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October 1, 2025 through
September 30, 2026

Venice Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2026

Preserving and Enhancing
the Venice Quality of Life



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Strategic Goals

Goal One: Keep Venice Beautiful and Eco-Friendly

Goal Two: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High Quality Services

Goal Three: Ensure a Financially Sound City

Goal Four: Upgrade and Maintain City Infrastructure and Facilities

Goal Five: Encourage and Support a Robust and Diverse Economy

Goal Six: Preserve the Venice Quality of Life through Proper Planning

Mission Details

Exceptional Municipal Services

- Employees are ambassadors of the city to citizens, the business community, and visitors
- Engage in the community, understand customers, their needs and expectations
- Provide services compatible with the city's financial capabilities

Financially Sustainable City

- Maintain a balanced budget
- Construct the annual city budget focused on community needs
- Monitor cost of delivering services

- Continually evaluate ways to reduce costs and enhance service delivery

- Maintain or improve the city credit rating

Engaged Citizens

- Always listen to citizens
- Engage in strategic policy development, to define future issues and challenges
- Contribute expertise and partner in service to the community through participation on advisory boards, task forces, and stakeholder committees
- Help maintain open city government

City Mission: To provide exceptional municipal services through a financially and environmentally sustainable city with engaged citizens



Vision Details

Vibrant—High Quality of Life

- Successful community events, festivals, parades, music, arts and theater to bring people of all ages together
- Strong community organizations
- Environment conducive to an active and healthy lifestyle
- Opportunities to walk, run, bike, jog, sail, kayak, fly and use alternative modes of transportation safely
- Diverse recreational and leisure venues, programs and activities for all generations
- Quick access to top quality medical and healthcare services
- Public boating and fishing opportunities
- Opportunities for eco-tourism
- Energy efficient and eco-friendly programs city-wide
- Access to adequate free parking
- Parks with a variety of amenities and activities
- Variety of quality restaurants, retail and commercial businesses
- Access to local and regional culture and arts



City Vision: Maintain Venice as a vibrant, charming, historic community in which to live, learn, work and play

Charming

- Promote architectural theme of Northern Italian Renaissance for gateways, commercial corridors, downtown and areas that are key to maintaining the city's character
- Walkable, with bicycle and pedestrian-friendly areas
- Multi-modal transportation
- People feeling safe and secure
- Small shops and restaurants
- Well-maintained buildings, streetscapes, landscaping, streets and parks

Historic

- Preserve historic and architectural character
- Protect the natural character of the city including landscaping
- Preserve downtown area with parks, small shops and restaurants



Goal One: Keep Venice Beautiful and Eco-Friendly

Policy 1: Maintain pristine beaches and gulf waters.

Objectives:

1. Support protection of public beaches and shoreline through renourishment, including annual contributions to the beach restoration fund, partnerships and alternative solutions;
2. Maintain and enhance stormwater outfalls for optimal beach and water quality;
3. Continue to pursue innovative strategies to mitigate pollution and improve water quality by measuring outfalls, testing the water quality, and examining means of eliminating the known causes of pollution.

Policy 2: Improve gateways to historic downtown and Venice.

Objective:

1. Focus on physical enhancements for downtown and Venice gateways and corridors.

Policy 3: Plan for and maintain parks, green spaces and public property.

Objectives:

1. Work with Sarasota County to implement the new interlocal parks agreement, including transition planning for the management of the Venice Community Center;
2. Work with Sarasota County to create an improved regional athletic complex at Wellfield Park;
3. Finalize and adopt a master parks plan consistent with updated interlocal parks agreement. Continue parks CIP process;
4. Encourage developers, business partners, and homeowner associations to help maintain adjacent public lands.



Policy 4: Reduce carbon footprint, consumption of energy and protect the environment.

Objectives:

1. Use energy conserving tools and tactics for public assets and incorporate innovative means to reduce energy by performing on-going assessments of existing facilities and incorporating sustainable design into all new city projects and city renovations;
2. Implement and update the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to allow for conservation and preservation of land and natural resources;
3. Pursue opportunities to employ environmentally sustainable options including incentives for residential properties in the LDR's.

Policy 5: Institute and maintain an updated comprehensive traffic management plan.

Objectives:

1. Adoption and implementation of the updated Transportation and Mobility Master Plan;
2. Effectively utilize income from mobility and impact fees for infrastructure upgrades;
3. Focus on opportunities to enhance safety measures along public roadways;
4. Promote continued design and implementation of alternative transportation routes including: Multi-Use Recreational Trails (MURTS), Sharrows, biking and pedestrian pathways, and other multi-modal options.



Goal Two: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High Quality Services

Policy 1: Continuously look at opportunities to improve efficiencies and cost savings.

Objectives:

1. Continue to strengthen relationships and partnerships with other governmental agencies;
2. Enhance relationship with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) regarding funding opportunities and oversight of projects;
3. Complete relocation of Fire Station #52, including EOC support functions, to improve future service delivery;
4. Utilize public outreach surveys and other tools to enhance opportunities to get citizen input on city issues;
5. Research and implement modern technologies and software to enhance workforce efficiency and improve service delivery.

Policy 2: Maintain necessary personnel levels and compensation schedules to provide for high quality service delivery.

Objectives:

1. Evaluate personnel levels annually and make recommendations to provide adequate staffing to meet the level-of-service demands of a growing community;
2. Identify additional ways to recognize and reward exemplary service and longevity;
3. Leverage technologies to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency in municipal service delivery across all departments;
4. Provide adequate staff support for public outreach and responsiveness to citizen concerns including topics of public safety, municipal airport, transportation, and planning.



Goal Three: Ensure a Financially Sound City

Policy 1: Maintain a balanced budget without the use of reserve funds.

Policy 2: Continue to evaluate, adopt and adhere to governmental accounting and financial reporting principles in accordance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Objectives:

1. For transparency, articulate specific funding sources that support government operations and continue to research funding opportunities to enhance service delivery;
2. Develop long-term plan to reach 80% or better funding of the city's fire pension plan.

Policy 3: Protect the city from fiscal crisis by ensuring the maintenance of service, and maintaining a strong credit rating through sound, conservative financial decision-making.



Goal Four: Upgrade and Maintain City Infrastructure and Facilities

Policy 1: Continue to pursue opportunities to ensure Venice receives a proportionate share of county, state and federal resources, revenues, and level of service.

Objectives:

1. Articulate the city's priorities to funding agencies on a timely basis;
2. Create, adopt, and share annual priorities with state and federal legislative bodies.

Policy 2: Establish, update and maintain a contemporary asset management plan for building and property utilization.

Objectives:

1. Construction of Fire Station #52 adjacent to the existing Police Station, including all EOC support functions to create a Public Safety Campus;
2. Relocate the solid waste, recycling, and fleet maintenance operations from the Seaboard district to a new location closer to the Sarasota County landfill;
3. Complete the feasibility planning process for the water treatment plant to provide a resilient, long-term strategy for potable water production;
4. Review opportunities for increased beach parking and safe access to the public beaches;
5. Continue comprehensive asset management policies and practices, including the annual CIP process and regular assessments of all city assets.



Goal Five: Encourage and Support a Robust and Diverse Economy

Policy 1: Continue to promote positive relationships with governmental agencies and community organizations.

Objectives:

1. Establish a process to collaborate and communicate with community and neighborhood groups, nonprofits, and business partners;
2. Collaborate with other governmental agencies to share public assets and develop partnership opportunities;
3. Support policies that promote economic growth and development consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan.

Policy 2: Support the revitalization and enhancement of the Seaboard district and gateway areas.

Objectives:

1. Identify funding sources, collaborate with stakeholders, and execute master plan phases to advance Seaboard area redevelopment opportunities;
2. Finalize and adopt the Seaboard district master plan, including community visioning, funding opportunities, and integration with surrounding areas;
3. Acquire additional public property as necessary, consider affordable housing opportunities, and focus on short-term opportunities for visible progress.



Goal Six: Preserve the Venice Quality of Life through Proper Planning

Policy 1: Ensure adherence to the comprehensive plan when reviewing land development applications.

Objectives:

1. Continue to monitor and update the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to provide consistency with the comprehensive plan;
2. Communicate proactively with residents, developers, Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders regarding the new LDRs;
3. Streamline administrative process to expedite issuance of land development permits for the benefit of redevelopment, preservation of historic properties and structures, and vacant infill development.

Policy 2: Develop opportunities to promote and incentivize mixed-use development, including affordable, workforce, and market-rate housing.

Objectives:

1. Update building codes to encourage and promote property upgrades, including renovation and/or preservation of historic sites;
2. Develop and implement programs and affordable housing initiatives locally, including impact fee reductions, half dwelling units, accessory dwelling units, inclusionary zoning, surplus land, repurposing existing structures, and affordable housing trust fund;
3. Establish and support partnerships with other agencies and expert providers to create affordable housing opportunities locally without the use of taxpayer funds.

Policy 3: Preserve Venice's historical resources and significant structures.

Objectives:

1. Implement the historic preservation controls and standards within the LDRs;
2. Encourage the participation of significant structures in the Local Register of Historical Resources;
3. Maintain compliance and active participation in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program.





Policy 4: Support and engage area youth in their interests through the use of city resources and community events.

Objectives:

1. Identify opportunities to engage the student leaders within the city, including participation at city council, joint meetings, and public forums;
2. Evaluate feasibility and practicality of internship programs for high school and college students.

Policy 5: Analyze anticipated growth and infrastructure demands to sustain a high level of service across the city

Objectives:

1. Plan for departmental staffing needs required to meet the level-of-service demands for current and future growth;
2. Perform capital planning to provide all necessary city services including utilities, public safety, parks, solid waste, transportation, and multi-modal improvements.

Policy 6: Increase resiliency and sustainability through proper planning, strengthening infrastructure, and enhancing emergency preparedness.

Objective:

1. Improve emergency preparedness and response plans by implementing after-action report recommendations.
2. Continue to harden critical infrastructure, including city buildings, roadways, beaches, utilities, technology, and stormwater management systems;
3. Review existing stormwater and floodplain regulations for enhancement opportunities;
4. Integrate resilience strategies into city master plans, zoning codes, and capital improvement projects;
5. Increase community engagement & public awareness, including hurricane preparation, floodplain management, disaster recovery, and hazard mitigation;
6. Identify and apply for state and federal grants focused on hazard mitigation and community adaptation strategies.