

SARASOTA COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN 2026

VISION 2041

Sarasota County is a beautiful community that has preserved natural assets. Sarasota County has world-class amenities and robust, diverse business opportunities. Sarasota County is a great place to live with easy movement through mobility options and a strong sense of community.

MISSION

The mission of Sarasota County Government is to provide exceptional quality services in collaboration with the cities and to act as a financially responsible steward. Our high-performing county organization takes great pride in customer-focused services that add value to the community.

GOALS

- Exceptional County Services Aligned with Resources
- High-Performing County Team
- World-Class Quality of Life Amenities
- Safe Place to Live, Work and Play
- Robust, Growing Business Opportunities



BOARD POLICY AGENDA 2026

- Budget 2028 including Critical Services and Current Budget
- Current and Future Transportation on County Roads
- Legacy Regional Stormwater Facilities
- Siesta Key Beautification, Funding and Maintenance

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA 2026

- Evaluate County's Role as Facilitator of Community Trail Expansion
- Transfer Ownership of Nora Patterson Bay Island Park and Ted Spering Park at South Lido to City of Sarasota
- Complete Assessment of County-owned Fences and Walls
- Funding Plan for 7 Major Road Construction Projects
- Identify and Start Acquisition of Fruitville Road Future Needs from Lorraine Road to Verna Road
- Lorraine Road South 4 Lane Agreement
- River Road Regional Interstate Connector South
- Charter Cap Amendment for Emergency Debt*
- Charter Cap Amendment for Refinancing Existing Debt*
- Sponsorship of Legislation Enacting Statutory Change*
- Plan for 2028 Courts Space Expansion

SARASOTA COUNTY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

EXCEPTIONAL COUNTY SERVICES ALIGNED WITH RESOURCES

OBJECTIVES

1. Invest in the maintenance and upgrade of county infrastructure, facilities and buildings
2. Plan and fund roads
3. Plan and fund water quality
4. Plan and fund stormwater
5. Deliver county services in the most cost-effective manner
6. Have adequate funding to maintain and enhance the county jail
7. Maintain and enhance opportunities for community engagement
8. Maintain a high customer satisfaction level with county projects, programs and services
9. Support all populations
10. Plan and support cybersecurity initiatives
11. Act as financial stewards of public resources
12. Ensure effective and coordinated response and recovery across county operations

HIGH-PERFORMING COUNTY TEAM OBJECTIVES

1. Provide knowledgeable, timely, and respectful service from Sarasota County staff
2. Upgrade/update county information systems - hardware and software
3. Invest in the development and training of county employees
4. Develop and refine planning process: financial plans, master plans and strategic plans
5. Staff communicate effectively with the county community in a proactive and transparent manner
6. Develop and sustain a county organization culture that values creativity, innovation, collaboration and great customer service
7. Refine and use data metrics and performance measurement
8. Hire/retain a top-quality county workforce
9. Increase community understanding and appreciation of Sarasota County responsibilities, governance, finances, projects and services
10. Cultivate a healthy work environment to increase employee well-being and satisfaction
11. Enhance employee safety by implementing safety protocols and training
12. Design and execute an effective employee experience strategy to drive employee engagement

WORLD-CLASS QUALITY OF LIFE AMENITIES OBJECTIVES

1. Preserve and enhance the county's world-class beaches
2. Maintain and expand sports facilities programs, events, and tournaments - regional and national
3. Maintain and enhance the beauty and functional value of Sarasota County, both natural and built
4. Maintain and expand world-class athletic venues
5. Enhance and sustain world-class arts and culture, libraries, recreation facilities, and historic assets
6. Develop effective partnerships to deliver community and intergenerational facilities and programs
7. Acquire, preserve, and maintain natural areas and parks
8. Enhance access to world-class amenities
9. Pursue strategic transit options

SAFE PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY OBJECTIVES

1. Improve and provide safe mobility options and manage traffic to reduce congestion
2. Protect and enhance Sarasota County's natural resources and environment
3. Have a range of housing options for different generations and lifestyles
4. Expand workforce housing options available for residents
5. Maintain a safe and healthy community - reality and perception
6. Have well-planned communities with a mix of uses
7. Provide education and lifelong learning
8. Protect the community's investment in property
9. Enhance community resilience through sustainable infrastructure development
10. Think resilient

ROBUST, GROWING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES OBJECTIVES

1. Attract more defined targeted businesses to Sarasota County
2. Develop career opportunities for current and future residents
3. Develop effective economic strategies and actions that support the retention/growth of current business and attract new businesses that add value to the community
4. Expand sports and nature-based tourism - a destination for world-class events and programs
5. Maintain a business climate that supports sustained economic growth and success for existing local and future businesses
6. Maintain and enhance Major League Baseball spring training
7. Expand the number of major business headquarters and regional offices
8. Support workforce and vocational training and development to provide for higher wage jobs
9. Support the local agricultural industry
10. Provide efficient multi-modal transportation to support businesses
11. Remove Sarasota County obstacles for the business community to create workforce housing

DEPARTMENT ACTIONS 2026

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Longboat Key Library Design*

COMMUNICATIONS

- 311 Contact Center Service Request Tracking Process
- Access Sarasota Operations Review*
- Broadcast Board Meeting from New County Administration Center
- Communications Project Management System Review
- Media Training for Manager II and Higher*
- Public Records Annual Refresher Training

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) Accreditation
- Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) Interface with Charlotte County's CAD
- Emergency Operations Center Space/Use Recommendations
- Fire and EMS Reporting Software Update
- Fire Department Employee Professional Development and Succession Plan
- Fire Station Location Study*
- Implement Fee Healthcare Facility Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)*
- Implement Fire Station Alerting System*
- Proposed Public Safety Code Amendment: Retroactive Installation Requirement for Automated Gate Access*
- Sarasota County Mass Casualty/Fatality Response and Recovery Plan
- Update Fee Resolution for Fire Marshal Office to Maintain and/or Enhance Services*

ENTERPRISE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Collaboration Hub (Esri Hub) Implementation
- Implementation of AI Agents: Generative AI is More than a Search Tool
- Implementation of Enterprise Generative AI

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Complete Procurement and Grant Activities Required to Support the Phillippi Creek Dredging Project
- Establish Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)*

- Establish OnBase Modules for Record Retention in OFM Divisions*
- Grant Metrics Dashboard
- Identify an AI Solution for Contract Review
- Impacts of State not Funding Courts
- Implement Intake Form and Solicitation Templates*
- Procurement Accreditation Phase II*
- Purchase Request Dashboard
- Transition of HUD HOME Affordable Housing Grant Administration from the City of Sarasota to Sarasota County

GENERAL SERVICES

- Conduct a Comprehensive Capability Assessment for Inventory Management
- Create a Phased Approach to Electronic Access Control Systems
- Develop Comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Mailroom Operations
- Develop Comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Print Shop Operations
- Develop Plan for Parking Lot Renovations
- Enhancing Inventory Scan Reliability
- Evaluate and Redesign the Resource Allocation Model for the Acquisitions Division
- Identify Potential Shortfalls for ADA Compliance
- Implement ID Badge Access Control in Fuel Management System
- Implement the Access Control Framework
- Optimize DEF Fueling Accuracy Through Fuel Ring and Tag Installation
- Optimize Fueling Accuracy Through Fuel Ring Installation on Vehicle and Trailer Pony Tanks
- Transition Paper-Based Workflows to Digital Solutions

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

- 2026 Federal Community Funding Requests
- 2026 Federal Legislative Program
- 2026 State Legislative Appropriations
- 2026 State Legislative Policy Program
- Business and Industry Update: ESF-18 Emergency Management Comprehensive Plan
- Doing Business in Sarasota County Virtual Resource Center*

- Federal Appropriations/Community Funding Requests*
- Small Business Loan Write Offs*

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Community-Based Screenings Follow-Up
- Develop and Implement a Foster Care Team Prototype
- Expand use of the On-line Contracted Human Services Application System
- Expansion of Maternity Services
- Implement a Larvicide Program Utilizing Drones
- Implementation of Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
- Strengthen the Overall Human Services System

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Community Outreach and Recruiting Events
- Employee Referral Program
- Health Plan Master Service Agreements
- Human Resources Strategic Roadmap
- Implement Expense Module in HRIS*
- Launch HRIS Assistant
- Mobile Clinics

LIBRARIES AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

- Chapter 66 Update and Revision
- Collection Assessment
- Cultural Pass Program
- Friends of the Library Memoranda of Understanding*
- History Center Outreach and Programming Plan
- Libraries Rebranding*
- Programming Evaluation and Refresh

PARKS, RECREATIONAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Commercial Water-Based Charter Boat and Tour Operators Permit Program
- Hurricane Recovery
- Land Acquisition and Management Program
- Nathan Benderson Park Indoor Sports Complex and Boathouse
- Snook Haven Regional Park

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- 2027 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) Overview
- Complete Land Development (Fund 174) Fee Study

- Homeowner Association (HOA) Educational Outreach
- Keep Midnight Pass Open
- Land Information Management System Training Program
- Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) Update
- Mango Street Property Plan
- Neighborhood Initiative Grant Program (NIGP) Annual Report
- Streamline Plat/Street Vacation Process
- Streamline Post-Storm Substantial Damage and Building Permitting

PUBLIC UTILITIES

- 50% Conversion to Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI)
- Analyze Lost Revenue and Capacity Utilization in Public Utilities
- Bee Ridge Franchise and Lake Forest Engineering Analysis
- Develop Timeline on Integration Between Multiple Systems
- Enhancing Cash Payment Options
- Identify Two In-House Water Looping Projects
- Reduce Contractual Services for Lift Station Maintenance
- Review EDU Worksheet for Capacity Fees

SOLID WASTE

- Clark Road Property Concept Plan*
- Planning for Future Solid Waste Transfer Stations
- Planning for Future Waste Management Options
- Solid Waste Composting Facility Evaluation
- Solid Waste Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Evaluation

STORMWATER

- Complete Review of Existing Projects
- Develop Creeks and Canals Stormwater Conveyance Plan
- Develop Pre-Storm Public Outreach Plan
- Dona Bay Watershed In-House Floating Vegetation Plan
- Drainage Hot Spot In-House Evaluation
- Myakka River Watershed Management Plan Update

TRANSIT (BREEZE)

- Breeze Transit Admin Building Wind Retrofit Project
- Bus Stop Improvements
- Fixed Route Service Study
- Mobile Fare Payment*
- Review Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan Transit Policies
- Secure a Single, Comingled Service Provider for Paratransit and OnDemand
- Vault and Oil Room Improvements Project

TRANSPORTATION

- Celery Field Erosion Control
- Consider Potential of Solicited P3 Projects for Transportation
- Conversion of HPS Streetlights to LED Streetlights on County Roadway Corridors
- Data Hub Migration
- Evaluate Transitioning Field Service Funding from Fund 551 to Fund 101
- Evaluation of Intersection Concrete Bullnoses
- Inspection of Countywide Road Markings at Crosswalks
- Roadway: Thoroughfare Plan Review
- Traffic Signal Cabinet Upgrades
- Transportation Story Map*
- Wayfinding Master Plan

UF IFAS EXTENSION AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 4-H Youth and Family Program Evaluation and Enhancements
- Living on the Suncoast Guide for Residents
- Volunteer Engagement Evaluation and Plan

MAJOR PROJECTS 2026

*2025 Carry Forward Item

- 17th Street Regional Park
- Alligator Creek Stream Restoration*
- Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Expansion and Conversion to Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT)
- Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility Visitors Center/Security Building*
- Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex Scale Replacement Phase II Improvement
- County Administration Center*

- Fire Station #27*
- Fire Station #7
- Fruitville Library Renovations
- Fruitville Road Widening- Debrecen Road to Lorraine Road
- History Center
- Home Depot Lift Station Improvements
- Legacy Trail Extension Bifurcated Trail Phase 1
- Manasota Key Road Temporary Repair

- Phillippi Creek High Spots Stormwater Conveyance Dredging
- PRNR Administration Building*
- Sarasota County Support Services Fleet Services Facility
- Snook Haven Park Improvements
- Venice Gardens Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Expansion and Conversion to Advanced Water Treatment (AWT)
- Wellfield Regional Park
- Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for Upgrade Replacement of 800MHz Public Safety Radio System

- Facility Security Modernization Through Electronic Access Control
- Standardize Telematics for Stationary Generators
- Sustainable Modernization of County Buildings
- Aeration Leachate Treatment System Construction
- Coastal Automated Rainfall Monitoring System (ARMS) Improvements*