



2023 Year in Review



Message From the City Manager

2023 was another year of remarkable progress in the City of Melbourne. Thanks to the leadership of the City Council and the dedication and tireless work of our employees, we continued to find creative ways to adapt to the ongoing challenges of high inflation, a tight labor market, and supply chain issues as we advanced major infrastructure projects and maintained the high level of service that our residents and businesses have come to expect.

Commercial and residential development continued at a strong pace, and City Council adopted new ordinances and directed funds to expand the inventory of affordable housing in our community. Innovative new public safety programs that launched the year before demonstrated their full potential in 2023, making our neighborhoods safer and improving

the quality of life in our community. We also continued to upgrade and expand our recreation amenities and replace utilities infrastructure, and our ambitious environmental cleanup efforts helped in the system-wide effort to restore the Indian River Lagoon.

This has been a great year for our community, and we have much to look forward to in 2024. I am grateful for the commitment of our elected leaders, employees and volunteers whose dedication make the City of Melbourne one of the best places to live, work and play.



Jenni Lamb, City Manager

Financial Stability

Thoughtful planning and budgeting have allowed the City of Melbourne to balance the need to raise salaries to attract and retain employees with the many other demands on the city's limited resources. In 2023, municipalities continued to operate in a post-pandemic environment in which costs were significantly higher than two years ago, and historically low unemployment rates created a highly competitive labor market.

The City has remained financially stable by proactively managing expenditures, avoiding the use of cash reserves for ongoing operational needs, and by evaluating ways to achieve long-term

cost savings. The City also continues to pursue grants to fund special projects and equipment, and was awarded several millions of dollars in grant funding in 2023.

The City's careful stewardship of taxpayer resources continued to garner national recognition, as well. In 2023, the City earned the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 36th year in a row. The City also maintained its high AA rating from Fitch Ratings for new and existing water and sewer revenue bonds.

Growth and Development

U.S. News and World Report ranked Melbourne number 15 out of the top 150 metropolitan areas on its 2023-2024 Best Places to Live ranking, which considered a community's desirability, job market and quality of life.

The City of Melbourne's business-friendly environment and many amenities continue to attract businesses and developers. In fiscal year 2023, the City issued 8,737 permits for projects valued at more than \$303 million.

Parasol senior-living apartments on Dairy Road and a new Hyatt Place hotel at Melbourne Orlando International Airport opened in 2023. Two hotel projects on A1A (Element Melbourne Oceanfront Hotel and Fairfield Inn Hotel), the Preserve at Melbourne apartment complex on West Eau Gallie Boulevard, and two mini-storage projects were under construction. Other major projects continued to progress, including:

- Apollo Crossroads (apartments and storage that will replace the old Kia/Infinity dealerships on Apollo Boulevard);
- Avery at Eau Gallie (a 7-story, mixed-use apartment building at 1300 Cypress Avenue);
- Mayfair Planned Unit Development on Babcock Street; and
- Eagle Preserve Planned Unit Development on Eau Gallie Boulevard.



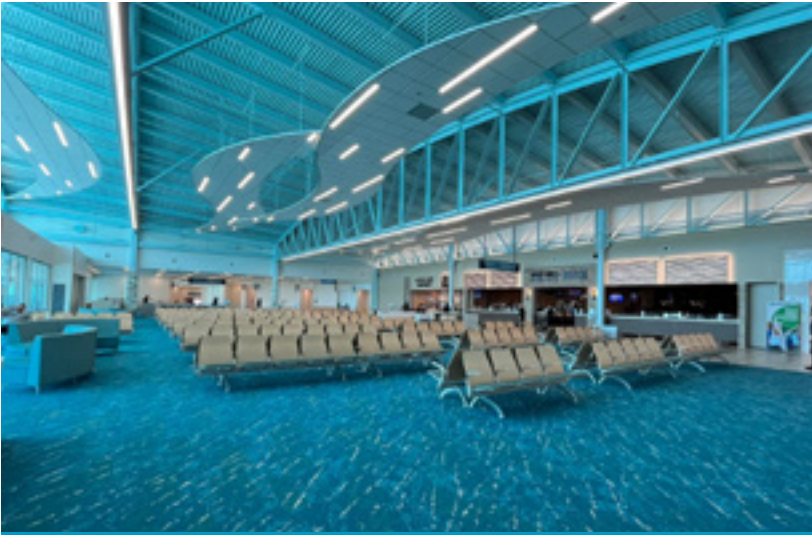
Parasol



Hyatt Place at Melbourne Orlando International Airport



Avery at Eau Gallie (architectural rendering)



Melbourne Orlando International Airport Terminal Expansion

In January, the Melbourne Orlando International Airport completed its terminal expansion project featuring an expanded concourse with fresh restaurant and retail concessions; expanded, streamlined TSA security screening area; four new common-use international/domestic jet bridges; renovated common-use ticketing area and counters; expanded U.S. Customs Federal Inspection Station; and a new welcome center with immediate access to ground transportation, including an attached bus depot.



Dassault Falcon Jet Complex (architectural rendering)

Dassault Falcon Jet broke ground on a 175,000 square-foot complex at Melbourne Orlando International Airport in November. The new facility is expected to bring 400 jobs with an average wage of \$86,000.

Toward the end of 2023, Council gave conceptual approval of a proposed public-private development agreement that would redevelop the blighted property at 2100 Melbourne Court into an \$80 million project with a 246 market-rate apartments. Under the proposed plan, the developer would donate approximately 0.491 acres of land to the City of Melbourne upon completion of the project that the City could use to create a large public leisure area and event space that would connect Downtown to the waterfront.



Element Melbourne Oceanfront Hotel (architectural rendering)

Affordable Housing

Considerable progress was made in 2023 to increase affordable housing development in the City of Melbourne. City Council approved a new ordinance that provides additional incentives for affordable housing projects and reflects the requirements of the State's new Live Local Act. City Council also awarded \$4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to three affordable housing projects:

- \$500,000 to Habitat for Humanity and Macedonia Community Development Corporation to construct three single family homes in South Melbourne.
- \$500,000 to BNDC/Neighbor Up to construct eight multifamily units on Masterson Street.
- \$3 million to Providence Place to construct 120 affordable housing units on City-owned property on Sarno Road.

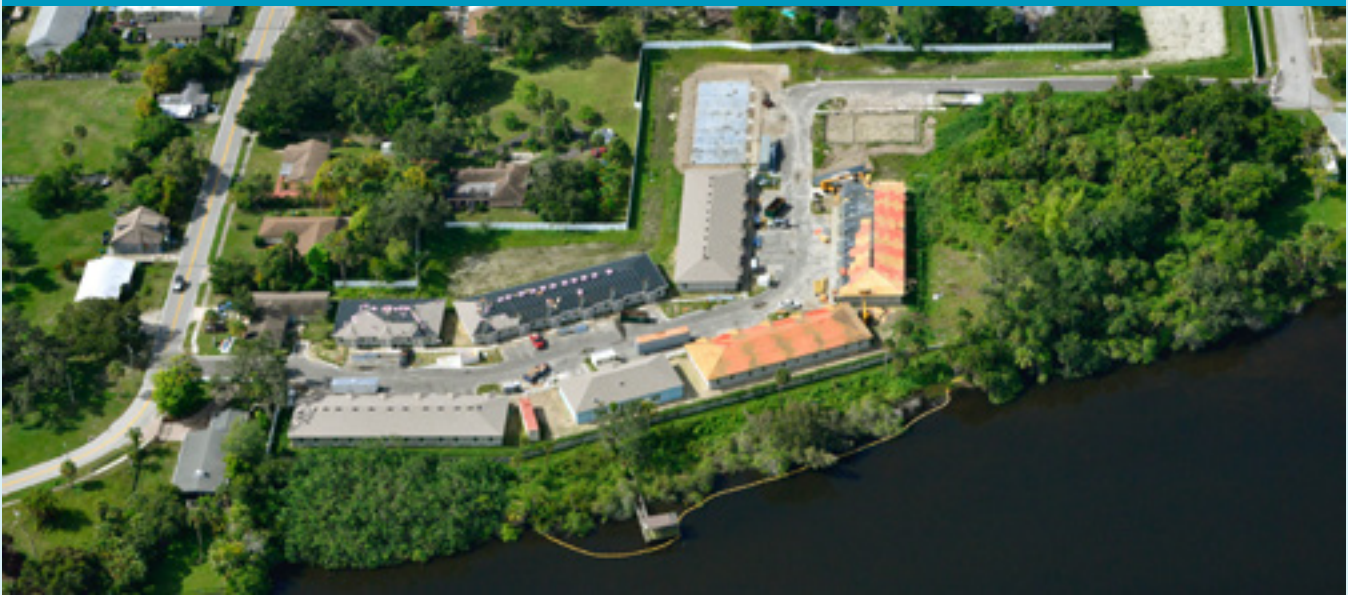
Council also approved an additional homestead exemption of \$25,000 to help residents over the age of 65 with limited income continue to afford to stay in their homes.

In 2023, Palms at University, featuring 60 affordable housing units for seniors, was

completed and opened, and St. Stephens Way was under construction with 40 three-bedroom units for homeless families. Four projects held pre-application meetings:

- Oasis, a multi-phased redevelopment of the current Florida Marketplace property (northwest corner of Hibiscus and Babcock) to construct a mixed income, multifamily development with commercial uses;
- Casa Azul, a mixed-income, multifamily development on South Babcock Street that will include 327 units on approximately 11 acres;
- Capernaum Apartments, a development of 24 units of affordable housing for youth aging out of foster care located on vacant land on Adger Smith Lane;
- Main Street Apartments, which will add 10-15 affordable housing units north of University Boulevard; and
- Greater Heights Phase 2 Apartments, eight units on the south side of Masterson Street.

St. Stephens Way Under Construction (July 2023)



Parks, Recreation and Golf

In 2023, recreation amenities were improved and expanded at the many parks, fields, courts and courses the City of Melbourne maintains. The City also offered a variety of classes and special events for the community to enjoy, including summer camp, the annual MelBOOM 4th of July fireworks celebration, and many holiday-themed events and activities.

Four of the Fee Avenue tennis courts were resurfaced, and new nets were installed. Two tennis courts at Jimmy Moore Complex were converted to six pickleball courts to meet the increasing public demand for pickleball.

The volleyball court at Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr. Community Complex was refurbished, and improvements were made to basketball courts at Brothers Park and Ballard Park. Renovations were made to the Back 9 Grill at Crane Creek Golf Course, and the driving range nets were replaced at the driving range at both Crane Creek Reserve and Harbor City golf courses. Preparations were made to install new playgrounds at Riverview Park, Magnolia Park and Masterson Park in early 2024.

After the passing of Tim Wakefield this fall, City Council approved a resolution to change the name of Crane Field Park to Tim Wakefield Sports Complex.

Wickham Park Community Center Summer Camp



Resurfaced Tennis Courts at Fee Avenue



Employees Working on New Dugouts at Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr. Community Complex



Breakfast With Santa





Melbourne Police Department Swearing-In Ceremony

Keeping Our Community Safe

Police Department

2023 marked the Mobile Crisis Co-Responder Team's (MRT) first full year of operation. The MRT program was launched in 2022 when City Council approved a three-year partnership with Central Florida Cares Health System Inc. and Brevard Family Partnership/Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Since then, many residents experiencing a mental health crisis situation have been helped by the MRT. Team members have been able to de-escalate situations, help divert those experiencing a mental health crisis from arrest, and have provided ongoing case

management and resources to those who need them. As of November 30, 2023, MRT clinicians responded to residents in crisis 428 times and made 3,031 contacts with people needing ongoing assistance.

Construction of the new police facility, the Joseph Pellicano Law Enforcement Center, progressed significantly in 2023. The facility is on schedule to be completed and occupied in 2024. The new 76,390 square-foot, two-story building will bring all MPD divisions together under one roof to help make emergency response more efficient and to streamline operational efficiency and information sharing.

Mobile Crisis Co-Responder Team



In October, the Melbourne Police Department held its first “Academy Recruit Sign-on Day” to welcome newly hired academy recruits to the Melbourne Police Department. The event was part of an expanded campaign to attract the best talent to the Melbourne Police Department. The campaign also included providing recruits full tuition, books, and uniforms at the police academy; a full-time salary while they attend the academy; a \$5,000 sign-on bonus from the State of Florida; and a \$2,500 sign-on bonus from the City of Melbourne. These efforts resulted in bringing in 24 new police officers in 2023.

The Police Community Relations Council continued to meet regularly, and the Police Department continued other long-standing outreach efforts. Several community events were held throughout the year, including the Kids Fishing Clinic, Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, Meet the Grinch, and Shop with a Cop.

Joseph Pellicano Law Enforcement Center Under Construction (November 2023)



Melbourne Fire Department Fire Training Center

Fire Department

In 2023, the Melbourne Fire Department was deemed a State-recognized “Technical Rescue Team.” Technical rescue includes trench rescue, rope rescue, vehicle machinery rescue, confined space rescue, and structural collapse.

The City was awarded a \$3.3 million Staffing for Adequate Emergency Response (SAFER) grant in September 2023 that will allow us to hire 12 new firefighters. Recruitment began in October, and by the end of the year eight firefighters had been hired.

The Fire Department acquired a new ATV in 2023 that will speed up medical rescue and response at large outdoor events, at Wickham Park for example, or at other outdoor areas that are not easily accessible by ambulance or fire rescue vehicle. Other new equipment acquired this year included a new forcible entry prop that is being used at the fire training center and a new decontamination machine that is being used to remove carcinogens from SCBA and other equipment.

Improving Infrastructure

The City of Melbourne continued to invest in infrastructure improvements that will benefit our community today and in the future. Some highlights from 2023 are described below.

Water Production and Distribution

A joint project with the City of Cocoa to add additional water transmission lines across the Pineda Causeway was completed in 2023. A new 16-inch water transmission main from U.S. 1 to South Patrick Drive now serves as a third feed for drinking water to City of Melbourne customers in Satellite Beach, Indian Harbour Beach, Indialantic and Melbourne Beach. It also provides redundancy and helps to improve flow and water quality beachside. The joint project included a parallel 16-inch water main to serve City of Cocoa water customers on the barrier island north of the causeway.

Two isolation valves were installed on the water transmission main that runs under U.S. 192 near Campbell Drive. Adding



Deep Injection Well Drilling Rig

isolation valves reduces the number of businesses affected by water outages when a water main break occurs. The City is currently evaluating other locations where it would be beneficial to install additional isolation valves.

Crews repaired 145 water main breaks last year. They also installed 161 new water services to connect new customers to City water, and replaced or repaired an additional 976 water services.

A project to expand the City of Melbourne's reverse osmosis (RO) groundwater production plant continued to progress. Construction began on a deep injection well to dispose of the concentrate that is part of the RO water treatment process. Work to replace and upgrade the RO plant's degassifiers and scrubbers (key components necessary in the RO treatment process) also continued. At the surface water treatment plant, a project to improve piping on the surface water treatment filters began. When completed the new piping will make the process to clean the filters more efficient.

Isolation Valve Installation





Eau Gallie River Dam

In 2023, construction began on a new pumping station at Canova Beach to improve energy efficiency and pumping in the City's water distribution system on the barrier island. The work includes a new chemical storage and feed system with a canopy structure, a new electrical building, new electrical service including on site pad-mounted transformer, new electrical equipment and associated instrumentation and controls. Once the improvements are placed into operation, the existing pump station and electrical building will be demolished. The existing 2 million gallon ground storage tank is in good shape and will stay in service.

Eau Gallie Dam Replacement

A 62-year-old dam structure on the Eau Gallie River near the Apollo Boulevard bridge was replaced this year. The dam was originally constructed in 1961 to provide a temporary freshwater impoundment for the City of Eau Gallie's drinking water system while

the permanent water plant was being constructed at Lake Washington. While the original purpose of the dam is no longer needed, the dam is still considered important for maintaining the boundary between the freshwater system that has developed to the west of the dam and the brackish system to the east along the Eau Gallie River and Indian River Lagoon.

City Hall Parking Garage Security Upgrades

In an effort to foster a safe environment for both patrons and employees who support businesses in Downtown Melbourne, 39 new security cameras were installed in the City Hall parking garage, and security guard services began in the garage during Downtown's busiest evenings (Thursday through Saturday). An additional security camera was installed at Campbell Park (935 E. New Haven Avenue). The City is working with Melbourne Main Street to install additional security cameras along New Haven Avenue.

Drainage Improvements

A smaller drainage pipe was replaced with a 5' x 5' box culvert system at 1046 S. Harbor City Boulevard to improve drainage throughout a large area that includes Melbourne High School and Holmes Regional Medical Center. This project has not only alleviated localized street flooding, it is reducing sedimentation caused by erosion from entering the Indian River Lagoon.



Drainage Improvements Project at 1046 S. Harbor City Boulevard



Mast Arm Traffic Signal at NASA Boulevard and Grumman Place

Improvements to Traffic Signals and Systems

The span wire traffic signal at the intersection of NASA Boulevard and Grumman Place was replaced with a mast arm signal. This is part of a larger effort to replace all span wire traffic signals in the City of Melbourne with mast arm signals. Mast arm signals are sturdier and easier to maintain and repair - especially during strong storms and hurricanes. Almost all of the intersections in the City now have mast arm signals. There are only two more City-maintained intersections remaining to be converted.

The City also worked with the Florida Department of Transportation to implement an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) along NASA Boulevard between Wickham Road and U.S. 1. The ITS system helps traffic move more efficiently by allowing staff to respond to changes in traffic flow due to accidents and construction. This work is also helping us prepare for future technologies.

Protecting Our Environment



Baffle Box Installation

A new baffle box was installed to treat stormwater runoff from a 151-acre drainage basin located roughly within the boundaries of Babcock Street to the railroad right of way from Babcock Street to Oak Street. Baffle boxes trap debris and pollution from stormwater. They are being installed citywide as part of the effort to keep pollution from going into the Indian River Lagoon.



International Coastal Cleanup Volunteers

In Fiscal Year 2023, more than 174 cubic yards of debris were removed from the City's 16 baffle boxes. The street-sweeping program cleaned up 854,233 pounds of litter and debris from City streets, and Adopt a Road volunteers removed another 8,560 pounds of trash. The City's ECO Division also coordinated volunteer trash clean up events – like Trash Bash and International Coastal Cleanup – that engaged residents in the effort to help restore the Indian River Lagoon.



Villa Espana Stormwater Ditch Improvement Project

The Streets and Stormwater Division completed a project to improve drainage and erosion control at a stormwater ditch in the Villa Espana neighborhood. A failing headwall was removed, and the slopes were regraded and reestablished. Fabric formed rip-rap was installed to provide erosion control that will help keep sediment out of the Indian River Lagoon.