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Village of North Palm Beach

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Community Background Report

Village of North Palm Beach

Boundaries

North: City of Palm Beach Gardens and various roadways

South: Town of Lake Park

East: Atlantic Ocean

West: City of Palm Beach Gardens

Community Type:

The Village of North Palm Beach is a coastal municipality located on the northern portion of Palm Beach County. This is a high-end residential community with premier golfing and waterfront facilities. It borders the Town of Lake Park to the south, the City of Palm Beach Gardens to the west, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.

History

The Village of North Palm Beach had its origins in 1954, when John D. MacArthur purchased 2,600 acres in northern Palm Beach County for \$5.5 million. Most of present-day Village of North Palm Beach and the Palm Beach Winter Club, which is now the North Palm Beach Country Club, was part of this tract. A year later, in 1955, Robert and Richard Ross also purchased property in the area and continued to develop the land between US 1 and Prosperity Farms Road, using dredging to maximize waterfront property. By 1956, the Village of North Palm Beach was incorporated. During that time, the National Association of Homebuilders named the area the year's Best Planned Community in the U.S.¹

In 1958, Pratt and Whitney opened to the west of North Palm Beach. The professionals who came to work at the company moved to the Village and created a demand for home construction.² They were attracted to the waterfront living and recreational facilities.

In the 1970s, the Twin City Mall was constructed at Northlake Boulevard and US1. This was Palm Beach County's second enclosed mall at the time, and had one of the only movie theaters in the vicinity. In the 1990s, the mall was demolished and later replaced with a strip mall.

In 2006, Jack Nicklaus, a resident of the community made the North Palm Beach Country Club one of only two municipal "Nicklaus Signature Courses" in the United States. Today, the North Palm Beach Country Club is a premier golf destination in Florida.³

Community Dynamics

The Village of North Palm Beach represents an area with over five square miles. It is a residential community with golfing and a great abundance of waterfront property, including beaches, lakes, canals, and the Atlantic Ocean. Its residents include both young families and retirees. The community is mostly made up of well-educated middle and upper income households.⁴ With a year-round population of over 12,000, the population increases in the winter months to approximately 20,000 due to seasonal residents.⁵

The Village has a strong commitment to providing recreational services that enhance the quality of life its residents. This is reflected on the boards and committees reporting to the city council, which includes a Recreation Advisory Board and the Golf Advisory Board.⁶ The recreational facilities include Anchorage Park, North Palm Beach Community Center, the Tennis Center, the North Palm Beach Pool (a 6 lane, 50 meter pool), Osborne Park and Lakeside Park.⁷ The community also has access to the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, a par-71 course lengthened to over 7,000 yards. This link-style public course is one of only two such courses in the US.⁸ The John D. MacArthur State Park is also within the boundaries of the municipality.

As part of their effort to address resident needs, the Village of North Palm Beach conducted a Citizen Satisfaction Survey in the 2008/2009 fiscal year. The goal was to “identify resident priorities in order to build a budget to meet resident needs, while continuing to provide the wide variety of services the residents’ desire.” The survey indicated that the greatest budgetary priorities of respondents were public safety services and sanitary collection.⁹ The results of this survey have been used to guide the village’s policies in the last few years.

In recent years, the Village has undertaken policies to encourage growth and development. This has included the annexation of additional land and amendments to the *North Palm Beach Comprehensive Plan* that have sought to increase land use density.¹⁰ In 2012, the Village expressed an interest on squaring off its boundaries with annexation using jurisdictional swaps.¹¹

Public facilities in the community include the North Palm Beach Public Library, which offers a variety of community activities for residents. Public schools include North Palm Beach Elementary, Bright Futures International, and Academy of International Studies. In addition, there are four private schools: The Benjamin School (Pre-K – 12), Baldwin Prep School (K-12), St Clare School (K-8) and Chabad House Lubavitch of Palm Beach (1-10). There are also six churches: First Presbyterian Church, St Clare Catholic Church, Lighthouse Baptist Church, First Unitarian Universalist, Faith Lutheran School, Lost Tree Chapel.

Demographic Highlights

The population of North Palm Beach has decreased by a small amount since 2000. In 2010, the village’s population was 12,015, compared to 12,064 in 2000, a decrease of 4%.¹²

The population of North Palm Beach is predominantly white. Asians and Blacks are represented, but in small numbers. Whites made up 93.34% of the population in 2010, with Blacks making up 2.66% of the population and Asians 1.7%.¹³

Almost 30% of the village’s residents are of retirement age or older. In 2010, 29.3% of the population was 65 years of age or older, compared to 21.6% for Palm Beach County.¹⁴

North Palm Beach has a greater percentage of residents with a college education than Palm Beach County. In North Palm Beach, 65.6% of the residents had some college education, a college degree or graduate degree, compared to 60.13% for Palm Beach.¹⁵

<u>Education</u>	Study Area	%	County	%
With a Degree or Some College				
Doctorate	142	1.45%	11,103	1.19%
Professional	397	4.06%	28,863	3.10%
Master	777	7.95%	68,815	7.40%
Bachelor	2,409	24.66%	186,552	20.07%
Associates	895	9.16%	73,088	7.86%
Some College	1,791	18.34%	190,510	20.49%
	6,411	65.6%	558,931	60.13%
High School or Less				
High School	2,690	27.54%	248,302	26.71%
Below High School	667	6.83%	122,361	13.16%
	3,357	34.37%	370,663	39.87%
Total	9,768	100%	929,594	100%

North Palm Beach has a higher average per capita income than in Palm Beach County. In North Palm Beach, the average per capita income was \$49,026 in 2010, compared to \$33,610 for Palm Beach County as a whole.¹⁶

Approximately 7.55% of the total population of North Palm Beach is living in poverty, compared to 16.48% for Palm Beach County as a whole.¹⁷

The number of owner-occupied housing units in North Palm is similar to Palm Beach County. Approximately 58.33% of the total housing units in North Palm Beach were owner-occupied. Renter-occupied units made up the remaining 20.7%. In comparison, Palm Beach County had 58.46% owner-occupied housing units and only 23.43% renter-occupied units.¹⁸

Hispanics made up 6.87% of the population North Palm Beach in 2010, compared to 19% for Palm Beach County as a whole.¹⁹

Place of Birth, Nationality, and Language Spoken at Home

Place of Birth²⁰

Born in Florida	3,474	29%
Born in Different State	7,571	63%
Born in Puerto Rico or abroad to American parent(s)	95	1%
Foreign Born	973	8%
Total population	12,113	100%

Foreign Born Population: Top Ten Places of Birth²¹

United Kingdom (including Crown Dependencies):	124	13%
Brazil	99	10%
England	96	10%
Canada	72	7%
Italy	67	7%
Colombia	62	6%
Germany	59	6%
Cuba	58	6%
Portugal	45	5%
El Salvador	41	4%

Language Spoken at Home²²

Language	Population 5 Years and Over	%	Speak English Less Than Very Well	%
English only	10,554	90%	0	--
Language other than English				
Spanish	602	5%	157	40%
Other Indo-European languages	444	4%	208	53%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	61	1%	18	5%
Other languages	24	0%	10	3%
Total Population 5 years and over	11,685	100%	393	100%

Transportation Trends

The figures below provide key transportation indicators for the Village of North Palm Beach:²³

Housing units with vehicles available:

North Palm Beach 5,746 (93.37%)
Palm Beach County 490,820 (93.82%)

Mean (Average) Vehicles per households:

North Palm Beach 1.56
Palm Beach County 1.54

Means of Transportation to work:

	North Palm Beach	Palm Beach County
Carpool	8.09%	11.15%
Drive Alone	82.27%	78.66%
Public Transport	0.42%	1.55%
Motorcycle	0%	0.27%
Bicycle	0.4%	0.59%
Walking	1.13%	1.69%
Other	0.21%	1.16%
Work at Home	7.49%	4.92%

Special Events

The Village of North Palm Beach organizes most of the major events in the community. The primary venues for the events include Anchorage Park, the Village Hall, and the North Palm Beach Country Club. Below are some of the community's main events:

Puppy Love -- This canine event is held in February around Valentine's Day at the "Bark Park" at Anchorage Park. There are canine contests and family related activities.

Heritage Festival & Parade -- This major annual event is held at the end of March or beginning of April at North Palm Beach's waterfront Anchorage Park. It kicks off with a morning parade, beginning at Village Hall, following a one-mile route to the park. The event includes live entertainment, music, dancing, food, rides, games and more.

Red, White and Boom! -- The 4th of July celebration is held at the North Palm Beach Country Club. There is musical entertainment and fireworks.

NPB Kids Triathlon -- This annual race held in July is for children of several age groups, with differing challenge levels in swimming, running, and biking. It is held at the North Palm Beach Country Club.

Anchorage Aweigh Fishing Tournament – Held in August, this event features an inshore fishing derby for younger children, and offshore fishing from registered boats.

5K Ghost Run – This October race is at Anchorage Park. It is open to entrants ages seven to ninety.

Arts & Crafts Fall Festival – Each November over one hundred exhibitors display and sell their work at the North Palm Beach Community Center.

For more information on the above events, call (561)841-3386 or visit the Recreation eNews at: http://www.village-npb.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={FF2F64A7-1B81-4648-B127-0A077CA82229}

Business Landscape

The largest employers in the Village are the School District of Palm Beach, the Palm Beach County Government, the State Government and the Federal Government. Other noteworthy employers include Tenet Healthcare Corp., Florida Power & Light, and G4S Headquarters.²⁴

In order to augment “curbside appeal” in the Village’s commercial areas, the Village of North Palm Beach Department of Community Development offered a Small Business Grant Program offering up to \$5,000 in matching funds for visible exterior improvements to small businesses. The program gives special encouragement to groups of four or more businesses that are collaborating to improve curbside appeal.²⁵

Additional Resources

- **Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan** by the Palm Beach County Planning, Zoning, and Building Department Planning Division:
<http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/pzb/planning/comprehensiveplan/tableofcontent.htm>
- **The Village of North Palm Beach Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2011**, by The Village of North Palm Beach Florida:
http://www.village-npb.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={E8DB0AFC-65E9-4E04-8608-3963451EAD0C}
- **The Village of North Palm Beach FY 2012 Adopted Budget** by The Village of North Palm Beach, Florida:
http://www.northpalmbeachfl.govoffice2.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={5042C196-551C-476C-87F3-81AEC10920CA}

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- ¹³ Ibid.
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- ¹⁵ US Census Bureau. 2006-10 American Community Survey. Retrieved March 2012, from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>
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²⁰ US Census Bureau. 2007-2011 American Community Survey: DP02: Selected Social Characteristics in the United States. Retrieved December 2012, from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

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