

The City of Belleview

5343 SE Abshier Blvd.

Belleview, FL 34420

**Contact Information:** Robert Vass**Phone:** (352) 245 – 7021. Ext. 2122**Email:** rvass@belleviewfl.org**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****City of Belleview Awards \$26 Million Contract to Wharton-Smith for Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion**

Belleview, FL — The City of Belleview has awarded a \$26 million contract to Wharton-Smith, Inc. for the city's highly anticipated wastewater treatment plant expansion, marking a significant step in supporting Belleview's continued growth and environmental stewardship. Approved by the City Commission on September 17, 2024, after an extensive review process, this large-scale project will increase the capacity of the plant from 1.0 MGD to 1.2 MGD, to manage the city's wastewater needs both now and in the future. Construction is slated to begin in February 2025, with final completion projected for June 2026.

The expanded facility will significantly upgrade Belleview's current wastewater treatment system, enhancing capacity to meet the growing community's needs and positioning the city to support future residential, business, and industrial developments. The improvements will ensure that Belleview's infrastructure is prepared for population growth, while also aligning with the city's commitment to sustainability and efficient resource management.

Mayor Christine Dobkowski emphasized the importance of the project as a vital investment in Belleview's future. "The expansion of our wastewater treatment facility represents a proactive approach to meeting Belleview's future needs," Mayor Dobkowski stated. "Our city is growing, and we are dedicated to supporting this growth in ways that enhance the quality of life for our current residents and those who choose Belleview as their home in the years to come. By expanding our wastewater treatment capabilities, we're protecting our environment, preserving public health, and strengthening our infrastructure for the next generation. This project is not just about adding capacity; it's about planning wisely, protecting our natural resources, and investing in Belleview's future."

City Administrator Sandi McKamey also highlighted the expansion's importance in keeping pace with Belleview's growth. "Belleview is committed to a forward-looking approach to infrastructure," McKamey noted. "This expansion ensures that our public works systems are capable of supporting a vibrant, growing community. Our residents, businesses, and city partners deserve a reliable, efficient, and sustainable wastewater treatment system that doesn't just meet current needs but allows us to welcome growth and new opportunities with confidence. By taking this step today, we're setting Belleview up for success, so that every new resident and business can count on a resilient and well-maintained infrastructure."

Bob Titterington, Director of Public Works for Belleview, shared the technical goals of the expansion, pointing to the system's long-term benefits for the community. "This project goes beyond simply increasing capacity; it's about creating a resilient and environmentally responsible system that will serve the city for many years," Titterington explained. "By optimizing our existing infrastructure and expanding strategically, we're ensuring that Belleview's wastewater treatment operations are not only efficient but are also adaptable to the changes and challenges of tomorrow. This expansion will support sustainable urban growth, reduce strain on existing facilities, and help safeguard the water quality in our surrounding areas."

The City of Belleview looks forward to partnering with Wharton-Smith, a respected leader in public infrastructure projects, to bring this project to completion. With a track record of successful municipal projects, Wharton-Smith is well-positioned to meet the city's high standards for quality, environmental responsibility, and community impact. This expansion project underscores Belleview's commitment to a sustainable future and its dedication to improving the quality of life for all residents through responsible growth and planning.