



## Coastal & Waterfront Management Element

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**GOAL PRESERVE VENICE'S WATER-BASED LIFESTYLE AND COMMUNITY CHARACTER BY PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE CITY'S COASTAL AREAS, WATERWAYS, AND LANDS ADJACENT TO THEM.**

**Objective 1 Coastal Waterway Priorities. Execute master planning strategies for protecting and preserving marine/beach access, water-based facilities, and natural resources.**

- Policy 1.1 Waterfront Land Uses. Environmentally friendly public use and enjoyment of the City's waterfront shall be preserved and encouraged.
- Policy 1.2 Docks and Marinas. Public docks and marinas shall be preserved and allowed where appropriate based on environmental and neighborhood compatibility.
- Policy 1.3 Public Access to Waterfront Areas. Encourage developers to provide public waterfront access adjacent to the waterfront. Such access may include walkways, bikeways, water taxis, canoeing/kayaking, public spaces, dining areas, and the like.
- Policy 1.4 Conservation Easements. Collaborate with private property owners to implement conservation easements along sensitive waterfront areas. Utilize such easements to increase public openness to such waterfront areas and to protect vital natural resources such as mangroves, dune systems, and coastal tidal areas.
- Policy 1.5 Florida Native Vegetation and Features. Promote the use of native Florida vegetation and protection of natural features in coastal and waterfront development.
- Policy 1.6 Public Coastal and Waterway Access. Provide community members and tourists access to coastal and waterway areas by ensuring that transportation resources such as parking facilities and transit services are available to the public.
- A. Coordinate bike and pedestrian facilities with Sarasota County and the



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Sarasota-Manatee MPO.

- B. Coordinate all transit resources with Sarasota County Area Transit.
- C. Encourage the use of electric water taxis.

Policy 1.7 Publicly Owned Lands. Identify opportunities to increase public ownership of the City's coastal and waterfront resources and to utilize such resources to improve the City's quality of life and community character and to preserve and protect natural resources and sensitive habitats.

Policy 1.8 Waterfront Planning. By 2012, consider developing and implementing Intracoastal Waterway waterfront development and/or redevelopment strategies including the Venetian Seaboard Master Plan, Venice Strategic Plan 2030, and John Nolen's 1926 General Plan for the City of Venice, preserving the character of the City.

Policy 1.9 Navigation and Waterways. The City shall coordinate with the United States Coast Guard and the West Coast Inland Navigation District to ensure proper:

- A. Navigational markers.
- B. Speed and wake zones are in place for public safety and manatee protection.

Policy 1.10 Public Safety and Waterways. The City shall coordinate with the Florida Marine Patrol, the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department and Venice Police Department's Marine Control to ensure safety on the waterways.

**Objective 2** **Coastal and Waterfront Development Standards.** Promote Venice's coastal and waterfront areas by establishing standards for improving their use, access, and character.

Policy 2.1 Infrastructure Coordination. All new coastal and waterfront development shall be timed and coordinated with the provision of utilities and other public infrastructure as established in the City's Capital Improvements Schedule.

Policy 2.2 Intracoastal Waterway Redevelopment. By 2012, the City shall consider developing a plan to address ways of improving community livability and quality of life along the Intracoastal Waterway. This effort shall be coordinated with the Venetian Seaboard Redevelopment Plan that is being developed by the City and Sarasota County.



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- Policy 2.3 Intracoastal Waterway Connectivity. As part of the site and development review process, the City shall encourage private access easements for properties adjacent to the Venetian Waterway Park to connect commercial and residential activity centers located near the Intracoastal Waterway along U.S. 41 Bypass and Business U.S. 41.

**Objective 3** **Coastal High Hazard Area Development.** Minimize the impact of natural hazards to the community by directing development away from coastal high hazard areas.

- Policy 3.1 Coastal Area Developments. The City of Venice shall manage development of the City's coastal areas along the Gulf of Mexico, Roberts Bay, Intracoastal Waterway (ICW), and other waters by implementing the following coastal area development practices:
- A. Restrictions on residential density and height for properties lying within the Coastal High Hazard Area.
  - B. Use of the State's Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) and Mean High Water Line (MHWL) 50-Foot Setback, defined by Sections 161.052 and 161.053, F.S. and Chapter 62B-33, F.A.C., as the City's land development code setback requirement for coastal properties.
  - C. Regulation of new buildings through the City building code, and local, state, and federal coastal construction regulations.
  - D. Ensuring public access to coastal areas.
  - E. Minimizing obstructions to views of coastal areas.
  - F. Administering coastal excavation permits in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection and other applicable agencies.
  - G. Requiring construction standards to meet wind loads, wave loads, erosion impacts, and other structural forces.
- Policy 3.2 Coastal Development Practices. The City shall utilize the site and development review process to ensure that proposed coastal development projects minimize the influences of man-made structures, reduce the impacts of people, and, as possible, restore altered beach areas and dune systems to predevelopment conditions.
- Policy 3.3 Coastal Setbacks and Planning Areas. Diminish the impact of natural events by enforcing the gulf-front set-back line and utilizing a Coastal High Hazard planning area.



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- Policy 3.4 Coastal High Hazard Area Designation. The City designates the coastal high hazard area (CHHA) as defined in Chapter 163.3178(2)(h), F.S. as the area below the elevation of the category 1 storm surge line as established by a Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) computerized storm surge model prepared by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.
- Policy 3.5 Coastal High Hazard Area. The City shall coordinate with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council on applicable updates to the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) designation based on the area below the elevation of the Category 1 storm surge line as established by the Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) computerized storm surge model currently being prepared by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.
- Policy 3.6 CHHA Public Expenditures. Public expenditures in the CHHA are to be limited to flood control and hazard mitigation programs, natural resource improvements, maintenance of existing utilities and services, expansion of public beach and gulf front access, and purchase of public lands.
- Policy 3.7 Coastal High Hazard Area Infrastructure Systems. Limit public infrastructure system expenditures in the CHHA except as necessary to protect the public health, welfare, and safety.
- Policy 3.8 Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan. Continue to utilize *Creating a Hurricane Tolerant Community*, which was approved by the Florida Department of Community Affairs, for post disaster redevelopment planning.
- Policy 3.9 Coastal High Hazard Area Mitigation. City of Venice shall continue to mitigate against the impacts of coastal hazards on human life and property by:
- A. Directing population concentrations away from known or predicted Coastal High Hazard areas.
  - B. Establishing community neighborhood standards for coastal residential areas.
  - C. Participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), Sarasota County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy.
  - D. Administrating building and rebuilding regulations consistent with local, state, and federal regulations.
  - E. Prohibiting of beach sand dune alteration.



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- Policy 3.10 Disaster Planning Best Management Practices. The City shall update, as needed, *Creating a Hurricane Tolerant Community* in order to ensure that it reflects the best practices for disaster planning.
- Policy 3.11 Coastal Regulations Coordination. Ensure that all projects located in coastal and waterfront areas meet all applicable local, regional, state, and federal regulations including those pertaining to the Coastal Zone Protection Act and Coastal High Hazard Areas.
- Policy 3.12 Natural Shoreline Systems. The City shall promote natural shoreline systems by utilizing the site and development process to:
- Discourage the hardening of the Gulf of Mexico and other natural waterway shorelines. This would include requiring an environmental impact study and a special City Council variance for any sea wall construction.
  - Encourage the softening of the shorelines.
  - Promote the installation of native vegetation and removal of existing hardening structures.

**Objective 4 Marine Habitats and Resources. Preserve, restore, expand, and protect marine resources for both people and natural communities. The marine resources in Venice include Gulf of Mexico, Roberts and Dona Bays, Intracoastal Waterway, Myakka River, Curry and Hatchett Creeks, and their tributaries.**

- Policy 4.1 Impaired Water Bodies. The City shall continue to work with other regional partners to improve impaired water bodies within the City as identified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Policy 4.2 Marine Habitat Protection and Improvements. Protect and improve the quality of the City's marine habitats through partnerships with local, regional, state, and federal marine environment agencies by:
- Retaining and, as possible, reestablishing native marine habitats.
  - Preserving the natural features and functions of the City's shorelines.
  - Maintaining and restoring beach, dune, sea grass, mangrove wetland, and river habitats and natural systems.
  - Filtering runoff pollutants before they enter the City's water bodies.
  - Providing water quality treatment, as possible, to minimize runoff pollutants before they enter the waterways.
  - Implementing and enforcing storm water retention requirements.
  - Discouraging impervious surfaces.



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- Policy 4.3 Dune and Beach Area Restoration. Restoration and enhancement of disturbed or degraded dune and beach areas shall be implemented with the appropriate methods and quality of material necessary to enable successful reestablishment.
- Policy 4.4 Beach and Dune Systems Protection. The specific and cumulative impacts of development and redevelopment of the City's beach and dune systems shall be alleviated by:
- A. Maintaining publicly owned beach areas.
  - B. Enforcing coastal setback requirements.
  - C. Continuing dune renourishment and beach replacement efforts.
  - D. Providing vehicular parking, dune walkovers, and bike resources.
  - E. Prohibiting use of vehicles on all beach areas.
  - F. Educate homeowners associations about the need to utilize dune walkovers in beach access areas.
  - G. Coordinating beach renourishment and dune improvement funding with county, regional, state, and federal agencies.
- Policy 4.5 Wetland Habitats Protection. Protect the health and well-being of wetland, stream, and river natural habitats and native species by:
- A. Preserving and restoring natural environments and protecting aquatic species and wildlife through partnerships with local, state, and federal environmental agencies.
  - B. Utilizing stormwater best practices to filter chemical, biological and other pollutants associated with urban and suburban runoff.
  - C. Achieving established water quality standards and protecting water resources from point and nonpoint pollutants.
  - D. Achieving water recharge standards for surficial aquifers through wetland areas.
  - E. Protecting water resources through utilization of Low Impact Development techniques and groundwater recharge zones standards.
  - F. Control flooding and erosion through storage of agricultural and urban runoff in wetland areas.
  - G. Protecting coastal areas from tidal storm surges by maintaining wetland and shoreline areas as a natural buffer.
  - H. Supporting natural flood protection systems by protecting the natural functions of stream and wetlands areas.
  - I. Utilizing wetlands for environmental educational purposes.
  - J. Working with local, regional, state, and federal water partners on watershed planning and oversight of water resource uses.
  - K. Consider entering into an Interlocal Agreement with Sarasota County



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to share data collected through the Sarasota County's *Native Habitat Mapping and Risk Assessment*, completed in September 2008.

- Policy 4.6 Harbor Management Plan. By 2012, the City shall consider developing and implementing a Harbor Management Plan to expand and enhance boating and protect marine resources in Roberts Bay and surrounding areas. The plan should address:
- A. Navigation on the City's waterways.
  - B. Boating accessibility.
  - C. Improved boating facilities at Higel Park.
  - D. Roberts Bay mooring field.
  - E. Economic considerations of transient boaters.
  - F. Hurricane safe harbor.
  - G. Identification, protection and restoration of seagrass beds and marine ecosystems.
- Policy 4.7 Public Waterfront Areas. Maintain and acquire publicly owned waterfront conservation areas when available and where financially feasible.
- Policy 4.8 Existing Marine and Boating Facilities. Utilize the site and development process to preserve existing marine and boating facilities and to encourage such facilities to receive and maintain the Florida Clean Marina designation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Policy 4.9 New Marine and Boating Facilities. Require that new marine and boating facilities receive and maintain the Florida Clean Marina designation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and ensure that such facilities are compatible with environmental and neighborhood conditions, including demands on bridge openings.
- Policy 4.10 Boat Discharge. Utilize the City's marine police patrol to prevent boats from discharging in City waterways in order to protect the natural habitats and environmental conditions in Roberts Bay and Dona Bay.
- Policy 4.11 Landfill and Dredging Activities. Landfill and dredging activities shall comply with all applicable local, state and federal requirements.



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**Objective 5**     **Water Resource Coordination.**     **Coordinate with marine resource intergovernmental partners to improve coastal and waterfront development areas and protect water resources.**

- Policy 5.1     Estuarine Environment. Coordinate with the local, regional, state, and federal entities for the protection of the estuarine environment and water quality.
- Policy 5.2     Regulation Compliance. Continue to utilize the technical review process to ensure that development and redevelopment activities within coastal and waterfront areas adhere to all local, regional, state, and federal laws.
- Policy 5.3     Boating Use Coordination. Coordinate the boating use of Venice’s waterways with local, regional, state, and federal entities. Issues to be addressed include:  
A. Implementation of navigational systems.  
B. Maintenance and enforcement of manatee protection zones.  
C. Enforcement of no wake areas.  
D. Public safety and boating laws.
- Policy 5.4     Manatee Protection Plan. The City shall partner with Sarasota County on Manatee Protection Plan consistency reviews. Through the partnership, the City and County will cooperate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in utilizing the Manatee Protection Plan for siting of boat facilities including marinas, boat ramps, multi-family docks, boating regulations, and manatee research, management, and education.
- Policy 5.6     Water Quality Assessment. Partner with Sarasota County, SWFWMD, CHNEP, and other water agencies to conduct a baseline assessment of water quality in coastal streams, bays, and estuaries including the Myakka River and its tributaries.
- Policy 5.7     Red Tide Mitigation. Coordinate with local, regional, and State organizations to reduce red tide impacts on coastal communities. Such organizations include Sarasota County and the Red Tide Alliance of the Florida Marine Research Institute, Mote Marine Laboratory, the Florida Department of Health, and Solutions to Avoid Red Tide (START).
- Policy 5.8     National Estuary Program Partnerships. Coordinate with the Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program on the development and implementation of regional environmental water policies and programs.



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- Policy 5.9 Myakka River Coordination. Participate as a member of the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council to address issues related to the Myakka River Area, per the Myakka River Wild and Scenic Designation and Preservation Act, Section 258.501, F.S.
- Policy 5.10 Resource Funding. Pursue funding from county, regional, state, or federal sources to maintain the marine areas of the City. Specific areas in need of funding include:
- A. Beach renourishment.
  - B. Revegetation of the dune system.
  - C. Outfall maintenance.
  - D. Acquisition of potential sites for public coastal and waterfront access.
  - E. Marine facilities.



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