





WELCOME!



The City of Tallahassee is a robust organization with a dedicated workforce of nearly 3,000 employees who are proud to call our city our home. By increasing public safety, stimulating economic development and investing in infrastructure, the City of Tallahassee is enhancing the quality of life for Tallahassee citizens. The City serves as a full-service municipality, providing police and fire services, electric, gas and water utilities to residential and commercial customers, offering transit and paratransit services and operating an international airport. In comparison to similar cities around Florida, the City of Tallahassee ranks second to lowest on residential costs for services.

With a focus on the value and quality of the services delivered and the long-term fiscal health of the community, we are committed to providing the highest level of customer service in all areas, while also looking at ways to increase efficiency, and creating a vibrant community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



OUR CITY. OUR HOME.

INCREASING PUBLIC SAFETY

The City's commitment to addressing crime in our community through a collaborative, community-focused approach is working. Crime in Tallahassee is the lowest it's been since 2013.

Guided by a five-year strategic plan, the Tallahassee Police Department's (TPD) innovative, holistic, modern approach to policing strategies is designed to engage the community in efforts focused on reducing crime.

- The creation of a new public safety campus is a key component of the community oriented policing strategy. TPD's 410 officers (55 new positions have been added over the last three years) and staff will be headquartered in the full-service facility, which will also provide community amenities like a playground and meeting space. The campus will be designed to meet the current and future needs of TPD while creating opportunities to strengthen connections with the community.
- Through the Tallahassee Engaged in Meaningful Productivity for Opportunity (TEMPO) youth program, the City is reaching those most at risk and providing a better alternative through education and career training. The program's target demographic youths age 16-24 who are out of work and out of school represent, according to data, Tallahassee's largest gun violence victims and offender pools. The first group of cohorts recently took part in the Graduation and Achievement Ceremony.
- Efforts like the Neighborhood Public Safety Initiative and Operation Safe Neighborhoods, coordinated with support from the City's Neighborhood Affairs division, are engaging neighbors to identify and remedy issues that could contribute to crime.
- Back-to-back hurricanes in Tallahassee have highlighted the importance of whole community preparedness. From offering the Neighborhood PREP (Plan for Readiness and Emergency Preparedness) toolkit for residents to creating an internal supplemental staffing program to strengthen our hurricane response abilities, the City is actively preparing both the community and the organization. A Chief Resiliency Officer was hired to review where we currently are and develop plans to ensure Tallahassee is equipped for any type of disaster in the future.
- Connections with other agencies are also vital to continuing to reduce crime. The Public Safety Collective, led by TPD, is enhancing collaboration between partners, enabling improved information sharing and reinforcing the commitment to mutual support.
- Grant funding is being used for equipment upgrades and enhanced technology, including officer worn body cameras and installation of safety cameras in areas where crime is recurring. The safety cameras have had a positive impact as demonstrated by a reduction in calls for service near the camera locations.
- Guided by its core values of trust, loyalty and commitment, with full support from City leadership, TPD's commitment to community is at the heart of modern policing, and it's what's working in Tallahassee.



Leon County Crime Rate Trend

STIMULATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Our community is experiencing a rate of growth twice that of the state and nearly three times that of the country. The Federal Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that our area has the fastest growing economy per capita in Florida. Signs of Tallahassee's thriving economy can be seen all over town. Currently, there are hundreds of private development projects in various phases, creating thousands of local job opportunities and helping to diversify our local economy.

Compared to last year, employment, labor and wages are all up, while office vacancies and mortgage foreclosures are down. Additionally, Florida State University and Florida A&M University each have major development projects on the horizon related to their respective campus master plans. Total financial impacts from private and public projects are expected to be in the billions of dollars, further strengthening our community's economy.

The City government's contributions are instrumental in creating a strong economic foundation upon which Tallahassee residents can build their lives, careers and successful businesses. Supporting development projects with investments in infrastructure, creating a safe community where citizens enjoy a high quality of life, an affordable cost of living, no business tax and a proactive permitting process are a few of the contributing factors that make Tallahassee a desirable place for businesses.

- Residential and commercial customers enjoy a full range of services at a lower cost than 10 out of 11 Florida cities of similar size offering similar services per the annual Municipal Cost Comparison.
- Planning Department Design Works staff have had over 140 consultations on projects throughout the community in 2017. There is a strong interest in developments in the urban core, South Monroe Street corridor and east side of Tallahassee. Other trends show significant growth in assisted living facilities and a move to replace older developments with new, higher density developments.
- During the first two quarters of FY18, the City's Growth Management Department has permitted more commercial square footage (approx. 2.5 million) than

all of FY17 (approx. 2.3 million). With 2,190 residential permits issued countywide in FY17, activity is at its highest since FY07.

• Expansion of the Frenchtown/Southside District to include parts of South City, Orange Avenue and Springhill Road in the Community Redevelopment Association (CRA) will further support economic development efforts helping to revitalize this area.

To meet the needs of our growing community, the City is exploring ways to increase affordable housing options through innovative programs that take a holistic approach to addressing issues from education to wellness. Planning initiatives, including the creation of an Urban Forest Master Plan, are safeguarding the unique and charming qualities that make Tallahassee such an attractive place to live.

Effective operations combined with financially responsible management practices continue to be recognized with strong ratings from our nation's most respected financial rating agencies including Moody's, Fitch and Standard & Poor's.

Top Economic Indicators Report



INVESTING IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

A contributing factor to a thriving economy is infrastructure planning. There is a current \$314.3 million five-year plan for investing in Tallahassee's public infrastructure including, approximately 650 miles of roadway and more than 500 miles of sidewalks. This year, the City will repave five times more lane miles of road than in 2015 and has recently repaired more than 15,000 sidewalk trip hazards by following an inspection and master planning process. Currently, \$6.5 million is dedicated annually for street resurfacing with an additional recurring \$1 million for sidewalk maintenance.

By applying new technologies and innovative approaches to address infrastructure needs, the City has realized \$10 million worth of savings while creating approximately 1,100 private sector jobs. Some of these new approaches include:

- Where practical, trip hazards are now addressed through either grinding of the hazard or raising depressed sidewalk panels through pressure injection of a structural foaming agent.
- Road and sidewalk projects are concurrently planned and executed with other underground utility projects, which avoids additional expense and lessens community disruption.
- A pavement asset management based approach has been implemented that uses the latest technology available for measuring pavement surface condition as well as the relative strength of the supporting

subgrade.
Cured-in-place pipe lining is a new process being done in place of the traditional method of excavating the road for the removal and

replacement of an older pipe. The new process reduces impacts to other infrastructure in the area, as well as motorists and residents. It's approximately five times cheaper than the traditional method and extends the service life of the existing pipe.

Enhanced efficiency, innovative approaches and streamlined processes for maintaining our infrastructure are allowing the City to provide high quality services in a fiscally responsible way while meeting the needs of a growing community. This focus has earned the Underground Utilities and Public Infrastructure department the 2015 Governor's Sterling Award and 2018 Governor's Sterling Sustained Excellence Award; the City of Tallahassee is the only public or private utility in the State of Florida to ever receive both awards.

2018 Capital Improvements Projects

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ENHANCING QUALITY **OF LIFE**



The City operates and maintains 3,455 acres of well-managed parkland at 88 parks (with plans to add two more) and facilities, ranging from neighborhood playgrounds to nature preserves to regional parks, including Cascades Park. The City also runs the Senior Center with plans to open a second center that will allow for a much-needed expansion of programs and classes, encouraging our growing senior population to be active, artistic and involved. Tallahassee recently ranked in the top 50 cities nationwide for bicyclists and was designated a Silver Level Bike Friendly Community.

This year, the City also created its first fresh urban market, providing access to healthy food for residents in the Bond community. This initiative supports the City's commitment to provide opportunities for all residents to maintain healthy lifestyles.

A healthy community includes a healthy environment, which is why the City continues to be a leader in sustainability.

- Through StarMetro, the City operates a fleet of electric buses and is moving forward with procuring additional electric buses in partnership with Florida State University, which will make it the first all-electric bus fleet on any campus in the country.
- In 2017, the City brought its first solar farm online. The 20 megawatt (MW), 120-acre solar farm feeds energy into the City's electric grid. More than 2,000 utility customers from small residential to large educational institutions are participating in Tallahassee Solar, the City's solar program. A waitlist has been created for the second solar farm, demonstrating the community's support for sustainable energy sources.
- The City offers an Adopt a Tree program that provides customers up to two free trees a year, and it coordinates an Arbor Day tree planting in public parks and greenspaces.

Designated as a Tree City USA, Tallahassee is known for the beautiful canopies that cover 55 percent of the City. These trees have a direct impact on the quality of life

water, sewer,

enjoyed by residents and can provide monetary, social and ecological value to the community. A comprehensive Urban Forestry Master Plan is being developed with citizen input and data to strategically manage trees within the current urban area.

The City works hard to ensure that all citizens can enjoy a high quality of life, which includes housing options for every income level. The City actively invests in affordable housing solutions, including a dedication to build three Habitat for Humanity homes in 2018.

With a continued focus on maintaining financial stability, providing quality services responsive to customers and enhancing community and neighborhood vitality, the City is ensuring all residents are proud to call Tallahassee home.

Fiscal Year Municipal Cost Comparison Total Municipal Costs





