



TRIBAL COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

2025 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS BIG CYPRESS

Prepared by: **Seminole Tribe of Florida Public Works Department**
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Big Cypress Operators, from right to left:

Anthony Wells, Pedro Rangel, Henry Coreano, Lionel Gros-Ventre, Fabian Villagomez, Jean Sanchez, Denis Ortega

We are pleased to present you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our continuing goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the effort we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is ground water from wells, which draw from the Lower Tamiami Aquifer. The water is pumped to the plant, where it is filtered and processed through low pressure reverse osmosis units. The water is then aerated to remove any dissolved gases. Next, it is disinfected with chlorine to protect against pathogenic (disease causing) bacteria.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water service. If you have any questions about this report or your water service, please contact Rudy Garcia, Public Works Department, at (863) 634-1705 or Bryan Fogle, at (954) 937-8219.

The Seminole Tribe Public Works Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal laws and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Data obtained prior to January 1, 2025 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with Federal laws and regulations.

As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The source water assessment documents are available on request from the Public Works Department. The sources are considered most vulnerable to the following activities (although not associated with any detected chemicals): storm water runoff from impervious (hard) surfaces, proposed new residential and commercial development (e.g., bio diesel plant), sewer lines and the wastewater treatment plant, hazardous materials storage practices, and fuel storage and delivery within the wellhead protection zones.

The source of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive materials. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

Microbial contaminants which include viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants including salt and metals that can be naturally occurring or resulting from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources including agriculture, urban storm water run-off, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants that include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, as well as gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants may be naturally occurring or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or on EPA's website epa.gov/safewater.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least a small amount of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations with which you may not be familiar. To better help you understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated.
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level.
90 th Percentile	Compliance with the lead and copper action levels is based on the 90th percentile lead and copper levels. This means that the concentration of lead and copper must be less than or equal to the action level in at least 90% of the samples collected.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.24	.74	1.24	2025	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	2.3	1.5	2.3	2025	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	9	3.8	9	2025	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.62	NA	NA	2025	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.02	NA	NA	2025	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source	
				Low	High				
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	2.8	NA	NA	2024	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines	
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA	160	20.6	NA	NA	2024	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching	
Microbiological Contaminants									
Total Coliform (RTCR) (% positive samples/month)	NA	TT	NA	NA	NA	2025	No	Naturally present in the environment	
Radioactive Contaminants									
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	00	5	1.11	NA	NA	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range		# Sample Exceeding AL & Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
				Low	High				
Inorganic Contaminants									
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.028	NA	0.061	0	2025	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	0.0005	NA	.00098	0	2025	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
% positive samples/month	Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Public Works Department regularly contributes to the monthly Seminole Tribune, the official newspaper of the Seminole Tribe. Current events, educational information, and upcoming projects are just a few of the typical topics that we cover.

Educational Plant Tours – The Public Works Department conducts regular tours of our facilities, from school field trips to adult education and outreach. These tours are offered by our knowledgeable staff and present a clear and detailed understanding of plant operations. This multi-generational outreach is unique to the Seminole Tribe because the adult “elder” populations are the gatekeepers and mentors for future generations. This is an opportunity to empower them with the knowledge of the value our department offers to the community.



YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Water Treatment Plant sources ground water from the Lower Tamiami Aquifer. This is a surficial or shallow-depth aquifer that enables water collection approximately 113 - 117 feet underground.

TREATMENT PROCESS

The treatment process features a top-of-the-line reverse osmosis drinking water facility. The reverse osmosis process is a highly effective water treatment that involves using a semi-permeable membrane to remove impurities from the water.

DELIVERING THE BEST WATER

Once the water leaves the water treatment plant, it travels through a complex distribution system that includes water mains, valves, hydrants, high service pumps, ground storage tanks, and more.

DID YOU KNOW?



+20,000

Water Quality Samples Collected by certified professionals



+149 Million

Gallons of drinking distributed in 2025



1.5 Million

Gallons of water storage capacity in case of emergency



+40.4 Miles

Drinking water pipelines maintained by Public Works

ZERO WATER QUALITY VIOLATIONS IN 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Tribal Community Members,

We are pleased to present our annual drinking water Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which provides an overview of water quality delivered to each tribal community supplied by the Public Works Department. We remain committed to supplying the highest quality drinking water and keeping abreast of the latest developments associated with maintaining optimal quality. As stewards of this invaluable asset, we recognize the pressing need to protect it against any sources of potential contamination recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) or identified by other industry leaders.

This report provides data for last year associated with one reservation water treatment plant and is reflective of our consistent performance across all four of our water treatment plants at Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, and Immokalee Reservations documented in separate reports. We strive to consistently deliver safe drinking water that meets or exceeds the stringent standards set by the USEPA. Our treatment plants incorporate state of the art reverse osmosis treatment systems which lead the industry in capability to remove contaminants. The treatment process includes the addition of chemicals to balance water chemistry and maintain disinfection throughout the distribution system with chlorine residual. The balance of water chemistry is continually reviewed to avoid water being overly corrosive or prone to excessive scaling. Similarly, chlorine residuals are sampled, and occasional flushing may occur at select locations to maintain fresh water.

In 2024 the Public Works Department staff undertook an extensive investigation which concluded that our distribution system has no lead or galvanized service lines. Should you require access to this inventory or seek more information, please contact Public Works Department by phone at 954-894-1060 or by email at publicworks@semtribe.com.

Looking forward we seek to incorporate technological advances to continually improve reliability and efficiency of the system from the raw water wells through to distribution. Such improvements range from a SCADA hardening project, providing greater cybersecurity, to flow monitoring within the distribution network to better identify leaks or water age issues. In conjunction with such advances, we anticipate continued growth resulting in the expansion of treatment and storage facilities at several reservations. It is gratifying to see our prior endeavors recognized with several prestigious drinking water awards from our water industry peers.

The strong support of our executive leadership and Tribal Council has been instrumental in achieving this consistent quality. Equally critical to our success are the dedicated individuals who form the backbone of our water treatment operations. Their tireless efforts and adherence to best management practices have played an essential role in ensuring that our water treatment plants consistently surpass USEPA standards. We owe our success to their expertise, attention to detail, and steadfast dedication.

We are grateful for your review of this report, and would appreciate hearing back regarding any questions, suggestions or concerns. Such feedback is invaluable as we strive to clearly communicate and continuously enhance our services for the coming year.

Best regards,

Bruce Cole
Director of Public Works
Seminole Tribe of Florida

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Seminole Tribe Public Works Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Seminole Tribe Public Works Department at (954) 894-1060. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

A common material used in plumbing until the 1980s, lead is also a powerful toxin that is harmful to human health. Pregnant women, infants and young children are particularly vulnerable. At the Seminole Tribe of Florida Public Works Department, we take our responsibility to protect your health very seriously and want you to make informed decisions about your drinking water. Lead can be present in old service lines connecting homes to the water system or in-home plumbing. We take steps at the treatment plant to reduce the potential of lead dissolving into the water and ending up at the tap, including corrosion control methods such as adding a corrosion inhibitor to the water before distribution, but as long as lead is in contact with water in the service line or home, some risk remains. We encourage Tribal Members with lead in-home plumbing to consider replacing these potential sources of exposure. While the Seminole Tribe of Florida Public Works Department meets all federal regulations for lead, levels can vary among neighborhoods or even from house to house, depending upon the materials used in plumbing system construction.

REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD



Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water doesn't remove lead from it.



Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).



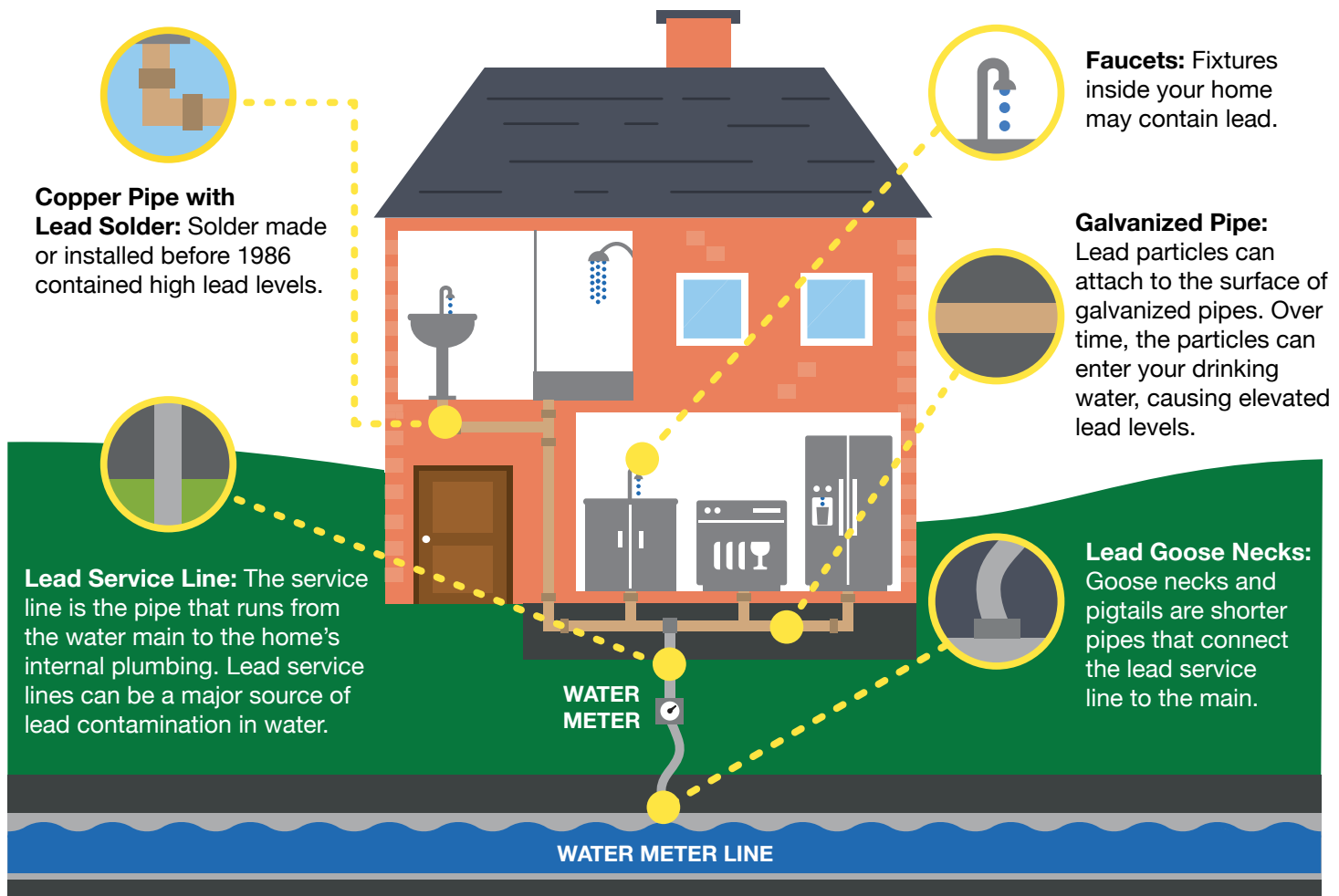
Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.



Before drinking, flush pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or a load of dishes.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, **have your water tested.**

SOURCES OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER



LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

Public Works has developed an initial inventory of lead service lines within our distribution systems. This inventory was compiled through an extensive review of historical records and comprehensive field investigations. Our findings indicate that no lead service lines or galvanized service lines requiring replacement were identified. Should you require access to this inventory or seek more information, please contact Public Works Department by phone at 954-894-1060 or by email at publicworks@semtribe.com.

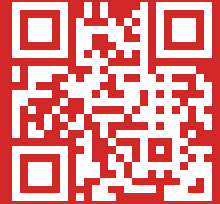
AWARD WINNING WATER

COMMITTED TO SERVING THE VERY BEST!



Florida Section American Water Works Association “Best Tasting Drinking Water”

Brighton has won Best tasting Drinking Water for Region VIII, winning 7 of the last 9 years! Hollywood won Best Tasting Drinking Water in Region VI in 2024.



Florida Section American Water Works Association “Most Improved Drinking Water Plant”

Brighton won FSAWWA's Most Improved Plant (2025). Hollywood won the Most Improved Plant in the two previous years (2023 and 2024) and FSAWWA's Most Outstanding Plant in 2022.



Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators Association “Safety Award”

Winner of FW&PCOA's Safety Award in 4 consecutive years, demonstrating our commitment to safety.



United South and Eastern Tribes “Best Tasting Drinking Water”

United South and Eastern Tribe's Best Tasting Drinking Water for 2022 and 2023!



Southeast Desalting Association Awards

Southeast Desalting Association's Best Tasting Drinking Water in 2019 and Most Outstanding Plant in 2018.



OUR AWARD WINNING FACILITY



**Florida American
Water Works Association (FSAWWA)**
1st Place - Outstanding Water Distribution System
2016

**Florida Water & Pollution Control
Operators Association (FW&PCOA)**
Safety Award
1st Place - Class "C" Facility
2024

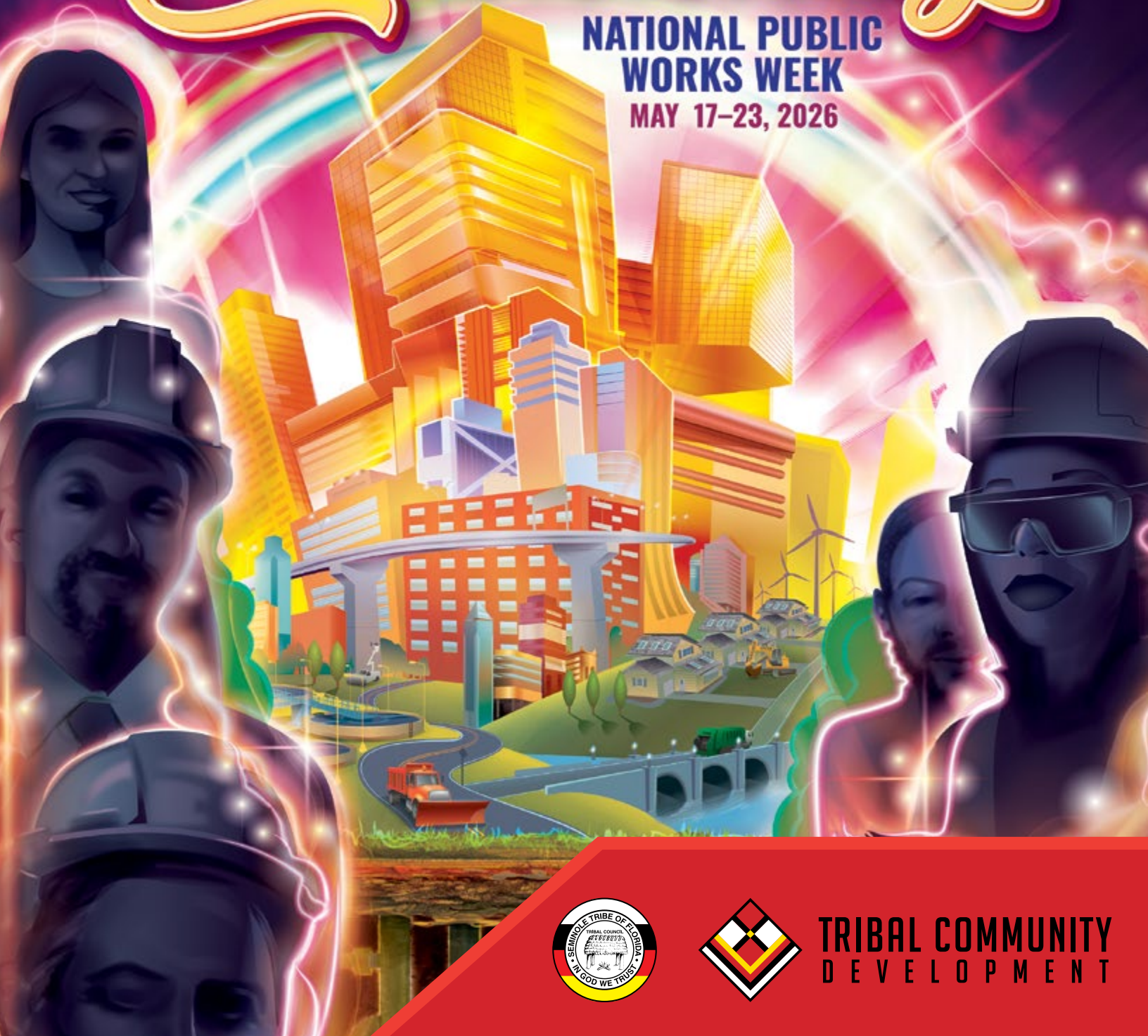




ROOTED IN

Service POWERED BY Community

NATIONAL PUBLIC
WORKS WEEK
MAY 17-23, 2026



TRIBAL COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT