

WALTON

COUNTY

FLORIDA

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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About the Commission

The Walton County Board of County Commissioners is a five-member governing board elected at-large to represent the citizens of Walton County. The board defines the role and guides the actions of the organization in ensuring the future of Walton County. The commission hires a county administrator to implement policies established by the board and to manage the operations of the county. Annually, the commission adopts the millage rate and approves the budget, which determines the revenue and expenditures necessary to operate all county departments. Florida Statutes, Chapter 125, establishes the powers and duties of the county commission.



Pictured Left to Right: Donna Johns - District 4, Danny Glidewell - District 2, William "Boots" McCormick - District 1, Michael Barker - District 3, Tony Anderson - District 5



Administration

WHO WE ARE



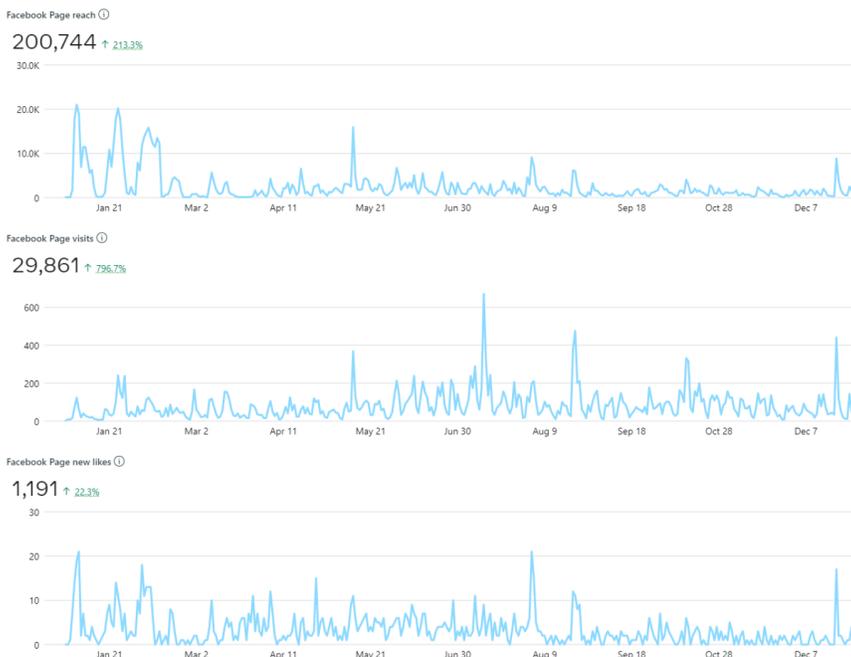
The Walton County Administrative Office is led by the County Administrator.

All aspects of Administration are directed to promote and manage the County's assets. Administration takes its direction from the Board of County Commissioners and is charged with carrying out their policies and directives.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

- Converted to Paperless Agendas
- Implemented Projects Tracker and Contracts Tracker systems
- Administered 24 Pre-Board of County Commissioner Meetings, 24 Board of County Commissioner Meetings, 12 Board of County Commissioner Land Use Meetings, 3 Special Meetings, 5 Directors Meetings
- Fulfilled 1,047 Agenda Item Requests
- Submitted 75 Agenda Submission Forms
- Filled 59 Change Orders
- Fulfilled 22 Task Orders
- Processed 156 Agreements
- Hosted 1 Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Hosted 10 Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
- Hosted 3 Open Houses
- Administered 4 Facebook Pages, 2 Instagram Pages, and 1 YouTube Channel

2022 Walton County BCC Facebook Page Stats



2022 Walton County BCC YouTube Stats

Created June 15, 2022
Views: 104,000
Watch Time: 6.3k hours
Subscribers: 227

2022 Walton County BCC Instagram Stats

Created May 11, 2022
New Followers: 367
Posts: 281

2022 Video Stats

Beginning May 23, 2022
Videos Created: 67
Minutes Viewed: 22.7k
100% organic views. No paid video posts.

Building Department



WHO WE ARE

The Building Department issues contractors licenses and permits for construction that occurs in Walton County. The main office is located in DeFuniak Springs, with a branch office located in Freeport. The main office maintains all license and permit files as well as permitting, online permitting, public records requests, scheduling inspections, and many other duties. The Freeport office functions primarily as a permitting office.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

Single Family Dwellings: 2,670
Single Family Dwelling Valuation: \$1,337,545,624
Commercial: 45
Commercial Valuation: \$86,669,558

Building Inspections Conducted: 30,596
Total Permit Fees Collected: \$5,022,638



Code Compliance

WHO WE ARE

Walton County Code Compliance is responsible for Beach and Street Code Compliance. Beach Code Compliance enforces codes that govern beach activities as defined in the Walton County Waterways and Beach Activities Ordinance. Street Code Compliance enforces specific rules and regulations as set forth in the Walton County Code of Ordinances for the unincorporated areas of the county ranging from land development and land use regulations to codes governing such things as junk, debris, building without permits, and parking.

Our goal is to educate the public about the codes and ordinances and to obtain “voluntary compliance” on issues through professionalism and courtesy, while focusing on providing positive customer service to all citizens and bringing existing properties into compliance with applicable codes.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

- In 2022, Beach Code Compliance completed approximately 18,972 cases/complaints/contacts. 495 citations were issued, of that 250 (or 51%) were for double red flag violations or driving on the beach.
- On October 12, 2022, Code Compliance held their annual code revision workshop for the public and vendors which resulted in approximately 30 people attending. Concerns were heard from the public and vendors regarding vendor operations, special event permitting and scheduling and crowding on the beach.
- Code Compliance completed its second year of oversight of the Managed Vendor Program and had two officers assigned to the program during the 2022 season. 21 vendors participated in the 2022 season with 78,502 sets being rented on the county beaches.
- Code Compliance undertook the oversight and issuance of all beach permits in April 2022 leading to 8,595 beach permits being processed by our office in 2022.
- Street Code Compliance processed 1,590 new cases and closed 1,672. Officers worked diligently with the property owners to resolve the cases and bring the properties into compliance which led to only 71 case (4% of total cases) being heard by the Code Magistrate.
- Street Code was also assigned to pro-actively work the Steelfield Road area. There was a total of 26 cases opened and assigned to two officers. On 10/1/2022, Code Compliance, in conjunction with the Planning Department, held a community meeting to answer questions regarding the zoning, uses and allowable structures within the community. To date there are three (3) remaining cases being worked.
- Due to the need of parking enforcement along the Scenic Corridor and at Walton County Beach Accesses, Code Compliance began its Parking Enforcement Unit in July 2022, with a total of 2 officers.

Beach Code Compliance

- Processed 18,972 cases/complaints/contacts
- Issued 495 citations
- Processed 8,595 beach permits

Street Code Compliance

- Processed 1,590 new cases; closed 1,672
- 96% of cases were brought into compliance; 4% were heard by the Magistrate
- Processed 4,322 lien searches, resulting in \$324,150 in fees

Managed Vendor Program (MVP)

- Completed its second year of oversight of the MVP
- Per set fee increased from \$3 to \$5 in 2022
- 21 vendors participated with 78,502 sets rented, resulting in \$603,010 in revenue

Parking Enforcement

- 903 citations and 762 warnings, resulting in \$92,680 in fines (July - December)



Office of the County Attorney

WHO WE ARE

The Office of the County Attorney (OCA) is led by the County Attorney, who, under the supervision of the Walton County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), performs a variety of complex, technical, managerial, administrative, and professional legal work in providing legal counsel to the BCC. Through the County Attorney, the OCA serves at the pleasure of the BCC.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

Staff within the Office of the County Attorney specialize in the following areas: contracts, litigation, and public records. Throughout this year, staff drafted or reviewed over 300 contracts or agreements and 40 procurements, participated in all pending County litigation, and processed over 500 public records requests.



Emergency Management

WHO WE ARE

The Mission of Walton County Emergency Management is to prevent, mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from all hazards, emergencies, and disasters using a whole community approach. Our Vision is to continue to be a recognized leader in emergency management by building strategic community partnerships and effective public education. Walton County Emergency Management (WCEM) strives to maintain the highest level of operational readiness to respond and recover from the wide variety of hazards in Walton County. While our department has earned the title of "hurricane people," Emergency Management prepares for and responds to a wide variety of natural, technical, and human-caused hazards.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

In 2022, the Walton County EOC was activated 25 times.

COVID - 19

Continued activation at a Level 2 – Partial Activation to support local operations in relation to the COVID – 19 global pandemic for a total of 365 days.

Severe Weather Outbreak

March 30, 2022 - Activated to a Level 2 – Partial Activation to support possible impacts from the March Madness Severe Weather Outbreak.

Hurricane Ian

September 25 - 27, 2022 - Activated to a Level 2 Partial Activation for possible impacts from Hurricane Ian.

No evacuation orders were issued.

General Population, Special Needs, and Pet Friendly Shelters at Freeport High School were on standby to open but were not opened.

No reported damage.

Cold Weather

Activated to a Level 2 – Partial Activation to support cold weather shelter operations 45 times. Those operations sheltered a total of 565 people, an increase of 456. Four times, an actual shelter was opened. Unfortunately, the other 41 times, a cold weather shelter was unable to open at the DeFuniak Springs Community Center as had been done in the past. Instead, WCEM and The Matrix Community Outreach Center (as the lead agency for Human Services as outlined in the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan) instituted a remote assistance program where individuals and families needing shelter were placed in hotel rooms using grant funding given to the Matrix.

Chipola Complex Wildfire

March 4 – 8, 2022 - Activated to a Level 2 – Partial Activation to support mutual aid response to Bay County for the Chipola Complex Wildfire. Resources sent to Bay County included: Planning Section Chief Deputy Logistics Section Chief Public Information Officer Community Emergency Response Team to run Staging Area

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Training Program addresses the overall emergency management training needs for department staff, as well as Walton County employees and emergency management stakeholders. 466 individuals were trained in 2022.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH STATS

Facebook: Total Followers: 41,298

Twitter: Total Followers: 4,027

ALERT WALTON/EVERBRIDGE STATS (PUBLIC NOTIFICATION)

Total Contact Paths: 237,954

PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATES

Our team is dedicated to planning for a variety of natural, technological, and human-caused hazards, including terrorism. We continue to focus on the current topics in emergency management, such as developing protective actions for flooding, preparing for a pandemic, and mitigating against the consequences of future hazards. This past year, WCEM developed or revised a total of 23 plans and Standard Operating Guides (SOG), an increase of 16 from 2021.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER ENHANCEMENTS

Mobile Command Post

Starlink Satellite System

Eagleview Connect Mapping

Facilities Maintenance

WHO WE ARE

Facilities Maintenance consists of 25 maintenance department employees, including 1 project manager, and maintains an estimated 740,000 square feet of county-owned facilities. The team conducts monthly inspections of 30 generators, annual inspections and repairs of 90 backflows, and annual and preventative maintenance inspections of 4 elevators and 1 lift. Our department also oversees countywide pest control contract, completes work orders, assists Public Works, pours concrete for driveways, maintains sidewalks, drainage, crosswalks and handrails, and we assist with installing and programming new gates and coordinate Mossy Head wastewater treatment plant maintenance. Our team assists the Tourism department with concrete and maintenance projects. Included on our team is 10 custodial department employees that clean an estimated 350,000 square feet.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

Constructed:

- **Code Compliance office** - Mobilized 2nd trailer. Ran electrical & data lines. Connected sewer & plumbing. Removed stairs & parking bumpers. Connected trailers with roofed deck. Water sealed the deck. Installed ice maker. Assembled office furniture.
- **Cowford Landing Paddle Trail** - Ran electrical & water to bathrooms & pavilions. Constructed & installed handrails.
- **Emergency Operations Center pole barn** - Poured concrete floor
- **Eagle Springs & Golf Recreation Center** - Constructed deck by patio and installed door into dining room. Constructed ADA ramp to patio. Constructed laundry room. Installed brick paneling inside clubhouse dining room. Enclosed maintenance building porch. Construct & pour sidewalk at clubhouse. Remodeled pro-golf area. Inside & outside kitchen area improvements. Constructed pool porch & painted pool surround.
- **Freeport Annex District 1 Commissioner Office** - Build out from empty unit
- **Freeport Community Center** - Build out from empty unit
- **Ghentsville Park Grant** - Constructed restroom and poured concrete sidewalks
- **Paxton** - Constructed 4 Paxton ballpark batting tunnels
- **Glendale Park and Liberty Community Center** - Poured concrete basketball courts
- **Landfill** - Constructed & poured walls at scale
- **OMB** - Bathroom addition
- **Wee Care Park** - Constructed new bathroom in rear of park, new basketball court, and park lights

Remodeled:

- **DeFuniak Springs Courthouse** - Property appraiser lobby & back office remodel. Courtroom A (facilitated construction and assisted as needed)
- **County Administration** - Remodel
- **District 3 Commissioner office** - Remodel
- **District 4 Commissioner office** - Remodel
- **Wee Care Park** - Office remodel for GIS
- **Former GIS** - Office remodel for Human Resources
- **Lakewood Park** - Bathroom remodel
- **Glendale Community Center** - Installed new windows in kitchen
- **Administration** - Front portico repaired
- **Freeport Tax Collector** - Constructed wall
- **Portland Community Center** - Replaced flooring. Replaced A/C



Facilities Maintenance

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022 Continued:

Other projects:

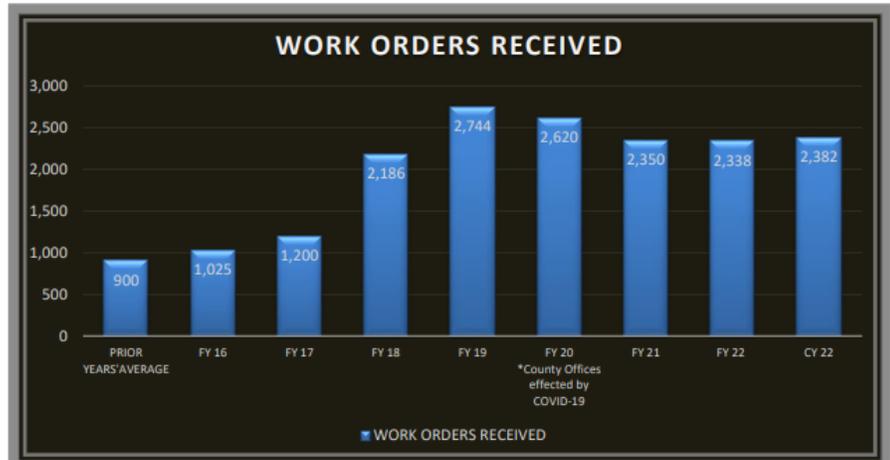
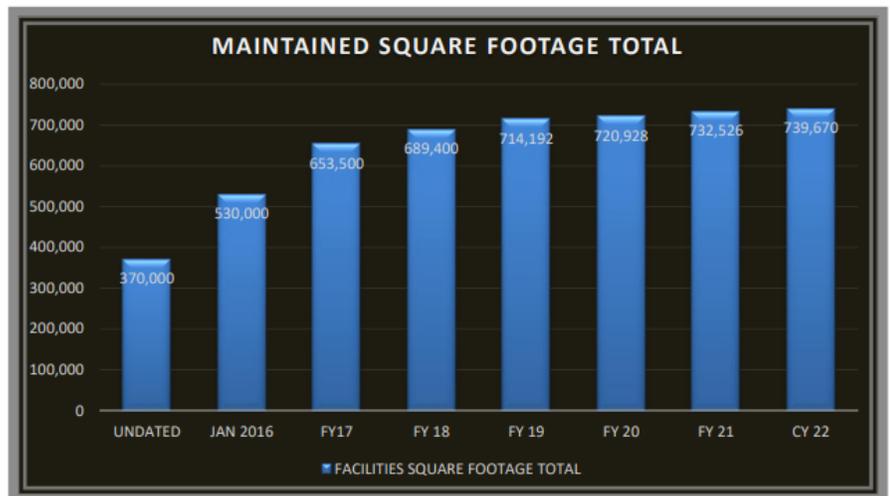
- **Coastal Branch Library** - Gutter/downspouts replacements (contracted out)
- **Paxton little league ballpark improvements** – Installed plexiglass in concession serving windows. Replaced electrical outlets. Replaced countertops
- **Douglass Crossroads Park** - Removed older playground equipment and replaced with swings, merry-go-round, see saws. Replaced mulch & fun timbers. Replaced volleyball net. Painted bathroom floor. Constructed & installed 2 new wooden benches. Tightened bolts on picnic tables under the pavilion instead of replacing all 16 wooden picnic tables.
- **DeFuniak Springs Courthouse grounds** - Courtyard electrical outlets hidden. Louvers replaced. Painted some 2nd floor offices. Flat roof repaired.
- **DeFuniak Springs Health Department** - Weatherproofing and moved planning files from one unit to another unit.

Non-county facility projects:

- **Choctaw Beach Community Center (voting precinct) improvements** - Installed new windows. Vendor capped gas line to old water heater & run new gas line for stove completed in previous year. Pressure washed exterior. Painted interior & exterior. Replaced a/c, stove, & doors. Bathroom upgraded to ADA compliance with new toilets, sinks, and reconfigure plumbing as needed. Replaced bathroom doors. Installed new HVAC. Removed termite damage & replaced.
- **Mossy Head Community Center** - Fence construction
- **DeFuniak Springs Little league remodel** - Replaced dugout roof. Replaced dugout benches

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

- Mossy Head modular (donated and moved)
- Golf course modular moved
- Phase 2 record storage facility. (Design completed and bid awarded. Next phase is construction. NTP issued on January 3, 2023)
- Mojo building renovation for fleet maintenance. (Design completed)
- Choctaw Beach fire station. (Design completed and DO approved. Bid is advertised.)
- Hwy 331 water & sewer project completed
- Eagle Springs Golf Course maintenance facility. (Design is completed. Waiting for an easement for the extension of Live Oak road into the golf course.
- Courtroom A renovation project completed
- Code Compliance new modular building completed
- Glendale fire station. (BCC approved task order for the design. Sheriff staff is researching alternative locations.)
- County Administration roof replacement completed



Geographic Information System (GIS)

WHO WE ARE

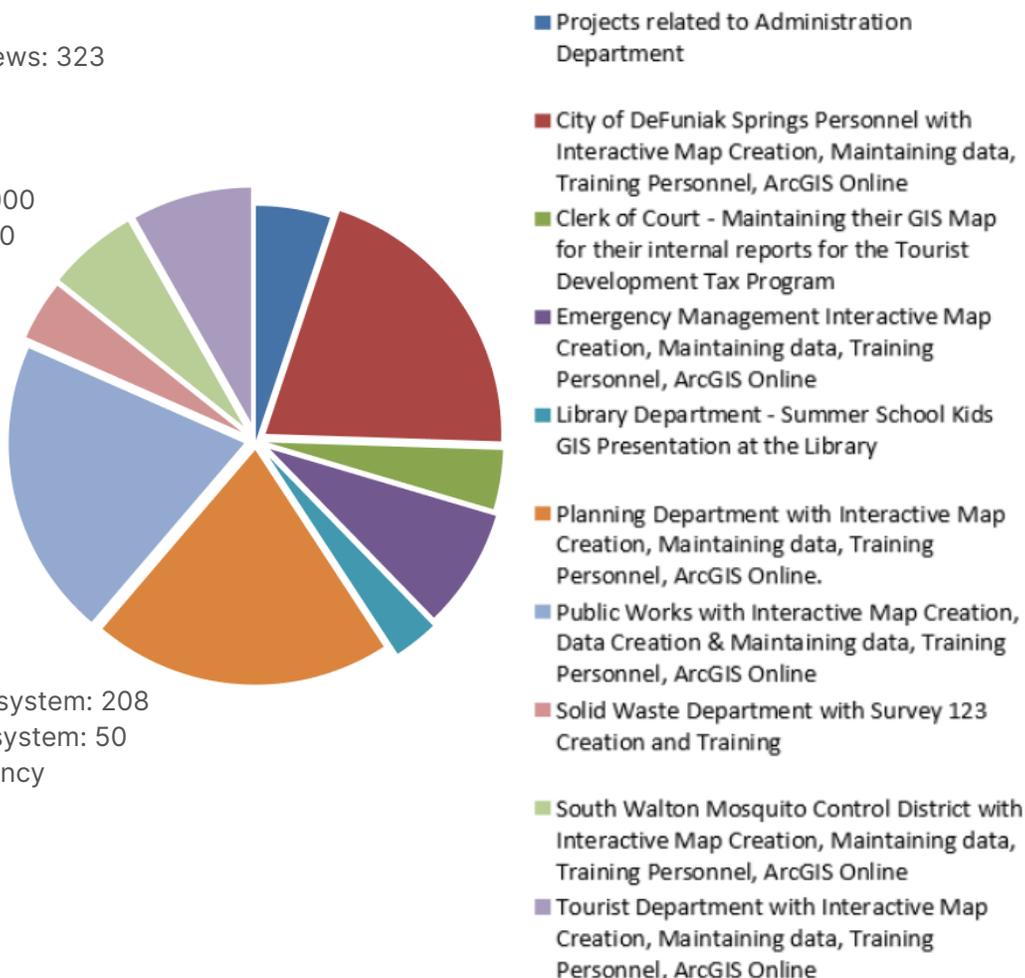
The Walton County GIS Department provides spatial data and analysis resources for the County's decision makers, staff, and citizens. GIS is an acronym that stands for Geographical Information System. The GIS Team functions include cartography (paper and digital) projects, daily Addressing Assignment for residential and commercial purposes; Spatial data collection, development, updates and maintenance; GIS Application Development for Board of County Commissioners County Offices, Constitutional Offices and local municipalities to equip decision makers; and GIS technical support and training for Board of County Commissioners County Offices, Constitutional Offices and local municipalities.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

In December of 2022, the GIS Department relocated from its prior office at 45 N. 6th St across from the west side of the Walton County Courthouse to a renovated County Office in the Wee Care Park at 148 Fallen Heroes Way. This was a change for our team since we were at our old location for over 15 years from 2007 until December 2022. The renovation to accommodate our GIS needs, and the coordination and transporting of large GIS equipment and its setup at the new office was made possible by the Facilities Maintenance Team. Our county office was closed for public access for only 1 day for the move and setup of the new office. The GIS team continues to be dedicated to provide the same exemplary customer service for our customers at our new location that we did at our former location. While we changed locations, we still have the same GIS team. Our office hours remain the same Monday – Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Number of Tasks/Records

Technical Review Committee Reviews: 323
 Streets added or revised: 420
 Addresses assigned: 4,009
 Street Names Reserved: 160
 Phone Calls for GIS assistance: 2,000
 Assists to County Departments: 100
 Public customer walk-ins: 36
 Permit Status Reports: 208
 Address Search tool GIS data updates: 52
 Solid Waste count analysis: 12
 GIS Special Projects specialized analysis and tasks: 6
 Specialized cartography map requests: 18
 Redistricting Project Maps: 233
 Staff maps for Planning Department: 2,976
 GIS data updates for the EnerGov system: 208
 GIS data updates to CitizenServe system: 50
 GIS data updates for 9-1-1 Emergency Response: 50
 GIS data updates for Walton Co School District: 50
 Building Footprints created: 9,473
 GIS data updates for CRS
 Recertification Maps: 5



Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

WHO WE ARE

The Walton County Housing Agency is supported financially by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Agency administers a federal grant with a mission to provide rental assistance for low-income families in the geographic boundaries of Walton County, Florida. Walton County supports this operation by supplying office space, computer equipment, and utilities for its office location. The Agency is also supported by the Clerk of Court of Walton County with Financial administrative support.



WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

In 2022, the agency averaged serving almost 600 heart beats, or individuals, in our community each month. The agency received 897 applications for assistance, who are placed on a waiting list. 245 families received vouchers for possible receipt of housing assistance. Of the 245 vouchers issued, only 51 families were able to find a home and utilize the voucher issued to them. This represents only 21% of the families who received a voucher were able to locate a home and receive assistance from the agency. 162 were found to be ineligible or did not respond.

Information received from the Walton County Planning Department indicates that in 2022, only 64 homes were permitted that were valued at or below \$140,000.00. A close look at these proposals indicates that affordability for these stated affordable units represent families that are making 120% of median income in our county. The current median income in Walton County is close to \$90,000 per year.

Human Resources

WHO WE ARE

The Walton County Department of Human Resources provides centralized personnel services for all County departments. We work with departments to identify and assist with workforce issues including performance management, standardizing discipline policies, employee development and knowledge transfer, managing the worker's compensation benefits and managing all liability and risk insurance policies, and providing ongoing evaluation of workplace policies and procedures.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

Recruiting

Received 1,101 candidate applications
Assessed the qualifications of over 658 for open positions
Filled 96 different positions throughout all offices
Processed 179 new hires, including 132 permanent and 47 temporary or seasonal
Employed 34 Temporary Summer Students
Attended two job fairs within Walton County

HRIS Processing

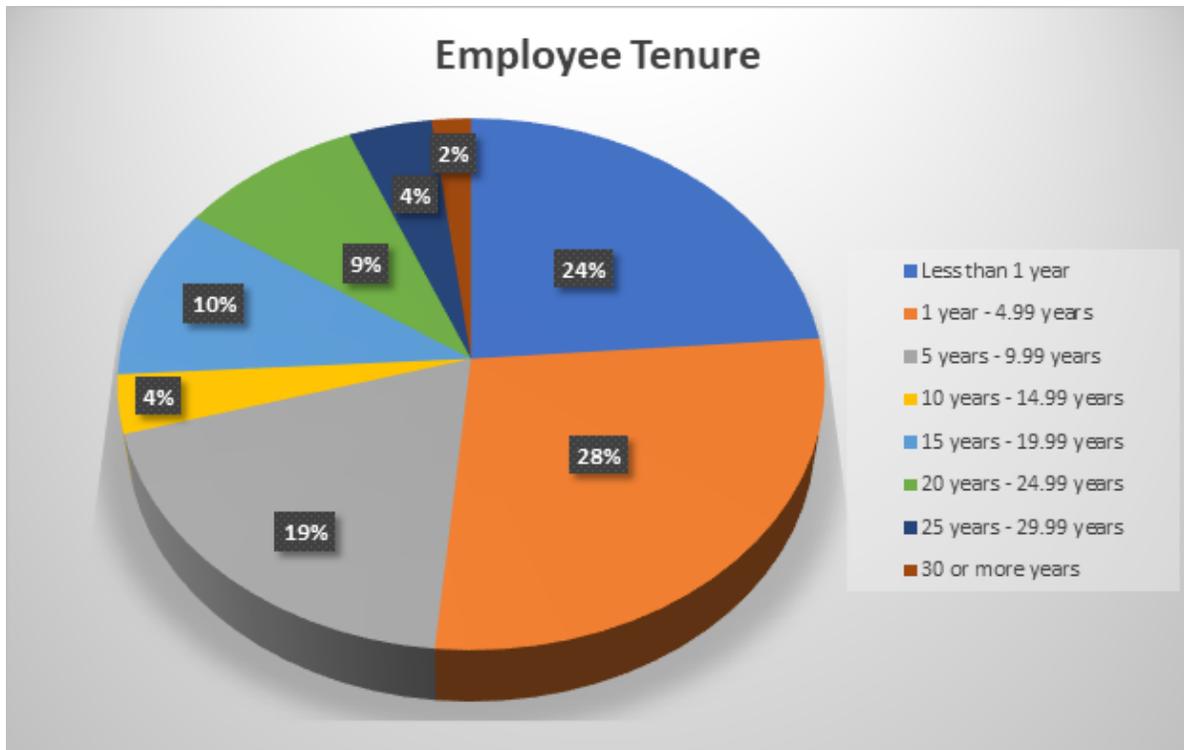
Processed 950 Personnel Action Forms
179 new hires
234 benefits changes
11 retirements

Talent Management and Training

Promoted 61 current employees into roles with greater responsibility
Conducted 26 orientations, onboarding 233 employees
6 Customer Service training opportunities throughout the year with 99 participants
1 Annual Supervisor Training with 60 supervisors trained

Benefits and Wellness

17 Open Enrollment Presentations
Processed 234 benefit changes
Conducted 6 Health Screenings
3 Retirement Seminars with 27 participants



Library System

WHO WE ARE

The Walton County Public Library System provides services at our libraries in DeFuniak Springs, Freeport, Flowersview, and Santa Rosa Beach, along with outreach services throughout the county. In 2022, the Walton County Public Library System served 107,705 visitors and circulated 129,719 books, DVDs, audiobooks, learning tablets, WiFi hotspots, laptops, STEAM-to-go-kits, and equipment. Public computer and WiFi access is available at all library locations, along with programming for all ages.



WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

- We offered 984 programs, all free of charge to the public on a variety of topics and interests for all ages. Program attendance was 23,704.
- All public computers were replaced via grant funding, and added additional user security and software. Public computers were used for 10,835 hours over the year. Public WiFi was accessed 21,251 times.
- Funding was secured for a digital preservation project to make the historical resources owned by the library available online across the state.
- The Coastal Branch Library in Santa Rosa Beach underwent a flooring replacement of all 12,000 square feet, new gutter installation, and an outdoor Gaming Garden was installed utilizing AARP grant funds.
- The Walton-DeFuniak Library celebrated 135 years of service, maintaining the distinction of the oldest continually operating public library in the state of Florida.
- The Friends of the Freeport Public Library received grant funding to purchase a new Bookmobile for the county in 2022, and a new position for a designated Bookmobile driver was hired.
- The first Trail Tale was installed at Padgett Park in Santa Rosa Beach through a partnership with the Florida Department of Health.
- Walton County purchased a one-acre lot on Baldwin Avenue in DeFuniak Springs to construct a new library location.

New Library Cards Issued 3,838
Total Active Cards 32,251
Library Visitors 107,705
Items Circulated 129,719
Items Added to Collection 6,299
Programs Offered 984
Program Participation 23,704
Public Computer Usage 10,835
Public WiFi Usage 21,251



Office of Management and Budget

WHO WE ARE

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provides financial and administrative support to the Board of County Commissioners. OMB consists of the following departments/functions:

- Budget – prepares and monitors Walton County’s annual operating and capital budget in accordance with applicable laws, statutes, and policies of the BCC
- Procurement Services – manages the County’s procurement program, consisting of all steps leading to determination of the appropriate solicitation type, selection of contractor/vendor, and negotiation and award of contract
- Grants – budgets and maintains accurate general ledger recording of all BCC grants and related expenditures, prepares requests for reimbursement of expenditures from granting agencies and well as periodic reporting of grant-related activities as required, submits grant applications on behalf of Walton County
- Fixed Assets – maintains the inventory of capital assets (machinery & equipment, land, buildings, infrastructure, and construction-in-progress), records all additions and deletions from the County fixed asset system, and ensures appropriate property/liability insurance coverage is in place
- Inventory Management – responsible for maintaining adequate supply of inventory items as well as maintaining the accuracy of the physical inventory; conducts the annual machinery & equipment inventory

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

- Prepared FY 23 County budget in the amount of \$256,911,567 and complied with Florida Statutes, Chapters 129 and 200, Truth in Millage requirements
- Administered the approved budget and completed budget transfers and amendments as required
- Procured the goods and services that County departments and agencies need to deliver quality services to residents and visitors of Walton County
- Actively worked to strengthen the department’s reliable network of vendor businesses through active engagement and outreach
- Maintained accurate records for grants in the County and assisted with the external audit of these grants
- Provided budgetary control of all grants awarded and expended by Walton County
- Maintained adequate supplies of inventory items at the Central Purchasing Warehouse and maintained the accuracy of the physical inventory count in the County’s financial system
- Conducted the annual inventory of machinery & equipment
- Served as the Walton County member of the District 1 Medical Examiner’s Support, Inc.



Total Net Budget (FY 22) \$215,670,813
Total Grant Expenditures (FY 22) \$21,273,678
Total Number of Budget Transfers Processed 257
Total Number of Budget Amendments Processed 134
Total Number of Purchase Orders 5,540
Dollar Value of Purchase Orders \$23,929,527
Total Number of P-Card Transactions 7,942
Dollar Value of P-Card Transactions \$1,641,047
Total Number of Formal Solicitations for Procurement 38
Total Dollar Value of Formal Solicitation Awards (approx.) \$14,000,000
Task Orders Issued Under Continuing Services Contracts 12
Value of Task Orders Under Continuing Services Contracts \$1,620,000
Number of Active Capital Assets 2,594
Dollar Value of Capital Assets (Net of Related Depreciation) \$361,303,021
Number of Central Purchasing Warehouse Inventory Issues 4,410

Parks and Recreation

WHO WE ARE

The Parks & Recreation Department maintains 36 parks and boat ramps, as well as a county-owned golf course. We provide basic recreation programs for the citizens in the form of pickleball, kickball, and youth sports to include: soccer, basketball, volleyball, golf clinics, and provide support for all other recreational programs. We are also responsible for managing 7 community centers throughout the county.



WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

- We saw a 20% increase in sports program participation, as we exceeded 2,700 kids/adults in our programs countywide.
- Our community centers were rented 187 days of the year, and a new community center was added in Freeport.
- Non-County affiliated sports programs saw a tremendous increase, as our 9 multipurpose fields and 7 baseball fields in South Walton were booked 6 months in advance. We provide support to these programs through field maintenance and staff support. These programs include club soccer, club lacrosse, pickleball, travel baseball, etc.
- We removed 3.43 tons of trash from our parks weekly.
- The final phase of construction began at Grady Brown Park, one of our more popular parks.
- Additional staff was added across the board to help maintain the level of excellence that is expected, as well as serve these extra numbers appropriately, considering the parks are open from daylight to dark seven days a week.



Parks and Recreation

EAGLE SPRINGS GOLF AND RECREATION CENTER

- **Memberships:** 388 (some of which are family memberships, so the actual number of people is close to 600)
- Eagle Springs Golf & Recreation (ESGR) sold 28,000 rounds of golf.
- We hosted the county middle school championship, the high school district tournament, cross country meets for Walton Middle School and Walton High School, as well as the Special Olympics Regional Championship.
- Approximately 2,500 swimmers used the swimming pool at ESGR, where lifeguards are Red Cross certified.
- 8,000-10,000 range balls were hit per week on the driving range at ESGR.
- An average of 25-35 individuals per week played disc golf.
- An average of 8-10 people per week utilized the ponds for fishing.



EAGLE SPRINGS RESTAURANT

- First day of cash-only sales began on September 7, 2022.
- First day of alcohol sales began on November 4, 2022.
- First day of installation and use of point-of-sale system from Qlaborate began on December 2, 2022.
- Hours of operation for lunch were 8:30 am to 3:00 pm Wednesday through Sunday.
- Breakfast began being served on December 28, 2022, Wednesday through Sunday 7:00 am to 10:00 am, with lunch being served 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. This was also the first day of public advertising on social media platforms.
- Averaged 1,956 transactions/month September through December.



Planning and Development

WHO WE ARE

Planning and Development Services is responsible for review of development in the unincorporated areas of Walton County. We review single family and commercial development for compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. The Department serves as staff to the Board of County Commissioners on growth and development related policy and is responsible for maintenance of both the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. The Department also staffs the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Adjustments, the Design Review Board, and the Affordable Housing Committee.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

Customers Served

In Person: 3,752 (averaging 72 per week)
Phone Calls: 46,811 (averaging approximately 900 calls per week)
General Planning Department Email Responses (not to individuals): 10,335 (averaging approximately 215 per week)
Pre-Application Meetings in Person, by Phone, and Virtually: 769

Building Plans and Floodplain Review (BPFR)

Total BPFR Applications Received: 3,121
Average Number of Days to Review All: 8.6

Development Order (DO) Review

Major Development Orders: 35
Minor Development Orders: 104
Less than Minor Development Orders: 74
Plats and Replats: 44
Lot Splits and Lot Line Adjustments: 55
Development of Regional Impact Annual Report Reviews: 2
Sector Plan Annual Report Reviews: 3
Right of Way Abandonments: 1
Restoration Plans (LTMs): 19
Floodplain Reviews: 155
Conditional Use Applications: 9
Temporary Use Applications: 0
Temporary Trailer: 10

Future Land Use Map Amendments and Re-zonings

Future Land Use Map Amendments with Rezoning Applications: 15
Rezoning Applications: 8

Permits

Sign Permits: 172
Master Sign Plans: 4
Land Clearing Permits (North Walton): 106
Outdoor Events Permits: 114
Home Occupation: 15
Temporary Living (RV) Permit: 4 (New Program in 2022)

Reviews

Certificate of Land Use Compliance: 155
Alcohol License Reviews: 81
FDEP Coastal Construction Consistency Reviews: 30
White Sands Protection Zone Reviews: 21
Land Use / Zoning Verification Letters: 37
Public Records Request (Non-Legal): 27



Planning and Development

2022 Overall Highlights

- Continued to build the new online integrated permitting platform – Energov, which will link Planning to County financial systems, Code Compliance, and the Building Department
- Added mid-level management and appointed a Current Planning Manager
- Staffed the Point Washington Neighborhood Plan Update
- Participated in all Okaloosa Walton Transportation Planning Organization meetings for the year
- Participated in an operations audit primarily aimed at ways our operations and permit flows could better be integrated with those of the Building Department
- Managed the multi-jurisdictional Special Events Permit program, bringing together multiple public safety agencies and Code Compliance
- Our engineering staff completed the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Stormwater, Erosion, & Sedimentation Control Inspector course which also certifies them to teach and provide training to others
- Added an engineering intern after successful completion of the Fundamentals of Engineering course
- Maintained the online project tracker for better transparency of the development review process
- Participated in several social media videos related to the department to aid in citizen understanding of programs and proposed legislation
- Worked towards better data retention available for the public online in furtherance of complete transparency strategic priority
- Participated in community outreach meetings for the Short Term Rental Ordinance, US Hwy 331 and SR 20 Economic Development Corridor, Land Development Code updates, and the Tree Ordinance.
- Accomplished multiple pieces of legislation updating and amending the Land Development Code
- Prepared task order in conjunction with public works staff to update the Concurrency Management System used for traffic mitigation
- Prepared task order for the Walton County Roadway Characteristics database which will serve multiple projects and external departments.
- Successful completion of required Annual FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) Recertification - saving citizens on flood insurance premiums and protecting floodplain
- Successful completion of required 3-year CRS Cycle Visit
- Awarded \$250K FDEM Watershed Planning Grant

ZBA 2022 Year Statistics

9 Conditional Use Applications

2 Applications Withdrawn

1 Application Under Review

6 Temp. Recreational Vehicle Use

3 Affordable Housing

6 Conditional Use Applications Approved

35 Variance Applications

5 Applications Withdrawn

3 Applications Under Review

1 Application Tabled

21 Setback Variance Requests - 77.50%

9 Other Variance Requests - 22.50%

21 Variance Applications Approved - 75% Approval Rate

5 Variance Applications Denied - 25% Denial Rate

Probation

WHO WE ARE

The Walton County Probation office works with our judicial system by enforcing court ordered requirements for probationers sentenced in our county court as well as cases that are reduced to misdemeanors in Felony court. We strive to achieve excellence in community corrections by providing the highest quality services to the courts, victims, offenders, their families, and our community.

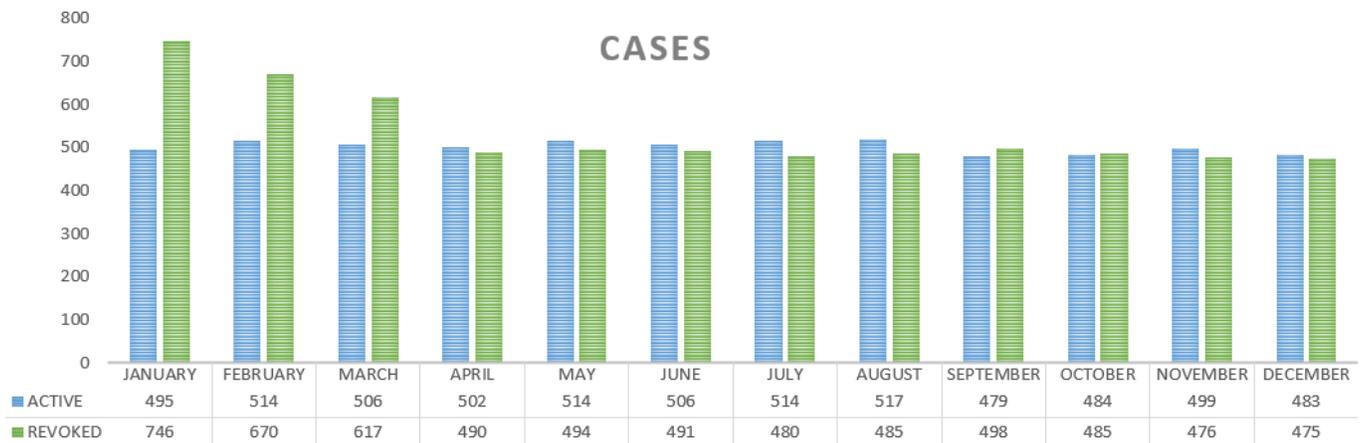
We attend all county court hearings, testify in court proceedings when needed, and work closely with outside agencies such as judicial offices, the State Attorney, Public Defenders, private attorneys, counselors, and law enforcement agencies.

Our Probation Officers monitor probationers progress with court ordered conditions such as community service, DUI school, Anger Management, Batterer's Intervention, obtaining a valid driver's license, counseling for substance abuse and psychological, alcohol anonymous meetings, payments of fines/costs/probation fees, restitution, and random urinalysis drug testing.



WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

In 2022 our office attended 83 county court hearings, 247 first appearances, and had 167 scheduled reporting days with probationers.



Public Works

WHO WE ARE

Walton County Public Works encompasses Fleet Management, Stormwater Management, Engineering, Environmental, Utilities Coordination, Right-of-way, Bridges, North Walton Mosquito Control, and Road Maintenance Departments. We are the largest department in Walton County's organization.

The Public Works Department service area covers 1046.52 miles of roads (317.656 miles unpaved and 728.824 miles paved). We provide Right-of-Way, Traffic Signal, Flashing Beacons, and Highway Lighting maintenance. Over the years we have performed roadway grading, mowing, brush removal, and trash removal. We perform inspections of the stormwater outfalls and County maintained stormwater ponds. Our office issues numerous permits, reviews various applications, assists the public with forms, provides customer service regarding citizen inquiries, and manages funds received through grants.

Also under the umbrella of Public Works is the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Walton County Extension. UF/IFAS is Walton County's direct connection to research-based solutions from the Land Grant University. This partnership between the UF and Walton County provides opportunities to bring the resources of the University to our clients in Walton County. We pride ourselves in excellent customer service, experiential learning opportunities, and programs related to our community's needs.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

Public Works had a multi-faceted year that saw projects at every stage. This included: 8 Board Directed projects completed in-house (design and construction), 38 Construction Projects completed, 8 Design Projects completed, 10 Projects currently under construction, and 24 Projects currently under design.

Specifically in Engineering, over 300 Development Order applications, Variance requests, Abandonment requests, and Single-Family Stormwater requests were reviewed and commented on. Of the 38 Construction projects completed, 21 were completed by in-house crews. In Environmental, employees continued education by attending Invasive Species, Core Pesticide Applicators, Aquatic Pesticide training courses and one employee received a Public Applicator Pesticide Licensing for Right of Way Pest Control and Aquatic Pest Control.

Multiple training opportunities were also provided for County staff. Erosion and sedimentation control and spill prevention and Fleet Maintenance training were highly attended. Four quarterly educational newsletters for the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit compliance were developed and distributed at County offices. Marine Turtle and Shorebird training for Tourism Department, Code Compliance, Sheriff's Office and other County staff were coordinated. These public outreach and education events were sent out to approximately 2000 people. In September of 2022, Public Works was audited by FDEP regarding the County's MS4 program, and we are proud to report we received satisfactory audit results from FDEP.

Public Works aided in the deployment of 9 artificial reefs including pre-deployment inspections. We planned, organized, and facilitated six Coastal Dune Lake Advisory Board meetings as well as sponsoring educational events for Coastal Dune Lake Awareness month.

Some of our regional committee memberships include Black Bear Stakeholders Group, Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Technical Advisory Committee, Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Education and Outreach Committee, Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Citizens Advisory Committee, Explore Northwest Florida, Florida Panhandle Shorebird Partnership, Gulf Consortium Alternate Board Member Alternate, Keep Walton Beautiful Committee, Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Committee, Marine Science Advisory Committee, Panhandle Environmental Resource Team and Six Rivers Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.

Public Works

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

- 1046 miles of roadway maintenance (318 miles unpaved and 728 miles of paved)
- 8,268 approximate miles of roadway graded (159 x 52 weeks)
- 2,548 approximate miles of roadway mowed and trash removal (728 x 3.5 passes)
- 11,995.53 tons of brush removal
- 160.13 tons of trash/litter removal
- 12.52 miles of roadway resurfaced with in-house crews
- 3.43 miles of dirt roads paved with in-house crews
- 210 bridges maintained
- Approximately 150 crosswalks maintained
- 1394 signs have been constructed and installed
- 19 Rights-of-Way Use permits received, 15 approved and issued
- 393 Utility Rights-of-Way permits issued
- 6 Open the Road permits issued
- 35 signage permits approved and issued
- Numerous culvert sufficiency forms issued
- Numerous Public Works-related customer service calls handled
- 154 highway lighting maintained
- 48 traffic signals maintained
- Approximately \$6.5 million received in grant funds for infrastructure improvements to be managed by the Public Works Division
- 38 Construction Projects completed, 21 constructed in-house
- 8 Board approved projects completed in-house
- 8 Design projects completed
- 10 Projects currently under construction
- 24 Projects currently under design
- Reviewed and commented on over 300 Development Order applications, Variance Requests, Abandonment Request, Single-Family Stormwater reviews
- 1327 Fleet Work Order Maintenance completed
- 1,264 Equipment Work Order assets, not including saws/trimmers without asset #'s
- 2,580 gallons of used oil recycled
- Purchased 225,251 gallons diesel/199,860 unleaded
- Performed 84 inspections of County petroleum fuel tanks for FDEP compliance, coordinated with outside contractors for component testing 7 fuel tank locations
- Treated 79 miles of County rights-of-way for Cogongrass
- Performed 64 inspections of County stormwater outfalls
- Performed inspections of 108 County maintained stormwater ponds



Solid Waste

WHO WE ARE

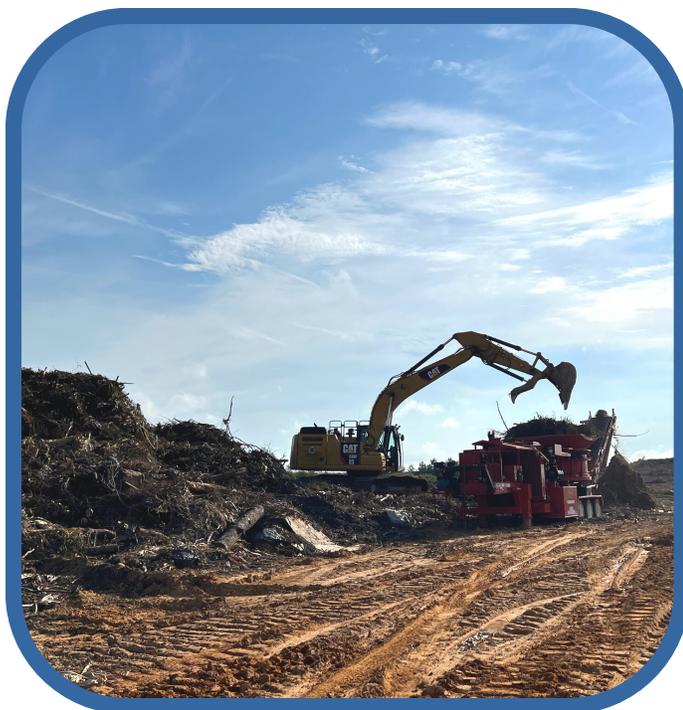
Walton County Solid Waste oversees and manages the Franchise Agreement with Waste Management Inc., for the collection and disposal of Municipal Solid Waste in Walton County and the daily operations of the Walton County Central Landfill (WCCL), which is a 120-acre site located in DeFuniak Springs and permitted through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to operate and maintain the following facilities:

- Class I Transfer Station – (Household and Commercial Waste)
- Class III Landfill – C&D, Furniture, etc.
- Waste Processing Facility for Recycling
- Closed Class I Landfill Cells
- Yard Waste Processing and Disposal Facility
- Waste Tire Collection Center
- Groundwater Monitoring and Remediation System

The employees with Solid Waste help maintain efficient operations and regulatory compliance.

The employee's daily tasks include:

- Directing customers to the appropriate disposal areas
- Receiving, pushing, spreading and compacting Class III waste on the Landfill
- Receiving and loading Class I waste within the Transfer Station
- Inspecting waste as it is deposited to ensure regulatory compliance
- Processing yard waste, operating the scales/scalehouse
- Maintaining roadways and the overall site by grading and controlling stormwater
- Collecting used oil and maintaining the groundwater monitoring and remediation system
- Collecting/hauling recycle trailers and roll-off dumpsters throughout Walton County



In 2022, Solid Waste handled:

Inbound Tickets: 49,643 (vehicle trips into landfill)

MSW: (Household and Commercial) – 93,853 tons
(3,750 semi-trucks)

Recyclable Materials: 1,535 tons (\$105,769.44 in revenue)

Class III: 29,998 tons

Yard Trash: 8,613 tons

Tires: 134 tons

Used Oil: 13,040 gallons

Cash Sales and Charge Accounts: \$543,466.11

Solid Waste

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

Transfer Station

Class I waste (Municipal Solid Waste), both household and commercial waste, is collected by Waste Management throughout Walton County by curbside pickup or container and transported to the Transfer Station at WCCL. The waste is then loaded into a transfer trailer to then be delivered to the Springhill Class I Landfill operated by Waste Management, located in Jackson County, FL. In 2022, 93,853 tons were processed within the Class I Transfer Station equating to approximately 3,750 semi-truck loads of household waste.

Class III Landfill

The landfill also accepts Class III waste which consists of waste like construction and demolition debris, furniture, carpet, drywall, etc. Class III waste is brought to WCCL by residents, contractors, and city and county workers. These customers are directed to tip their waste at the Class III Landfill where it is compacted and buried. All customers weigh-in and weigh-out and records are maintained for billing, remaining capacity estimates, growth projection and regulatory compliance reporting purposes. In 2022, 29,998 tons of Class III waste was processed at WCCL, and 8,613 tons of yard trash was mulched and reused. The current Class III landfill cell is nearing its designed and permitted capacity, so a new lined Class III landfill cell has been designed, permitted and constructed just East of the current cell. Once finalized, the new cell will begin to be “floored out” with select waste and operations will begin once the current cell is at capacity.

Recycling

Solid Waste also operates a recycling program which consists of strategically placed recycling trailers throughout Walton County where residents deposit their recyclable materials. The trailers are routinely exchanged by Solid Waste employees and delivered to the Waste Processing Facility where the recyclable materials are ultimately processed; the recyclable material is tipped onto the transfer station floor, sorted by material type and baled for transportation. In 2022, 1,535 tons of recyclable material was processed at WCCL resulting in approximately \$105,769.44 in revenue. Additionally, 134 tons of tires and 13,040 gallons of oil were collected in 2022.

Material	Landfill	Topsail	Total
Latex Paint	22,500 lbs.	23,040 lbs.	45,540 lbs.
Oil Based Paint	22,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.	34,000 lbs.
Aerosols	3,000 lbs.	2,020 lbs.	5,020 lbs.
Adhesive – Flammable	2,350 lbs.	2,500 lbs.	4,850 lbs.
Pesticide – Liquid	4,250 lbs.	4,400 lbs.	8,650 lbs.
Pesticide – Solid	2,000 lbs.	2,000 lbs.	4,000 lbs.
Acid	700 lbs.	700 lbs.	1,400 lbs.
Base	750 lbs.	700 lbs.	1,450 lbs.
Oxidizer	550 lbs.	440 lbs.	990 lbs.
Propane/Butane	202 lbs.	240 lbs.	442 lbs.
Mercury	20 lbs.	20 lbs.	40 lbs.
Used Oil	4,600 lbs.	3,200 lbs.	7,800 lbs.
Lead Acid Batteries	1,995 lbs.	1,820 lbs.	3,815 lbs.
Electronics	4,240 lbs.	2,300 lbs.	6,540 lbs.

Tourism Department - Administration

WHO WE ARE

The Walton County Tourism Department is charged with protecting and strengthening the Walton County brand in the tourism marketplace, in order to increase the region's tourism economy.

As a Destination Marketing Organization, we promote a rich picture of how there's something special for each visitor, whether it's time spent among our 26-miles of sugar-white sand beaches and 16 unique beach neighborhoods or the historic, natural landscape above the Bay.

We accomplish this through creative marketing, an engaging social media presence and dedicated coordination with meeting planners, as well as strategic communications across earned and owned media channels and public relations initiatives. Our Visitor Center located on the corner of Hwy. 331 and U.S. 98 is open seven days a week, providing direct customer contact and resources for visitors and locals alike.

We also build engagement between local residents, community stakeholders and partners - our tourism-facing businesses — and educate them on the value of tourism as the No. 1 economic driver for the county.

The Tourism Department is funded exclusively through a tourist occupancy tax, or bed tax, which is collected from visitors on short-term lodging rentals of six months or less. Locals do not pay a bed tax, unless they are taking a "staycation" in local accommodations. The bed tax collected south of the Choctawhatchee Bay is 5 percent and north of the Bay it is 2 percent.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

Through Tourism Department initiatives and partner collaboration, visitor spending in 2022 generated an economic impact of \$7.2 billion and 47,000 jobs for Walton County.

Website Visits: 1,375,592

Total Paid Media Impressions: 300,732,064

Total BookDirect Visits: 33,020

Beach Safety Texts Sent: 6,730,695

YouTube Views: 6,438,932

Generated 185 meeting leads for Partners

Recognized for the 10th time as the Convention South's Readers' Choice Award winner

YTD Earned Media Value: \$8,894,798

YTD Circulation/Viewership: 4,703,611,023

Visitor's Center Visitor Count: 17,712

Visitor's Center Sales: \$188,961



Tourism Department - Beach Operations

WHO WE ARE

The Beach Operations Department is Walton County's maintenance department for our world-renowned vacation destination: The Beaches of South Walton. On behalf of Walton County, the Tourism Department, and county tourism industry partners, the Beach Operations Department keeps the 26 miles of Walton County beaches clean 365 days a year, maintains all beach and bay related facilities, maintains the multi-use path on the scenic corridors, maintains the landscaped state highway rights of way at the gateways into South Walton County, and manages all new development /construction activities for tourism-related capital improvements.



WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

Beach and Bay Access Facilities Cleaning

14 Regional Beach and Bay public access facilities cleaned twice a day 363 days per year
46 Neighborhood Beach and Bay public access facilities cleaned once a day 363 days per year

General Maintenance Projects

3,430 Work Orders for maintenance items completed

Development/Construction Projects: 13 projects are currently in progress

Wildlife Removal

12 Sea turtle removals / assists from beach

Grayton Tram Beach Shuttle

Operated four shuttle vehicles 7 days a week from 6am to 10pm from March to December 2022
Transported 111,715 residents and visitors between Grayton Central Parking Facility and Grayton Beach Public Beach Access

Veterans Services

WHO WE ARE

Walton County's Veterans Services serves as a single point of contact for assisting all veterans and their families in accessing federal, state, and local benefits. With more than 7,700 veterans in Walton County, the Walton County Veterans Services Officer serves as a liaison for local veterans when obtaining benefits. The officer works to ensure veterans and their families are able to access as many veterans' benefits they may be eligible for, which can include disability compensation, pension, death/burial benefits, education, medical expenses, housing and auto grants, and appeals. Our primary focus is to advise, instruct and counsel veterans, their spouses, and children of the benefits available from the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2022?

VetPro Software Update

As our County grows, so does our Veteran population. With our new VetPro software update, our office can file claims remotely saving the Veteran a trip to our office. We can fill out the proper forms and send remotely to the veteran for signature.

State-mandated Re-Certification/Accreditation Training

Our two Veteran Service Officers are required to complete Re-Certification/Accreditation by attending an annual Conference every year and pass a test. This allows proper documentation required to submit a successful claim on behalf of the veteran to the Department of Veteran of Affairs.

VA Mandatory Training

Veteran Affairs Security Awareness Training
VA Privacy and Information Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior
Annual Employee Certification of Veteran Status and Veteran-Relatives

Emergency Management/FEMA Training

Our office completed many hours of training with Walton County Emergency Management

Total Veteran Contacts: 3,458

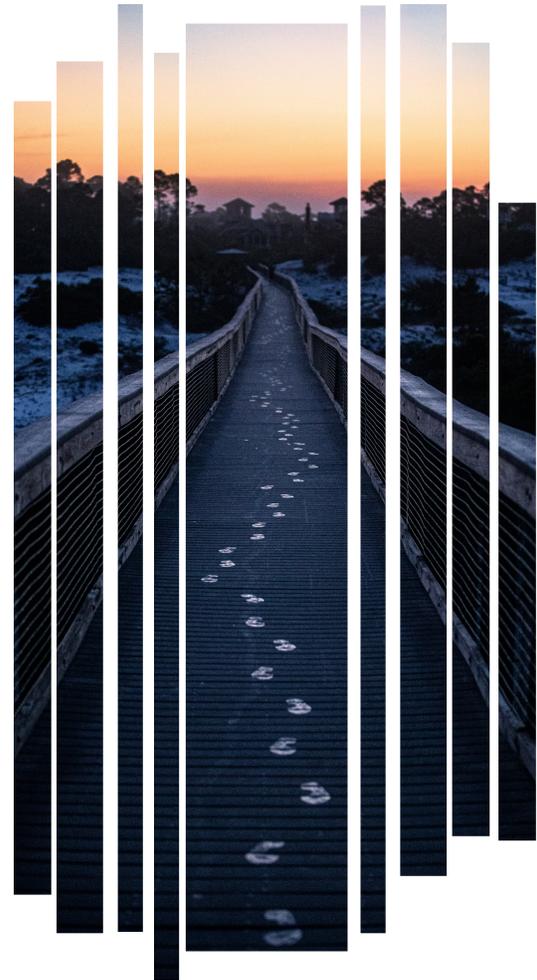
Total Claims Processed: 752



County Directory

Walton County BCC

Administration	(850) 892-8155
Building Division	(850) 892-8160
Code Compliance	(850) 622-0000
County Attorney	(850) 892-8110
Emergency Management	(850) 892-8530
Facilities Maintenance	(850) 951-7010
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	(850) 892-2452
Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	(850) 892-8185
Human Resources	(850) 892-8586
Office of Management and Budget	(850) 892-8135
Libraries	(850) 892-3624
Parks and Recreation	(850) 892-8700
Planning and Development	(850) 267-1955
Probation	(850) 892-8135
Public Works	(850) 892-8108
Solid Waste and Recycling	(850) 892-8180
Tourism Department – Administration	(850) 267-1216
Tourism Department – Beach Operations	(850) 267-4578
Veteran Services	(850) 892-8140



Constitutional

Clerk of Courts	(850) 892-8115
Property Appraiser	(850) 892-8123
Sheriff	(850) 892-8186
Supervisor of Elections	(850) 892-8112
Tax Collector	(850) 892-8121

Municipal

DeFuniak Springs	(850) 892-8500
Freeport	(850) 835-2822
Paxton	(850) 834-2489

Departmental Annual Reports

Click the department name to download their annual report:

[Code Compliance](#)

[Emergency Management](#)

[Geographic Information Systems \(GIS\)](#)

[Planning and Development](#)

[Public Works](#)

[Solid Waste](#)

[Tourism Department – Administration](#)

[Tourism Department – Beach Operations](#)



Grady Brown Park