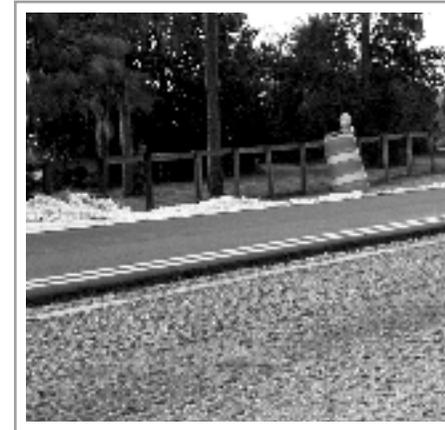


189 employees from the Department of Public Works worked 18,850.5 hours during the three hurricanes in 2004 to remedy damaged infrastructure.



Common Ground

The adage “addition by subtraction” worked well for the Department of Public Works in 2005. As the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization gained independence and the facilities development and maintenance responsibility for the County was transferred to another department, Public Works focused its mission on the basics of designing and building public infrastructure.

Increased construction was a top priority for the Department; yet the three hurricanes, Charley, Frances and Jeanne, caused Public Works to divert many resources to maintenance and repair of infrastructure. Among the extra duties associated with the damaging storms was managing a contract, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Services, to haul and dispose of 625,000 cubic yards of storm debris. Other hurricane recovery operations included repairing washed-out roads and culverts, replacing bent and twisted roadway signage and fixing damaged traffic signals. The County *oversaw* \$17.9 million of debris removal and \$172,503 of repair to the County transportation infrastructure due to the storms.

Public Works is leading a *successful* campaign in designing and completing transportation-related projects funded by sales tax money from the approved one-cent voter referendum. This revenue source expedited many projects, including several major projects completed last year such as widening and resurfacing of County roads 445A and 437. The Road Operations Division embarked on its most aggressive countywide road resurfacing project this fiscal year. The project included resurfacing 58 different stretches of roadway, or more than 46 miles, for a cost of about \$2.2 million.



Other major projects completed this fiscal year include realignment and expansion of the Judicial Center parking lot to increase security protection, widening of County Road 445A from State Road 19 to County Road 455, and widening County Road 437 from the Orange County line to State Road 46. Stormwater management improvements include the Upper Palatlahaha stormwater retrofit, Mid-Florida Lakes stormwater project and culvert replacements on Lake Nellie and Dwights roads.

A groundbreaking was held in August 2005 on the 4-mile South Lake Trail, which is expected to be completed in nine months. The Florida Department of Transportation is funding \$1.27 million of this estimated \$2 million project. Other projects are being designed with the help of many partners. For example, Public Works was able to secure several grants in 2005, including \$1.5 million for design and construction of paved shoulders on Country Road 48 from U.S. Highway 27 to State Road 19 and on Lakeshore Drive from County Road 561 to the Lake Susan Lodge Bridge.

Lake County is *excited* about expanding services for parks and recreation. In August 2005, the County purchased 192 acres of environmental land on the shores of Lake Apopka. The intent is to develop a passive park consisting of fishing, bicycling and hiking opportunities. The County also purchased about 100 acres of land in the northeast area of the County, which will be developed as an active recreation park, including baseball, soccer and football fields.