



Alachua County  
**Department of Public Works**  
*Caring People Providing Quality Service*

**SURVEY/REAL PROPERTY**  
**Jeffrey S. Hattendorf, County Surveyor**  
**352-548-1224**  
[jhattendorf@alachuacounty.us](mailto:jhattendorf@alachuacounty.us)

In January 2002, Alachua County Public Works Survey Department was created. The goal was to save on the cost of survey work and to speed up the response time. Previously, the County hired private firms whenever a survey was required by the County. Along with the higher cost of the work, there was a significant amount of time lost preparing a scope, receiving a cost proposal and obtaining a purchase order from a private firm to survey for the County. It usually took over a month from work conception to receiving the completed survey documents.

The Alachua County Public Works Survey Department achieved the goal of cost savings, immediately. Including wages, benefits, and equipment, Alachua County saves 40% on the hourly cost of fieldwork by using the in-house team as opposed to a private firm. The savings for office work such as drafting is closer to 50%.

By having a survey crew on staff, we have reduced the response time for work from a month to merely days. The survey crew can respond to the needs of the other departments usually the next day. For example, Road & Bridge does not have to keep its work crews on hold for weeks waiting on a survey team to determine the information needed to complete their tasks.





Additionally, communication has been improved. The person requesting the work speaks directly with the County Surveyor, and discusses the nature and requirements of the job being requested. The County Surveyor is often able to adjust the scope of the work to better achieve the original purpose of the request. For example, when Waste Management needed to ascertain if the Southeast Landfill site was subsiding, they requested a complete Topographical Survey of the entire 44 acre parcel. This would have been extremely time-consuming and costly. During the dialogue between the Survey Department and Waste Management, it was determined that they actually needed a grid of permanent elevation markers instead. These markers could be quickly set, and easily re-checked as needed. By discussing the job, time and money was saved, and the utility of the work was increased.

The Survey Department consists of the County Surveyor, a licensed Professional Survey and Mapper, a Senior Survey Technician who is a crew chief, an instrument man and rod men (who is also an instrument man). By having everyone knowledgeable in the operation of survey instruments, we are able to make flexible use of the personnel. In order to facilitate this, some of the instruments purchased can be used by a single person. In theory, our five person department can easily operate as two crews on a variety of jobs at the same time.



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**The Survey Department Equipment list:**

	<p>TopCon GPT 2003 Pulse Total Station, with Prismless Mode. Workhorse of the Survey Crew, used in a standard two or three man crew.</p>
<p>TopCon GTS 802A Autotracking “Robotic” Total Station. A single person can be a ‘crew’ with this robotic instrument.</p>	
	<p>TopCon HiPer GPS with 2 Rover Units. Sub-centimeter accuracy, precise enough for Survey work. Also capable of running two one-man crews.</p>
<p>DL 101C Electronic Digital Level. Incredibly precise, less than one inch of error in over 9 miles.</p>	



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The Real Property Division:

- Acquires and maintains property records for all County real property and easements.
- Provides the review and recommendation related to all plat vacations and road closures.
- Obtains real property, right-of-way and various easements as may be needed by the County.
- Obtains the proper execution of agreements and/or documents necessary to acquire or dispose of real property.
- Reviews all new record plat documents for compliance with State and County regulations.