

PCMCD is Relocating!

**September 1, 2021**

**Relocating our operational campus will help us to achieve our goals of growing with Pasco County and continuing to provide our residents public health protection from mosquito-borne diseases and maintain quality of life.**

We feel that it is in the best interest of PCMCD to relocate our facilities to be more centrally located within Pasco County in order to provide a better level of service to all of our citizens. We need a property that is large enough to accommodate the current needs of the District and provide room for necessary future growth.

Pasco County, Florida is gentrifying at a very fast rate. Pasco County Mosquito Control District (PCMCD) must expand our workforce to keep up with the growing demand for mosquito control services as more residents continue to make Pasco County their home and place of work and play.

Building of new communities and physical manipulation of the landscape are important considerations for mosquito control activities and cannot be overlooked. PCMCD must change as an agency with the changing landscape of Pasco County to continue to meet residents’ needs.

Traffic patterns within the county have drastically changed in the last decade. The current PCMCD headquarters is in the West Pasco Industrial Park in Odessa, near to the southwest corner of the county. At the time the current facility was built, PCMCD only served a portion of the county, from the western border over to Land O’ Lakes. Now, PCMCD provides mosquito control services to Pasco County in it’s entirety and accessing the 4 corners of the county from the District’s current campus has become cumbersome. PCMCD staff that regularly provide service in the areas of Zephyrhills, Dade City, Trilby, and Aripeka spend a significant portion of their day traveling to their inspection and treatment locations, without even performing any mosquito control activities!

In an effort to best serve the residents of Pasco County, over the next several years we must expand our workforce and fleet, and therefore need more room for such expansion. We also need to be forward-thinking and not only plan for the level of mosquito control services the county requires in 2021 but also anticipate what needs there will be decades from now! The PCMCD facilities that were built in Odessa back in 1987 are not conducive to such growth and future planning.

To address these concerns, PCMCD recently secured a land purchase to relocate our operating campus to be more centrally located within Pasco County and to allow for much needed growth. The PCMCD will now begin the process of selecting and working with a design team to plan the campus layout and submit to Pasco County for permitting. Once that is complete, we will eventually enter into the construction phase of the project.

**How did we get here?**

We have considered staying at the current property located in Odessa.

Unfortunately, we are running out of vacant land on our current property. Staying at 2308 Marathon Rd. leaves PCMCD incredibly limited opportunity for growth in the future. We cannot continue to properly meet the needs of our community without growth and expansion. In several years, we will be faced with the reality that we have completely grown out of the current property. We will then be forced with searching for property in a county that is rapidly developing. Any remaining vacant land large enough for our future needs will be extremely limited, highly coveted, and more expensive than the current cost per acre.

Additionally, a larger property will allow PCMCD to expand our operational research to continue to find more efficient, cost-effective ways to control mosquito populations and better methods for preventing the spread of mosquito-borne disease.

For additional information about the need for PCMCD to relocate or to determine what stage of the build-out and relocation process we are in, please contact our office at 727-376-4568.

**September 8, 2021**

Over the past 6 months, the PCMCD has been under contract to purchase a 41-acre parcel more centrally located within Pasco County. An Engineer Firm was hired to perform due diligence review and analysis on the property to ensure it was the appropriate piece of land for the District’s relocation. After completing the analysis, the PCMCD secured the land purchase at the end of August! The District also brought on an Owner’s Representative, InVision Advisors, Inc. to help navigate the design and construction process. Over the next few months, the District will publish solicitations for Engineer and Architectural Services to design the new campus and submit to Pasco County for permitting.

**August 22, 2022**

The PCMCD worked with district attorney, Steve Booth of Booth and Cook, PA to move through the process of obtaining a conditional use permit for the helipad. Approval was granted by the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners in December, 2021.

PCMCD has awarded Spring Engineering, Inc. to complete the architectural and engineering services in designing the new campus. Over the next few months, we will continue to work with the architect and Owner’s Representatives to finalize the campus design to meet our operational needs. Once approved, we will move on to permitting through Pasco County and other appropriate agencies.

For additional information on the progress of this project, please call our office at 727-376-4568.

**August 4, 2023**

Spring Engineering, Inc. has been working diligently with the PCMCD staff and Commissioners to create an architectural design of the new campus that not only meets our current operational needs but also allows us ample room for future growth. As one of the fastest growing counties in the United States, the landscape of Pasco County is changing. New communities are being constructed, which creates unique challenges to managing mosquito populations. Preserve areas located within neighborhoods offer prime mosquito habitat and new roadways bring a series of roadside ditches and drains that now must be inspected routinely to identify their potential for mosquito production. New communities mean additional residences for the PCMCD to perform service requests and educate residents on the role they play in mosquito control, which includes limiting their exposure to mosquitoes and reducing the potential for mosquito borne disease transmission. The PCMCD wishes to continue to provide the same level of rapid, high-quality service our residents have come to expect, to all of our new population as well. Being more centrally located within the county and having room to grow our program will ensure that we are able to keep up with the new demands of a fast-growing community.

We are wrapping up the design phase of the project and will then submit the site plan to Pasco County permitting. In conjunction, we have submitted to Pasco Utilities the plans to run off-site utilities to the property. Additionally, we have been working through the approval process for roadway improvements to U.S. Highway 41, through the Florida Department of Transportation.