major departments – Information Technology and Waste Services – including: salary studies, updated job descriptions, and structural realignment for efficiency and clarity.
- Updated standard operating procedures for consistency and training purposes.
- Worked with Employee Relations to introduce micro training sessions with HR staff to build skills and reinforce best practices.

#### **Employee Relations**

- Delivered multiple countywide Mental Health Awareness Trainings and Wellness Trainings, increasing employee access to resources that promote resilience, balance, and overall well-being.
- Led initiatives that strengthened the culture of professionalism across all departments, focusing on respectful workplace practices, accountability, and integrity.
- Launched targeted training programs addressing conflict resolution, effective communication, and leadership skills, resulting in improved workplace interactions and team collaboration.
- Developed and facilitated specialized sessions for managers and supervisors, equipping them with tools to better support staff, handle sensitive issues, and maintain compliance with policy.

- Enhanced employee trust by reinforcing a confidential, fair, and consistent approach to handling workplace concerns and investigations.
- Coordinated with department leaders to embed wellness and professional behavior expectations into daily operations, making them part of the county's culture rather than stand-alone initiatives.
- Hosted awareness campaigns aligned with Mental Health Month and other observances, increasing employee engagement and participation in wellness programs.
- Supported organizational growth through proactive employee relations strategies, reducing the number of repeat issues and fostering a healthier, more productive work environment
- Championed the county's "Culture of Care" initiative, aligning employee relations efforts with the broader mission of creating a respectful, inclusive, and professional workplace for all employees.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **Risk Management**

- Developed and improved department-specific Safety Training Programs.
- Reviewed and updated all Risk Management policies.
- Conducted quarterly workers' compensation training to help reduce workplace accident/injuries.
- Renewed approximately \$10 million in county insurance policies.
- Reviewed and gave insurance recommendations on 380 Certificates of Insurance for RFP and other projects.
- Facilitated new trainings for county employees through industrial safety liaison.
- Facilitated active shooter training for over 2,000 employees including the Constitutional Offices and the Santa Rosa Island Authority.
- Implemented an emergency notification system for emergency situations at county buildings.
- Conducted building evaluations for safety and security.
- Reviewed and approved dive control standards to improve safety for Marine Resources employees.
- Performed 25 air samples for county buildings to ensure employee safety.
- Risk Management by the Numbers:
  - Workers' Compensation Reported Claims: 325
  - Workers' Compensation Temporary Duty Assignments: 90
  - Certificate of Insurance Approvals: 340
  - Safety Inspections: 125
  - General Liability Claims Processed: 75
  - Training Hours Conducted: 75



# ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DIRECTOR John Erar
CONTACT 850-595-1678
EMAIL jferar@myescambia.com

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Information Technology Department 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.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed more than 6,900 work orders, achieving a 91.2% customer satisfaction rating and maintaining a 99.98% system uptime.
- Achieved 81.1% Service Level Expectation (SLE) on time.
- EMS Equipment Upgrade: Deployed 62 tablets to EMS teams, replacing outdated devices and supporting new crew expansions.
- Upgraded Fire Technology: 19 printers deployed throughout the various fire stations.
- Migrated the TeleStaff application from the Kronos Private Cloud (KPC) to the Google Cloud Platform.
- County-hosted website fully migrated to a secure cost-effective and scalable cloud environment.
- IT service desk ticketing system migrated to a cloud-based platform, improving reliability, user metrics, and accessibility
- Improved network integrity for all county IDs, VPN connectivity, and applications to improve our security posture and resiliency.
- Enhanced WAN connections to support the increased load from VPN and cellular users.
- Coordinated the launch of the new OPAC system for the library, greatly increasing the mobile and desktop functionality for public use.
- Initiated new communication framework with all county stakeholders and Constitutional Offices.



#### By the Numbers:

- Average number of users per IT Service Desk personnel: 1:469
- Average number of PCs per IT Service Desk personnel: 1:475
- Average monthly visits to MyEscambia.com: 69,356
- Verizon devices (Phones/Tablets): 1,298
- Desktop/laptop devices: 1,900
- FirstNet devices: 153





# LIBRARY SERVICES

DIRECTOR Christal Bell-Rivera (Interim)
CONTACT 850-436-5033
EMAIL cbrivera@myescambia.com

#### VISION STATEMENT

Be the heart of our diverse community, where everyone is welcome 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.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Welcomed more than 440,000 visitors, with Escambia County residents checking out over 1 million items throughout the year.
- Enabled more than 100,000 Wi-Fi sessions and supported over 61,000 public computer uses, ensuring equitable digital access for the community.
- Hosted 3,500+ events, including story times, book clubs, tech workshops, and live performances, drawing over 100,000 attendees across all locations.
- Delivered more than 12,000 baby, family, and STEM-focused story times to foster early literacy and lifelong learning.
- Continued the beloved Read with a Dog program, supporting young readers in building literacy skills through engaging, interactive sessions with certified therapy dogs.
- Provided free tax assistance to more than 250 senior citizens through the AARP TaxAide Program, offering essential financial services to the community.
- Expanded nature programming in partnership with Big Lagoon State Park, offering outdoor and environmental activities for all ages.
- Opened the Brownsville Library, a new branch featuring a dedicated senior center designed to support older adults with opportunities for connection, learning, and enrichment.





**NEW BRANCH - BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY** 

440,000



WEST
FLORIDA
PUBLIC
LIBRARIES
VISITORS



BROWNSVILLE LIBRARY VENDING MACHINES

#### ► FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Installed a Library Express vending machine at the Brownsville Library, increasing access to materials through a convenient, self-service kiosk.
- Studio 1559 launched at Pensacola Library, a new community art space offering painting classes for all ages.
- Completed renovations at Pensacola Library, transforming the former picture book room into a vibrant Fiber Arts Studio offering personalized instruction in sewing, embroidery, and quilting.
- Opened a Makerspace at the Westside Library featuring 3D printers, laser cutting stations, and knowledgeable staff to support creative innovation.
- Upgraded Bellview Library's STEM Room into a state-of-the-art graphic design studio, equipped with high-performance computers and professional software, including Blender, AutoCAD, Adobe Creative Cloud, and Hero Forge.
- Introduced Sensory Service Saturdays and participated in a sensory outreach event, offering low-stimulation environments before opening hours for neurodivergent individuals, individuals with special needs, and their families.
- Upgraded to a modern Library Service Platform, enhancing the patron experience and streamlining internal operations.
- 38% of staff completed American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR/AED training, improving emergency preparedness and workplace safety.
- Created a culturally rich Day of the Dead exhibit featuring traditional bread recipes, educational signage, and a butterfly remembrance wall. The exhibit encouraged community reflection and included a bilingual guest storytime to promote cultural literacy.

- Developed and led a hands-on monarch butterfly program, growing milkweed and guiding butterflies through their whole life cycle. Children engaged in science-based learning and participated in a symbolic butterfly release tied to the Day of the Dead celebration, fostering environmental stewardship and cultural awareness.
- Partnered with Escambia County Emergency Management to offer disaster preparedness awareness programming.
- Continued the partnership with George Stone Technical Center by hosting GED classes at the Molino Library, supporting adult education and workforce development.
- Partnered with the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections to serve as early voting and polling locations, supporting civic engagement and voter access
- Participated in key community events, including the Fred Levin Way Festival, Books by the Bay, Be My Neighbor Day, and World Ocean Day.
- Hosted the 2025 Summer Reading Club from May 27 to Aug. 9, with children from newborn to age 17 collectively reading 2,489,453 minutes – surpassing last year's total and reflecting a strong community commitment to literacy.
- Delivered summer programming to local community centers, including Ebonwood, Brownsville,
   Wedgewood, and Lexington Terrace, providing enriching activities for youth during out-of-school months.
- In partnership with Feeding the Gulf Coast, distributed over 34,260 meals to children during the summer – a 116% increase from the previous year – addressing food insecurity while promoting summer learning.
- Distributed more than 30,000 seed packets through the Seed Library, offering free access to a variety of vegetables, herbs, flowers, and native plants to support local gardening and sustainable living.





ESCAMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

DIRECTOR Stephan Hall
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EMAIL sdhall@myescambia.com

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Escambia County Office of Management and Budget Services 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.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Managed 33 Miscellaneous Appropriations for local nonprofits and outside agencies.
- Managed 12 service agreements between providers and Escambia County.
- Processed 249 budget amendments totaling roughly \$820 million in various funding through Sept. 30, 2025.
- Maintained 205 MSBUs by department through Sept. 30, 2025
- Collected \$1.79 million for Fiscal Year 2025 through Sept. 30, 2025, by 199 MSBUs.
- Added 25 new MSBUs for street lighting, holding pond maintenance, and construction improvements to the MSBU roll in FY 24-25 through Sept. 30, 2025.
- Reviewed approximately 4,750 Personnel Action Forms to confirm budgeted salary and position, and correct cost center.





- Total budgeted BCC employees: 2,070 for FY 24-25
- Total budgeted Constitutional Officer and Judicial employees: 977.69 for FY 24-25
- TRIM violations: 0
- Developed and adopted through Administration and Board Action the FY 24-25 Budget in the amount of \$798,672,479, per F.S. Chapter 129. This budget is our best effort to provide the services and quality of life our citizens have come to expect.
- Millage Rates remained stable for FY 24-25 at the FY 23-24 level of 6.6165 County-wide, .685 Law Enforcement MSBU, and .359 for the Library MSBU.
- The FY 24-25 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 county Millage Rates remain at the amounts presented to the public and adopted by the BCC.
- Created and published both an interactive online and a printable FY 25-26 Proposed Budget book.
- Received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 24-25 Budget, for the 29th year, from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).
- Coordinated and implemented a new debt issuance, the Tourist Development Tax Revenue Note, Series 2025, in the aggregate amount of \$25,100,000 for the construction and equipping of improvements to the county's John R. Jones Athletic Complex.
- Satisfactorily fulfilled two separate requests for Escambia County financial and operational information from the State of Florida Governor's Office of DOGE (Deptartment of Government Efficiency).



# MASS TRANSIT

**DIRECTOR** Thaddeus Davenport (Interim) **CONTACT** 850-595-3229 **EMAIL** tjdavenport@myescambia.com

#### MISSION STATEMENT

To provide efficient, responsive services that enhance the quality of life, meet common needs and promote a safe and healthy community.



#### MISSION

The Mass Transit Department serves as Escambia County's public transportation system, encompassing both Escambia County Area Transit (ECAT) and Escambia County Community Transportation (ECCT). Escambia County is designated as the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. In this role, the County contracts with ECCT to provide Complementary Paratransit Service in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Florida Department of Transportation's Transportation Disadvantaged Plan.

ECAT operates daily fixed routes, shuttles, and commuter services, including the Non-Urbanized Area Transportation Program. Additionally, ECAT provides ADA-compliant complementary paratransit, supports the Transportation Disadvantaged Program, and offers On-Demand services to address transit needs in underserved or unserved areas.

- Secured significant funding and advanced major initiatives, including approval of its \$16.1 million FY 24-25 Operating and Capital Budget.
- Reviewed and revised ECAT job classifications to be reflective of industry standards to be able to hire and retain agency leadership.
- Appointed a new Operations Program Manager, Maintenance Manager, and Finance Manager.
- Developed and created two Safety and Training Specialists positions.
- Actively recruited 7 dispatchers and 29 microtransit drivers (through temporary labor services) for the Microtransit Pilot Program.
- Continued to develop a partnership with American Transit Training and Apprenticeship Innovators Network (ATTAIN) to establish an apprenticeship program.
- Continued the Student Transit Empowerment Program (STEP), which offers free bus rides for students.
- Monitored service quality and maintained performance standards benchmarked by FTA, FDOT, and the MTAC.





#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued upgrades to fixed-route operational and maintenance software for scheduling, and other operational efficiencies.
- Purchased 9 small buses for the Microtransit Pilot Program service to better manage fixed route services.
- Purchased 13 (replacement or additional) ADA vehicles for use during Paratransit Services within the Microtransit Pilot Program.
- Obtained 2 additional fixed-route service vehicles through FDOT, previously owned by JTrans in Marianna, Florida.
- Launched the Microtransit Pilot Program Expansion:
   A Service Development grant, awarded in August 2024, will now fund the purchase of vehicles and system hardware, as well as cover operational expenses for the microtransit service. This on-demand model is designed to enhance flexibility for riders.
- Upgraded and enhanced radio system to improve communications between dispatch, bus operators, Microtransit operators and safety.
- Maintained and reviewed all policies and procedures to ensure accurate reporting and compliance with all required agencies.
- Finalized several Standard Operating Procedures to educate staff and ensure compliance with regulatory agencies and transit standards.
- Fleet Maintenance Manager served as the Chairman/Vice Chairman of the Florida Transit Maintenance Consortium (FTMC). This provided ECAT with information and input on innovative transit programs available across the state.
- Implemented suggestions and recommendations from the Comprehensive Operating Analysis (COA) of all Fixed Route Services.
- Secured grant funding to begin the process of replacing some of the older diesel fuel buses with electric buses, and to provide additional upgrades for the pending new Mass Transit Facility.
- Began the process of renovating bus shelters throughout LMI areas within the county.
- Completed and installed newly branded bus stop signs.
- ECAT was re-nominated by peer transit agencies across the state to become a voting member of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA).
- Continued to initiate 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.
- Successfully completed the FDOT Triennial Review Process and received many commendations related to Mass Transit operations.

# 2,347,562 MILES DRIVEN

- Over 2.3 million total miles driven, including ECAT's fixed route service, Paratransit, and Microtransit.
- Provided emergency transportation services to assist in evacuating flooded areas in the county and allowed route access to individuals participating in Escambia County's Point in Time Count.
- Maintained partnership with multiple agencies through the Circuit 1 Human Trafficking Task Force in an effort to combat and reduce human trafficking statistics within Escambia County.
- Re-established the Mass Transit Advisory Committee (MTAC), providing citizens with a platform to share feedback, offer suggestions, and interact directly with the agency's management team to help improve the overall efficiency of the transportation agency.







## NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**DIRECTOR** Chips Kirschenfeld **CONTACT** 850-595-1630 EMAIL jtkirsche@myescambia.com

#### 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: Coastal Programs, Environmental Enforcement, Marine Resources, Mosquito Control, Natural Resources Conservation, RESTORE / Resiliency, and Water Quality & Land Management.

#### **ENGAGED 2,122 CITIZENS AT COMMUNITY EVENTS AND** 120,000 PEOPLE THROUGH **SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### **COASTAL PROGRAMS**

To protect critical habitat and processes within our coastal ecosystems while providing equitable access for residents and visitors, through the use of science-based management and community engagement.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- \$14,000 Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program Community Grant awarded to Escambia County, Florida Sea Grant and USGS for the Panhandle Terrapin Project to support diamondback terrapin monitoring and community engagement.
- Assisted UF-Milton and USFWS in Gulf Coast Solitary Bee monitoring on Perdido Key and Pensacola Beach.
- Assisted Santa Rosa Island Authority in developing shorebird habitat mitigation project in support of current and future beach renourishment permit.

#### Sea Turtle Conservation Program

- 135 patrol days conducted by permitted volunteers, recording 37 nests and 28 false crawls.
- Conducted 9 sea turtle season training sessions for volunteers, beach vendors, and local property managers.
- Engaged 835 people at community events about sea turtle conservation.
- Sea Turtle Conservation Program volunteers dedicated over 2,600 hours for species monitoring and community outreach and engagement.



#### Perdido Key Habitat Conservation Plan

- Completed 90 project inspections to ensure compliance with the Perdido Key Habitat Conservation Plan, issuing 5 new permits.
- Joined the Perdido Key Beach Mouse SAFE program in partnership with Brevard Zoo to support beach mouse conservation.
- Assisted USFWS and Brevard Zoo with 3-night trapping event to acquire new founders for PKBM captive breeding population.



#### **Environmental Enforcment**

**Environmental Enforcement** enforces and investigates code, ordinance, state statute and administrative code violations committed in Escambia County.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Investigated more than 6,831 cases.
- Successfully closed 5,520 cases.
- Removed 32 dilapidated and non-compliant/unsafe structures.
- Completed over 189 lot abatements.
- Celebrated four years of being part of a joint neighborhood task force which includes the Sheriff's Office, Environmental Health, Animal Control, Property Appraiser's Office, Tax Collector's Office, State's Attorney's Office and the Road Department.







#### **Marine Resources**

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

- Provided staff support for monthly meetings of the Escambia County Marine Advisory Committee.
- Maintained 11 artificial reef sites and added 7 new artificial reefs, bringing the total number of artificial reefs to 665.
- Developed and delivered an Artificial Reefs Science Education Program for two local high schools.
- Monitored and maintained 8 public boat ramps.
- Monitored and maintained 13 Florida Uniform Waterway Marker Permitted Sites.
- Conducted monthly waterways surveys, documenting 41 vessels of concern and removing 6 derelict vessels, reflecting 100% of authorization and funding from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission grants.
- Provided 24 Internships for college/university students and recent graduates.
- Served as weighmaster for 6 local fishing tournaments.
- Planned and conducted three marine-themed workshops and symposiums.
- Developed and implemented the Scientific Diver
   Training Program and trained two Scientific Divers.
- Conducted maintenance dredging at Lafitte Cove Canal.

#### **Mosquito Control**

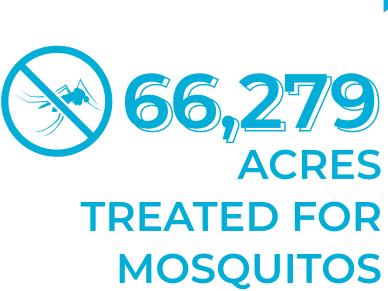
The mission of the **Mosquito Control Division** is to achieve and maintain levels of control of mosquitoes and other insects of public health or nuisance importance to protect human health and safety and improve the quality of life of people, promote economic development of the County, and facilitate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

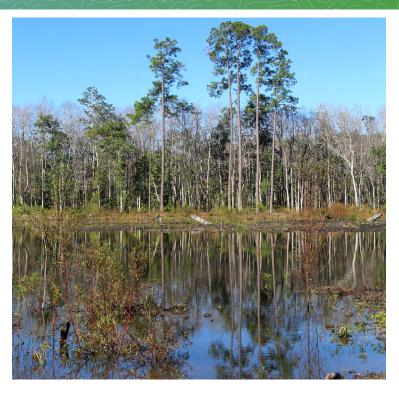
#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- State-certified and licensed personnel implemented integrated mosquito management 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. Chapter 5E-13, Florida Administrative Code.
- Mosquito Control has responded to 247 service requests, averaging less than 24 hours response time from the initial call to on-site inspection performed.
- In compliance with state regulations and NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) regulations, the division continues to achieve and maintain the control of mosquitoes on a countywide basis.

#### Mosquito Control FY 2024-2025 by the numbers:

- Service requests received and responded to: 247
- Independent field inspections: 7,233
- Larvicide applications: 1,507
- Acres treated: 66,279
- CDC light traps and BG Sentinel Trap missions: 64
- Biological Control Methods (Gambusia fish installations): 63
- Acres treated by adulticiding: 66,279





#### **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.

- Provided technical assistance to over 130 Escambia County citizens with natural resources topics, ranging from soil conservation, agricultural conservation programs, forestry and wildlife management, and invasive species treatment.
- Escambia County Environmental Geocache Tour hosted over 435 visitors, featuring 13 stops.
- Treated 22 acres of invasive plant species on county property, improving the local ecosystem and benefiting wildlife such as the gopher tortoise.
- Conducted 45 acres of forestry mulching on county property to help reduce wildfire threat, combat invasive plant species, and improve the overall health of the ecosystem.
- Completed a Forest Stewardship Management Plan for the Southwest Escambia Sports Complex, covering multiple use resource management practices, such as forestry, wildlife, and soil conservation.



# FOR INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

- The Southwest Escambia Sports Complex has been recognized as a "Certified Stewardship Forest" by the Florida Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program.
- Partnered with Girl Scout Troop 95023 to install a bat house at the Perdido Bay Boat Ramp. The project hopes to increase bat populations while naturally decreasing mosquito populations and the use of pesticides.
- Remained actively involved in the Escambia County Agriculture Tour Committee.
- Assisted a Northview High School student with his Eagle Scout project, which included building 4 wood duck boxes to be placed at Jones Swamp Wetland Preserve and the Southwest Escambia Sports Complex.
- Continued to provide technical assistance to the Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District's monthly meetings.
- Provided a summer internship to a senior at the University of Florida, majoring in Natural Resources Management.
- The division was awarded and/or completed four grants, totaling \$67,298:
- Florida Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Grant (\$23,650). This grant funded the creation of a Tree Arboretum at the Byrneville Community Park, in collaboration with the Northview High School FFA Chapter.
- Florida DEP Trails Management Grant (\$6,000). This grant funded two new kiosks and trail markers for the Southwest Greenway Trail in the Jones Swamp Wetland Preserve.
- Florida Forest Service Urban Forestry Education Grant (\$4,400). This grant will cover educational signage, to be placed at the Southwest Escambia Sports Complex, along with the purchase of educational brochures and retractable display stands.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund Grant (\$33,248). This grant funds 28 acres of forestry mulching at the Escambia County Equestrian Center and 12 acres of longleaf pine planting at Jones Swamp Preserve.







#### **RESTORE and Resiliency**

The RESTORE and Resiliency Division is dedicated to fostering sustainable environmental stewardship, economic revitalization, and community resilience. RESTORE and Resiliency is committed to the restoration and enhancement of our natural resources, the promotion of long-term economic growth, and the protection of our community from future environmental and economic challenges. By leveraging RESTORE Act funding, collaborating with stakeholders, and implementing innovative solutions, we aim to build a more resilient and prosperous future for all residents of Escambia County. The Division collaborates with Engineering, Facilities, and Parks Departments to complete planning, design and construction projects, and provides County-wide support for Environmental and real-estate Transaction Screening Assessments.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- MYIP 4 proposes 4 new projects totaling \$10,434,793
- Closed RESTORE, NRDA, NFWF, projects totaling \$4,858,833:
  - Beulah Master Plan: \$581,220
  - Cantonment Community Center (Design): \$216,195
  - Perdido Key Multi-Use Path: \$4,061,418
- Started RESTORE and Resiliency projects totaling \$40.972,524;
  - Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline (Construction): \$34,970,422
  - Carpenter Creek Headwaters (Construction): \$2,512,102
  - O.C. Phillips Bridge Replacement (Construction): \$2,000,000
  - Stormwater Pond Retrofit Design, Permitting, and CEI: \$490,000
- Received RESTORE, NRDA, FDEP, NFWF, and DOI/REPI grants and grant amendments totaling \$15,203,441:
  - Little Sabine Restoration Project: \$2,000,000
  - Bayou Grande Watershed Management Plan: \$500,000
  - Cantonment Community Center (Construction): \$1,300,759
  - Carpenter Creek Hydrologic Restoration and Stormwater Improvements: \$6,000,000
  - Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline \$4,002,762

#### Resiliency Program/Resilient Florida Program Progress

- Escambia County Vulnerability Assessment complete
- Escambia Couty Adaptation Plan completion anticipated 2026
- Maintained county-wide air monitoring network consisting of 12 sensors
- Hosted third annual Northwest Florida Resiliency Seminar
- Resiliency for Pensacola & West Pensacola's Urban Forests – A Canopy Study funded by the Florida Forestry Service - Complete
- Brownfields Program

#### EPA Assessment Grant 2024 - 2025 accomplishments

- Phase I ESAs completed/in progress: 11
- Phase II ESAs completed/in progress: 1
- ABCAs completed: 1
- Transaction screening assessments completed: 31





#### **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 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Escambia County Water Quality Laboratory maintained certification from the Florida Department of Health, performing 4,099 analyses during the year at an estimated annual cost savings of more than \$50,000 annually.
- Conducted surface water quality monitoring at 70 stations located throughout Escambia County.
   Stations were monitored monthly for bacteria, and every other month for nutrients, total suspended solids, and chlorophyll-a. 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
- Continued a 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, while working to update the existing county-wide stormwater management plan and associated standard operating procedures.
- Conducted 1,014 proactive inspections and 21 reactive inspections to identify and eliminate illicit discharges and connections to the Escambia County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.
- 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.
- Assisted Escambia County Waste Services with groundwater and surface water sampling for one active (Perdido Landfill) and three closed (Beulah, Klondike, and Saufley Field Landfills) solid waste facilities. Annual cost savings to Waste Services is estimated at approximately \$100,000 annually.

# TOO 4,099 WATER QUALITY ANALYSES PERFORMED

- Provided technical support for millions in both competitive and noncompetitive grants funded through programs such as the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, National Coastal Resistant Fund, Resilient Florida, Natural Resources Damage Assessment, RESTORE Direct Component, Gulf Coast Restoration Council, and Gulf Consortium.
- Conducted required project-based monitoring for environmental restoration projects including Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline, Jones and Jackson Creek Floodplain Restorations, NRCS Pensacola Bay Nutrient Reduction Project, and Navy Point.
- Provided field and analytical support for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf Environmental Measurement and Modeling Division to study the fate, transport, and treatment of tire-derived pollutants in stormwater.
- Monitored county permitted recycling facilities for airborne particulates. Data generated was used to determine permit compliance.





# NEIGHBORHOOD AND HUMAN SERVICES

**DIRECTOR** Clara Long **CONTACT** 850-595-3596 **EMAIL** cflong@myescambia.com

#### 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.



#### **Community Centers**

- Hosted the Play, Learn, and Grow Summer Camp Program with more than 400 youth participating at the Brownsville, Ebonwood, Lexington Terrace, and Wedgewood Community Centers.
- More than 35 youth participated in the Brownsville Community Center Performing Arts Club.
- Established food pantries at the Brownsville Community Center, Ebonwood Community Center, and Wedgewood Community Center, providing over 30 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.
- Hosted Yoga and Zumba fitness programs at the Brownsville and Wedgewood Community Centers, with more than 80 participants.
- Hosted numerous events with community partners at Brownsville Community Center.







**GROW SUMMER CAMP** 

#### **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 plan for nine development districts: Atwood, Barrancas, Brownsville, Cantonment, Englewood, Ensley, Palafox, Oakfield and Warrington.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Awarded 51 grants through the Residential Rehab Grant Program, totaling \$288,658.
- Awarded 14 grants through the Residential Exterior Painting/Hazardous Tree Program, totaling \$52,390.
- Awarded 24 grants through the Income-Based Roofing Program, totaling \$237,058.
- Completed 17 Community Cleanups Removed more than 800 tons of bulk and yard waste and over 7,000 tires from CRA and Safe Neighborhood districts.
- Maintained 2,131 Streetlights Kept neighborhoods bright and safe with a \$926,586 investment in lighting across all CRA and Safe Neighborhood districts.
- Provided \$3.2 Million in Capital Improvements —
   Delivered major projects including stormwater and
   drainage upgrades, new pickleball courts,
   playground enhancements, sidewalks, and design
   plans for the South Navy Boulevard Corridor Plan.
- Invested \$70,000 in Green Spaces Ensured CRA parks and open spaces remain vibrant, safe, and well-maintained for the community.







# 7,000

TIRES REMOVED FROM
CRA AND SAFE
NEIGHBORHOOD
DISTRICS

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **Human Assistance**

- The Indigent Burial/Cremation Program is designed to provide payment of expenses incurred for the disposition of deceased persons declared unclaimed or indigent (by program standards), or non-resident if the death occurred in Escambia County.
- Assisted 300 families with Indigent Cremation, expending \$193,700.
- Assisted 223 families with Indigent Transport to local participating Indigent Program Funeral home, expending \$22,300.
- Assisted 418 households through the Emergency Mortgage, Rental and Utility Assistance Program and Utility Assistance Program, expending \$516,000. This program is considered as a last resort after all means of acquiring assistance have failed. This program was administered through the NHS Low Income Direct Assistance (LDEAP) and Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).



- Graduated 21 students through the Block-by-Block Program, which assists Escambia County citizens aged 16-24 on the job workforce training in various skills such as carpentry, electrical, HVAC, masonry, plumbing, welding and cybersecurity. Of these graduates, 17 were NCCER qualified and 17 OSHA10 qualified, and 4 students were hired full time, expending, \$40,400.
- 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.

#### **Summer Youth Employment Program**

- The Summer Youth Employment Program provided on-the-job training for 250 youth in partnership with CareerSource Escarosa, expending \$585,000. A total of 18 students were hired full-time at various locations throughout the county.
- The Escambia County Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is open to youth ages 16-24 who are interested in an opportunity to get paid work experience. Qualified youth who are accepted into the program will be able to work up to 30 hours a week with positions available in various county departments along with the Escambia County School District, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector's Office and Supervisor of Elections Office.







#### **Neighborhood Enterprise**

The **Neighborhood Enterprise Division** seeks to increase the supply of decent, affordable housing through a variety of rental and homeownership 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.



- Continued the Wheelchair Ramp and Accessibility Program, which assists homeowners in gaining functional access to critical amenities in their properties.
- Escambia County Homeownership Initiatives -First-Time Homebuyers Program
  - 15 first-time homebuyers funded through the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program.
  - 12 first-time homebuyers funded through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.
  - 14 First-time Homebuyers with newly constructed homes through partnership with Habitat for Humanity.
- Housing Rehabilitation
  - 66 low-to moderate income households received rehabilitation projects funded through State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).



Households assisted in the Emergency Repair Program







#### Emergency Repair Program

 22 Households were assisted in the Emergency Repair Program for urgent repairs in low-income households, ensuring safe and stable living conditions.

#### 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: 3

#### Public Service Contracts

 Administered two public service contracts with the Council on Aging of West Florida and Legal Services of North Florida, funded through the Community Development Block Grant.



# PARKS AND RECREATION

CONTACT 850-475-5220
EMAIL merhodes@myescambia.com

#### 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 Parks and Recreation Department 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.



- 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 hundreds of volunteers that spend countless hours at these youth ballparks coaching, working in concession stands, and mentoring our local youth.
- Offered multiple adult sports leagues throughout the year, including men's, co-ed, and church league softball, and soccer.
- Recognizing a need in the community, Parks and Recreation created a local youth recreation-based all-star baseball tournament in summer 2022. The fourth tournament was hosted in summer 2025, with great success. 66 teams from Escambia County, the City of Pensacola, Santa Rosa County and Okaloosa County competed during the week long event at the county's John R. Jones Junior Athletic Complex.





- 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 a variety of events, including equine competitions, dog shows, rodeos, 5K runs, and other special events that yielded a total local economic impact of approximately \$6 million. The Equestrian Center also hosted a cross-country event with 79 high school teams competing at the facility, showing the diverse uses at this complex. The facility has also been an evacuation site for horses when in time of need due to storms across the region.
- 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.

### Park Projects, New Playgrounds or Park Enhancements

#### Paper Park at the International Paper Company Property:

- Escambia County opened this park in January 2025, complete with disc golf, walking track, playground, pavilion, and ample green space for passive recreation.

#### Jennings- Gonzalez Park:

- Escambia County opened this park in March 2025 and added a walking track in September 2025.

#### • Ferry Pass Community Center and Park:

- Escambia County opened this community center and park in March 2025.

#### Jack Reddix Park:

- Added a new playground.

#### Raymond Riddle Park:

- Added a new playground.

#### Lincoln Park:

- Added a new shade structure, along with ADA sidewalk and parking enhancements.

#### John R. Jones Junior Athletic Complex:

 Secured TDC funding to install artificial turf at this athletic facility, which will transform the park into a sports tournament and event destination. The project is expected to be completed over the next 18-24 months.







#### **Special Events**

#### Youth Recreation Baseball Tournament:

- The Parks and Recreation Department hosted the third edition of this event at John R. Jones Junior Athletic Complex, drawing 66 youth recreation teams for six nights of play.

#### SEC Women's Soccer Tournament:

- The county's Ashton Brosnaham Athletic Park hosted the SEC Women's Soccer tournament for third year in a row, drawing thousands of attendees. Each game is covered live on the SEC Network.

#### NAIA Women's National Soccer Championship:

- This event was held at the Ashton Brosnaham Athletic Park in December 2024, following the SEC Conference Championship. 16 teams from across the country competed in this national championship with Savanah College of Art and Design from Savanah, Georgia claiming the title in the weeklong championship.



## PUBLIC SAFETY

DIRECTOR Eric Gilmore
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#### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Escambia County Public Safety Department is to provide security and safety for all residents and patrons in the county through oversight and execution of strategic operational practices. The department also 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.

#### **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.

- Answered 90% of 9-1-1 calls in less than 15 seconds.
- Answered 95% of 9-1-1 calls in less than 20 seconds.
- Maintained an Emergency Medical/Fire Dispatch Compliance Score of 92% or better.
- Dispatched approximately 120,375 Fire Rescue calls.
- Dispatched approximately 75,500 EMS emergency calls.
- Dispatched approximately 10,700 EMS non-emergency calls.
- Answered approximately 190,000 9-1-1 calls.
- Answered approximately 326,000 non-emergency calls.
- Provided CPR instructions approximately 550 times.
- Provided choking instructions approximately 200 times.
- Provided airway instructions approximately 1,900 times.
- Enhanced redundancy of the 9-1-1 network to improve system reliability.
- Implemented a new Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocol for improved response efficiency.





- Strengthened cybersecurity measures for the 9-1-1 system.
- Hired a Quality Assurance Specialist to support performance and compliance.
- Replaced microwave radio batteries at multiple tower sites to ensure power backup.
- Executed a cybersecurity contract for the P25 radio system.
- Purchased IC-7300 radio for Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) support
- Enhanced wind load capacity for antennas on the Warrington tower.
- Replaced HVAC systems at three tower locations to maintain equipment cooling.
- Activated Emergency Support Function 2 (ESF2) during the March 15 severe weather event.



#### **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 provide 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.

- Responded to over 88,962 calls for service.
- Completed greater than 59,500 transports.
- Facilitated greater than 2,500 CORE appointments, which is a free recovery program for those struggling with opioid use.
- Assisted 432 CORE patients through the CORE program, successfully moving them into recovery.
- Refreshed the ambulance fleet with new and remounted vehicles.
- Trained and retained more than 73 new EMS employees (EMTs and Paramedics).
- Taught more than 184 American Heart Association CPR or related courses.
- Became a certified NAEMT Training Center.
- Increased community outreach through classes and events including Stop the Bleed, First Aid, Emergency Care, CPR, and Career Day presentations.







- Improved sepsis and stroke recognition and treatment, increasing stroke recognition from 33% to 81% in three months and improving cardiac arrest Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) rates from 8% to 47%.
- Participating in the CARES registry for cardiac arrest data collection to improve outcomes.
- Increased EMS staffing and retention, also adding supervisory staff.
- Added clinical equipment for improved patient care, including IV medication pumps and video laryngoscopes.
- Established an operational EMS Physician Program with surgical, technical rescue, and ultrasound capabilities.
- Developed and implemented cutting-edge medical protocols.
- Achieved Gold Tier Status for Pediatric Readiness.
- Added honey to EMS vehicles to improve button battery ingestion treatment.
- Instituted What-3-Words for improved responses, especially in remote or difficult to identify locations.
- Awarded first place for the 2025 Fire and Rescue Vehicle Graphics Contest for the Florida Sheriffs Association and Florida Fire Chief's Association.



EMS TEAM



**EMS TRAINING** 



EMS WITH THE BLUES



**EMS OPEN HOUSE** 



EMS OPEN HOUSE

#### **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 the citizens of Escambia County.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Hosted the second annual HERricane Florida: Landfall | Escambia County, a nationally recognized day camp designed to develop and elevate young women as leaders in emergency management - with generous support exceeding \$18,000 through both monetary contributions and in-kind donations, ensuring a high-impact, cost-free experience for all participants. The mission is to develop and elevate women as leaders in emergency management, while expanding the image of emergency management profession as a positive force for improving public safety and government.
- Hosted the annual countywide Hurricane Exercise on May 28 at the Escambia County Emergency Operations Center, expanded for the first time to include two sessions simulating operational shift changes for a more realistic experience.
- Strengthened countywide recovery readiness by improving Florida Recovery Obligation Calculator scores to 58% for Debris Removal and 59% for Emergency Protective Measures (out of 60%), up from 52% and 53% the previous year. These scores increase the county's ability to secure upfront disaster funding following a declaration.
- Implemented customized emergency support function training for the Escambia County
   Emergency Operations Center. This focused training enabled every position in the EOC to have specific training to their job function during an activation.
   Escambia County EM is one of the only counties in Florida that has such training.
- Hosted numerous foreign national delegations through Gulf Coast Diplomacy at the EOC. This included presentations to delegations from Ukraine, Indonesia, Moldova, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.
- Enhanced public safety operations for the Blue Angels Air Show on Pensacola Beach by implementing a vessel exclusion zone to improve first responder access and adding drone detection capabilities.



#### January Winter Storm:

- Hosted multiple National Weather Service calls and operation planning meetings days before the storm to coordinate an appropriate response to winter weather.
- Coordinated with partnering agencies and ECAT to provide shelter and transportation between daytime warming center and additional overnight sheltering.
- Worked with FDOT and Public Works to coordinate resources for state and county roads.
- Coordinated with the Coast Guard to transport critical patients off the beaches to the Port of Pensacola if necessary.
- Actively monitored the storm from the EOC real time.
- Accessed multiple bridges and roadways to inspect if they were passable for emergency vehicles.
- Provided updated information through social media and real-time weather reports.
- Conducted multiple interviews with media partners.

#### Spring Severe Weather Season:

- Emergency Management responded to a tornado on Feb. 11 near Copter Road to assist with coordination, damage assessment and media.
- Assisted the National Weather Service with surveying tornado damage on Feb. 12, with NWS designating it as an EF-1 tornado.
- Coordinated a potential response to severe weather the evening of March 15 and into the morning of March 16. Staff worked out of the Emergency Operations Center on March 15, monitoring the thunderstorms and keeping the public informed.
   Fortunately, the storms did not impact the Escambia County area.
- Responded to two tornadoes on May 10 in Pensacola Beach and Warrington, both rated EF-1 by the National Weather Service. Emergency Management visited the damaged areas and coordinated with the National Weather Service for their assessment.



**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM** 





HURRICANE EXERCISE



EM ON THE RADIO WITH CAT COUNTRY



**HERricane DAY CAMP** 

#### **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.

Escambia County Fire Rescue 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 4 districts, while career firefighters operate out of 17 districts throughout Escambia County. Escambia County Fire Rescue also offers other emergency services such as hazardous materials response, special operations, swift water rescue, open water rescue and ALS non-transport.



#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Responded to 18,328 incidents.
- Responded to 1,209 calls for fire suppression, 227 of which were structure fires.
- Responded to 9,984 calls for medical emergencies and motor vehicle accidents.
- Responded to 2,273 incidents of false alarm system or sprinkler activations.
- Responded to 17 weather-related incidents.
- Installed 257 smoke alarms in homes at no cost to the homeowners/residents.
- Completed 134 public relations events.
- Community Risk Reduction position was created to enhance community engagement and bolster outreach programs.
- Promoted one Battalion Chief and five Lieutenants.
- Escambia County and the United States Navy finalized a land swap for the Fire Station that will be built in the Paradise Beach community.
- Funding was Identified and procurement is underway for four new fire stations: Myrtle Grove, Paradise Beach, Pleasant Grove and Kingsfield.
- ECFR obtained two aerials, four engines, six support vehicles, and two jet skis.
- ARPA funds were used to enhance ECFR's Urban Search & Rescue and hazmat capabilities.
- Increased community engagement such as ALS association, Gold Strong Childhood Cancer Awareness, Light Up the Night at Ascension Sacred Heart, and Miracle League.
- Moved into the new Beulah Fire Station.



- Assisted Naval Air Station Pensacola for the Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show.
- Hosted ECFR's annual awards ceremony recognizing Fire Department members' outstanding accomplishments.
- Four members retired after serving the county for over 25 years each.
- Featured in Florida Fire Chiefs Association magazine multiple times throughout the year, which recognizes ECFR throughout the state.
- Formulated an SOG for Mental Health that encompasses all of Public Safety.
- Acquired the property and buildings at the Myrtle Grove and Warrington Fire Stations.
- Purchased property next to Pleasant Grove to enhance the new fire station being built.
- Had a new roof installed at the Warrington fire station.
- Upgraded fire alarm systems in multiple fire stations.
- Additional staff were hired to operate a ladder truck out of the Ensley fire station.

#### · Fire Marshal's Office:

- Building plans reviewed: 2,613
- Development Review Committee plans reviewed: 507
- Fire system permits issued: 520
- Fire safety inspections/permits: 6,254
- Annual fire safety inspections: 2,200
- Revenue: \$169,885.35



PHYSICAL ABILITIES TEST



JACQUELINE HARRIS SCHOOL OUTREACH



HISTORIC SNOW DAY IN ESCAMBIA COUNTY



9/11 MEMORIAL CEREMONY



**HOUSE FIRE CALL** 



**ECFR LADDER TRUCKS** 

#### 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, lifequards patrol the beach with the use of patrol vehicles.

- Lifeguards performed over 461,000 preventative actions, educating the public about rip currents and other safety hazards.
- Helped to enforce beach rules and regulations over 347,000 times.
- Provided minor medical assistance to beach visitors 12,813 times.
- Performed 335 water rescues.
- Performed 130 major medical aids.
- Reunited 47 lost children with their families.
- Performed beach safety talks at local schools, Naval Air Station Pensacola, and other community events.
- Redesigned the Lifeguards' beach safety flyer, including QR codes for current beach flag conditions.
- Developed a text-alert system for current beach flag conditions.
- Implemented Watchtower, a new online system to more accurately track lifeguard statistics and resources.



- With fellow public safety agencies, successfully provided beach and water safety for the Pensacola Beach Blue Angels Air Show.
- Successfully completed the second season of guarding Perdido Key Beach Access #2.
- Provided lifeguard services to the Gulf Islands National Seashore at Opal Beach, Langdon Beach, and Johnson Beach.
- Conducted two sessions of the Junior Lifeguard Program, for a total of 18 youth participants.
- Hired and trained 26 new Lifeguards, bringing the team's total to 70 Lifeguards.
- Hired one new full-time Lifeguard Supervisor.
- Conducted joint training sessions with Escambia County EMS and Fire Rescue.
- Conducted joint training/competition sessions with surrounding lifeguard agencies.





PENSACOLA BEACH LIFEGUARDS



LIFEGUARD RESCUE TRUCK



LIFEGUARD TOWER 3



YELLOW FLAG WARNING



LIFEGUARD TRAINING



# PUBLIC WORKS

DIRECTOR James Higdon
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#### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Public Works Department is to provide efficient, responsive services that enhance the quality of life, meet common needs, and promote a safe and healthy community.

The Public Works 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, pot hole 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 Clean Sweeps.







# 12,245 WORK REQUESTS COMPLETED

- Completed 12,245 work requests.
- Removed 1,720 cubic yards of debris through street sweeping.
- Completed 3.5 rounds of sidewalk maintenance, totaling 100 miles of sidewalks.
- Maintained 252 county-owned lots.
- Rehabilitated 52 holding ponds.
- Maintained 731 holding ponds totaling approximately 1,007 acres, completing four mowing cycles of the holding pond areas.
- Patched 6,686 potholes while completing 1,680 requests.
- Mowed 6,136 miles of county right of way.
- Completed 32 clean sweeps.
- Fleet Maintenance completed 5,552 work orders, completing preventative maintenance and repair on a variety of county vehicles and equipment, including heavy equipment.



# PURCHASING



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#### 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.

### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Solicitations
  - Invitation to Bid (ITB)-89
  - Request for Proposals (RFP)-24
  - Request for Letters of Interest- 37
  - Purchase Orders Processed 1,677 totaling \$284,414,349.75
- 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:
  - Updating 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 National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) Forum.



#### **ORDERS PROCESSED**

- Continued 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 Champer of Commerce.
- Three Purchasing employees were certified as Florida Certified Contract Managers over the last Fiscal Year.
- Added 294 minority vendors to the vendor list in OpenGov, for a total of 1,998.
- Added 230 vendors to the vendor list in OpenGov, for a total of 4,185.
- Facilitated continuing contracts for engineering professional services and construction-related projects including paving, drainage and sidewalk repair.



**NIGP CHAPTER** 

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed solicitations for dirt road paving, bridge replacements, widening and drainage projects, home rehabilitation programs, and more.
- Facilitated continuing contracts for engineering professional services and construction-related projects including paving, drainage and sidewalk repair.
- Obtained approval to convert a Purchasing Specialist to a Purchasing Grants Coordinator.
- Used grant funding for 61 solicitations, with a budgeted amount of \$161,061,745.33.
- Posted 150 solicitations, with a budgeted amount of 206,387,760.33.



#### **NOTABLE PROJECTS**

- Pensacola Living Shoreline Magazine Point and Sherman Inlet Construction: \$23,078,895
- Pensacola Living Shoreline White Island Construction: \$10,083,690
- Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Monitoring Aerial Survey: \$201,802
- Design Services for the Pensacola Beach Gateway Improvements Project: \$707,405
- Casino Beach Traffic Improvements: \$604,249
- Resurfacing (all districts): \$4,333,639
- CDBG-DR Demolition Services for Escambia County Voluntary Home Buyout Program HS011: \$995,381
- Perdido Estates Stormwater Improvements: \$871,121
- Completed or advertised 13 Home Rehabilitations and Demo and Replacements
  - Rehab 223 N. Garfield Drive: \$59,500
  - Rehab 1112 N. 48th Avenue: \$62,000
  - Rehab 8110 Imperial Court: \$71,600
  - Rehab 208 Opal Avenue: \$57,810
  - Home Demo and Replacement 3426 W. Brainerd Street: \$195,100
  - Home Demo and Replacement 31 Milton Road
  - Home Demo and Replacement 740 W. Jordan Street
  - Home Demo and Replacement 1022 Alexandria Drive
  - Home Demo and Replacement 2719 W. Yonge Street
  - Home Demo and Replacement 3021 N. Miller Street
  - Home Demo and Replacement 411 Washington Street



# WASTE SERVICES

DIRECTOR Andrew Liess
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#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Escambia County Waste Services Department 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.







- Handled approximately 443,971 tons of waste at the Perdido Landfill.
- Continued the Perdido Landfill expansion planning project, which will include the rehabilitation to Beulah Road in order to create a safer corridor for public transportation and accommodate landfill traffic at the new expansion site. The Perdido Landfill has submitted FDEP and Army CORPS permits and is currently focused on cell designs.
- 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.
- The department's Re-blended Paint Program diverted approximately 227 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.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Hazardous Household Waste total tonnage from all activities totaled 9,825 tons.
- Conducted seven 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 2,011 tons removed)
  - Neighborhood Clean Sweeps Natural Resources
     Management/CRA 34 Clean Sweeps conducted
  - Marine Resources Derelict Vessel Program
  - UWF and Emerald Coast Waste consulting
  - UWF Science and Engineering Programs
  - ECUA Water Treatment Department



# TONS OF WASTE HANDLED





- 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 302.20 tons
  - Yard waste 9,938 tons
  - Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) 9,825 tons
  - Clean concrete 8,516 tons
  - Scrap Recycling (Southern Recycling) 293 tons
  - Electronics Recycling (Wise Recycling) 72 tons

