



Sarasota City Plan

and

Support Document

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

“When you use this comprehensive plan you are sharing in the creation of a place. The place we know as the City of Sarasota has been created by nature and by the men and women who have been here before us. The place we know as the City of Sarasota will become a different place in the course of our lifetimes. In some small way, it will even be different tomorrow. And it is we who will help to make that difference. We will shape this place by the way we preserve - or spoil - our resources, by our choice of where and how to build, and by the small decisions we make as we live here.

This plan is a statement of what this community hopes to be, and how it proposes to get there....”

From the *Sarasota City Plan* in 1986.
It is with this sentiment in mind that we proceed.

HISTORY

The City of Sarasota has a long history of planning. The City's first comprehensive plan was developed in 1925. Updates were produced in 1960, 1972, 1979, 1986, 1989, and 1998.

Beginning in 1979, plans were prepared under the guidelines of the State's Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act of 1975 which was amended in 1985. This Act imposes extensive requirements on local governments for the preparation of comprehensive plans. The Act also recognizes that planning is a continuous and ongoing process and local governments need to periodically assess the appropriateness of their comprehensive plans.

In 2004 and 2005 the City prepared an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) to determine its progress in implementing the 1998 comprehensive plan known as the *Sarasota City Plan*. The EAR was adopted on October 11, 2005 and its recommendations are incorporated into this edition of the *Sarasota City Plan*.

ORGANIZATION

The *Sarasota City Plan* contains eleven Chapters:

- Neighborhood,
- Housing,
- Environmental Protection and Coastal Islands,
- Recreation and Open Space,
- Utilities,
- Transportation,
- Future Land Use,
- Governmental Coordination,
- Capital Improvements,
- Historic Preservation, and
- Public School Facilities.

Each Chapter is organized as follows:

- **The Plan**
 - ◇ Intent and Purpose
 - ◇ Goal, Objectives and Action Strategies
 - ◇ Attachments (for some chapters)
- **Support Document**
 - ◇ Inventory and Analysis
 - ◇ Appendices

SARASOTA’S STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

In 2004, under the leadership of the City Commission, a set of principles - **Sarasota’s Strategic Plan Goals** - emerged from a series of discussions and debates. These Goals have been expressed in the City’s “vision” and “goal” statements. These principles are the foundation upon which the Sarasota City Plan is based.

Our Vision

A City Where Urban Amenities Meet Small Town Living

Our Strategic Plan Goals

A Responsible and Accessible Government that has Sound Financial and Administrative Practices

Viable, Safe and Diverse Neighborhoods and Businesses that Work Together

An Economically Sustainable Community

A Workplace that Attracts and Retains an Outstanding Workforce

An Attractive, Environmentally-Friendly Community that is Safe and Livable and Provides an Array of Cultural and Aesthetic Enjoyments

Well-Maintained and Future-Oriented Infrastructure

SARASOTA CITY PLAN GOALS

Neighborhood Plan

It shall be the goal of the City to achieve healthy and livable neighborhoods by:

- Maximizing opportunities for all citizens to have meaningful involvement in the decisions that affect their neighborhood;
- Maximizing compatibility between residential and non-residential uses;
- Ensuring neighborhood safety and quality of life;
- Developing safe, aesthetically pleasing and efficient transportation networks; and,
- Preserving, protecting and enhancing neighborhood aesthetics, identity, and natural and historic resources; and.
- Embracing an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) philosophy by focusing on the capacities and assets of associations and citizens.

Housing Plan

It shall be the goal of the City of Sarasota to provide opportunities for safe, sanitary, and affordable housing to meet the needs of all City residents while recognizing the private sector as the primary provider of housing.

Environmental Protection and Coastal Islands Plan

It shall be the goal of the City of Sarasota to protect, maintain, enhance, and, where appropriate, restore its natural environment.

It shall be the goal of the City of Sarasota to protect life and property in the coastal area from destruction by natural disasters.

It shall be the goal of the City of Sarasota to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by implementing more sustainable practices, including green building technologies.

Recreation and Open Space Plan

It shall be the goal of the City of Sarasota to provide and maintain a high quality and environmentally sensitive system of open spaces, and recreation facilities which meet the needs of the community.

Utilities Plan

It shall be the goal of the City of Sarasota to meet the existing and future utility needs of the city's residents and businesses through the provision of safe and efficient utility facilities; to

construct, maintain, and operate utility facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner; and to coordinate provision of facilities with the future land use plan map.

Transportation Plan

It shall be the goal of the City of Sarasota to develop and maintain a safe, convenient, balanced and efficient multimodal transportation system which:

- Recognizes and promotes alternative transportation modes,
- is coordinated with future land use plans of the City and adjacent jurisdictions,
- promotes mobility of people, not vehicles,
- maintains the economic viability of the City's businesses, and,
- enhances the quality of life for the City's neighborhoods.

Future Land Use Plan

It shall be the goal of the City of Sarasota to achieve a high quality living environment through:

- encouraging compatible land uses,
- restoring and protecting the natural environment, and
- providing facilities and services which meet the social and economic needs of the community.

Governmental Coordination Plan

The City shall maintain effective and efficient coordination with local, regional, State and Federal governmental entities and agencies.

Capital Improvements Plan

The City shall provide and maintain, in a timely and efficient manner, adequate public facilities for both existing and future populations, consistent with available financial resources.

Historic Preservation Plan

It shall be the goal of the City of Sarasota to identify, document, protect, preserve, and enhance all cultural, historic, architectural and archaeological resources of the City.

Public School Facilities Plan

Collaborate and coordinate with the School Board of Sarasota County (School Board) to provide and maintain a high quality public education system which meets the needs of the City's existing and future population.