THE COMMUNITY

The City of Port St. Lucie, with a population of over 185,000 residents, is located in the heart of Florida’s Treasure Coast. The 8th largest city in Florida, Port St. Lucie is proud to offer the amenities of a big city with the comforts of a familiar hometown. Port St. Lucie occupies an area of 120 square miles in St. Lucie County, about 50 miles north of West Palm Beach, half way between Miami and Orlando. Both I-95 and Florida’s Turnpike are easily accessible to the city, and five major airports and four major cruise ports lie within a few hours.

Average temperatures in Port St. Lucie range from 64 degrees in February to 82 degrees in August, making the city and surrounding area a tourist destination and a nature lover’s paradise. The attractive environment and top-rated park system stand out in southeast Florida, and the unspoiled river, top-rated golf course and growing arts and performance community are key reasons for the city’s growth in recent years.

The area perfectly pairs the excitement of a major city with an assortment of cultural and recreational/leisure activities nearby. Stroll through commercial areas while admiring exclusive artwork or attend a play at the Pineapple Playhouse (home to the St. Lucie County Community Theater). Enjoy a concert, musical or comedy show at the historic Sunrise Theatre in neighboring Fort Pierce, which first opened its doors in 1923. Discover the only museum dedicated to the US Navy SEALs (located on the same grounds where they first trained as “frogmen” during WWII) and ancient Indian mounds predating Columbus by several hundred years.

Golf enthusiasts will find award-winning golf courses, including the one-of-a-kind PGA Village, which includes a Historical Center that documents golf’s history. In all, St. Lucie County has more than 300 holes of championship golf. Baseball fans will be delighted to enjoy America’s favorite pastime at Tradition Field—spring training home of the New York Mets and summer home of the minor league St. Lucie Mets.

You’ll marvel at and enjoy the raw nature of the area, which St. Lucie’s city and county governments and citizens are dedicated to protecting. Take a nap on the area’s nearly 21 miles of unspoiled beaches, dive among shipwrecks, paddle through lush rivers, or head offshore to snag trophy sized sailfish, tuna, swordfish, and wahoo.
Savannas Preserve State Park offers opportunities for nature observation and recreation, such as swimming, kayaking, riding horses, bird watching, launching your own boat, picnicking and camping. The Park’s environmental educational center offers opportunities to study the large number of exotic birds, and local wildlife (such as reptiles, dolphins, manatees, and other marine life). You’ll discover abundant marine life in the Indian River Lagoon, home to over 4,000 species of plants and animals. It is the most biologically diverse estuary in the country. The area also boasts Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens and the Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce, which exhibits the largest public display of tropical bonsai trees in the United States.

Port St Lucie attracts a vibrant mix of people because of its low crime rate, a variety of housing stock, and abundant open space. The city has one of the highest homeownership rates in the nation. As a growing community, the city offers diverse economic opportunity, clear guidelines for prosperous and sustainable growth, and state-of-the-art infrastructure ready to support development and investment.

There are traditional suburban neighborhoods, new mixed-use neighborhoods with a variety of housing types in walking distance to retail and dining establishments, and the beginning stages of a downtown that will integrate urban commercial development with outdoor nature trails, waterways and social opportunities.

Port St. Lucie has received numerous accolades in recent years. In 2018 alone, the city has been ranked 2nd happiest city in Florida and 38th happiest city in the US by WalletHub, named in the Top 20 Safest Cities to Retire in America, and ranked #12 Safest City in Florida by the National Council for Home Safety and Security.

Port St. Lucie is a great place to raise a family. Schools are excellent, and the city is home to one of the best combination of public education, higher education consortiums and research centers in the southeast region of the United States. St. Lucie County has 24 distinguished five-star schools and 34 golden schools - awards given for community involvement. The schools also have been named as among the Top 100 wired schools for outstanding technology and among the best in the nation by Newsweek. In or near the city, you will find the highly regarded Indian River State College, the Smithsonian Marine Station, the Manatee Observation and Education Center, and the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution of Florida Atlantic University.

**PUBLIC WORKS MISSION**

The City of Port St. Lucie Public Works Department is dedicated to protecting the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Port St. Lucie by maintaining and improving the quality of the community through environmentally and economically sound infrastructure preservation and growth while providing outstanding customer service.
GOVERNMENT & ORGANIZATION

The city government is committed to delivering outstanding public services that enhance the community and the quality of life for people of all ages. The city is led by a five-member elected Council and operates under the Council-Manager form of government. Each Council Member, including the Mayor, has one vote so legislative authority is spread equally among all five members. The Mayor is elected at-large and while the City Council Members must live in the geographic district they represent, every registered voter in the city is eligible to vote for them. There are no term limits for any City Council seat.

The City of Port St. Lucie has over 1,100 employees and an FY 18 budget of $510 million. The ad valorem tax rate is 25.8801 mills.

CITY MANAGER

Russ Blackburn, who has been the City Manager of Port St. Lucie since 2016, has served as a leader in Florida City and County government for most of his career. Prior to Port St. Lucie, he served as City Manager of Gainesville, Florida. During his 10+ year tenure, Gainesville was selected as the #1 city in America by Cities Ranked and Rated. Russ is at home on the Treasure Coast, having served for 8 years as County Administrator of Martin County, Florida.

Mr. Blackburn was selected by his fellow local government managers as President of the 600-member Florida City/County Management Association. He has served on the Florida League of Cities, Board of Directors and is a two-time winner of the League’s Home Rule Advocate Award. He is a Credentialed Manager of the International City / County Management Association. While serving in Martin County, Russ and the Stuart City Manager won the ICMA's prestigious Intergovernmental Partnership Award.

PUBLIC WORKS VISION

To provide superior service to the community that is responsive and cost effective. This service shall be provided by dedicated, trained and responsible employees who are committed to excellence.
ABOUT THE POSITION

The Public Works Department oversees City resources that manage the planning, design, construction and maintenance of City infrastructure and various facilities. This includes roads and bridges, water quality and drainage, traffic operations, landscaping and emergency management. The Public Works Department was established in 1988 and is funded through the Stormwater Utility Fee and through Gas Tax Rebates.

The Public Works Director reports directly to the City Manager and oversees an operating budget of $23.6 million and 200 employees. The focus for this position is on the administration of the department as a whole more than the technical aspects of the work, with a strategic management/performance-based approach. Direct reports include a Deputy Director, an Assistant Director, and an Administrative Assistant. Divisions within the Public Works Department include Administration, Regulatory, Survey/G.I.S., Roadways and Bridges, Environmental, Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful, Fleet and Facilities, and Drainage.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT KEY INITIATIVES FOR FY18 INCLUDE:

- Implementation of sidewalk master plan
- Construction of the Crosstown Parkway Extension Project
- Implementation of citywide repaving plan
- Widening of Port St. Lucie Boulevard South: design and explore funding options
- Increase the frequency of Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days, Clean-up Days, and Tree Giveaways
- Create and implement plans for landscaping beautification of roadways, public parks, properties and gateways into the city
IDEAL CANDIDATE

Port St. Lucie seeks an energetic, personable and experienced leader with the administrative and technical skills necessary to plan and implement the Public Works Department’s general operating and capital project goals in a fast-paced, rapidly growing community. The new Director will need to be ready to “hit the ground running” with a sense of purpose and urgency, as a multimillion dollar slate of needed projects is expected to be implemented on a very aggressive time frame. It is expected that high performance standards will be pursued for all capital projects.

Working in conjunction with the City Manager’s Office and other department heads, the ideal candidate will be a team player, capable of building and maintaining close and productive working relationships with City Council, citizens and businesses of Port St. Lucie, as well as private consultants, contractors and developers. The new Director will also be politically savvy while being politically neutral. The successful candidate will possess excellent communication skills and have the ability to give formal and informal presentations to large and small groups.

Relative to the eight operating divisions and 200 employees of the Department of Public Works, the Director will be expected to:

- Be a team builder and a talent developer, mentoring, coaching and teaching departmental staff, guiding them in the accomplishment of the department’s goals.
- Be a delegator, assigning tasks to subordinates and giving them clarity in assignments/directives and granting authority to get tasks done.
- Have a strong commitment to building a high-performance culture within the department.
- Establish or improve systems within the department that facilitate accomplishment of department goals.
- Have a proven track record in implementing and supporting best practices in a high functioning (preferably APWA accredited) municipal public works setting.
- Instill a sense of ownership and accountability throughout the Department and motivate all employees to deliver a high level of service to citizens.
EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE
This position requires 10 years of experience in public administration, management, and civil engineering. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university is required. A master’s degree and/or Licensed P.E. preferred, but not required. Previous experience with the APWA accreditation process is a plus. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.

Advance Maintenance of Traffic Certificate must be obtained within one year from date of hire. The selected candidate must have a clean driving history and possess or have the ability to obtain a valid Florida Driver’s License.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS
The City of Port St. Lucie offers a competitive starting salary based on qualifications and experience. The City also offers a comprehensive benefits package. For employee benefit highlights, visit cityofpsl.com/home/showdocument?id=278.

APPLICATION PROCESS
Please apply online at: bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches

For more information on this position contact:

**Kurt Hodgen, Senior Vice President**
Strategic Government Resources
KurtHodgen@GovernmentResource.com
540-820-0531

The City of Port St. Lucie is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workforce. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Applicants selected as finalists for this position will be subject to a comprehensive background check, including a credit report.
PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

RESOURCES
City of Port St. Lucie
cityofpsl.com

City of Port St. Lucie Awards, Recognition & Good News
cityofpsl.com/discover-us/awards-recognition-good-news

City of Port St. Lucie Public Works Department
cityofpsl.com/government/departments/public-works

Visit St. Lucie
visitstlucie.com

St. Lucie Economic Development Corporation
youredc.com

St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce
stluciechamber.org