

History of the Road and Drainage District

Demographics

The City of North Port was incorporated on June 18, 1959. The City is 103 square miles in size, the fourth largest City in the State of Florida. There are 822 miles of roads, 81 miles of waterways and creeks and 139 miles of retention ditches and drainage rights-of-way. There are 70,000 residential lots in this platted lands community.

General Development Corporation (GDC), the City's original developer, platted the first subdivision plat in 1959. Shortly thereafter, GDC commenced construction of the roadways, storm water drainage system and drainage appurtenances. The City accepted maintenance responsibilities of the roadways and drainage systems within a subdivision upon completion by GDC and when in compliance with the subdivision regulations.

There was a steady growth pattern in the City between 1996-2000. The housing growth showed two peak years between 2003-2005. The population increased more than fifty-percent between 2000-2005 adding 12,000 residents and doubling its housing stock by 10,180 homes. Since 2002, the City experienced a population increase from 27,449 to the current population of 55,759.

Establishment of the Road and Drainage District

In 1985, pursuant to the authority contained in Chapters 165, 166 and 170, Florida Statutes, the City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 85-193, creating a Road Maintenance and Drainage District (RMDD). Through this District, each property owner was assessed for services creating a financial structure to support the RMDD. The purpose of creating the RMDD was to provide for roads, alleys, sidewalks, road lighting, road signs and markings and drainage structures. This ordinance also designated the City Commission as the Governing Board.

In April of 1986, the City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 86-199, amending Ordinance No. 85-193, renaming the District to the Road and Drainage District (RDD). The ordinance clarified the District's duties and maintenance responsibilities of roads, streets, boulevards, alleys, sidewalks, bike paths, street lighting, street signs and markings, drainage, drainage culverts and drainage structures. The Commission recognized the separation of duties between the RDD and the North Port Water Control District (NPWCD). By this ordinance, the Commission made the RDD an integral part of the Development Review Committee (DRC) and gave the District the responsibility of inspecting all streets and drainage.

Through these ordinances and subsequent amendments, the City Manager was appointed as the District's Chief Administrative Officer, with the authority to appoint a Director and promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to the administration and operation of the District.

The NPWCD was created under Chapter 298, Florida Statutes on July 2, 1971. The “Plan of Reclamation” was prepared and presented to the NPWCD in June 1977. The purpose of the Plan was to create an integrated system of water control to provide drainage for developed areas, basic requirements for protection against flooding and conservation of water for domestic supply and wildlife enhancement. The basic concept of the Plan was to provide protection for the NPWCD and the City from damages generated by a ten-year frequency and five day duration storm. Additionally, the District was to maintain water quality at levels equal to, or exceeding the standards set by Chapter 17-3 of the Florida Administrative Code.

The NPWCD was responsible for maintaining the City’s waterways, water control structures, bridges, by-pass canals, culverts, retention ponds and ditches. Repair and maintenance of the bridges, aquatic weed vegetation management and protection of potable water quality integrity were also the responsibility of the NPWCD.

In 1994, the NPWCD was dissolved and the RDD assumed all of their maintenance and operation responsibilities.

The following table includes staffing levels and approved budgets for fiscal years 2006-2014 for the RDD:

Adopted Budget and Authorized Positions		
Fiscal Year	Approved Budget	Authorized Positions
2006	\$15,424,325	85
2007	\$23,304,730	100
2008	\$17,384,026	97
2009	\$17,582,118	91
2010	\$15,242,558	84
2011	\$14,827,885	83
2012	\$16,310,908	86
2013	\$13,976,851	85.5
2014	\$14,064,440	85.5