

Dear Readers,

One of the best ways to visualize spatial change over time is to study and compare aerial photographs or satellite imagery covering the same extent, but generated in different years. Especially valuable are vertical images, which are easily georectified, and can be used for various types of spatial and data analysis.

Some of the first missions were flown over south Florida as early as the 1920s, but readily available imagery for download can be found in the USGS EarthExplorer archives (<http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>) dating back as far as 1940.

The cover of this issue compares 2 images of North Fort Lauderdale/Pompano Beach. The first photo in black and white dates back to 1940, and the second is a current screenshot. The images approximate the same coverage. The 1940 photo has not been cropped, in order to show the whole image as originally represented.

Notice that in the 1940 image, the Pompano Air Park had not yet been built. It was constructed shortly thereafter as a military base with the advent of World War II.

Also notice the canalization of Cypress Creek to the south. Such was the fate of many of Florida's natural waterways.

Cindy Shaw, Ph.D

Department of Geosciences

Florida Atlantic University