



# *Sarasota City Plan*

November 10, 1998 Edition



# 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 and 1989.

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 1995 the City prepared an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) to determine its progress in implementing the 1989 comprehensive plan known as the Sarasota City Plan. The EAR was adopted on June 5, 1996 and its recommendations are incorporated into this 1998 edition of the Sarasota City Plan.

## ORGANIZATION

The 1998 edition of the Sarasota City Plan and Support Document, contains ten Chapters:

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

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 DEFINING PRINCIPLES**

In 1996, under the leadership of the City Commission, a set of principles - **Sarasota's Defining Principles** - emerged from a series of public discussions and debates. These principles 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 of urban amenities with small town living and feeling.*

### **Our Goals**

*To be a safe place for people.*

*To have viable neighborhoods working together as a community.*

*To be an attractive and clean city that is aesthetically pleasing.*

*To be a financially responsible government providing high quality services and infrastructure.*

*To achieve economic viability through healthy business and quality job opportunities.*

# **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;
- Developing safe, aesthetically pleasing and efficient transportation networks; and,
- Preserving, protecting and enhancing neighborhood aesthetics and identity.

## **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 Plan**

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

## **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, and efficient transportation system which:

- recognizes alternative transportation modes,
- is coordinated with future land use plans of the City and adjacent jurisdictions,
- 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.

