



Archaeology of North Port

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS



Why do we care?



ALL THE LEGAL REASONS!

Chapter 58: Archeological Resource Protection Regulations

- ▶ The purpose of this chapter is to protect the significant historic and archaeological resources of the City of North Port to the maximum extent practicable, in accordance with the City of North Port Comprehensive Plan, by providing procedures for the review of plans and development projects as well as standards for the protection of these resources.
- ▶ This is re-stated in the Future Land Use Section 2.3 Ordinance 2024-09

City followed County, State, and Federal Guidelines

- ▶ Section 106
 - ▶ NAGPRA
- ▶ Florida Statute 867 and 373
 - ▶ Florida Statute 872.05
- ▶ Sarasota County Ordinance
- ▶ Why are these often tied to wetland permits?
 - ▶ Many archaeological sites are located near wetlands so it is the most likely place for them to be found and impacted by projects.

How do you know what is Significant?

- ▶ Historic resources shall be fifty (50) years old or older.
- ▶ Significance may be established on a local, State, or national level.
- ▶ The criteria to be applied by the City Manager or designee in determining the significance of historic resources are based on those criteria used to determine eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Code of Federal Regulations Title 36, Part 60) and are as follows:
 - ▶ Significant historic resources must convey an overall sense of past time and place by possessing at least three (3) of the following attributes of integrity:
 - ▶ Location
 - ▶ Design
 - ▶ Setting
 - ▶ Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local, State or national history; or
 - ▶ Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

What is Cultural Resource Management?

FANCY WORDS FOR
ARCHAEOLOGY! (AND
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE)

CRM Archaeology

There are three main types of archaeological survey

- ▶ Phase I- Dig shovel tests at specified intervals to meet compliance requirements.
 - ▶ Locate archaeological sites and usually evaluate their significance.
- ▶ Phase II- Dig bigger holes to further examine a resource.
 - ▶ If significance was not established during the Phase I, this phase helps further evaluate the significance.
- ▶ Phase III- This is a very large-scale excavation with extensive data collection and analysis.
 - ▶ This phase is typically employed when a significant site cannot be avoided or preserved and will be destroyed.



▶ Phase I includes:

- ▶ Background research
- ▶ Methodology to the City
- ▶ Survey
- ▶ Report
- ▶ Concurrence



CRM Archaeology

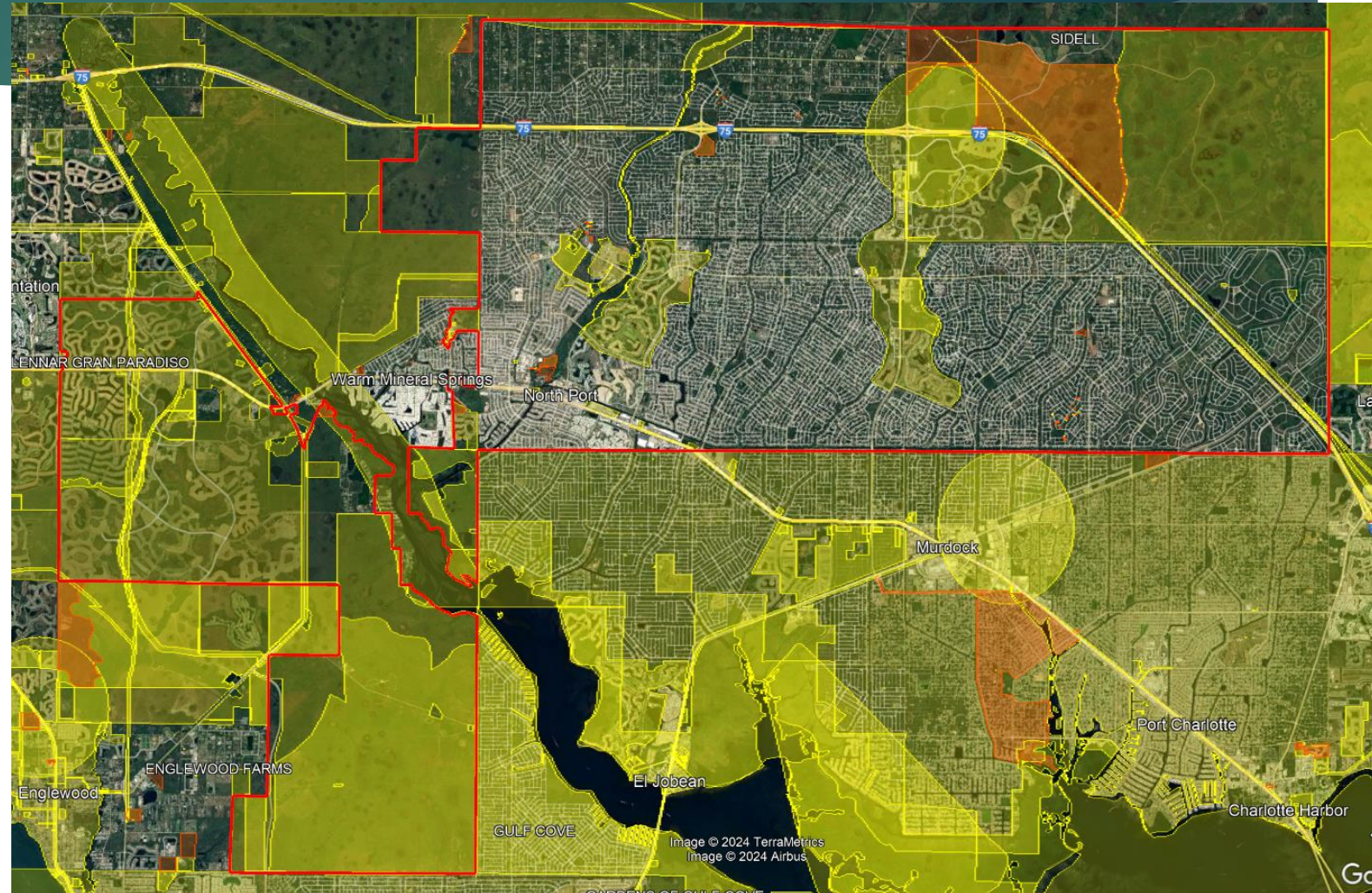
- ▶ Phase I can have several outcomes
 - ▶ Ineligible- a site is found but it does not have integrity or does not have research potential so the project can continue.
 - ▶ Insufficient information- there are some questions about the integrity or the research potential, so more work is recommended- Phase II
 - ▶ Eligible- a site has research potential, and it has integrity. It should be avoided or preserved and if this is not possible some other measures should be taken to save the data.
 - ▶ Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate
 - ▶ Sites can be eligible at the Local, State, or Federal level. Overall, it means the same thing at this level.



- ▶ Phase II can also have several outcomes.
 - ▶ Ineligible- the additional work found that the site lacks integrity or research potential
 - ▶ Eligible but no additional work needed- while the site is eligible the work that was done has collected all the data that may be possible or more work will not collect new data so the project can continue.
 - ▶ Eligible and further action is needed- there should be consultation/coordination to determine how to Avoid, Minimize, or Mitigate the potential impacts.

Archaeological or Historical Surveys

- ▶ The Florida Master Site File has record of 64 surveys that fall within the City limits.
 - ▶ 11 roadway/pond
 - ▶ 3 water/power/cell
- ▶ ACI has conducted at least 43 surveys but only 2 are in FMSF
 - ▶ Surprisingly, 4 properties have been surveyed twice on accident- 2007, 2017, 2021
- ▶ But you can see there are large areas where there are no surveys.
 - ▶ But not all areas need one either!





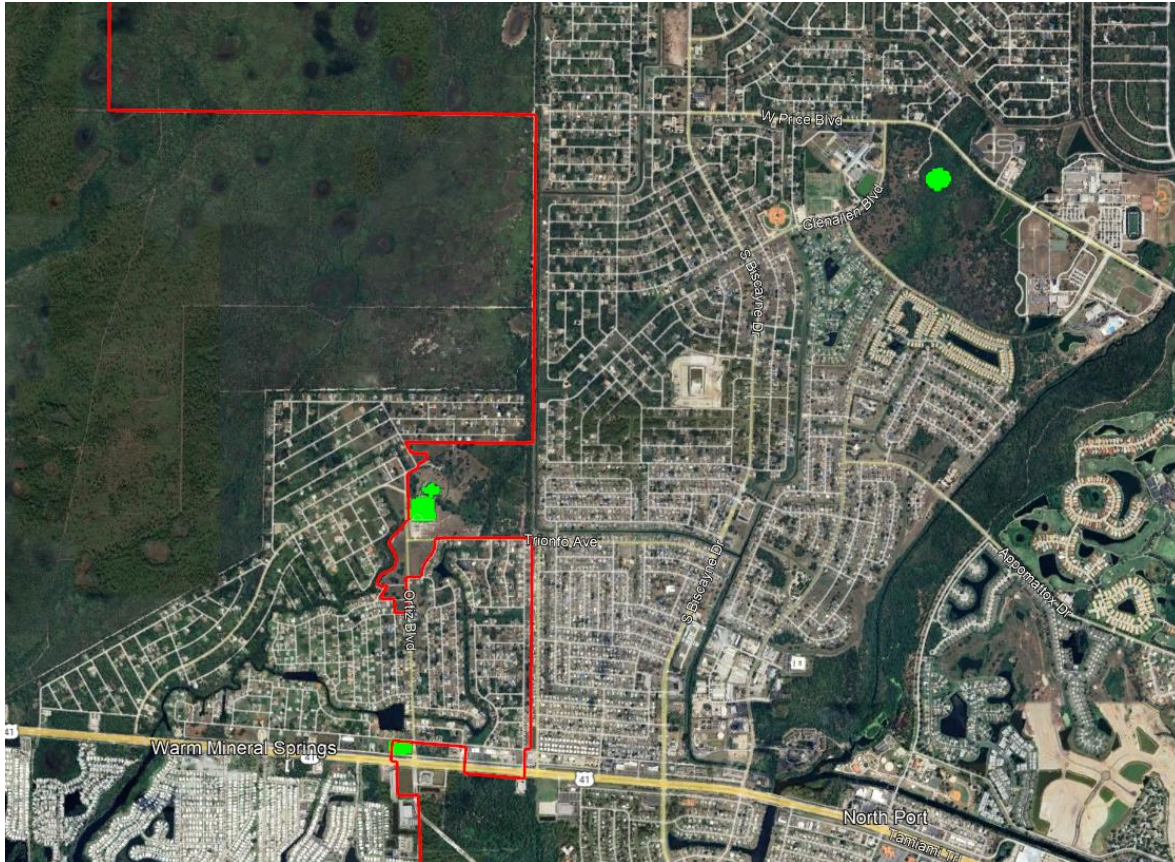
Why do we care?

ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKE
NORTH PORT SPECIAL!

Archaeological Sites

- ▶ 22 archaeological sites within the City limits
 - ▶ 27 nearby in similar environments

NRHP listed resources



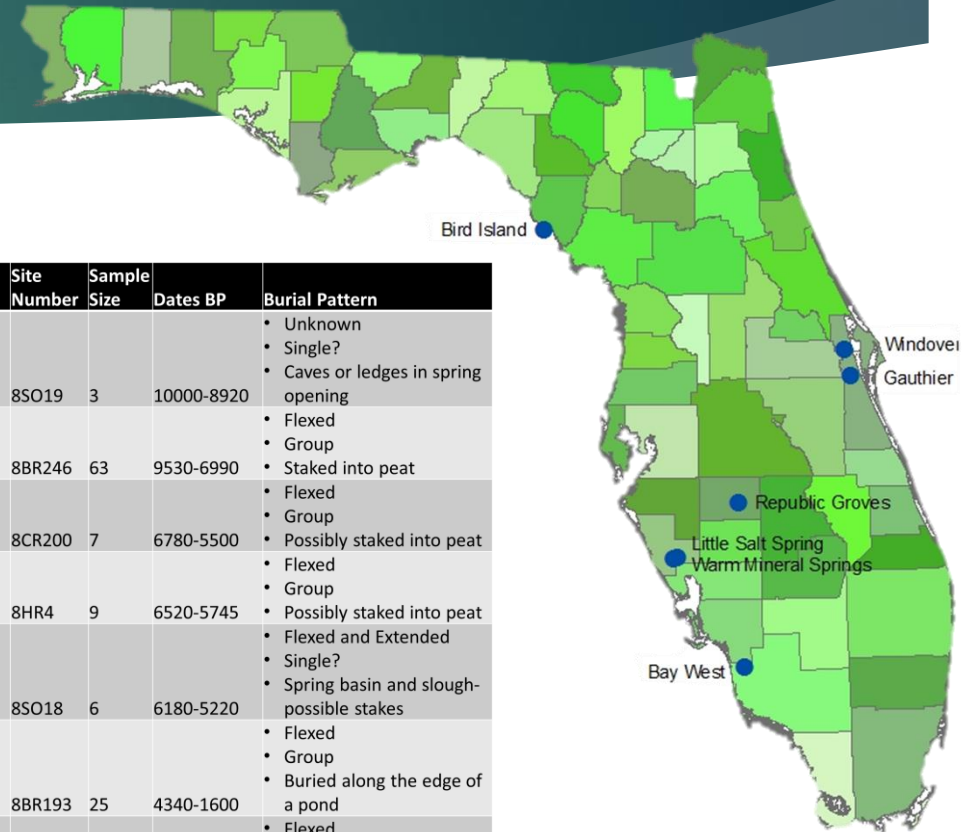
- ▶ 4 National Register listed resources:
 - ▶ WMS building complex
 - ▶ WMS hotel
 - ▶ **WMS site**
 - ▶ **LSS site**
- ▶ There are several more that are likely NR eligible.

Archaic Pond Burials

- ▶ Pond, or water, burials occurred in Florida for a brief period of time and occurred in various locations around the peninsula. The archaeology of many of these sites is well documented.
- ▶ Two of the most well-known are Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Springs.
 - ▶ There are several lesser-known sites that have had limited archaeological analysis including the Nona Site in North Port.



Site Name	Site Number	Sample Size	Dates BP	Burial Pattern
Warm Mineral Springs	8SO19	3	10000-8920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unknown • Single? • Caves or ledges in spring opening
Windover	8BR246	63	9530-6990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexed • Group • Staked into peat
Bay West	8CR200	7	6780-5500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexed • Group • Possibly staked into peat
Republic Groves	8HR4	9	6520-5745	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexed • Group • Possibly staked into peat • Flexed and Extended • Single?
Little Salt Spring	8SO18	6	6180-5220	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring basin and slough-possible stakes • Flexed • Group • Buried along the edge of a pond
Gauthier	8BR193	25	4340-1600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexed • Single • No large body of fresh water
Bird Island	8DI52	6	4570-3630	



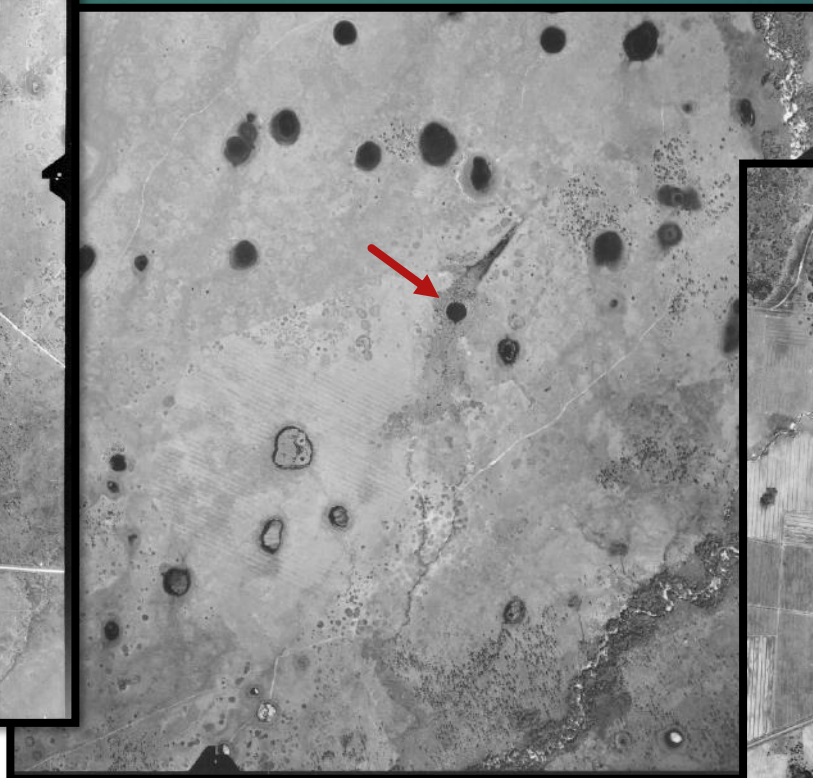
Warm Mineral and Little Salt



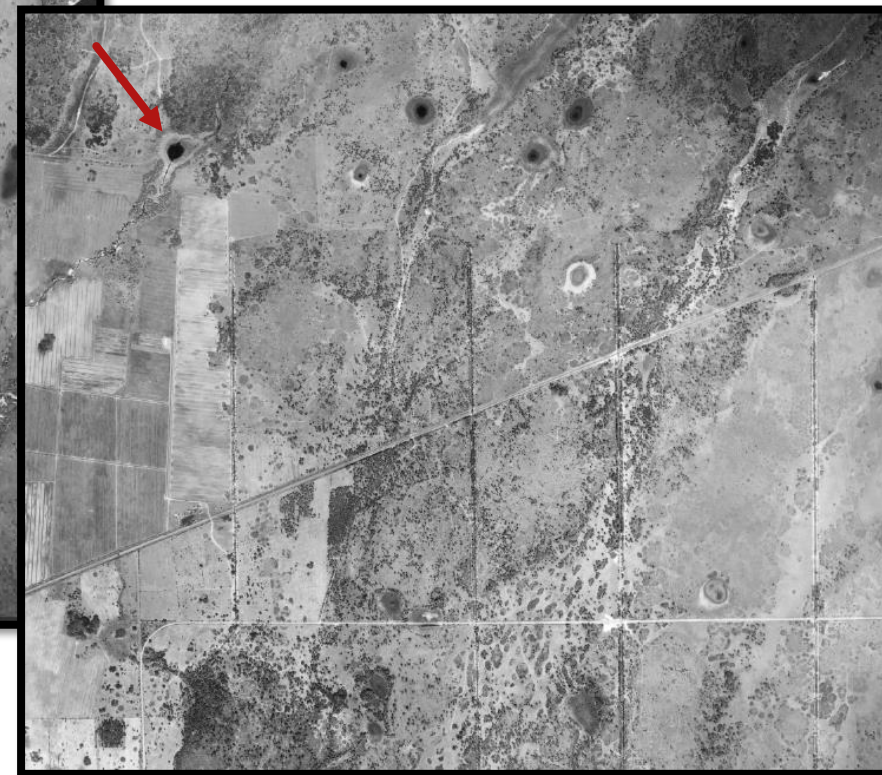
Springs are the thing!



Warm Mineral



Little Salt



Nona

Little Salt Spring Area

- ▶ The Spring and Slough Area have been extensively studied, but the surrounding area has not.
- ▶ There have been several surveys most of which have been negative or found limited evidence of the site and found insignificant.
- ▶ But no surveys near the two sites along Big Slough.

Myakkahatchee Area

- ▶ There are several sites along these water ways but there have been no surveys adjacent.
- ▶ There are several surveys in the area of other sites, with no evidence of them.

The Nona Site Area

CASE STUDY IN WHY CRM
ARCHAEOLOGY IS
IMPORTANT

Site Discovery

- ▶ These four sites were recorded in 1975 by B. Calvin Jones during his survey of the I-75 corridor.
 - ▶ 8SO85- Nineteen Owner Midden/Coco Plum Sink/Nona
 - ▶ Dark midden 3-4ft thick with fire pits, faunal material, and lithics.
 - ▶ 8SO86- Bernhard
 - ▶ Dark gray midden 2ft thick
 - ▶ 8SO87- Star 87
 - ▶ Dark gray midden 2ft thick with fire pits in the bedrock and faunal materials
 - ▶ 8SO88- Rhapsody
 - ▶ Light gray midden 1ft thick.
- ▶ Jones returned in 1977 and found the submerged cemetery site in the silted in sink holes at the southwest end of 8SO85, it was called the Nona Site.
 - ▶ The area around the south side of the sink and some of the slough have been investigated and burials as well as other artifacts were recovered.

Archaeological Findings

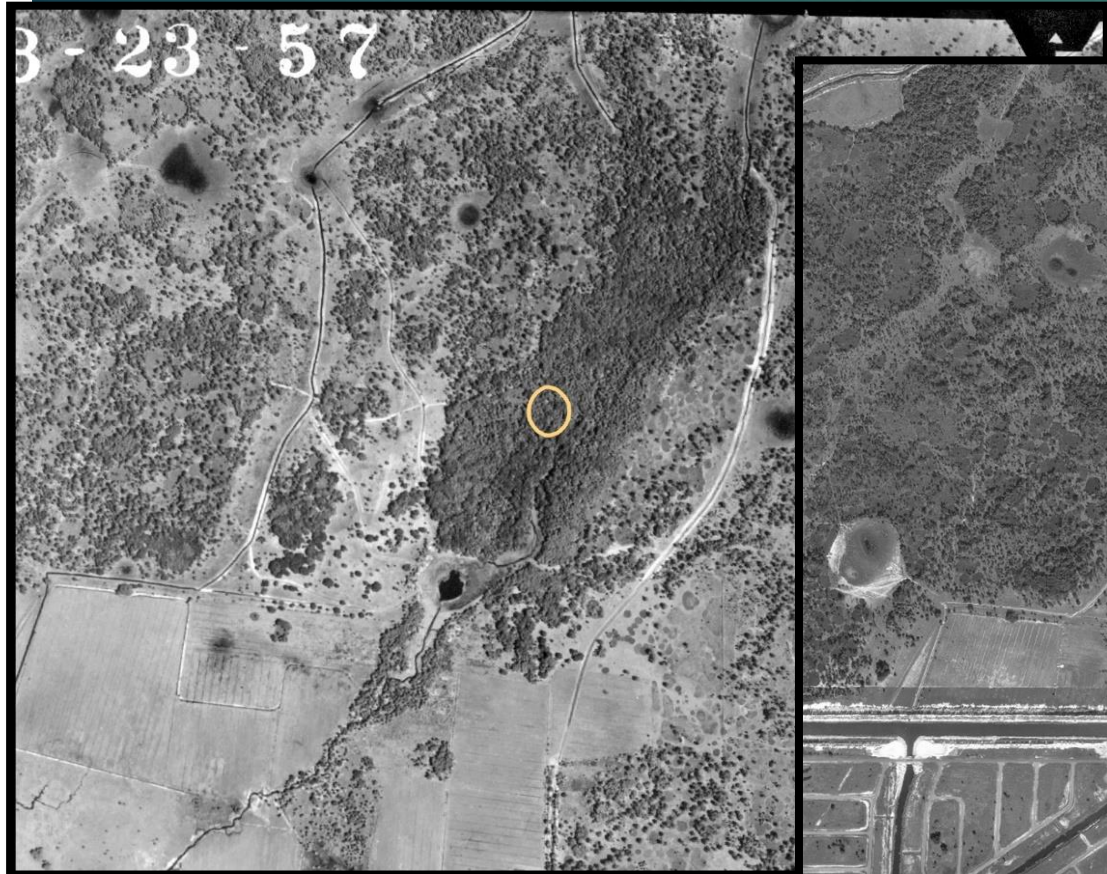
- ▶ The map is not perfect!

So what is going on around Nona?

Taphonomy and “Forensic” Archaeology

- ▶ Taphonomy is the process of fossilization
 - ▶ Archaeological taphonomy looks at what has changed to help understand how the site originally formed.
 - ▶ Forensic taphonomy looks at what happens to a human body after death to help reconstruct what occurred at the time of death and since then.
- ▶ Forensic archeology is the application of archeological principles and methodologies to locate and recover evidence related to crimes or criminal activity.
 - ▶ Crime scene reconstruction
- We are trying to reconstruct what happened to a site as/after it was destroyed in order to understand where it was and then what it was or the original site formation process.

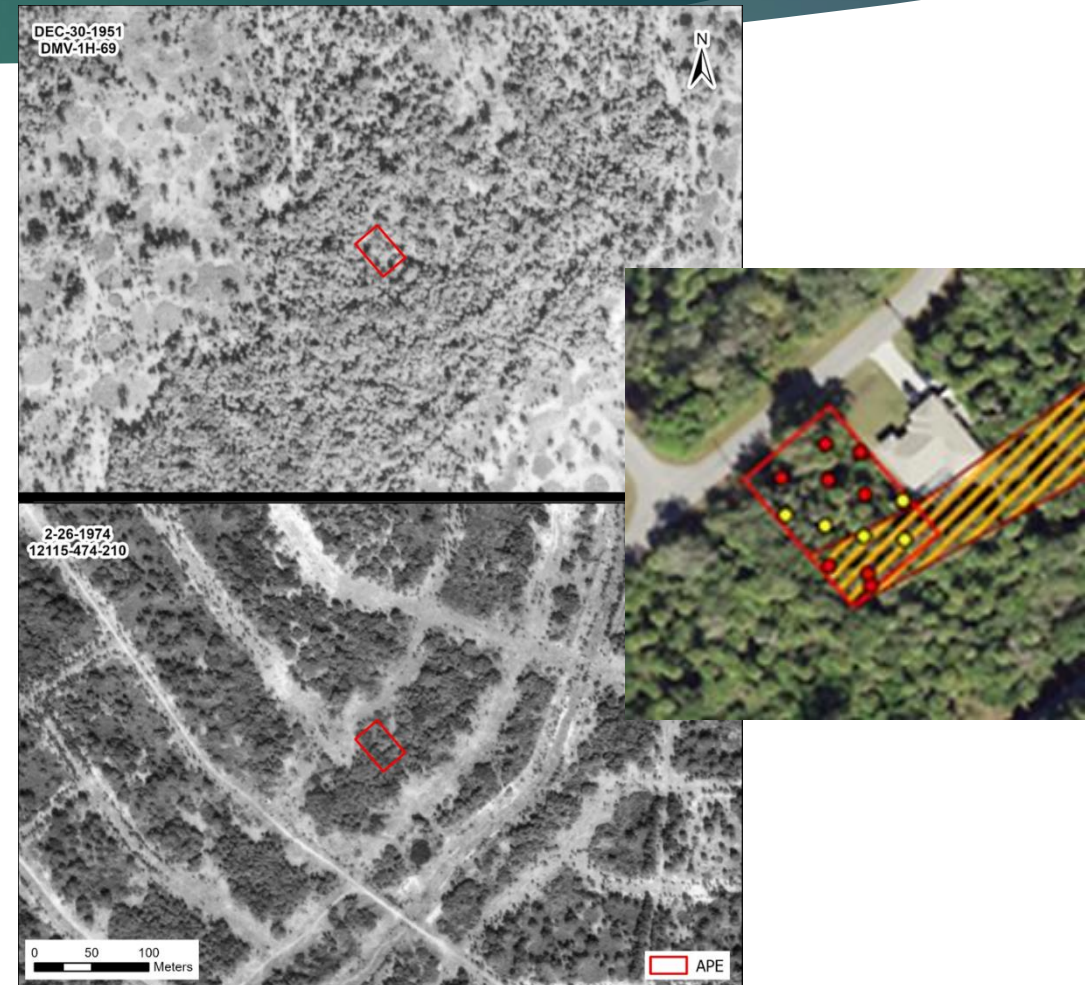
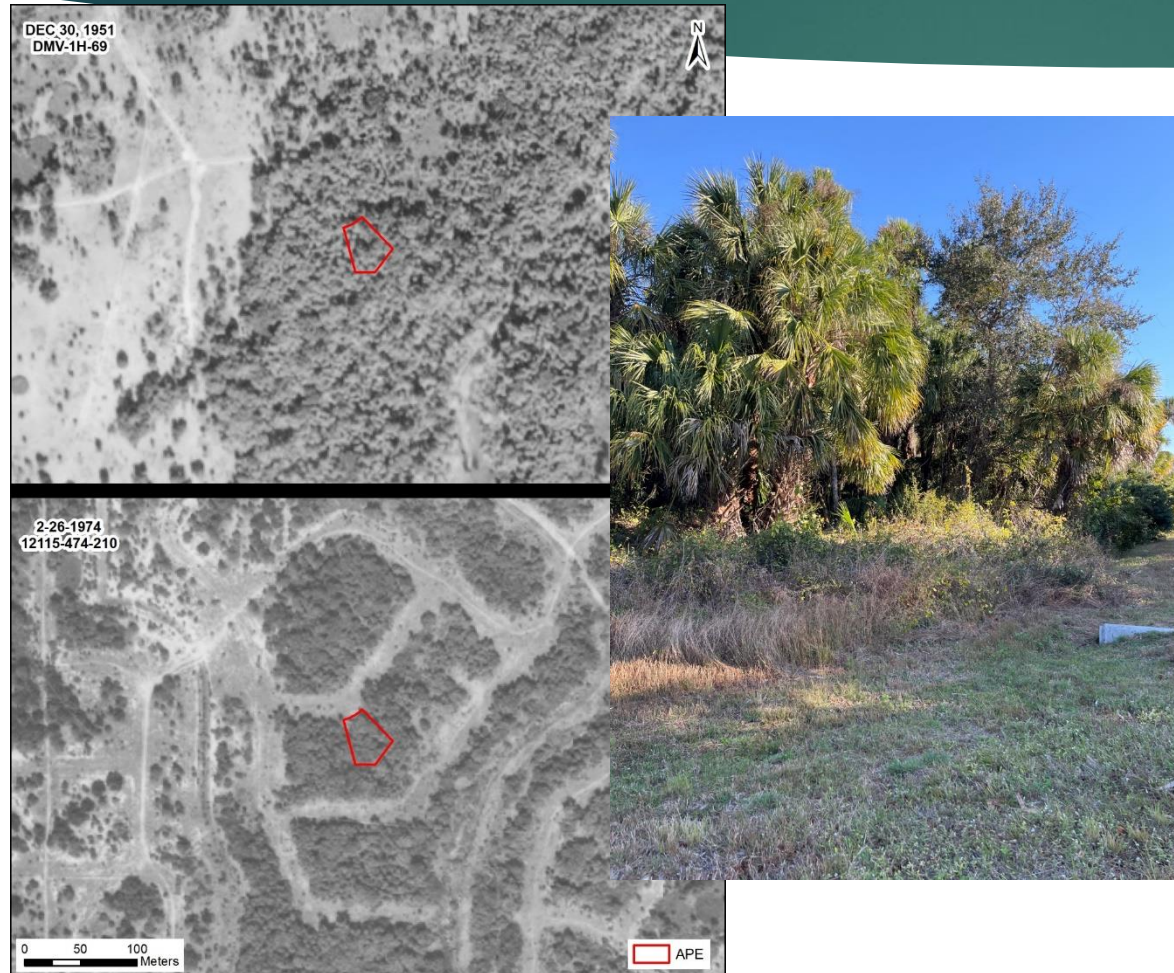
Reconstruction of the past 1948- 1969- 1975



Roads



Middens vs Push Piles



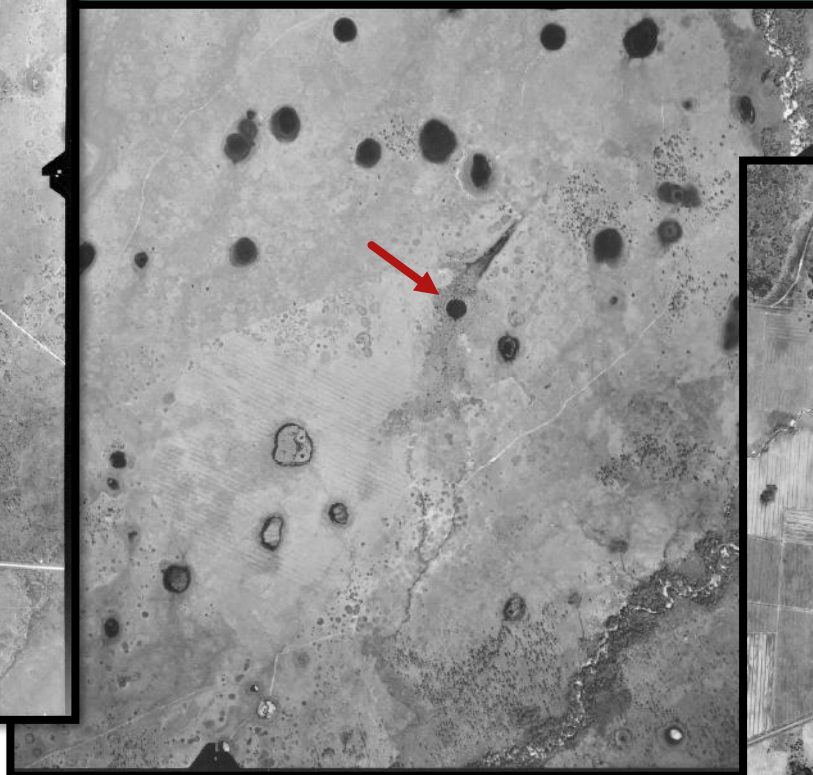
Recent survey with new information!



Reconstruction of the Distant Past



Warm Mineral



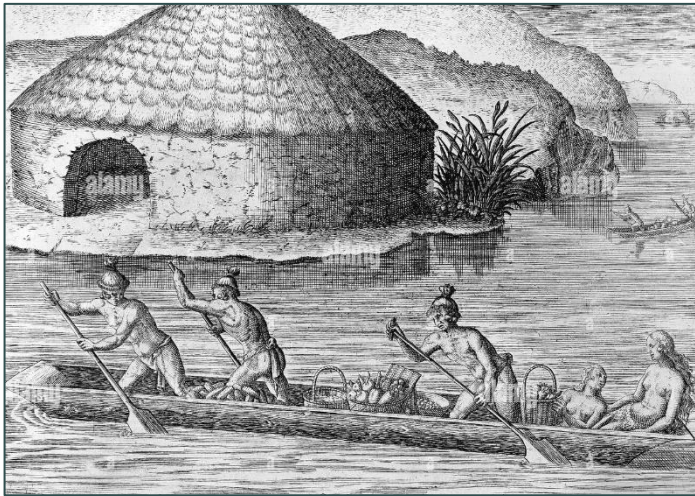
Little Salt



Nona

Paddle anyone?

- ▶ Travel along these waterways during Archaic times often to bury their dead but for hunting and other things as well.
- ▶ Later periods followed the same ways for hunting.



A large, dark teal rounded rectangle with a slight gradient, positioned on the left side of the slide.

That's all the archaeology

A solid red vertical bar located in the top right corner of the slide.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE
BUILDINGS?

Historic Architecture

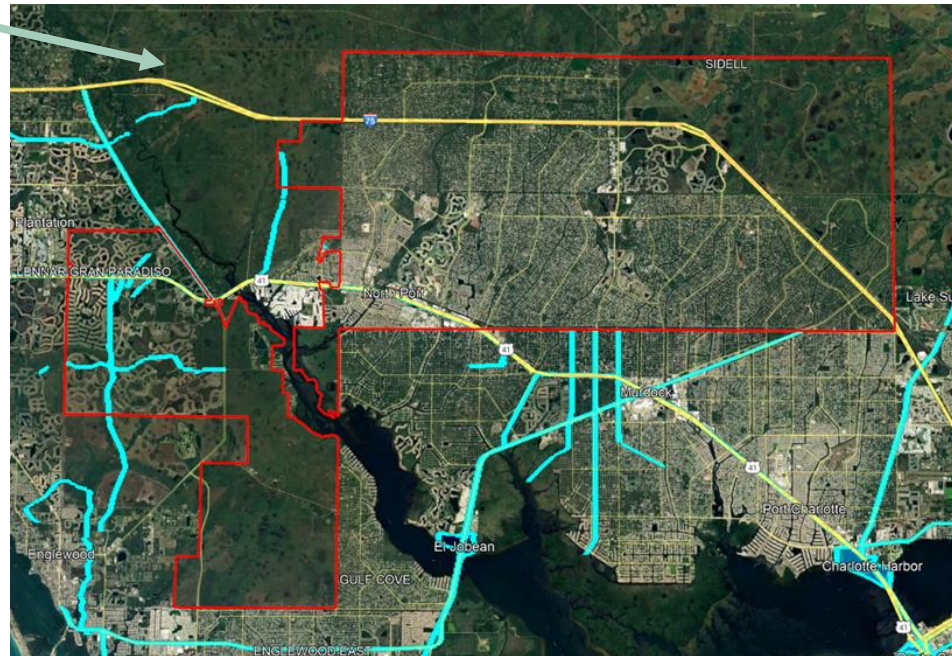
- ▶ The built environment- Buildings, Road, Canals, Trails, Cemeteries

- ▶ 8 buildings

- ▶ 0 cemeteries

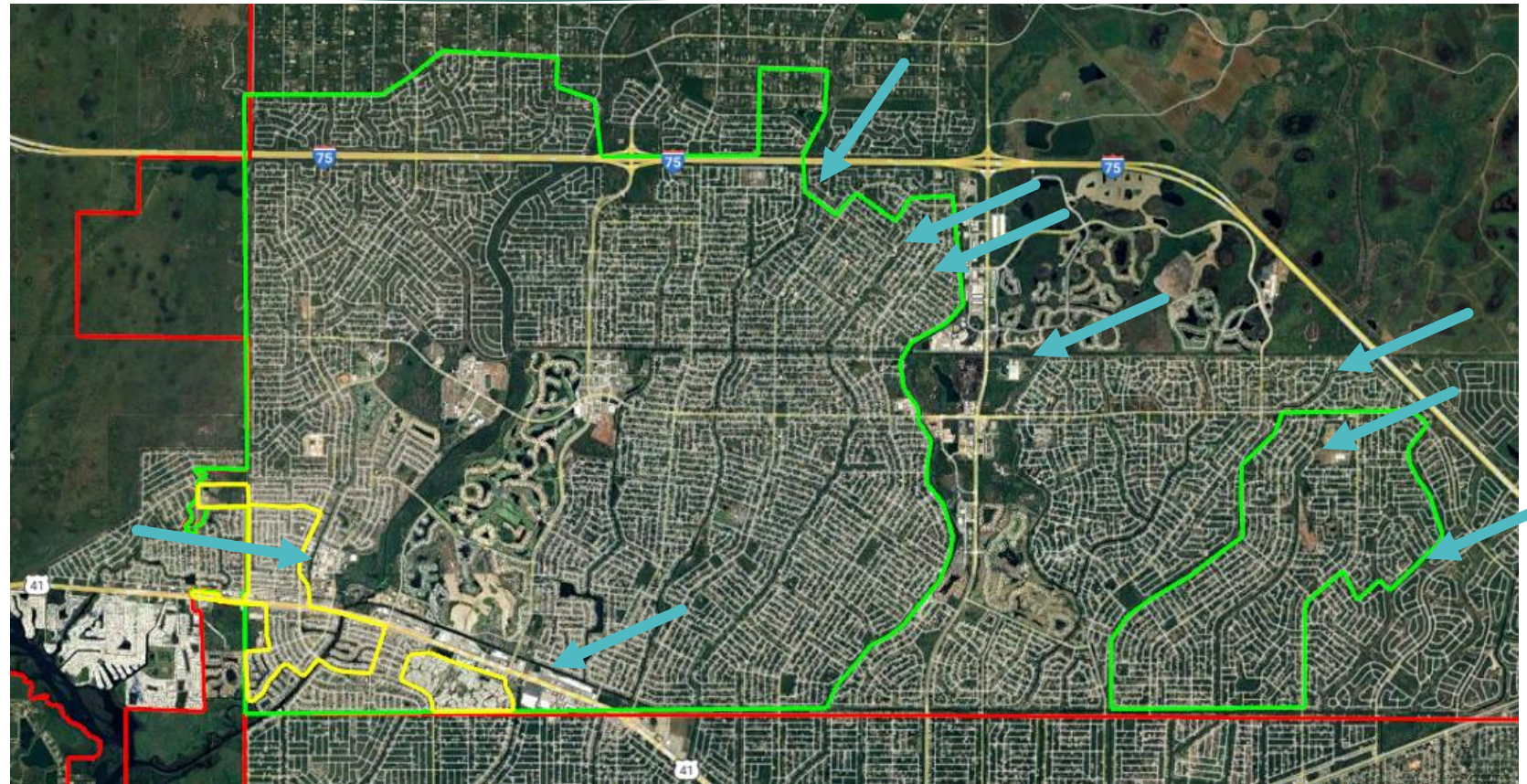
- ▶ 8 resource groups

- ▶ WMS and roads, trails, canals



Structures and development

- ▶ A large part of the city was laid out by 1974
 - ▶ The major canals were dredged as well.
- ▶ But there were only buildings in a few areas.



Structures and development



Recommendations

- ▶ Keep doing what you are doing!!
- ▶ Other ideas:
 - ▶ Updated archaeological predictive model
 - ▶ Historic resources survey
 - ▶ Have an archaeologist join the City Planning Department



Thank you!