



Annual Report



Lee County
Southwest Florida



FY 2020-2021

Message from the County Manager



I am pleased to present the fiscal year 2020-21 Annual Report, as required by the Lee County Charter.

Lee County's success is a result of sound policy direction provided by the Lee Board of County Commissioners.

Our commissioners have adopted "quality of life" as a guiding philosophy as we prepare for a population in the not-so-distant future to be a county of more than 1 million residents.

Our county continues to conduct day-to-day business for our residents, visitors and businesses while addressing emerging issues that come our way, be they recovery from the pandemic or natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornados. We continue to forge ahead with major transportation and infrastructure projects, water quality improvements and flood mitigation, and programs to help with homelessness and housing.

Clear and open communication is essential so that everyone has the opportunity to play a role in building an even stronger community. We have created [interactive tools](#) to provide a range of information and resources for residents and visitors

The General Fund budget – the county's largest operating fund – is balanced. This, too, is an accomplishment.

The Board's policy direction and the exemplary work ethic of county employees has produced the financial and operational stability we experienced in FY20-21, which in turn has a direct impact on the quality of life and economy here in Lee County.

Sincerely,

Roger Desjarlais



Lee County
Southwest Florida

Board of County Commissioners



Cecil L Pendergrass
District 2
Chairman



Ray Sandelli
District 3
Vice Chairman



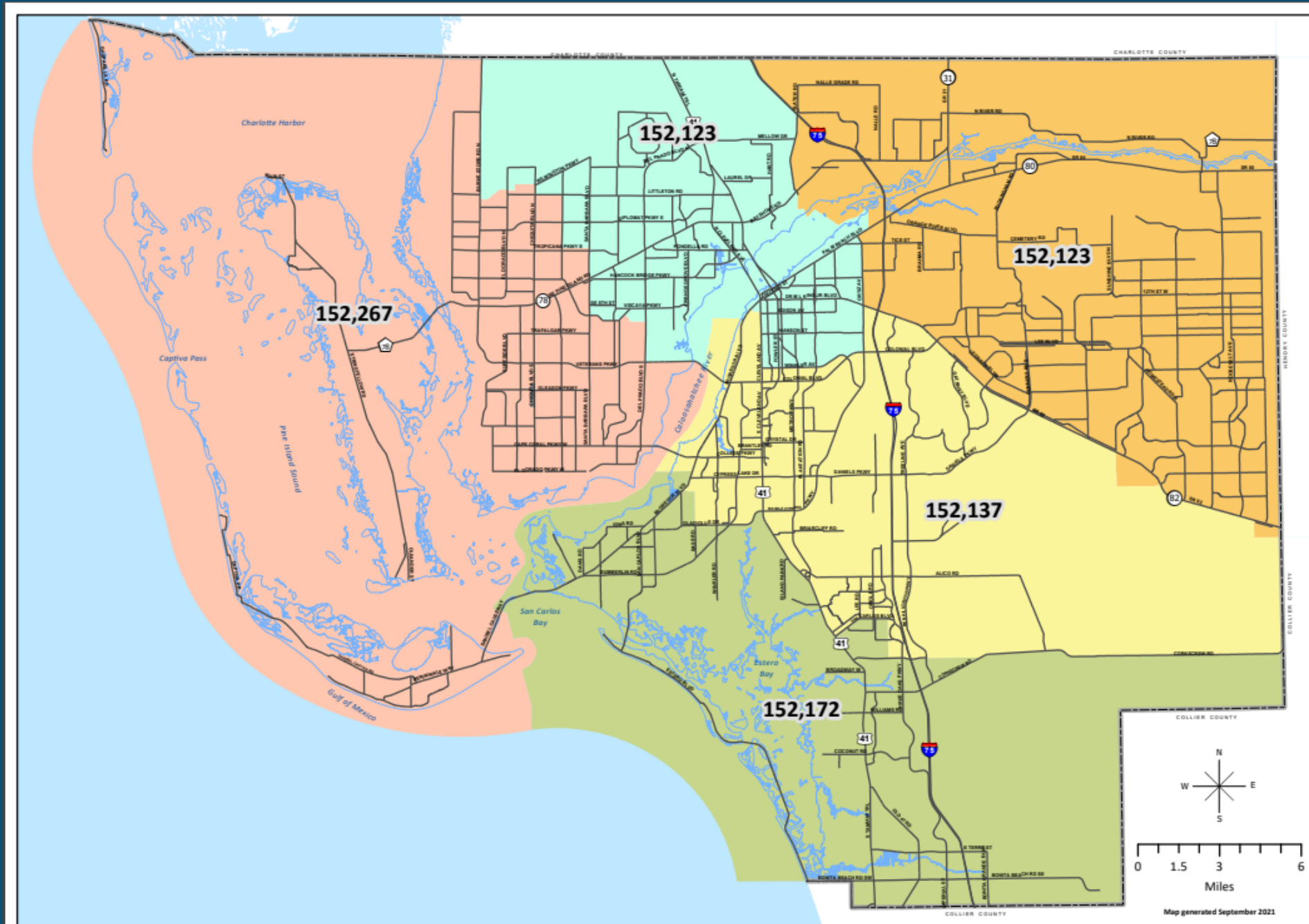
Kevin Ruane
District 1



Brian Hamman
District 4



Frank Mann
District 5



- District 1 - Kevin Ruane
- District 2 - Cecil Pendergrass
- District 3 - Ray Sandelli
- District 4 - Brian Hamman
- District 5 - Frank Mann

**Lee County Commission Districts
Alternative Five**



About Lee County

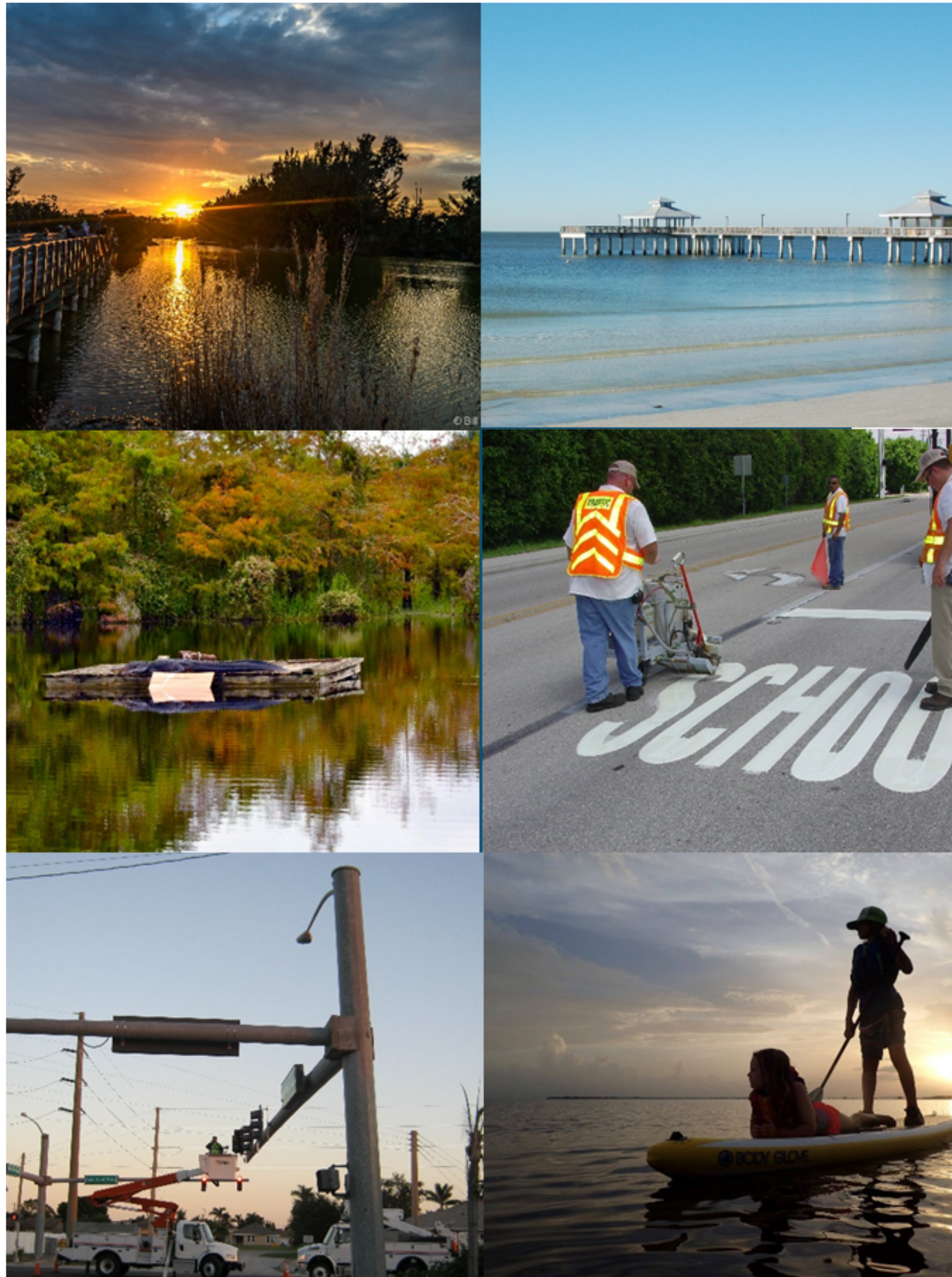
Lee County, which has an area of 804 square miles including 50 miles of beaches and shorelines, was created from what was a portion of Monroe County in 1887, just a year after the City of Fort Myers was incorporated. Thomas Alva Edison already had purchased land along the Caloosahatchee River and soon began spending winters here.

Today, Lee County is home to more than 780,000 people and six municipalities: the City of Fort Myers, City of Cape Coral, City of Sanibel, City of Bonita Springs, the Town of Fort Myers Beach and the Village of Estero.

The county government is organized by a Home Rule Charter and is led by the Board of County Commissioners, who are elected countywide to represent five districts. The Board appoints the County Manager, the County Attorney and the Hearing Examiner.



Lee County
Southwest Florida



2020-2021 Strategic Goals

Lee County is growing quickly and the population is expected to reach 1 million permanent residents by 2040. The Lee Board of County Commissioners set goals to address the demands associated with this growth. These goals are designed to provide outstanding services and amenities, a sustainable future and excellent quality of life for all who call Lee County home.



Financial



Transportation



Water



**Human
Services**



Tourism



**Economic
Development**



Procurement



Communication



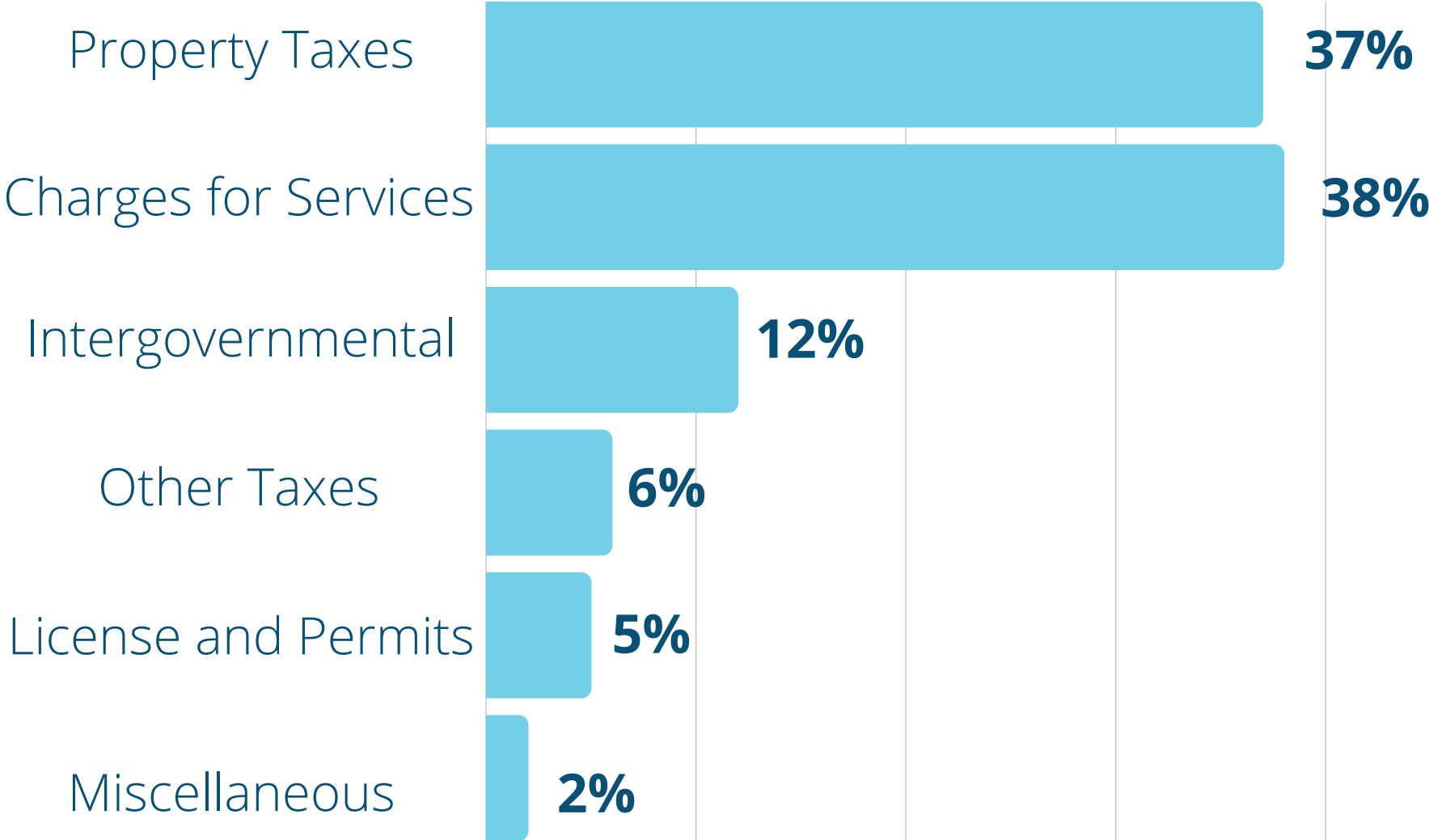
Goal 1: Financial

Approach multiple fund reserves holistically to enhance project funding report on individual fund balances and policies annually.

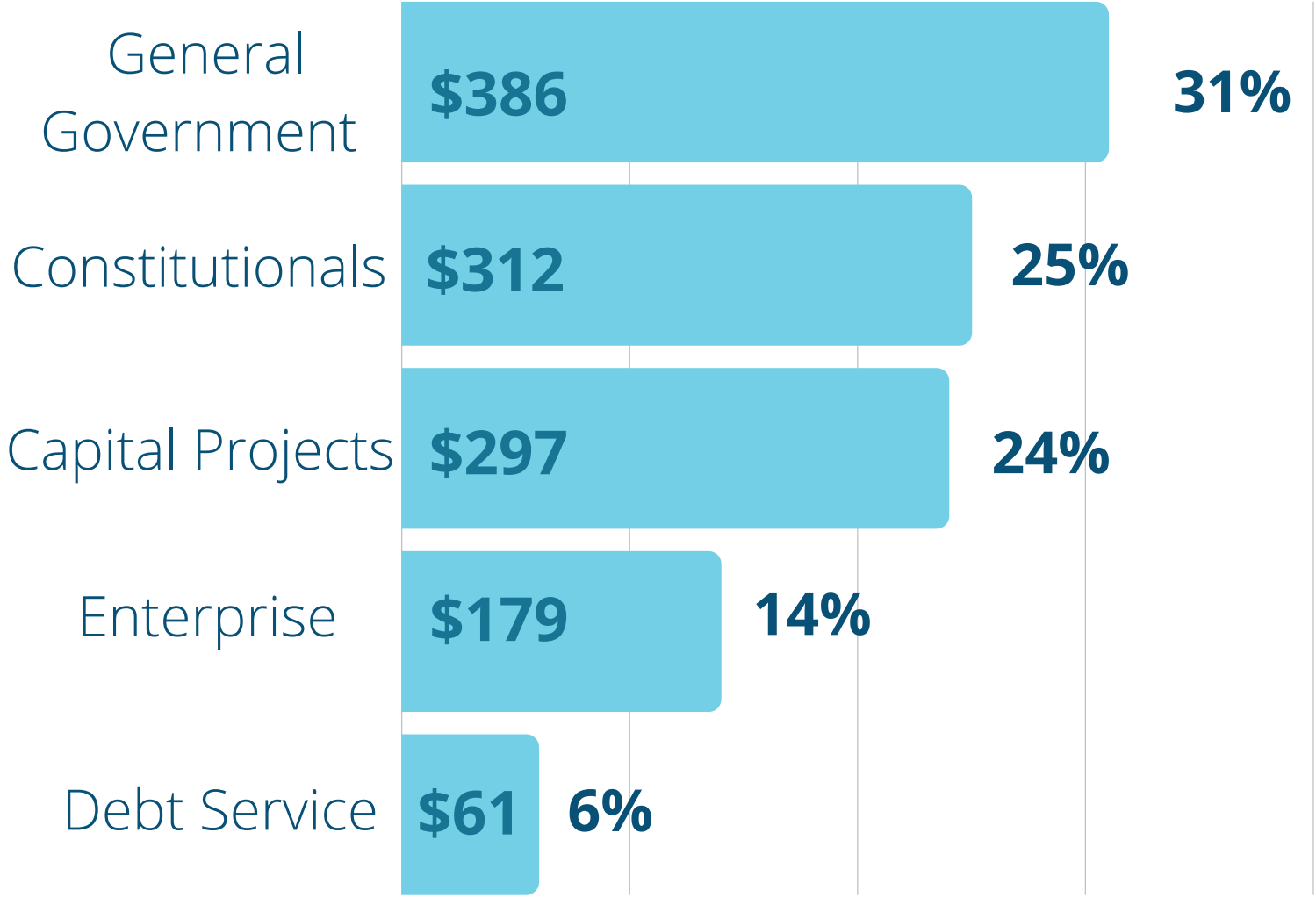
BOCC Budget

(All funds)

Where does the money come from?



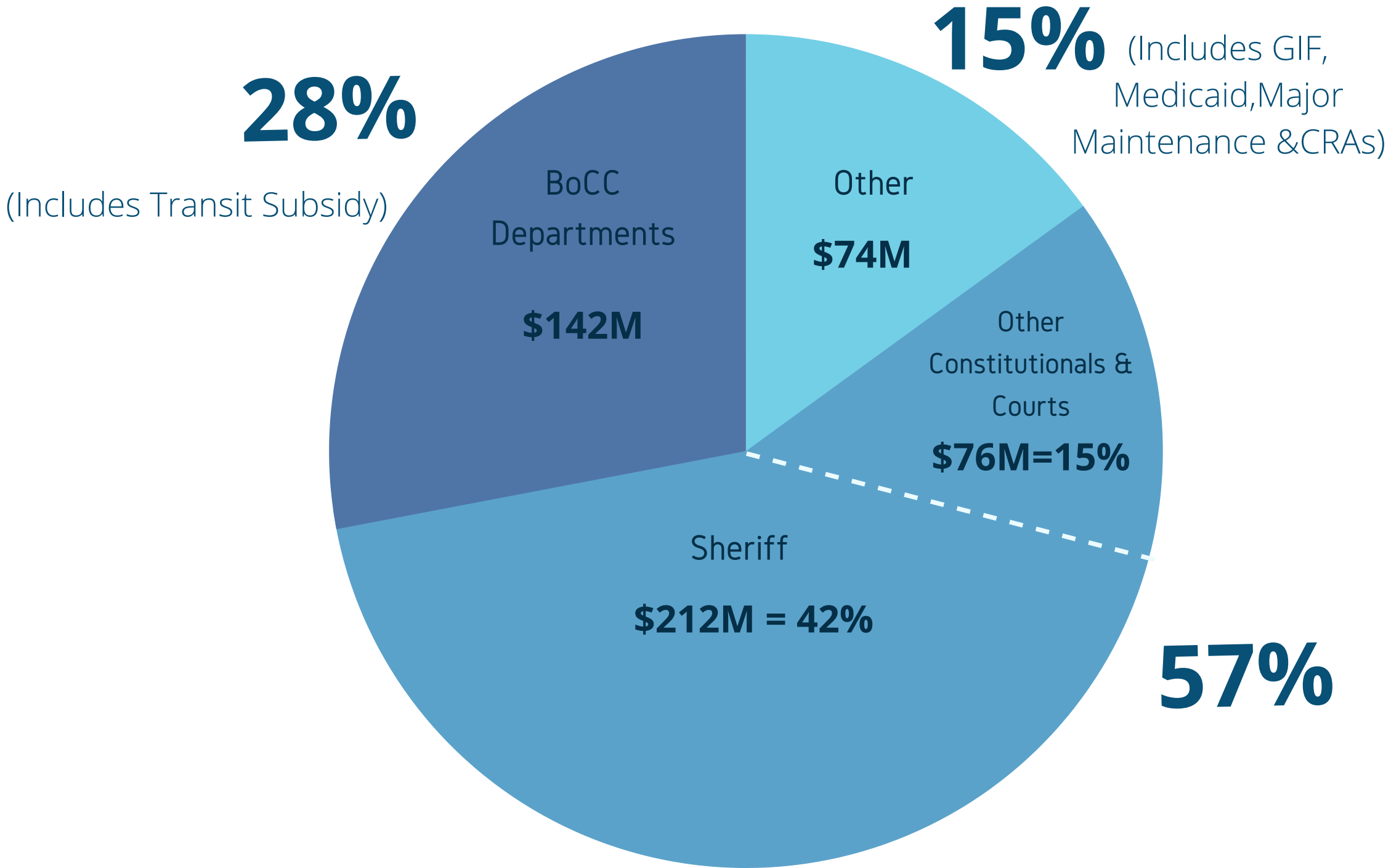
Where does the money go?



In Millions



GENERAL FUND BREAKDOWN



Financial Results

Fiscal Year	GF Budget	Surplus/(Deficit)	Ending Reserve	Excess Reserves Invested
15-16**	\$390.5	\$0.0	\$102.2	\$6.0
16-17	\$400.0	\$1.4	\$107.1	\$17.5
17-18	\$418.1	\$5.6	\$104.7	\$2.0
18-19	\$446.4	\$0.3	\$103.1	\$23.7
19-20	\$461.5	\$6.1	\$92.7	\$16.5
20-21	\$460.7	\$12.1	\$117.3	\$20.3

Amounts Shown in Millions

**Growth Increment Funding Policy
Adopted June 2, 2015



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Goal 2: Transportation

Look for ways to expedite Tier 1 road projects. Provide options at a Board workshop.

New Projects added to Tier 1

Colonial / US41 / McGregor safety improvements

Cape Coral Bridge westbound span replacement

Flyover at Colonial & Summerlin

Veterans Parkway 6-laning



Accelerated Efforts for Tier 1 Projects

Three Oaks Parkway Expansion : Combine, bid and construct multiple phases.

Estero Blvd.: Combined phases, reduced project time by 5 years, completion March 2022

Colonial Safety Improvement: Construction to begin March 2022

Ortiz Ave. 4-Laning from Colonial to Martin Luther King: Construction to begin June 2022.

Big Carlos Bridge Replacement : Construction to begin August 2022.

Littleton Road 3-Laning : Acquired drainage basins while designing the Kismet-Littleton project – Construction to begin October 2022.

Corkscrew Road 4-laning : Phase II design nearly complete, Phase II construction to begin November 2022 while Phase I is still under construction. Overall completion December 2024.

Alico Connector: Design underway, first phase construction late 2023, overall completion 2027. Saved 6 years with no PD&E study.

Cape Coral Bridge Expansion: Negotiating design contract to examine the possibility of doing design-build once 60% designed.



Goal 3: Water

Continue water quality initiatives, including septic-to-sewer/alternatives planning.

Our Water Story

Lee County launched Our Water Story in February 2021 to outline efforts being taken to protect our most valuable resource.

It includes information about the investment the Board is making in county projects and actions that the public can take to participate in this effort.

Local, State, and Federal agency projects are also included to indicate the Board's collaborative efforts being taken to protect our water.



Featured Water Quality Projects



Nalle Grade Stormwater Park

One of the main objectives of the project is to reduce pollutant loads within Bayshore Creek and consequently the Caloosahatchee River.



Yellow Fever Creek Preserve

This project means to restore interconnection between Gator Slough and Yellow Fever Creek, thereby reducing excess discharges into Matlacha Pass and restoring flows in Yellow Fever Creek.



Bob Janes Preserve

Hydrologic improvements in a portion of the preserve, via berms, breaches, and ditch blocks. This project removes around 1,216 pounds of nitrogen and 119 pounds of phosphorus a year.



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Goal 4: Human Services

Concentrate efforts on improving capacity and efficiency of the Rapid Rehousing Program.



Lee County Department of Human & Veteran Services



Increased street outreach included Housing Outreach and Treatment (HOT) Teams, a partnership with local law enforcement and Centerstone Behavioral Health. Expansion of emergency sheltering was accomplished by creating the Family Transition Collaborative, which provides shelter in a non-congregate (hotel) setting and connects families to permanent housing.



Rapid Rehousing



Housing Outreach and Treatment
(HOT) Teams



Family Transition Collaborative



Behavioral Health Expansion

Goal 5: Tourism



Increase parks amenities and access to 20/20 preserves. Analyze local and state sports facilities to assess potential niche opportunities.





PARKS AMENITIES & ACCESS TO CONSERVATION 20/20 PRESERVES

Larry Kiker Preserve will provide the largest amount of recreational components within a single preserve in Lee County. It is planned to offer educational tools, address water quality, provide flood control and provide habitat preservation.



SPORTS FACILITIES

An inventory of statewide sports facilities also has been completed for staff to analyze potential niche opportunities that can be considered to enhance our strong sports tourism program.



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Goal 6: Economic Development

Propose amendments to the economic element of the LeePlan and explore further redevelopment opportunities in North Fort Myers and Lehigh Acres.



The Economic Development office provides business assistance to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses to build a strong economy in Lee County. Individual maps have been developed for:



Opportunity Zones

To spur economic development by providing tax benefits to investors to incentivize investments in low-income communities.

Incentives

To determine if an address qualifies for economic or regulatory incentives

Development Activity

Which displays new development projects and investment activity in unincorporated Lee County.



Lee County
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Proposed updates will evaluate economic development goals, objectives and policies within the Lee Plan to address changing demographics and economic development needs, as well as quality of life, and environmental quality goals.



Once staff has prepared the amendments they will go to the Horizon Council and Local Planning Agency for review.



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Goal 7: Procurement

Buy locally as much as possible and include changes to local bidder preference policies.

Goal 8: Communication

Continue to build communication strategies on multiple platforms to include traditional and digital communication channels for community engagement.



The Community Engagement team works with all departments to share information about projects and any impacts that they might have on the daily lives of our residents and visitors.

Information is shared in news releases, on the County website, and through social media channels.

The team also coordinates with GIS staff to build story maps that help our residents and visitors learn more about the County.



Attention landlords and property managers:
Lee County is seeking partners in the Rapid Rehousing Program
Call 239-533-7981
or email
landlord@leegov.com

Lee County Southwest Florida

county is seeking partners in the rapid rehousing program



Lee County Government
December 8, 2021 · 🌐

The Lee Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday awarded a contract for the installation of shade structures at five Lee County Parks & Recreation locations. These structures (similar to the one pictured) will provide relief and comfort to the patrons visiting playgrounds and water features at Buckingham, Lakes, Matlacha, Veterans and Hunter Parks, where the shade structures will be installed. Learn more: <https://fal.cn/3kuKo>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Betsy Clayton, APR/CPRC
Communications Director
Lee County Government
239-826-4606
bclayton@leegov.com

Lee County takes Florida's No. 2 recycling spot

Fort Myers, FL, Aug. 26, 2021 – Lee County residents and businesses recycled 76% of the waste generated countywide in 2020, earning second place in the state. Charlotte and Pinellas counties tied for the top spot with 78% recycling rates.

Lee County received credit for recycling 1.6 million of the total 2.2 million tons of waste generated locally in 2020, according to numbers recently released by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The amount of material Lee County residents recycled in 2020 would be enough to fill 152 football fields with material 70 feet high – as high as the tallest point of the Sanibel Bridge.

"Lee County has been in the Top 10 recycling counties ever since Florida began tracking in 2000," said Doug Whitehead, Solid Waste director, "And, we enjoy a healthy competition with Charlotte and Pinellas over who can recycle the most each year."

Recycling credits include curbside recycling by residents as well as business recycling of materials such as cardboard, yard waste, scrap metal and construction and demolition debris, among other items. Lee County also receives recycling credit for energy produced from garbage processed at the waste-to-energy plant in Buckingham.



OneOrg and PITCH Principles

The OneOrg philosophy continues to guide us to the goal of being the employer of choice in Lee County.

OneOrg utilizes PITCH principles that include Professionalism, Innovation, Trust, Collaboration and Honesty.

- These principles shape day-to-day interactions among staff and with residents and have proved useful in handling events that we, as an organization, have encountered.



Our Employees



Lee County
Southwest Florida



Lee County

Southwest Florida

LEE COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

2115 Second Street | Fort Myers, FL 33901 | 239-533-2221

For Assistance Programs, Dial 211 | For Lee County Government, Call 239-533-2111

www.leegov.com



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