Hillsborough County
Public Engagement

Palm River Phase 1 Sewer System Vacuum Pump Station (VPS) Land Acquisition

Hillsborough County Public Utilities
Water Resources Department

Virtual Public Engagement for Facility Siting

Material and opportunities for comment will be available online
01/07/2026– 01/20/2026

Hillsborough County Florida
EST. 1834

Project Purpose:
Enhancing Environmental Health and Prosperity in Hillsborough County

- Develop the site for a new vacuum sewer pump station as part of a project to improve sewer service system in the Palm River community.

- Hillsborough County is undertaking a significant multi-year initiative to safeguard groundwater and elevate the quality of our region's natural systems. This program focuses on eliminating septic tanks in areas surrounding Tampa Bay. This proactive approach will lead to:
  - Improved Community Health: By ensuring cleaner water and reducing environmental pollutants, fostering a healthier population and a more vibrant ecosystem.
  - Increased Property Values: Eliminating contamination sources and promoting eco-friendly waste management solutions will boost property values and attract potential buyers and investors to the area.
  - Future-Ready Infrastructure: This essential infrastructure upgrade not only addresses current needs but also prepares our community for future environmental challenges and building resilience against climate change.

This comprehensive wastewater collection program reflects Hillsborough County's commitment to a sustainable and thriving future for our community and the natural environment.

Project Area

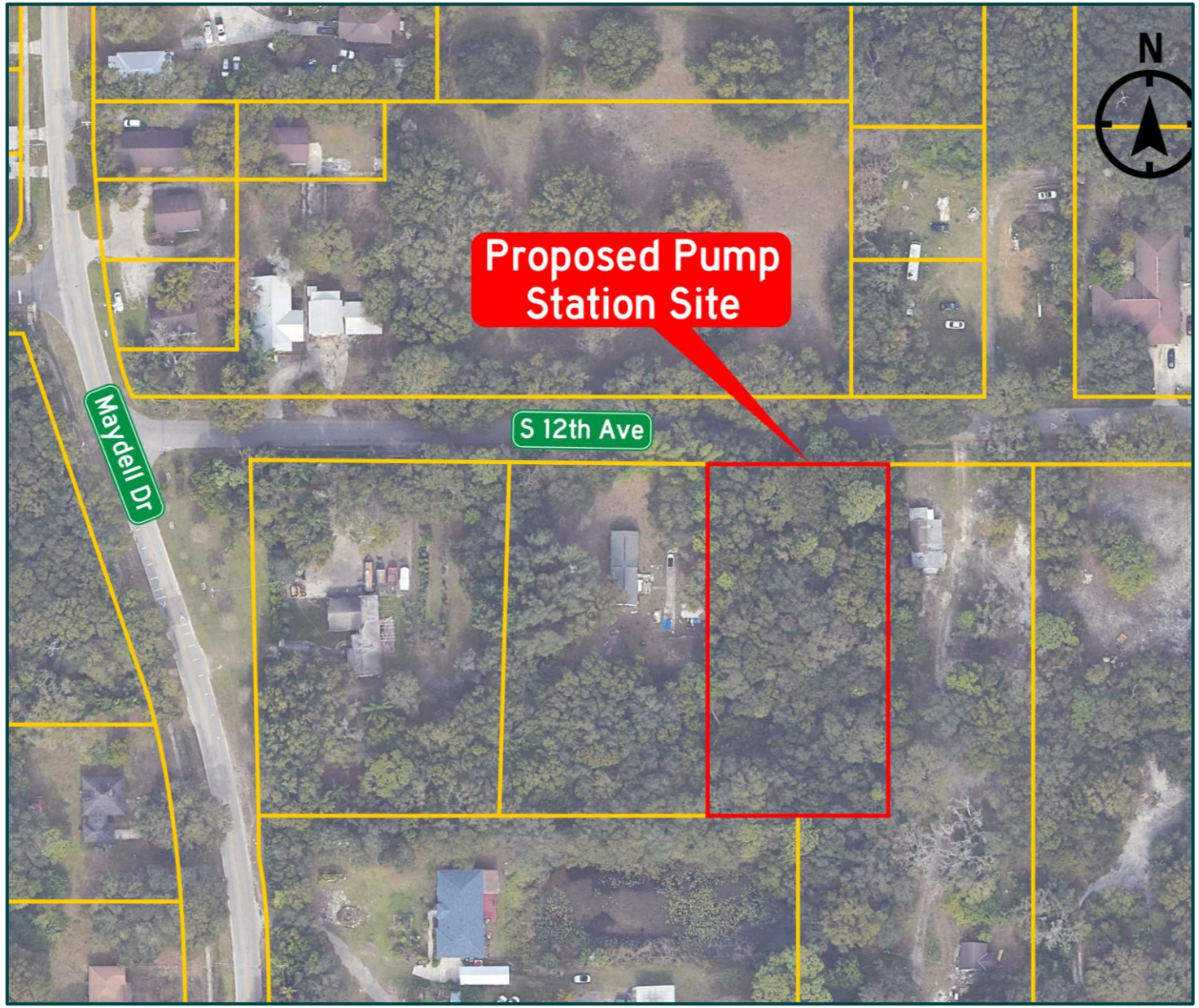
- Phase 1 of the Palm River Septic-to-Sewer project is bordered by Railroad grade on the west, 78th Street on the east, Palm River on the north, and Causeway Boulevard on the south.

- Phase 1 includes approximately 1,000 residential lots that will be eligible for converting from septic systems to central sewer after construction of the new central sewer lines are complete.

Palm River Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Project - Phase 1

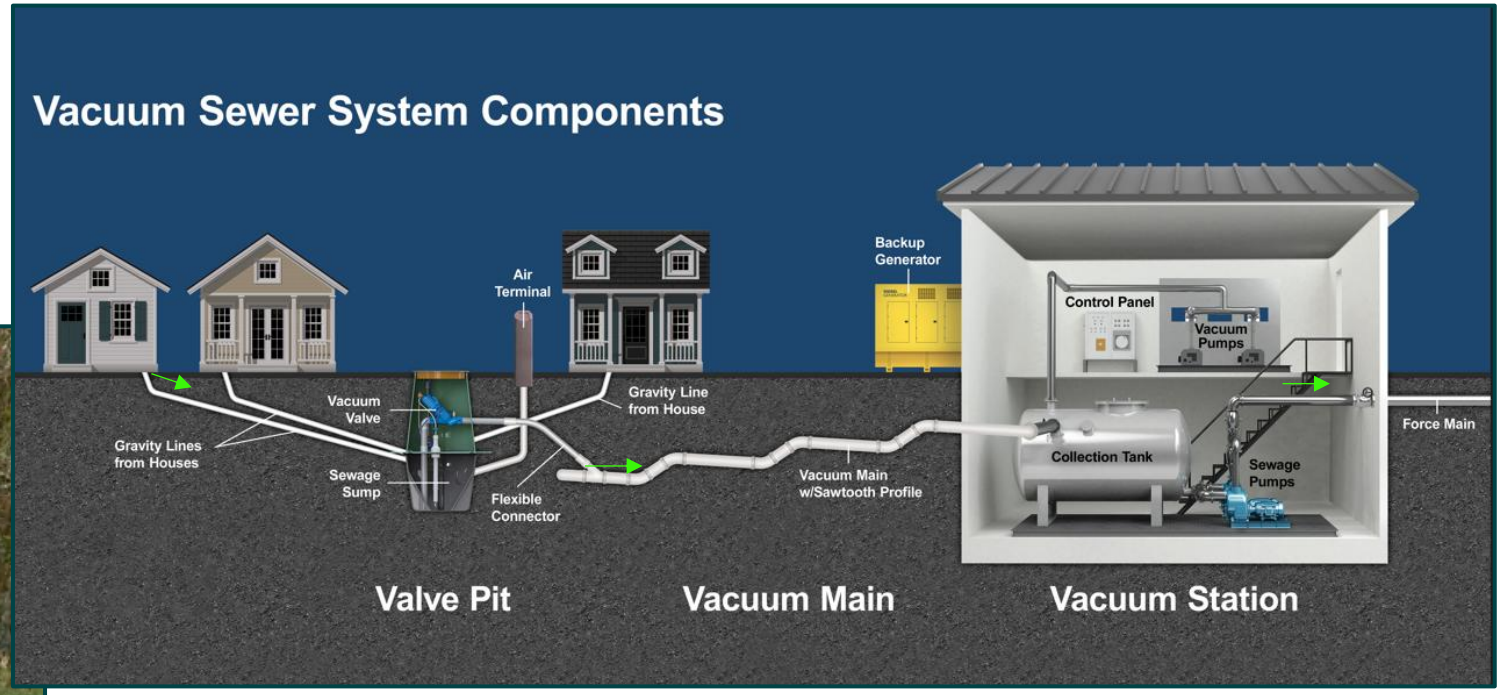
Site Benefits

- The proposed vacuum pump station site is located at 6211 South 12th Avenue.
- There is existing water and electricity infrastructure nearby to support the proposed pump station.
- The proposed site has sufficient space to provide vegetative buffering and screening for neighboring properties and is not anticipated to have any negative environmental impacts.



What is a Vacuum Collection System?

A vacuum collection system is a completely closed system, which prevents wastewater exposure to the atmosphere.



A vacuum collection system has three basic components:

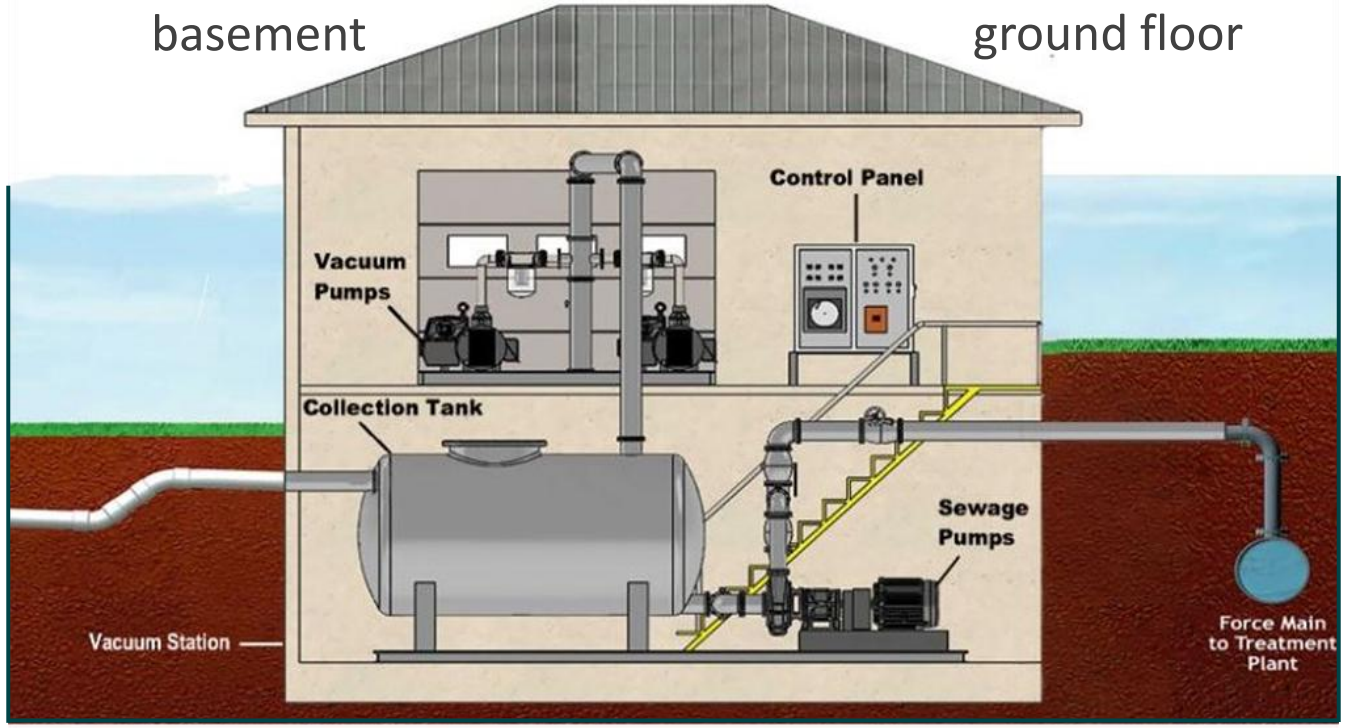
1. A vacuum valve pit,
2. Vacuum pipes, and
3. A vacuum pump station.

What is a Vacuum Pump Station?

Equipment typically is housed in a 2-story building

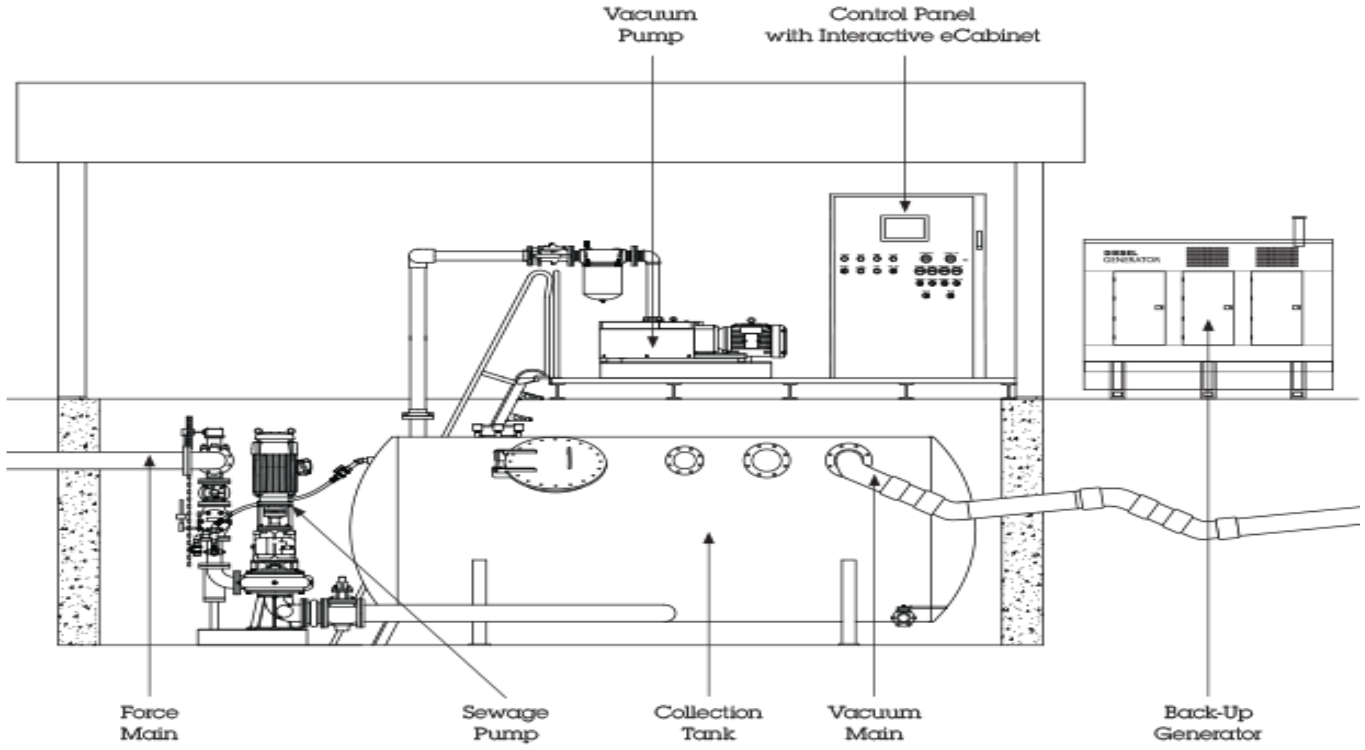
Collection Tank & Sewage Pumps in basement

Vacuum Pumps & Control Panel on ground floor



Typical Examples of Residential Vacuum Pump Station

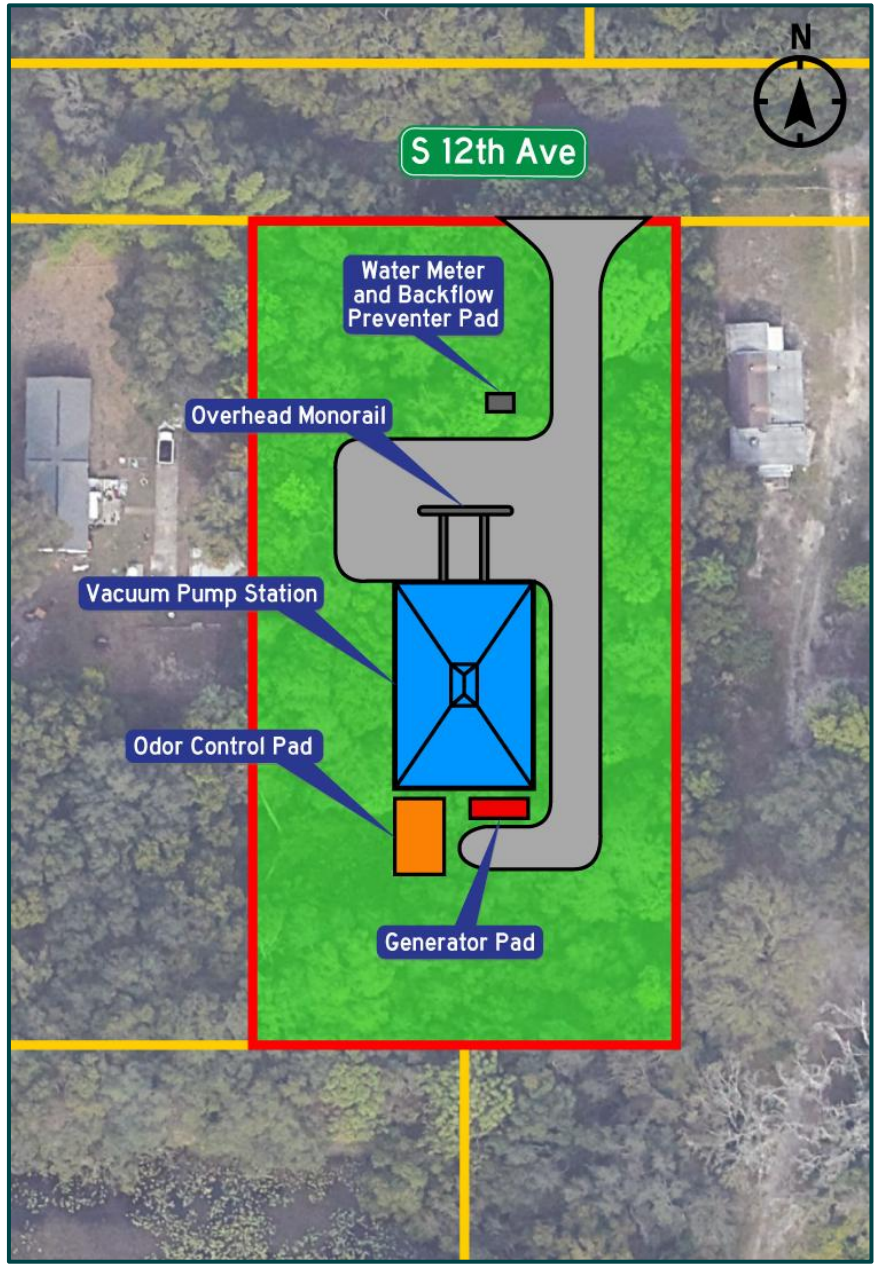
Proposed Improvements



- The pumps will be completely enclosed in a concrete-block building.
- The vacuum pump station (VPS) will minimize noise from the pumps and be designed to blend with the area.

Preliminary Site Concept

- The proposed building site is located near the intersection of Maydell Drive and 12th Avenue (East of Maydell Drive).
- The gated vacuum pump station facility will include fencing around the site and a perimeter landscape buffer.
- The vacuum sewer system will be equipped with an advanced odor control system to minimize odors.



Anticipated Project Schedule and Budget

Finalize Facility Site	Additional Public Engagement	Final Pump Station Design	Pump Station Construction Start	Pump Station Construction Completed
2025	2025-2026	2026	TBD	TBD

Hillsborough County
BOCC APPROVED
Funded by the American Rescue Plan

Palm River Phase 1 VPS Total Project Budget: ~ $48 million

Funding through the Water Resources Department Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Grants.

Project Contacts

Hillsborough County Florida

projectinfo@PalmRiverS2S.com

(813) 235-4748

Thank you!

Learn about other proposed, planned, and current Hillsborough County Capital Improvement Projects at:

HCFL.Gov/CountyProjects

CIP Project:#C10297000

Palm River Utility Expansion & Septic to Sewer Conversion