Below is a chronology of the growth and development of the St. James Plantation:

Date	Events
1662	Massachusetts Puritans, tired of frigid winters, sent explorer William Hilton in search of a mild climate. Hilton found the Lower Cape Fear River, a region so pleasing that he was said to call it "Cape Fair."
1800s	The area's expansive pine forests provided lumber, turpentine, tar and pitch, helping the region become an important source of naval stores.
1900s	The land served as a commercial pine plantation. Trees planted in neat rows still remain in St. James.
1983	St. James Founder, Homer Wright, first learned about hundreds of acres of woodlands for sale just west of Southport (St. James' current location).
1985	Initial site preparation permitting and construction began.
1991	The first residential homes were built. The first golf course, The Gauntlet, designed by P.B. Dye, was opened.
1992	The Chapel was erected - In 1997 was deeded to the Chapel Board of Directors.
1995	The Beach Club, St. James by the Sea, is built on nearby Oak Island. The Members Club course and clubhouse and the Members Athletic Club are completed. The Players Club course is complete and open for play. The St. James chapel was erected - Deeded to the POA in 1999.
1998	The original waste treatment plant system was completed. After an upgrade in 1999 its operation and administration was turned over to the POA. Fire Department established.
1999	The Swim Club at the Members Course was opened. Club includes indoor swimming facility with changing and shower rooms and two HydroCourt tennis courts. St. James becomes a town in July. Town Offices and POA move into Fire Department buildings.
2000	The St. James Marina Village opened - construction began on residences and condominiums.
2001	Third nine holes of Members Club (Cate Nine) were opened. Plans are announced for The Reserve at St. James. Development begins.
2002	Plans are revealed for Harborside (Commercial Building) and additional luxury condominiums at the Marina Village.
2003	The Gauntlet Club is renamed The Founders Club. The clubhouse is renovated and improvements are made to the golf course. Plans for a Nicklaus Design 18-hole golf course are announced. New course will be located in The Reserve. Improvements made to Waterway Park. Walking Trails along St. James Drive completed.
2006	The Reserve Club golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus was opened.
2007	New Tennis Facilities open – Three new Hydro Court tennis courts and a renovated club house and pool area at the Founders Club. Regency Lakes opens - Maintenance free patio homes. Woodlands Park infrastructure in progress.
2008	The Marina's Harborside Marketplace shops and grille opens. The first phase of Harborwalk condominiums opens.
2009	The Reserve Clubhouse breaks ground as well as the new Town Hall and Community Center. Woodlands Park amphitheatre and lake officially open. Happy 10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday to the Town of St. James.
2010	Woodlands Park's park amenities are completed. The Showcase of Homes models open. SeaSide neighborhood opens three models. The SeaSide Club breaks ground.

2011	The Reserve Clubhouse opens. SeaSide Club opens. Paul Maguire Way, the walkway between the Marina and Waterway Park is completed. Town Hall and Community Center are completed.
2014	Legacy Park deputes. Town of St. James celebrates it's 15th birthday. POA announced plan for new amenities in the Woodlands. SeaSide Tennis Courts open.
2016	Signature Wellness Center opens. Work commences on St. James Drive extension to Middleton Road. Woodlands Amphitheater and additional parking spaces added.