

# Welcome to North Port

## Community Heritage

One of the most difficult and rewarding parts of Planning services in a community is finding those parts of it that are truly in need of protection and treasuring.

Florida has a beautiful ecosystem of birds, reptiles, and water that is the envy of the world.

North Port seeks to protect these animals and natural resources as a key part of what makes Florida the paradise so many people would like to call home.



Scrub Jays

The scrub-jay lives primarily in scrub habitat, one of the rarest habitats in Florida -- and one which is under tremendous development pressures.

The City of North Port underwent a scrub-jay habitat survey in 2006 in order to identify occupied habitat. These areas represent suitable habitat for the Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), a threatened species that is only found in Florida.



Gopher Tortoise

Gopher tortoises are one of Florida's threatened species, which means they are likely to become endangered in the near future unless steps are taken to protect them. Referred to as a keystone species, tortoises have an enormous impact on the local environment.

The City of North Port's Department of Public Works is proud to have created an incredibly successful Gopher Tortoise Awareness Program to educate residents on the environmental importance of gopher tortoises and their burrows.

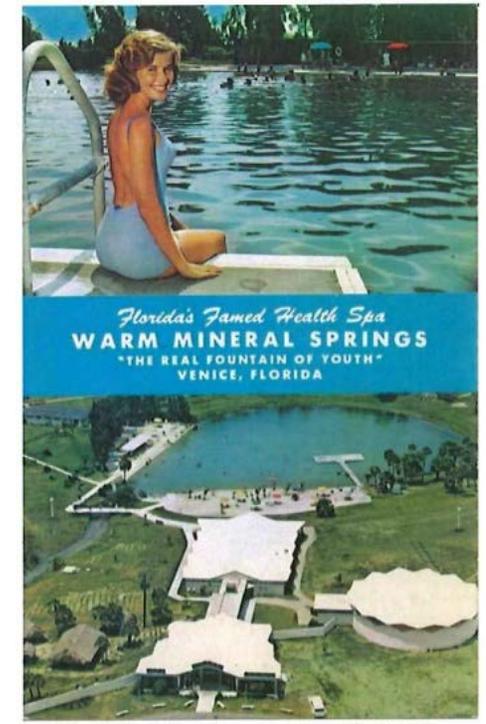
Recognized as a leader in raising gopher tortoise awareness, North Port has introduced new technology and taken the necessary measures to protect gopher tortoises and help conserve the City's environment.



## Neighborhood Development Services

### Warm Mineral Springs

Warm Mineral Springs formed 20,000 years ago when a sinkhole formed during the Pleistocene Era. As this 1960's advertisement from the Venice Museum and Archives illustrates, Warm Mineral Springs has been a landmark of North Port from the beginning.



Warm Mineral Springs is an important part of the city's history and the City works to maintain it as a natural resource.



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