

County launches disaster recovery projects dashboard

By Hector Flores

Charlotte County launched a new Disaster Recovery Projects Dashboard feature on its website today. The feature can be reached at www.charlottecountyfl.gov/disasterprojects or by clicking the dashboard graphic on the website homepage.

The feature includes a dashboard containing the more than 1,200 recovery projects county staff and contractors have completed, are currently working on or will be working on in the future. There is a map that enables users to find projects by location. A project list is also searchable by project name. The dashboard contains funding sources and amounts, descriptions of the working being done and which storm event caused the damage to the facility or amenity.

The total cost of the debris removal and project repairs is estimated to exceed \$190 million from the five named storms that have impacted Charlotte County since 2022. The county is still awaiting funding from FEMA for many of the projects, but the County Commission has directed staff to begin working on a number of prominent projects using money from our hurricane reserve fund to get those facilities and amenities open.

We reached a milestone on Wednesday when the full parking lot at Englewood Beach reopened. The dashboard details the cost and work completed to reopen the parking lot, remove the damaged boardwalk and install safety fencing. It also covers the sand sifting operation run by the Public Works Department to move and sift thousands of cubic yards so it could be put back onto the beach.

The dashboard will be updated in real time as it draws data from databases tracking funding and project status. This will be a very useful tool for residents to track the progress of their favorite parks and amenities.

Calendar deadline

The deadline for submitting photos to the county calendar contest is Aug. 15. The theme of our 2026 county calendar is "Live, Work and Play in Charlotte County." The photos in the calendar should reflect our county vision: "To preserve and enrich our community's quality of life for those who live, work and play in our paradise." The contest is free and easy to enter.

Submit your photos that represent living, working, or playing in Charlotte County.

- Photos must be taken in Charlotte County
- Please do not include business identifiers in the photos (logos, signage, etc.)
- Photos must be horizontal and 11 inches by 8.5 inches
- Deadline for entries is Aug. 15, 2025

Submit your photos online: www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/contest

We'll select 14 photos to be featured in the 2026 Live, Work and Play in Charlotte County calendar. Winners will be notified by phone or email. Calendars will be available to the public in late November at county facilities to be announced.

Readers may reach Charlotte County Administrator Hector Flores at Hector.Flores@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.