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City of Belleview Awarded \$1 Million in State Budget to Advance Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion

Belleview, FL – July 2, 2025 - The City of Belleview is proud to announce a \$1 million allocation through the State of Florida's Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Budget to support the ongoing construction of the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. This major investment marks a pivotal moment in Belleview's commitment to modernizing infrastructure, protecting the environment, and preparing for sustainable growth.

The funds, as part of Belleview's broader capital improvement efforts, will be applied directly to the expansion of the City's wastewater treatment facility that has been in development for over two years and broke ground in early 2025. The project will increase the treatment plant's capacity from 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD) to 1.2 MGD, helping the City meet the needs of a steadily growing population while also reducing reliance on aging septic systems. With this expansion, Belleview strengthens its ability to support new residential and commercial development while aligning with long-term environmental goals such as those outlined in the Silver Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP).

Mayor Christine Dobkowski praised the state funding as a tremendous win for the Belleview community. "This allocation represents more than just financial support of Belleview. It is a recognition by state leadership that Belleview is growing, thriving, and worth investing in," she said. "As mayor, I see firsthand the challenges and opportunities that come with growth. Ensuring our infrastructure keeps pace is one of the most critical responsibilities we have to our residents. This funding helps us do exactly that. It allows us to build for the future without placing undue strain on our taxpayers today."

City Administrator Mariah Moody echoed the mayor's sentiments, emphasizing how this allocation exemplifies the City's commitment to fiscal responsibility. "Securing this funding demonstrates the success of our long-term planning and our collaborative efforts to keep Belleview moving forward," Moody stated. "We are deeply grateful to our legislative partners for recognizing the importance of this project. By incorporating state resources into our infrastructure plan, we're reducing debt, offsetting construction costs, and ultimately lessening the financial impact on local utility ratepayers."

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion has been identified as a high-priority project under Belleview's 20-Year Water Needs Analysis, a mandate under Florida law requiring local governments to assess and plan for their future utility capacity. The current plant, operating near its permitted limits, needed a capacity upgrade to handle projected demand, ensure regulatory compliance, and protect regional water resources. The upgraded facility will not only accommodate current and future usage but will also incorporate modern systems and safeguards to improve environmental performance and operational reliability.

Public Works Director Bob Titterington, who has overseen the technical planning and implementation of the project, noted that the expansion is designed to serve Belleview for decades to come. "This is a smart, forward-thinking project that lays the groundwork for sustainable growth. We're not just expanding capacity—we're building resilience," said Titterington. "The new infrastructure will allow us to more efficiently treat wastewater, reduce environmental risk, and transition properties from septic systems to centralized sewer service, which is a major priority for both the city and the state. From an engineering and environmental perspective, it's a win-win."

Construction on the wastewater treatment expansion began in February 2025 and is projected to conclude by June 2026. In addition to the newly awarded \$1 million in state funds, the City of Belleview is leveraging a combination of financing options to support the overall project cost, including low-interest loans through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The City has also positioned the project to qualify for future grants and reimbursements, ensuring a balanced, cost-effective path forward.

Beyond infrastructure, this initiative supports Belleview's role in protecting the health of Florida's water quality goals. This aligns with the City's values of environmental stewardship and community well-being.

"This project represents the best of what local government can achieve when we combine vision, technical expertise, and collaboration across all levels of government," said Mayor Dobkowski. "We are building a treatment plant, as well as, trust in the future of our city."

For more information about the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion or to follow project updates, please visit the City of Belleview's official website at www.belleviewfl.org.