

Plantation Historical Time Line

1906

- First attempt to drain Everglades by Captain Walter Holloway

1911

- Plantation area known as Old Plantation Water Control District
- Holloway Canal opens
- Sewell Locks, first lock built in Florida, open allowing water access to the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee

1915

- Broward Country is created

1939

- Frederick C. Peters purchases 10,000 acres for \$25 per acre; land had been owned by the Everglades Plantation Company (origin of the city's name)
- Broward Boulevard is a two-lane road

1945

- Fred Peters has a water control system designed for his property that is still in use today
- Peters hires Mr. Pancoast to assist him in creating a city master plan.

1947

- First homes built by Chauncey Clark; property valued at \$200 an acre
- Two hurricanes completely flood the area

1948

- 12 homes in the area
- Population reaches 36
- Gene Carter, son of Ann and Claude Carter is first child born in Plantation
- Plantation Community Church is formed, services held in Fred C. Peters office

1949

- Plantation Women's Club founded on February 28th
- Plantation Homeowners organization founded by Dr. Abram Hoffman
- 40 homes in the area.
- Fred T. Peters and his wife Chris move to Peters Farm in Plantation

1950

- Population reaches 200
- Plantation Golf Course and Country Club built to encourage extension of Broward Blvd

1953

- April 30th Plantation incorporated as a city
- Ellsworth D. Gage appointed first Mayor by Plantation Homeowners Association (1953-55)
- Paul Stoner, Winslow Freeman, George Bartold, Walter Bartels and W.J. Perry Lohman are elected to the City Council
- First City Council meeting held on May 11
- Broward Boulevard grows to a four-lane street
- Population reaches 475
- Old feed warehouse near the intersection of East Acre Drive and Broward Blvd is site of first city hall, first fire station and first police station
- Sunset Shopping Center (now Westgate Shopping Center) opens

1955

- S. Robinson Estey elected Mayor (1955-59)
- William Babel, James P. Downton, Clark Baldwin, Paul Stoner and Winslow Freeman are elected to the City Council
- Plantation Police Dept. organized, City purchases a police car and one officer (Henry C. Donath) is hired
- The first Village Bugle, a monthly newsletter, was published by the Plantation Homeowners Association
- A summer Recreation program was begun and was considered a success as 129 children participated
- Olympic size pool added to the Plantation Golf Club property

1956

- Frederick C. Peters donates land for site of new City Hall
- First Annual Fireman's BBQ held to raise funds for Volunteer Fire Dept
- First fire truck (Engine 1) purchased to service the City
- James Downton serves as Police Commissioner
- City budget is \$34,000

1957

- William Babel, Winslow Freeman and Raymond L. Williams are elected to the City Council
- First industrial plant in Plantation - Airpax Products, Co. on Sunrise Blvd
- City of Plantation Volunteer Fire Dept. formed
- Richard Stephenson is appointed Plantation first Fire Chief (1957-58)
- In January the Sunshine State Parkway (Turnpike) opens
- Plantation Community Church opens July 14th
- Parkway Christian Church opens

1958

- Population reaches 1,600
- There are 450 occupied homes
- A Pony League baseball program started for boys 13 –15
- Better Boys Bridge constructed
- Fire Station #1 built on Broward Blvd
- Fred Peters gives ten acres to the school board to build the Berenice Todd Peters Elementary School
- Frederick Peters appointed Fire Chief (1958 – 59)

1959

- James Ward Jr. elected Mayor (1959-71)
- James P. Downton, Howald Humphries and John Tiedmann are elected to the City Council
- First school, Peters Elementary School, dedicated on December 6th
- In March residents begin planning for the development of Fig Tree Park
- Bus service is extended west to the intersection of Broward Blvd. and US 441

- Frank Veltri appointed Fire Chief (1959-60)
- Hank Donath becomes Plantation's first Police Chief (1959-68)
- St. Gregory the Great established on July 23rd, first mass held at Peters Elementary School cafeteria on August 15th

1960

- P.A.L. formed in February
- First Fire Station built
- In September Hurricane Donna hits South Florida
- PJWC plans first annual Cabaret show
- In March Plantation becomes eligible for home delivery of mail
- In the US national election 1504 of the 1575 registered Plantation voters voted
- Robert Blakely appointed Fire Chief (1960 -62)
- City creates a Recreation Department
- Westgate Shopping Center opens
- Plantation Junior Woman's Club founded
- St. Gregory the Great School opens on September 6th

1961

- Samuel Hirsch Jr., Winslow Freeman and William Bergey are elected to the City Council
- The Plantation Library (established by the Plantation Woman's Club) opens in Room 24 of Peters Elementary School with Mrs. Helen B. Hoffman as chairwoman
- St. Gregory the Great Church dedicated on January 8th

1962

- Edwin Deicke donated \$100,000 for the expansion and renovation of Hoffman Building later renamed the Deicke Auditorium
- Chamber of Commerce founded
- Populations grows to 6,500
- Doctors General Hospital opens in July
- First Girl's Softball team organized by Genevieve Veltri
- PAL field dedicated in October

- Robert Browning appointed Fire Chief (1962-63)
- Plantation Chamber of Commerce founded

1963

- Jack L. Carter and John Spellacy are elected to the City Council
- Community Center designed by Russell Pancoast is dedicated on May 11th
- The Plantation Library moves to the new Community Center
- City's motto "From the Wilderness, this City is made official and a city seal is adopted
- Phillip Amman appointed Fire Chief (1963-67)

1964

- City purchases 12 acres of land from Fred Peters for city facilities
- Fred C. Peters dies on July 18th

1965

- Allen R. Gurley and Jack P. LaMarr are elected to the City Council
- Plantation Elementary opens
- American Heritage opens Plantation school

1966

- Plantation General Hospital opens
- Plantation High School and Plantation Park Elementary School open
- In June plans are made for extending Sunrise Blvd. from US 441 to Plantation High School

1967

- John Spellacy and John B. Dye Jr. are elected to the City Council
- Arnold Schrieber appointed Fire Chief (1967-68)

1968

- New Plantation Library opens
- James Flynn appointed Fire Chief (1968-75)
- Lawrence W. Sullivan appointed Police Chief (1968-74)
- Plantation Town Mall opens

1969

- Frank Veltri, Neil LaHurd and Winslow Freeman are elected to the City Council
- Motorola opens facility in Plantation
- First Jaycee Christmas Parade is held on November 29th
- City begins “blue bag” garbage system begins in December
- Mirror Lake Elementary School opens
- Lago Mar Golf Course opens

1970

- Gulfstream Land and Development Company purchases 5,400 acres for Jacaranda community development
- Population reaches 23,000
- South Plantation High, Plantation Middle and Tropical Elementary Schools open
- Friends of the Library founded

1971

- Jack L. Carter is elected Mayor (1971-75)
- John Gibbs and Donald King are elected to City Council
- Jacaranda Golf Course and Country Club opens

1973

- Frank Veltri, Neil LaHurd and Michael G. Shayne are elected to the City Council
- Plantation City Hall is dedicated on December 2nd
- Deicke Auditorium dedicated on May 6th
- Melaleuca Isles and Plantation Acres are annexed into the City
- South Plantation Playing Field (now Pop Travers) opens

1974

- Plantation Historical Society founded in December by Genevieve Veltri, Dorothy O'Hare, Lois Brickhouse, and Marilyn King
- Bennett Community Hospital opens
- Fire Station #2, on 65th Ave, is dedicated on January 20th
- Non-fiction wing added to Plantation Library
- William E. Greene appointed Police Chief (1974-81)

1975

- Frank Veltri elected Mayor (1975-99)
- Donald King, Thomas H. Armstrong and Ralph D. Merritt III are elected to the City Council
- American Express moves Southern Region Operations Center to Plantation
- Population 40,200
- City budget is \$4,229,569
- Fire Station #3 built

1976

- Plantation declared a "Bicentennial City"
- City Fire Hydrants painted with patriotic themes
- A large tree, symbolic of the original Liberty Tree in Boston, dedicated to the principle of liberty, is planted at Plantation Liberty Tree Park
- Donald VanDerLinde appointed Fire Chief (1976-1979)
- Ramat Shalom Synagogue opens

1977

- Neil LaHurd, Michael G. Shayne and Ralph D. Merritt III are elected to the City Council

1978

- Broward Mall opens (1 million square ft)
- City Celebrates its 25th Birthday
- The Plantation Horse Arena is dedicated as part of the Birthday Celebration

1979

- John Gibbs, and Thomas Armstrong are elected to the City Council
- Construction is started on Pine Island Park
- An addition is added to the Plantation Library
- 77 acres are purchased to build Central Park
- St. Gregory the Great Church destroyed by fire on September 14th

1980

- The Plantation Historical Museum was founded
- Population is 48,653
- Fire Stations #4 and #5 open
- Dick Steele appointed Fire Chief (1980-83)

1981

- Neil LaHurd, Ralph D. Merritt III and Larry Freilich are elected to the City Council
- Plantation Library is renamed the Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library
- Tennis Center at Central Park opens on June 1st
- Morris Meek appointed Police Chief (1981-90)
- St. Gregory the Great Church is rebuilt and opens in March

1982

- Population reaches 50,000
- City budget is \$12 million
- Deicke Auditorium adds third bay
- First female firefighter joins Plantation Fire Dept

1983

- John Gibbs and Rae Carole Armstrong are elected to the City Council
- Construction begins on a new Police Station
- Robert S. Pudney III appointed Fire Chief (1983-2010)

1984

- First P.L.A.N.T. Awards

1985

- Larry Freilich and Martin Dishowitz are elected to the City Council
- Plantation Historical Museum opens on June 2nd

1986

- Veterans Park opens

1987

- Rae Carole Armstrong and John Gibbs are elected to the City Council
- Construction begins on the Public Works Complex

1988

- Fountains Shopping Mall opens (450,000 sq ft)
- Fashion Mall at Plantation opens (660,000 sq ft)

1989

- Ralph D. Merritt III, Larry Freilich and Martin Dishowitz are elected to the City Council
- Interstate I-595 opens
- New Fire Station #3 on W. Broward Blvd. (replace old station on 125th Ave)
- Robert S. Pudney III becomes first paid Fire Chief (1983-2010)
- Midtown Business District formed

1990

- Population reaches 65,000
- City budget is \$64 million
- Central Park Elementary School opens
- C.E. Sharrett, Jr. appointed Police Chief (1990-2003)

1991

- Rae Carole Armstrong and Ed Weiner are elected to the City Council
- Hartford's Cornerstone, Phase 1 opens
- Tara Park opens on February 23rd
- Plantation Fire Room at the Historical Museum opens on October 20th
- Cornerstone opens

1993

- Martin Dishowitz, Ralph D. Merritt III and Larry Freilich are elected to the City Council
- Ron Jacobs was elected to Martin Dishowitz's Council Seat in a Special Election
- Kemper National Services opens operations in Plantation
- Deicke Park opens on October 10th
- Bennett Community Hospital becomes Westside Regional Medical Center

1994

- Population reaches more than 73,500
- Sunset Park opens October 18th

1995

- Rae Carole Armstrong and Jerry Fadgen are elected to the City Council
- Tennis Center at Central Park renamed the Frank Veltri Tennis Center
- City operated Emergency Medical Service (EMS) begins

1996

- Olympic Torch Run weaves through Plantation
- Town Mall fire on September 7th is largest fire in Plantation's history

1997

- Bruce Edwards, Lee Hillier and Ron Jacobs are elected to the City Council
- Population reaches 78,000
- City budget exceeds \$80 million
- Central Park Training Pool and Hydro-Playground open on October 22nd
- Fire Station #6 on W Sunrise Blvd. opens

1998

- Fire Administration building and Firefighters' Memorial Park dedicated

1999

- Rae Carole Armstrong elected as Mayor (1999-2011)
- Jerry Fadgen and Ralph D. Merritt III are elected to the City Council
- Roller Hockey Courts at Central Park open January 27th
- Volunteer Park Community Center dedicated December 5th
- K-9 Unit added to Police Department

2000

- Population grows to 84,500 and is made up of 55 diverse cultures
- Plantation Elementary moves to new school site
- Ground broken for Jim Ward Community Center on site of old Plantation Elementary School
- Plantation Gateway Development District formed

2001

- Diane Veltri Bendekovic is elected to the City Council
- Ground broken for Happy Tails Dog Park
- Multicultural Garden opens in Park East community
- Plantation Tram, Community Bus Service begins October 1st

2002

- The Jim Ward Community Center opens January 12th
- Jack Carter Harmony Park opens on January 18th
- Happy Tails Dog Park opens on March 2nd
- Central Park is expanded to include new soccer fields and a new entrance on Cleary Blvd and 91st Ave
- Parkway Christian School opens

2003

- Jerry Fadgen, Sharon Moody are elected to the City Council
- The City Celebrates it's 50th Anniversary with an 8 day celebration in April
- Country Club Circle Linear Park opens May 31st
- City purchase Golf Club of Plantation
- Practice Tennis Wall constructed at Veltri Tennis Center
- Plantation Midtown District begins
- The City purchases the Elk Club property with the intent of expanding Liberty Tree Park
- Larry L. Massey appointed Police Chief (2003-2009)

2004

- Veltri Tennis Center expanded
- Camp Everglades at Volunteer Park opens December 21st

2005

- Diane Veltri Bendekovic, Bruce Edwards, Dr. Robert A. Levy are elected to the City Council
- Rico Petrocelli was elected to Bruce Edwards' Council Seat in a special election
- Hurricane Wilma hits Plantation on October 24th causing significant damage
- Plantation named one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise Alliance
- Skate Board Park opens at Central Park
- Plantation Equestrian Center opens April 2nd

2006

- Park East Trailhead dedicated on February 4th
- The Plantation Preserve Golf Course and Club opens with an invitation only dinner on April 21st and a grand opening to the public, complete with a walking tour of the Preserve Linear Park, on April 22nd
- The Shade Brigade, a tree advocacy group, is formed
- A groundbreaking ceremony for the Plantation Library's new multipurpose room and book sale is held on February 13th
- Plantation begins broadcasting on it's own radio station: 1620 AM.
- Police Department is expanded
- The first annual City Calendar is previewed

2007

- Sharon Moody and Jerry Fadgen are elected to the City Council
- The Plantation Library's new Multipurpose Room and Book Sale Room opens on January 27th
- Country Club Park opens March 10th

- Plantation’s Central City Linear Park Trail is recognized as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System in February
- Plantation Preserve Golf Course and Club designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary

2008

- West Regional Library opens on October 26th
- The Plantation Historical Museum expansion groundbreaking is held on November 7th
- Plantation named “100 Best Communities for Young People” by America’s Promise Alliance
- Plantation Historical Museum expansion opens on September 18th

2009

- Diane Veltri Bendekovic, Dr. Robert Levy and Pete Tingom are elected to the City Council
- The newly expanded Liberty Tree Park opens in September and is renamed Rae Carole Armstrong Liberty Tree Park
- On May 8th the new Public Works Fleet Maintenance Facility opens
- Howard Harrison appointed Police Chief (2009-)

2010

- Construction on the new I-595 Express Project begins on February 26th
- Plantation Woods at the Kennedy Community Center opens June 25th
- Happy Tails Dog Park is named “Top 10 Dog Parks in the United States” by Petside.com
- Plantation once again named “100 Best Communities for Young People” by America’s Promise Alliance
- City’s annual budget is \$77,901,707
- Joe Harris appointed Fire Chief (2010- 2013)

2011

- On March 8th Diane Veltri Bendekovic is elected Mayor (2011-)
- Ron Jacobs, Lynn Stoner, Sharon Moody are elected to the City Council
- “Nature in the Woods” opens at Plantation Woods
- Plantation is name “100 Best Communities for Young People” for the 3rd time
- First issue Plantation Now! E-newsletter sent in May

2012

- City’s population is 84,955
- City’s annual budget is \$177,927,134
- Plantation Community Center, built in 1963, is demolished
- City converts structure at water treatment plant into IT Bunker

2013

- Chris Zimmerman, Jerry Fadgen are elected to the City Council
- City begins 60th Anniversary on February 7th with publication of Plantation History Book
- Laney Stearns appointed Fire Chief (2013 -)
- April 30th City turns 60
- Deicke Auditorium renovated, reopens September 19th

2014

- Plantation Historical Museum Everglades Diorama unveiled February 4th
- November 4th residents vote to keep Strong Mayor form of government, to require candidates for Mayor and Council to reside in the City for one year prior to the opening of the qualifications period for elected office & to move City Elections from March to November

2015

- Lynn Stoner, Peter S. Tingom are elected to the City Council