



# Road and Drainage District Assessment Background and Commission Direction



*North Port  
Commission Workshop*

*January 7, 2019*



## Overview

1. Purpose of this Presentation
2. District Background & History
3. Funding of the District
4. Road Assessment
5. Drainage Assessment
6. Mowing Assessment
7. Administrative Charges
8. Discussion & Commission Direction

# Purpose of this Presentation

- Explain details of the Road and Drainage District's (District) background, history, and role within the City's Strategic Plan
- Discuss current and alternative structures for the Road Assessment
- Identify current structure of the Drainage Assessment
- Evaluate the Mowing Assessment structure and present alternative methods
- Receive direction from the Commission on Road, Drainage, and Mowing Assessment structures

# History of the Road and Drainage District

North Port Water Control District (NPWCD) Created



RMDD redefined to Road and Drainage District (RDD) with clarification of responsibility



First formal RDD Assessment Methodology adopted



Current RDD Assessment Methodology adopted



Road Maintenance and Drainage District (RMDD) Created



NPWCD dissolved and all responsibilities absorbed by RDD



Updated RDD Assessment Methodology

# 2018 – 2021 Strategic Plan Priorities

## Infrastructure

- Develop and maintain the City's roads, bridges, storm water drainage, and water ways with creative infrastructure funding mechanisms
- Infrastructure is a critical investment in the quality of life and growth of the City
- Infrastructure directly impacts residents, visitors, and businesses every day
- Quality infrastructure and ease of transportation are essential to being a sustainable and desirable community

\*Source: City of North Port Strategic Plan 2018-2021

# Benefits from Infrastructure Improvements

- Enhanced property value
- Enhanced marketability of and/or ability to develop property
- More efficient delivery of municipal services
- Connectivity to the community and surrounding communities
- Protection from flooding

# The Road and Drainage Non-Ad Valorem Assessment

- Used to support the road and drainage infrastructure network
- Billed through annual property tax bills to all property owners that benefit from the service
- Any revenues raised through a Non-Ad Valorem Assessment are restricted for use within the District for services provided

# Legal Requirements for Non-Ad Valorem Assessments

- The Fee calculation must follow the “two-pronged test”
  1. The property assessed must derive a special benefit from the service provided
  2. The Assessment must be fairly and reasonably apportioned among the properties that receive the special benefit
- Assessed properties must be within the City Limits or Service Area
- Exempt – Government-owned properties
- Optional Local Exemptions – Churches, Non-Profits & Charitable Organizations

# Road and Drainage District Service Components

## ➤ Roads

- Administration
- Base Roads (Arterials & Collectors)
- Enhanced Roads (Local Roads)

## ➤ Drainage

- Administration
- Drainage I (Waterways & Creeks)
- Drainage II (Retention Ditches & Outfalls)
- Drainage III (Swales)

## ➤ Mowing

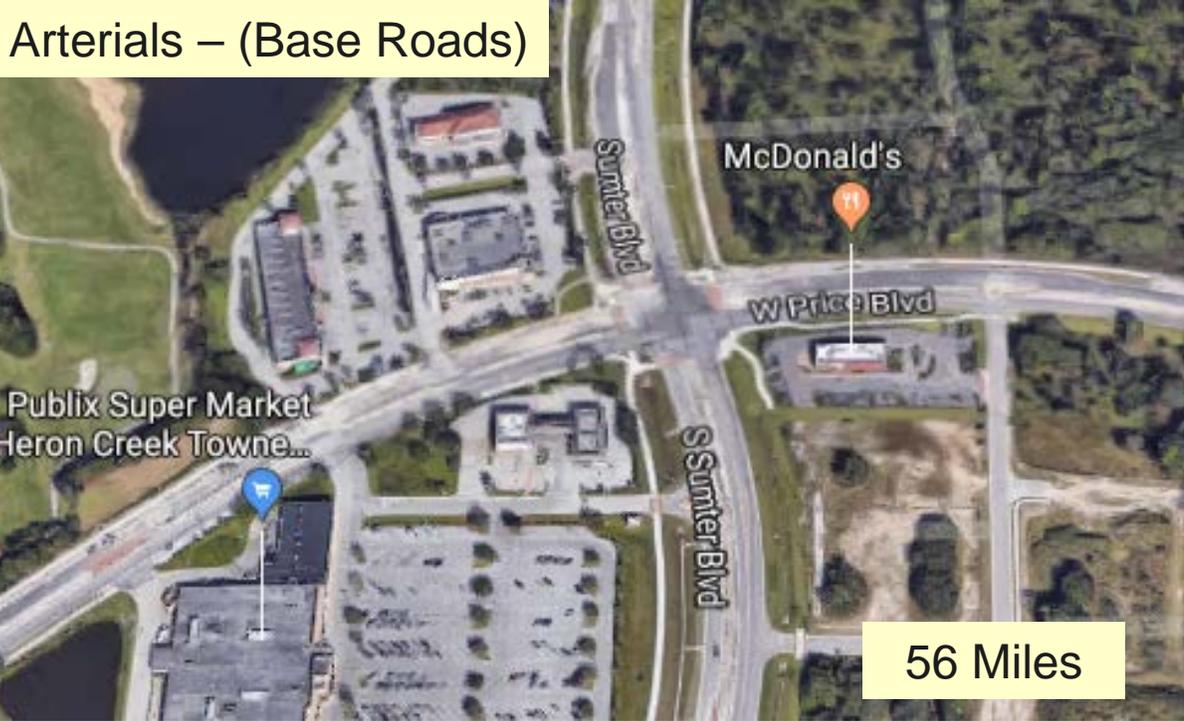
- Administration
- Right of Way Mowing (Undeveloped Property)

## Current Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rates

Service Component	Charge Per Unit	Basis of Unit
<b>Road Services</b>		
Base Roads Administrative Services	\$4.40	Per Road ERU <sup>1</sup>
Base Road Services	\$11.94	Per Road ERU <sup>1</sup>
Enhanced Road Services	\$30.53	Per Road ERU <sup>1</sup>
<b>Drainage Services</b>		
Drainage Administrative Services	\$5.27	Per Acre <sup>2</sup>
Primary Drainage (Drainage I)	\$34.50	Per Acre <sup>2</sup>
Secondary Drainage (Drainage II)	\$20.04	Per Acre <sup>2</sup>
Tertiary Drainage (Drainage III)	\$21.29	Per Acre <sup>2</sup>
<b>Mowing Services</b>		
Mowing Administrative Services	\$3.99	Per Parcel
Right of Way Mowing	\$51.64	Per Parcel

1. Equivalent road units (ERUs) based on Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation Rates
2. Minimum of one acre

# The Road System Network



\*Images sourced via Google Maps

# Road System Services

Traffic Lights



Street and Road Signs



Street Lights



# Road System Services

Road Repair



Road Markings



# Road System Services

Pedestrian Bridge Maintenance



Road Bridge Maintenance



# Road System Services

Sidewalk Repair



Weed Maintenance



# Benefits of the Road Network

## Two-Pronged Test

1. Special Benefit – Accessibility of maintained Roads network
2. Fair Apportionment – Apportioned based on trips generated by property class

### ➤ Base Road Services

- Arterial and collector roads
- Repair of potholes and utility cuts, road shoulder maintenance, road rehabilitation, maintenance of bridges, landscape, and sidewalks, debris removal
- **There is a benefit conferred upon all parcels from Base Road services.**

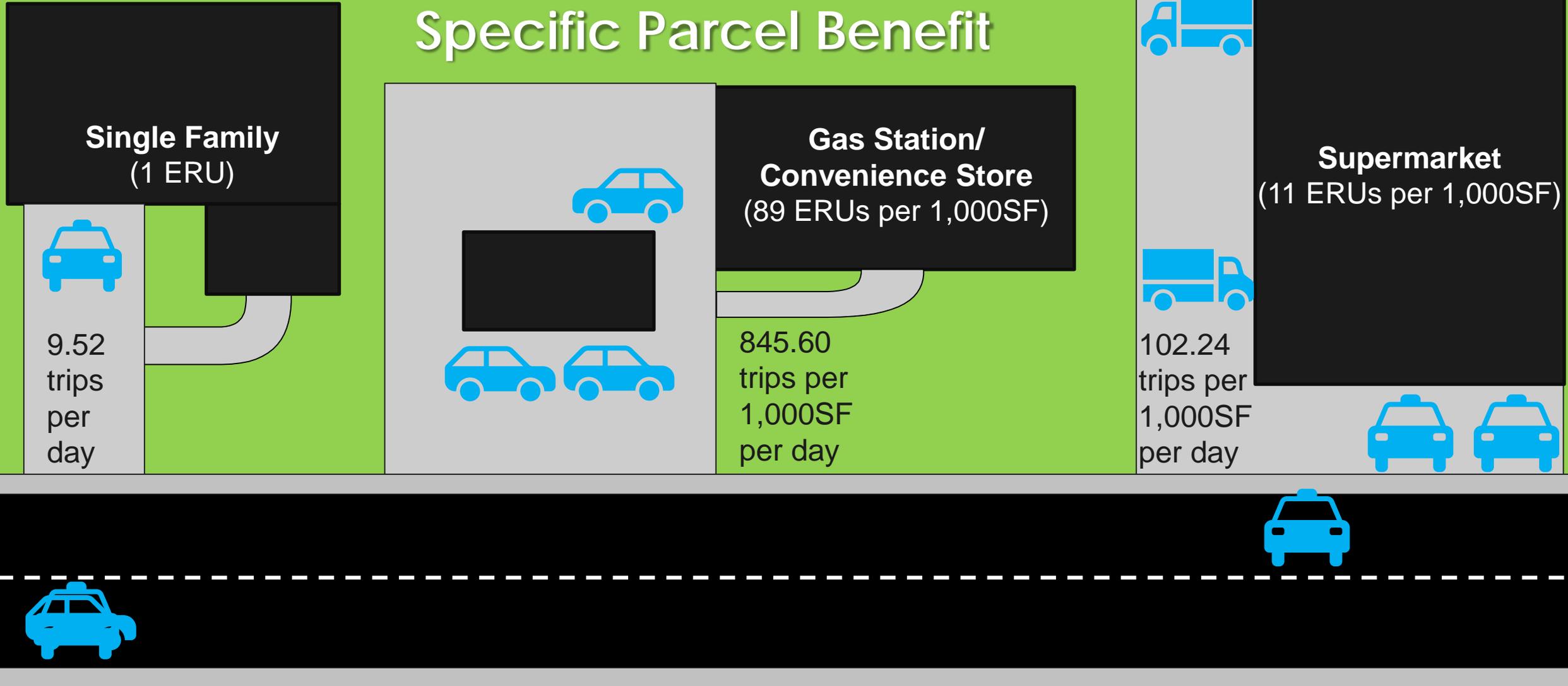
### ➤ Enhanced Road Services

- Local roads
- Repair of potholes and utility cuts, road shoulder maintenance, road rehabilitation
- **There is a benefit conferred from Enhanced Road services only upon parcels that are located on the local road network.**

# Current Road Methodology

- Road Assessments are apportioned based on weekday trip generations calculated by property class
- The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation Manual is utilized throughout the country and found to be legally defensible
- The ITE Trip Generation Manual was first published in 1976 and is typically updated every 3-5 years

# ITE Trip Generation Rates & Specific Parcel Benefit

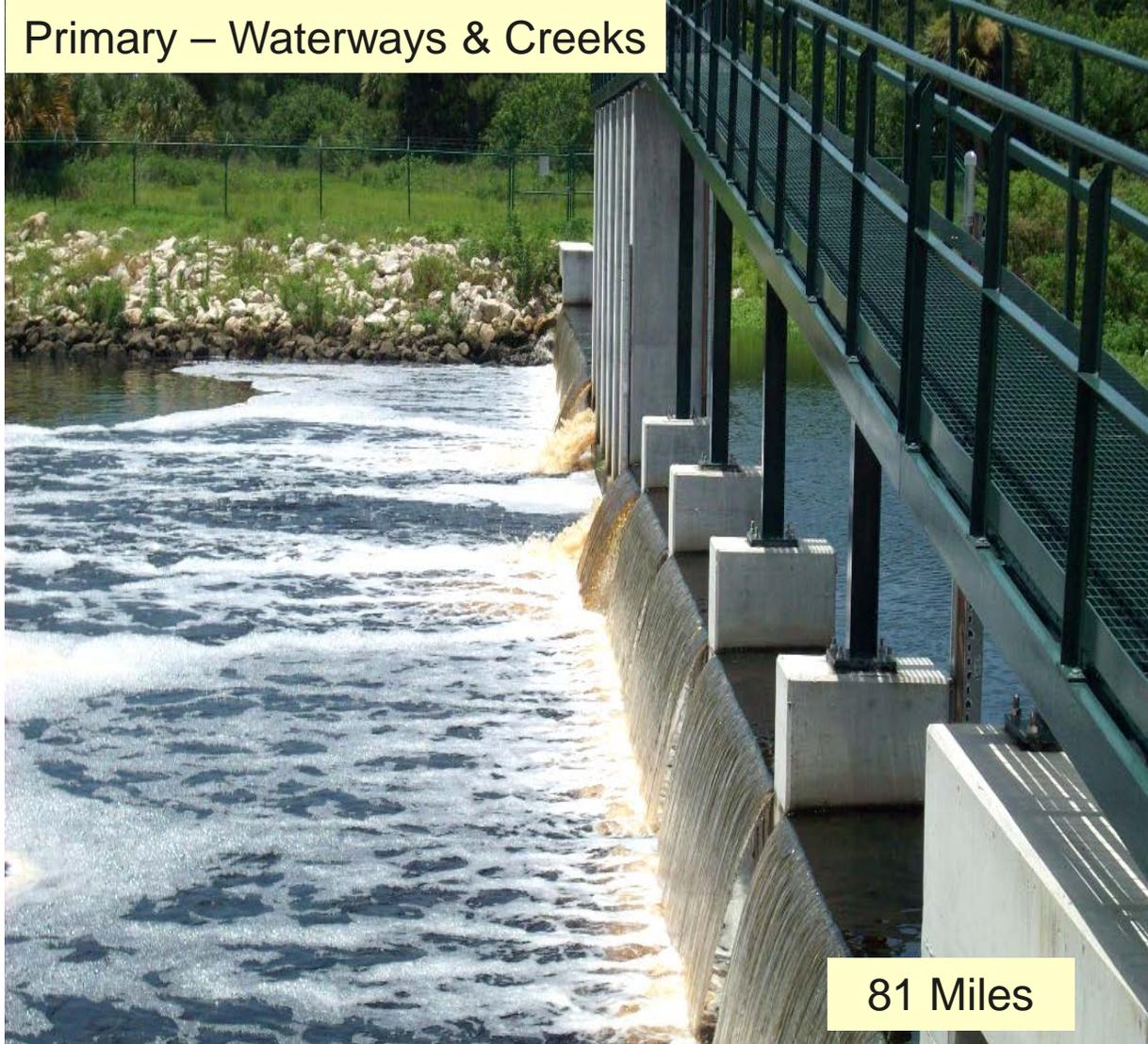


# Alternative Road Assessment Methodologies

	1. Local Trip Generations	2. Land Development Code
Structure Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conduct a local study to generate weekday trips by property class                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Follow ITE Trip Generation methodology</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Applies a fee to properties on the basis of land use type and land development code</li> </ul>
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Localized data</li> <li>➤ Similar to in-place methodology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Based on local zoning codes                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Leverages Zoning Department's efforts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Local study would be expensive and timely                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To be updated every 3-5 years</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Not widely used</li> <li>➤ Brand new methodology and structure</li> <li>➤ Not as equitable relative to benefit                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Could result in large property bill impacts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# The Drainage System Network

Primary – Waterways & Creeks



81 Miles

Secondary – Retention Ditches & Outfalls



136 Miles

Tertiary - Swales



1,613 Miles

# Drainage System Services

Waterways

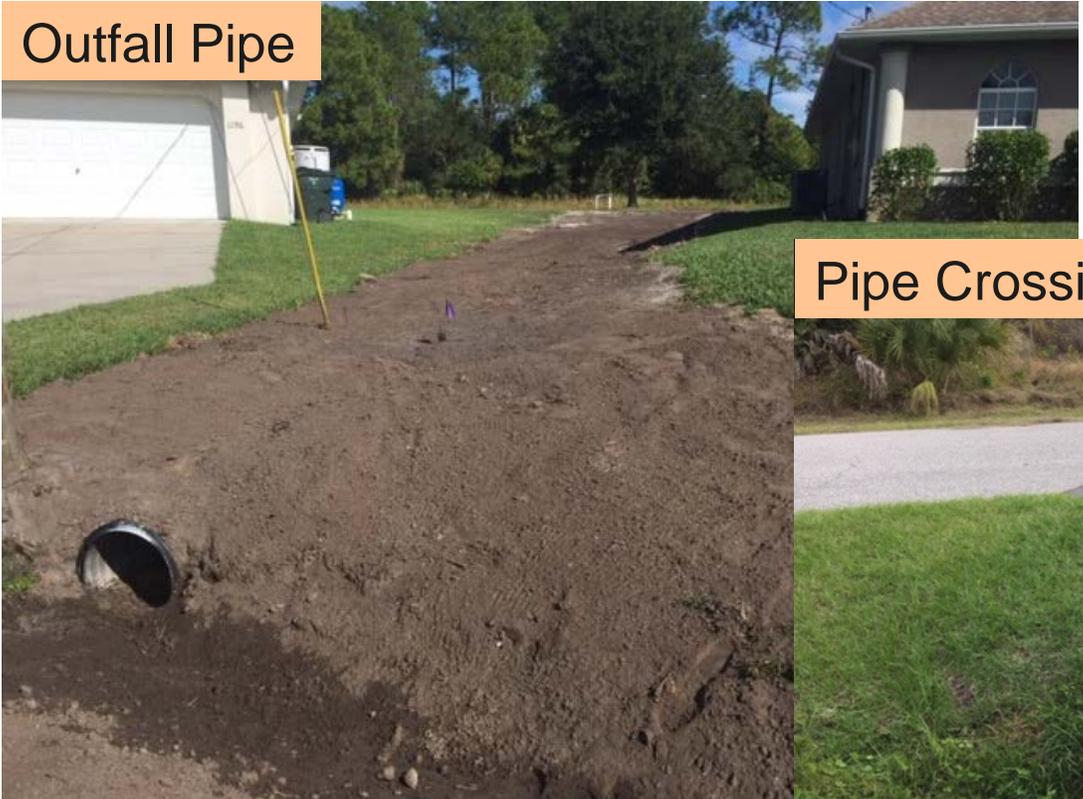


Water Control Structures

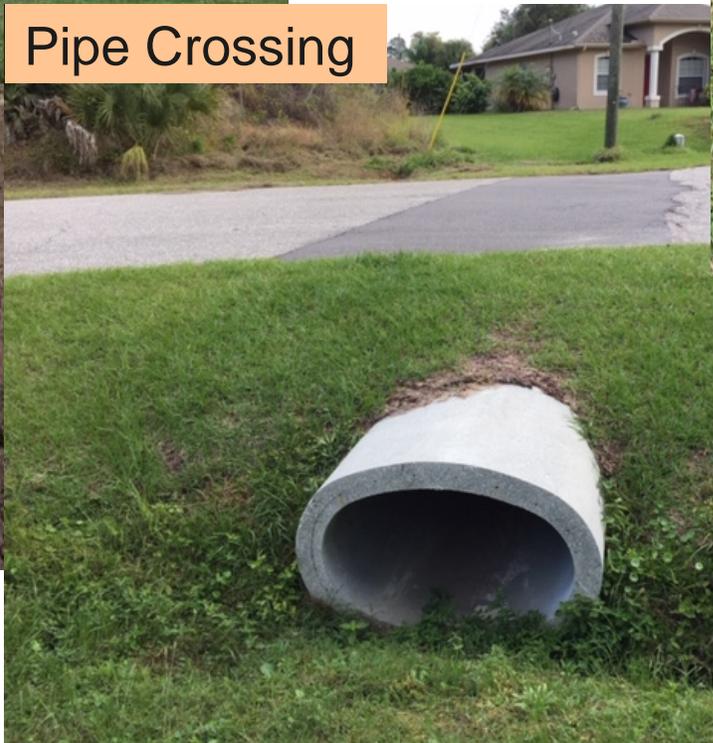


# Drainage System Services

Outfall Pipe



Pipe Crossing



Pipe and Catch Basin



# Drainage System Services

Retention Pond



Retention Ditch



# Drainage System Services

Swale



Swale



# Drainage System Services

## Aquatic Weed Vegetation Management



# Benefits of the Drainage Network

## Two-Pronged Test:

1. Special Benefit – Drainage provided by the Drainage System components
2. Fair Apportionment – Apportioned based on benefit provided by the specific system components

- The drainage system within the District is a network
  - Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary systems
- If any portion of the drainage network were to be removed or otherwise obstructed...
  - Stormwater would not be conveyed out of the District
  - Flooding would occur
  - Access to properties would be blocked
  - Damage would likely occur to many properties

Therefore, **all properties receive a special benefit from the drainage network** for it is available to safely detain, retain, convey, or treat drainage discharged from properties within the District.

# Mowing Services

The Department maintains a schedule of all rights of way mowing on undeveloped parcels

Arterials & Collectors – 8x/yr



Local Roads – 6x/yr



Swales – 2x/yr



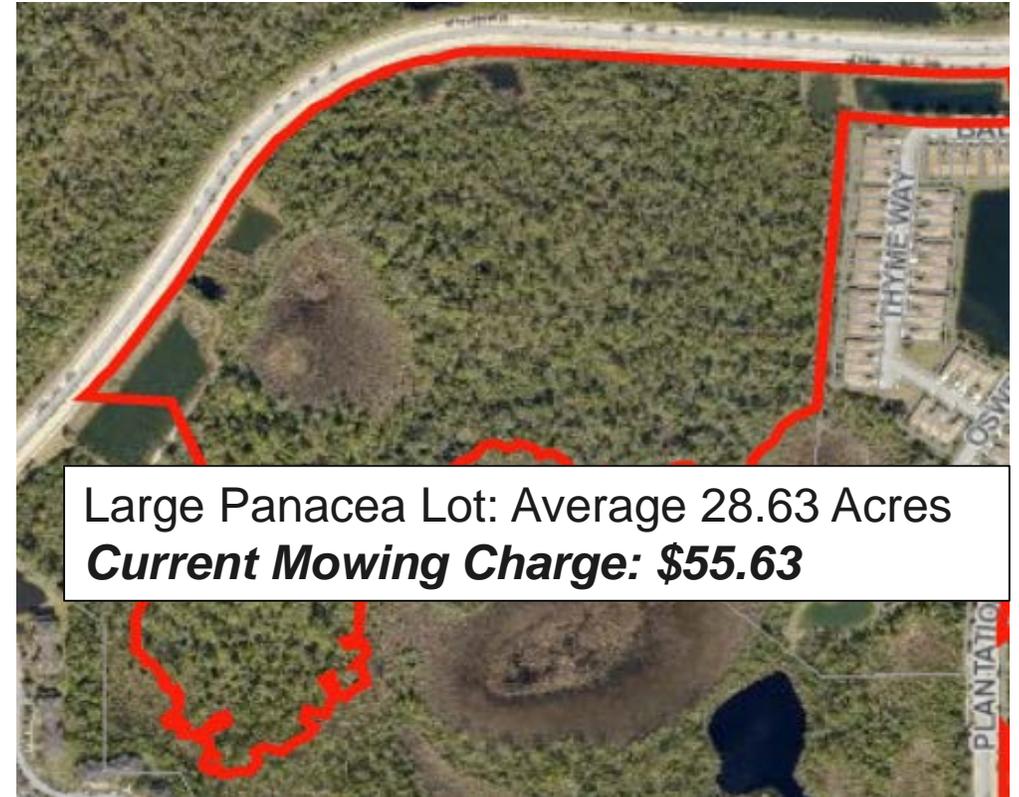
# Current Mowing Methodology

- Mowing services are currently charged per undeveloped parcel

Standard Lot: 80'x120', ¼ Acre  
**Current Mowing Charge: \$55.63**



Estates Lot: 230'x570', 3 Acres  
**Current Mowing Charge: \$55.63**



# Potential Update to Current Mowing Methodology

- Potential to update charge to be based on linear feet of frontage

Standard Lot: 80'x120', ¼ Acre



Estates Lot: 230'x570', 3 Acres



Large Panacea Lot: Average 28.63 Acres

# Benefits of Mowing

## Two-Pronged Test:

1. Special Benefit – Provided by mowing of rights of way on undeveloped parcels
2. Fair Apportionment – Apportioned equally to all undeveloped parcels benefitted

## ➤ Right of Way Mowing

- Clear line-of-sight for traffic safety, road signs, and hazards
- Improved stormwater drainage flow capabilities

**Therefore, right of way mowing benefits hydraulic function of drainage network and line-of-sight and safety of the road network.**

## Potential Elimination of Mowing Charges

- All services and costs associated with mowing benefit either the Road Network or the Drainage Network
- Propose to eliminate mowing assessment and allocate costs to Roads and Drainage

## Potential Consolidation of Administrative Charges

- Each service currently has individual administration charge
- Currently scaled by parcel in mowing charges and by equivalent units in road and drainage charges
- Proposing one overall administration charge that includes costs such as billing, customer service, property appraiser fees, and methodology studies that will be allocated equally per parcel
- All other administration costs will be absorbed into road and drainage service costs and assessments

# Discussion and Commission Direction

## 1. Road Assessment Structure

- a) **Current/Recommended – ITE Trip Generation Rates**
- b) Option – Conduct Local Trip Study
- c) Option – Alternative Approach

*Commission Direction*

## 2. Drainage Assessment Structure

- a) **Current/Recommended – Based on Acreage; Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary**

*Commission Direction*

# Discussion and Commission Direction

## 3. Mowing Assessment Structure

- a) Current – Per Parcel
- b) Option – Linear Feet of Frontage
- c) Recommended Option – Absorb mowing services into road and drainage**



### *Commission Direction*

## 4. Administrative Charges

- a) Current – Individual administration per service component
- b) Recommended Option – Consolidate administrative charges**

### *Commission Direction*