



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Fiscal Year 2006**



**Alachua County**  
**Waste Management Division**

# Division of Waste Management Programs

The Division of Waste Management provides a variety of solid waste management services, including receiving and transporting solid waste, recycling and various methods of promoting waste reduction. The Division also provides disaster debris management in the event of a natural or man-made disaster in Alachua County.

Within the Division are the following programs:

## **CURBSIDE COLLECTION**

- ✦ Provides volume-based curbside collection of solid waste, recyclable material and yard waste
- ✦ Provides a customer call center for inquiries, service requests and complaints
- ✦ Maintains a level of service that provides high customer satisfaction with a minimum of complaints
- ✦ Sets rates and budgets in a fiscally sound manner and provides for rate stabilization
- ✦ Maintains citizen compliance with Alachua County's volume-based collection system through public education
- ✦ Meets requirements of Florida Statutes, Section 403.7049, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Rule 62-708 by collecting and developing information necessary to publish the annual full cost of collection, recycling and disposal of solid waste in Alachua County

## **BALU FOREST**

Balu Forest is a 1,585 acre tract of land that is held in reserve and permitted as a possible future solid waste disposal facility. This property is currently managed under the Balu Forest Land Management Plan which specifies goals for the site to establish an old growth, uneven aged, longleaf pine dominant forest. The Waste Management Division manages this property through a cooperative effort by Public Works staff and forest management consulting services with support from the Environmental Protection Department.

## **LEVEDA BROWN ENVIRONMENTAL PARK AND TRANSFER STATION**

- ✦ Operates the Transfer Station in accordance with Federal, State and local regulations, and in accordance with the operating permit issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- ✦ Screens waste for prohibited items prior to transporting the waste to the New River regional landfill for disposal
- ✦ Recycles vegetative wood waste, pallets, waste tires, scrap metal and appliances
- ✦ Provides Household Hazardous Waste management through the Household Hazardous Waste Center operated by the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
- ✦ Provides a recycling facility for the community through a lease agreement with SP Recycling Corporation

## **RURAL COLLECTION CENTERS**

- ✦ Environmentally sound disposal sites for rural residents to drop off solid waste, recycling and Household Hazardous Waste
- ✦ Increases recycling as a percentage of waste disposed at the Rural Collection Centers
- ✦ Screens various categories of waste and recyclable materials for prohibited items prior to transporting for disposal or recycling
- ✦ Prevents Household Hazardous Waste from being disposed in an unsafe manner
- ✦ Decreases the amount of illegal dumping

## **CLOSED COUNTY LANDFILLS**

- ✦ Provides cost effective compliance monitoring at five closed landfills in accordance with Florida Department of Environmental Protection permits
- ✦ Maintains stormwater control systems at two closed landfills to meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements
- ✦ Utilizes available technology to accelerate stabilization of the waste at the County's closed Southwest Landfill
- ✦ Provides management of the closure/post closure fund for the Alachua County Southwest Landfill in accordance with Florida Department of
- ✦ Environmental Protection long-term care regulations in a manner that will maintain the escrow account balance for 30 years post-closure

# Division of Waste Management Programs

## SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

The Division develops or assists other departments in developing Alachua County's non-ad valorem assessments (charges for services paid on the annual property tax bill). It also accurately maintains all of these assessments, within deadlines and requirements of Chapter 197, Florida Statutes, in order for the County to collect approximately \$7 million in assessment revenue for services provided.

In addition to assessments for curbside collection, Rural Collection Centers and solid waste management, assessments are currently maintained and collected for paving, water line extension and neighborhood preservation and enhancement.

## ENGINEERING AND COMPLIANCE MONITORING

This program is included in Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station budget as part of Closed County Landfill Compliance. The following services are provided:

- ✦ Provides permit compliance at the County-operated solid waste management facilities
- ✦ Annually updates long-term solid waste management planning options to reflect changes in technology, regulations and economics
- ✦ Manages current and future capital projects and contracts to meet or exceed schedules, budgets and design criteria

## WASTE ALTERNATIVES

- ✦ Monitors and reports to Florida Department of Environmental Protection on recycling and waste reduction in Alachua County, as required by Chapter 403, Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 62-770
- ✦ Educates the community on ways to increase recycling, reduce disposal costs and save landfill space, as required by the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan
- ✦ Instills in the next generation, through educational programs, a strong ethic for preserving natural resources through recycling, waste reduction, and reuse
- ✦ Through the web-based Alachua Exchange program, at [www.alachuaexchange.com](http://www.alachuaexchange.com), facilitates reuse of surplus materials and products that would otherwise be thrown away
- ✦ Through the Tools for Schools program, provides the opportunity for businesses, institutions, and individuals to donate surplus materials and overstocked supplies to public school teachers
- ✦ Encourages innovations in reuse and recycling through the annual Trashformations Art Competition for high school and college students
- ✦ Promotes special events to remind the general public of the value of alternatives to waste disposal, including distribution of compost bins, telephone book recycling, waste tire recycling and various public informational forums
- ✦ Pays 25% (\$375,262) of the Rural Collection Center budget to cover services provided to curbside collection residents of incorporated and unincorporated Alachua County
- ✦ Provided recycling containers at public events
- ✦ Coordinates recycling activities at Santa Fe Community College

## LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY

In partnership with Gainesville Regional Utilities, Progress Energy and the University of Florida, Public Works staff operates a full-scale 28-acre bio-reactor at the Southwest Landfill near Archer. A bio-reactor landfill is one where internal conditions -- including moisture content, temperature, pressure and oxygen content -- are closely controlled to accelerate the natural decomposition of the waste and produce a useful by-product, energy rich landfill gas. The gas is collected, fed to engines and "green" electricity is generated without contributing to the increase of global greenhouse gases. Gainesville Regional Utilities is marketing the electricity produced at the site - enough to power more than 1,000 homes - as part of its GRU Green Energy program.

## ENFORCEMENT

- ✦ Budgeted with Curbside Collection
- ✦ Provides both proactive and reactive investigations, inspections and enforcement to achieve a higher degree of compliance with Chapter 75 of the Alachua County Code of Ordinances, especially those sections related to the volume-based collection system. In order to maximize commercial recycling, enforcement activities are now needed, along with continuing education and assistance. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2006, the County's mandatory commercial recycling ordinance will be enforced by an inspector funded by a portion of the County's commercial franchise fee.

# 2005—2006 Enterprise Fund Statement of Net Assets

## September 30, 2006

### ASSETS

Current assets:

Equity in pooled cash and equivalents	5,237,807
Cash with claims administrator	-
Accounts receivable	1,155,057
Due from other funds	90,114
Due from other governments	37,647
Inventories	-

Total current assets	6,520,625
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Noncurrent assets:

Restricted assets:

Equity in pooled cash and equivalents	2,288,894
Investments	2,626,501
Total restricted assets	4,915,395

Capital assets:

Land	3,266,279
Buildings	2,751,331
Improvements other than buildings	13,142,379
Equipment	2,738,150
Less accumulated depreciation	-10,985,206
Total capital assets (net of depreciation)	10,912,933

Total noncurrent assets	15,828,328
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Total assets	22,348,953
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### LIABILITIES

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	713,880
Contracts payable	50,690
Unearned revenue	-
Due to individuals	265
Due to other funds	156
Due to other governments	9,202
Deposits	76,579
Accrued compensated absences of one year or less	142,489
Estimated liability for self insured losses	-
Total current liabilities	993,261

Noncurrent liabilities:

Accrued compensated absences of more than one year	185,092
Noncurrent liabilities (payable from restricted assets):	9,330,691
Total liabilities	9,515,783
Total liabilities	10,509,044

### NET ASSETS

Invested in capital assets	10,912,933
Restricted for annual landfill closure costs	261,077
Unrestricted	665,899
Total Net Assets	11,839,909

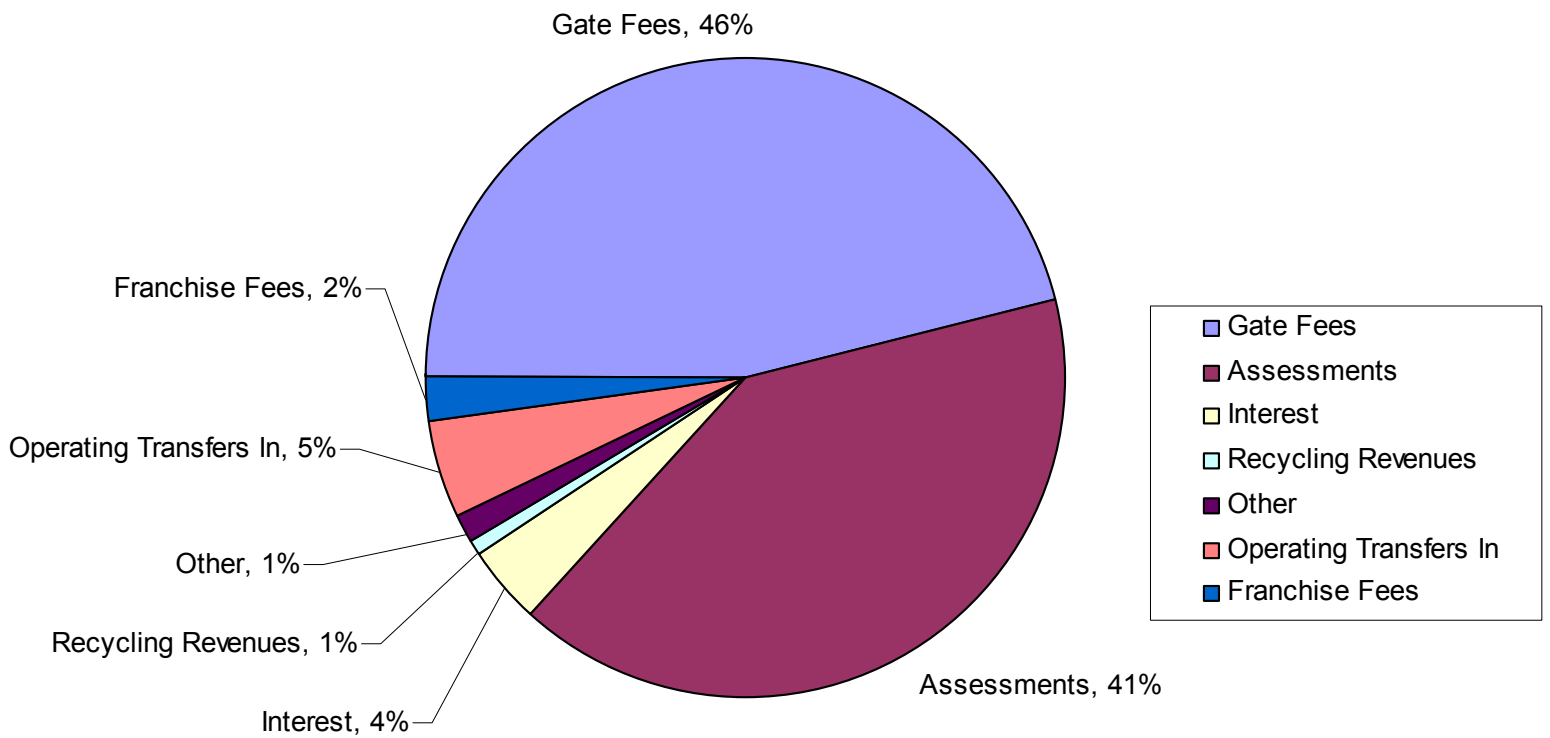
## The Year in Review

- ✦ Teachers Tools for Schools Reusable Resource Center supplied 303 teachers from Alachua County public schools with \$8806 worth of supplies and materials for classroom use. This year marked the first partnership with the University of Florida in a “Spring for Supplies Drive”.
- ✦ Received entries from 27 middle school, high school, and college students for Trashformations: The Art of Recycling juried art competition
- ✦ Collected 464 tons of used tires for recycling
- ✦ Provided curbside collection of garbage, recycling, and yard trash to approximately 23,000 households
- ✦ Handled approximately 340,820 customer visits to the Rural Collection Centers an increase of about 12,000 from the previous year
- ✦ In March of 2006, there was a joint City/ County Commission meeting to present a draft business plan for mutually beneficial solid waste management partnership –staff have been authorized to work together further develop the plan.

<b>MSW Management (tons) at Alachua County Transfer Station</b>		
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>		58,436
* City of Gainesville	20,966	
* Unincorporated Alachua County (MSBU)	19,892	
* Other Municipalities (Other Residential)	5,605	
* Other	11,963	
* WM Direct Haul		44,957
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>		83,227
<b>Gilchrist County</b>		2,077
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		188,687

# Revenues

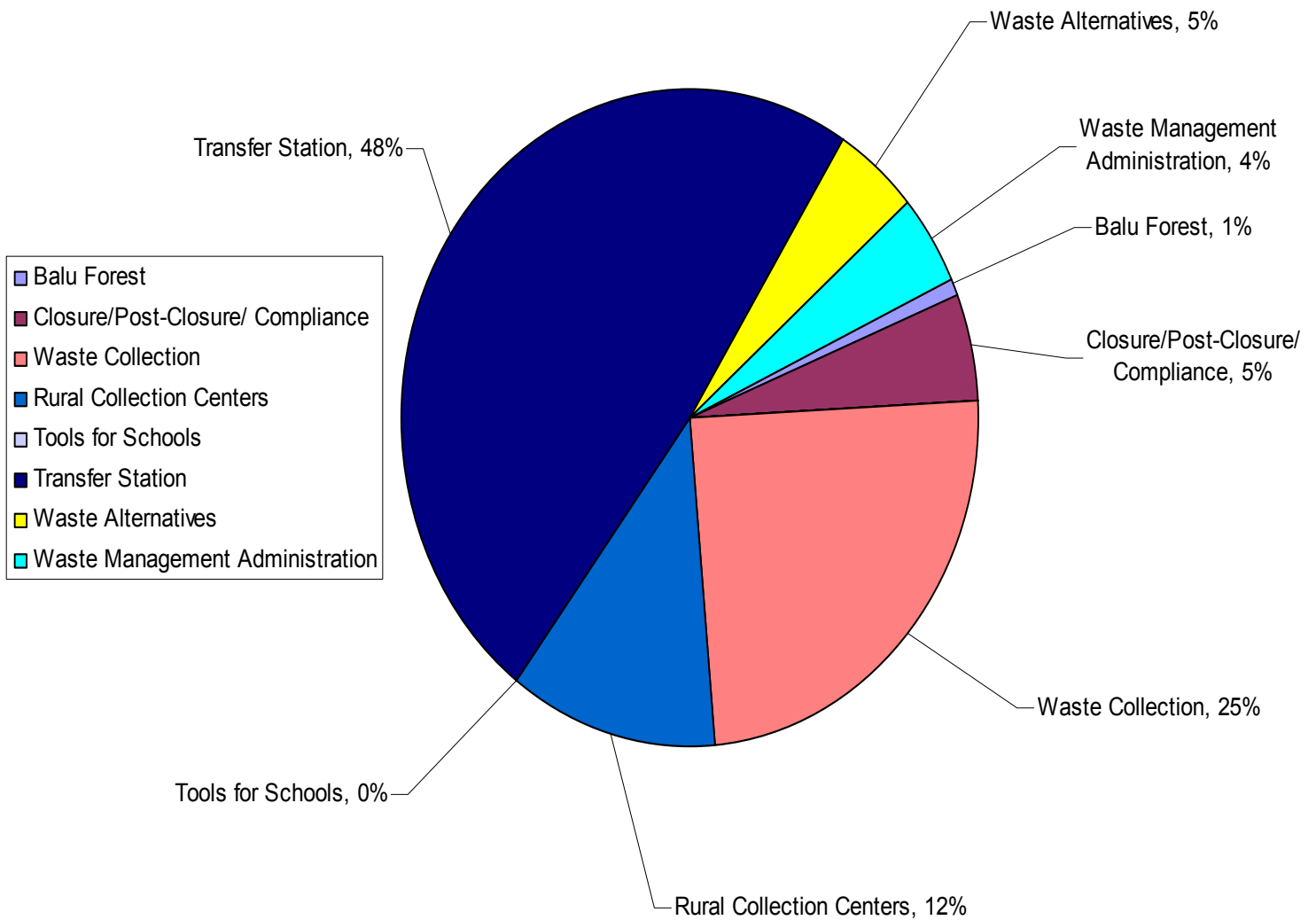
**Actual Revenues FY06**  
**\$17,500,241**



# Expenditures

## Actual Expenses by Program FY06

\$15,781,544



## MISSION

To provide for clean, efficient, economical and environmentally sound management of solid waste resources in Alachua County.

## SERVICES PROVIDED

The Division of Waste Management provides a variety of solid waste management services, including receiving and transporting solid waste, recycling and various methods of promoting waste reduction. The Division also provides disaster debris management in the event of a natural or man-made disaster in Alachua County.

## GOALS

- ✦ To ensure waste disposal for Alachua County is environmentally sound and our facilities meet or exceed state regulatory requirements.
- ✦ To educate children, residents and businesses about solid waste management and waste alternatives (i.e., source reduction, recycling, composting).
- ✦ To provide courteous and efficient waste collection services to citizens of Alachua County.

*“You can tell how high a society is  
by how much of its garbage is recycled.”  
—Dhyani Ywahoo, Native American*

For further information contact:

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or visit our web site at

<http://alachuacounty.us/government/depts/pw/waste/>