



Public Facilities & Properties Element

GOAL PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE, AND FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PROPERTIES.

Objective 1 Community Character and Needs. Ensure the community's character and needs are supported by its public facilities and properties.

- Policy 1.1 Timing of Facilities Expansion. Maintain, improve, and expand public facilities and properties concurrently with development and capital improvement schedule.
- Policy 1.2 Resource Distribution. Ensure that public facilities and properties are equitably distributed throughout the community based upon community needs and neighborhood assessment.
- Policy 1.3 Government Use Designations. Develop procedures to review the application of the Government Use designation for the provision of public facilities and properties.
- Policy 1.4 Siting Considerations. Locate public facilities and properties based on the needs and demands of residents in the local area and surrounding neighborhoods. Prominent civic buildings should be located to maximize visual and physical community connectivity. Siting criteria includes:
- A. Surrounding land uses.
 - B. Neighborhood Demographics (i.e. families with young children, active adults, and seniors).
 - C. Proximity of similar facilities and properties.
 - D. Future development impacts.
 - E. City demands and needs.
 - F. Neighborhood design standards (i.e., Northern Italian Renaissance, Mediterranean Revival, etc.).
 - G. Adequacy of essential service vehicles (fire, police, solid waste, utility, etc).
 - H. Cost effectiveness of service delivery to site.



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- Policy 1.5 Development Considerations. Utilize the site and development review process to continue ensuring new and renovated public facilities and properties address community needs and promote neighborhood character. Considerations should include:
- A. Neighborhood compatibility features.
 - B. Future service demands.
 - C. Multimodal (walk, bike, transit) accessibility.
 - D. Co-location with other entities' services and programs.
 - E. Multi-purpose facilities and properties.
 - F. Functionality during emergency events including ability to access site and/or to utilize site as shelter space.
 - G. Service area functionality (i.e. ability of solid waste trucks to access site or utility personnel to access meters).
- Policy 1.6 Landscaping and Buffering Considerations. Promote community character and resource conservation by landscaping public facilities and properties to enhance visual preference and neighborhood compatibility. Criteria to consider when developing landscaping plans include:
- A. Use of native plant species, especially low maintenance ground covers instead of grass.
 - B. Creation of shade and sitting areas, especially shaded walks and parking areas.
 - C. Buffering of incompatible uses and structures through walls, fencing, and landscaping materials.
 - D. Use of reclaimed water and minimized irrigation schedules.
 - E. Suitability of landscaping materials to the site based on the future health and maintenance of the plants, streetscape, and other structures.
 - F. The use of porous and/or natural products when constructing walls and parking areas.
 - G. Limited fertilizer use consistent with local ordinances.
- Policy 1.7 Public Facilities Location. Through the planning timeframe of 2030, the City will locate public facilities in locales which are less susceptible to severe weather damage and not within the Coastal High Hazard Area unless such location is the only one which serves a particular structure's intended public purpose.



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Objective 2 Facility and Property Operations. Facility operations will meet the needs of the community through maintenance of adopted level of service standards, utilization of green building practices, application of performance measures, and execution of cost effectiveness strategies.

Policy 2.1 Facility and Property Inventory. Develop and maintain an inventory of all public facilities and properties to ensure that structures are safe, well maintained and optimally utilized. The inventory will be used to accomplish the following tasks:

- A. Plan future facility and property improvements.
- B. Identify opportunities for co-location and shared use public and private programs and facilities.
- C. Generate revenues from extra-curricular facility uses.
- D. Ensure facilities are accessible to all community members.
- E. Annual capital improvement budgeting programs.

Policy 2.2 Resource and Energy Efficient Practices. Support and encourage the use of the following conservation and energy efficient practices for the maintenance and operation of public facilities and properties:

- A. Green building and sustainable design practices.
- B. Renewable resources and alternative energy resources.
- C. Water conservation.
- D. Waste reduction and recycling.
- E. Resource efficient materials.
- F. Products made of recycled materials.
- G. Use of green cleaning products.
- H. Use of best management practices.
- I. Integrated pest management practices.
- J. Implementation of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which includes:
 - Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and creation an action plan;
 - Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste-to-energy technology;
 - Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
 - Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use; Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles;



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reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;

- Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
- Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community.

Policy 2.3 Revenue Generation. The City shall continue to identify and consider opportunities for generating revenues for the use of public facilities and properties including:

- A. User fees for special purposes or additional services.
- B. Use of facilities and properties for private events.
- C. Grants and other such resources.

Objective 3 Intergovernmental Partnerships. Coordinate the development and maintenance of City facilities and structures with regional partners.

Policy 3.1 Facility Planning. Coordinate facility planning with local, regional, state, and federal service providers including Sarasota County. Construction of public service infrastructure should be sensitive in design and location to environmental, historical, and architectural resources.

Policy 3.2 South County Public Services. Coordinate with Sarasota County and other local, regional, state, and federal entities on the development of public facilities and properties in the greater Venice area and South County region.

Policy 3.3 Facility Partnerships. Identify opportunities for co-locating programs and creating multi-use facilities with other private and public partner entities including Sarasota County, Sarasota County School Board, YMCA, Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, and Boys and Girls Club.

Policy 3.4 Transit Access. Coordinate with Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) to ensure bus service is available to public facilities and properties. In achieving this policy the City of Venice will:

- A. Support land use policies that promote a viable public transit system.
- B. Coordinate the expansion of routes with Sarasota County.
- C. Pursue other innovative transit and multimodal services, especially for elderly non-drivers.



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- Policy 3.5 Library Services. Coordinate with Sarasota County on providing library services to the Venice community. Considerations should include:
- A. Neighborhood needs assessment
 - B. Computer access.
 - C. Meeting space.
 - D. Technology improvements.
 - E. Facility location.
 - F. Cost effectiveness.



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