

Adopted: March 28, 2023

October 1, 2023 through  
September 30, 2024



# Venice Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024

Preserving and Enhancing  
the Venice Quality of Life

## 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

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# 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

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

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# 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



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

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## *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 develop a new interlocal parks agreement, including a funding strategy for operations and capital improvements;
2. Work with Sarasota County to create an expanded 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 an annual assessment of existing facilities and incorporating sustainable design into all new city projects;
2. Implement 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. Develop and adopt an updated Transportation and Mobility Master Plan;
2. Effectively utilize income from mobility and impact fees for infrastructure upgrades;
3. Utilize performance data for updates and modifications to traffic management systems;
4. Focus on opportunities to enhance safety measures for use of public roadways;
5. Assess need for additional wayfinding signs.



## ***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 with other governmental agencies;
2. Enhance relationship with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding funding opportunities and oversight of projects;
4. Continue to research additional funding sources to support fire department functions;
5. Complete relocation of Fire Station #52, including EOC support functions, and plan for future response needs.

**Policy 2: Maintain a contemporary personnel compensation schedule to reflect market demands.**

***Objectives:***

1. Identify additional ways to recognize and reward exemplary service;
2. Maintain program for addressing constituent concerns and making sure the issues are resolved and followed to conclusion;
3. Utilize public outreach surveys and other tools to enhance opportunities to get citizen input on city issues.





## ***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 emergency 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.**

***Objective:***

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. Design and construct 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;
  - A. Pursue partnership opportunities with Sarasota County, private property acquisition, and/or shared space at an existing city facility.
3. Begin the site selection and planning process for relocation of the water treatment plant to provide a resilient, long-term future location;
4. Finalize the future operational and public-use plan for the Lord Higel House;
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.**

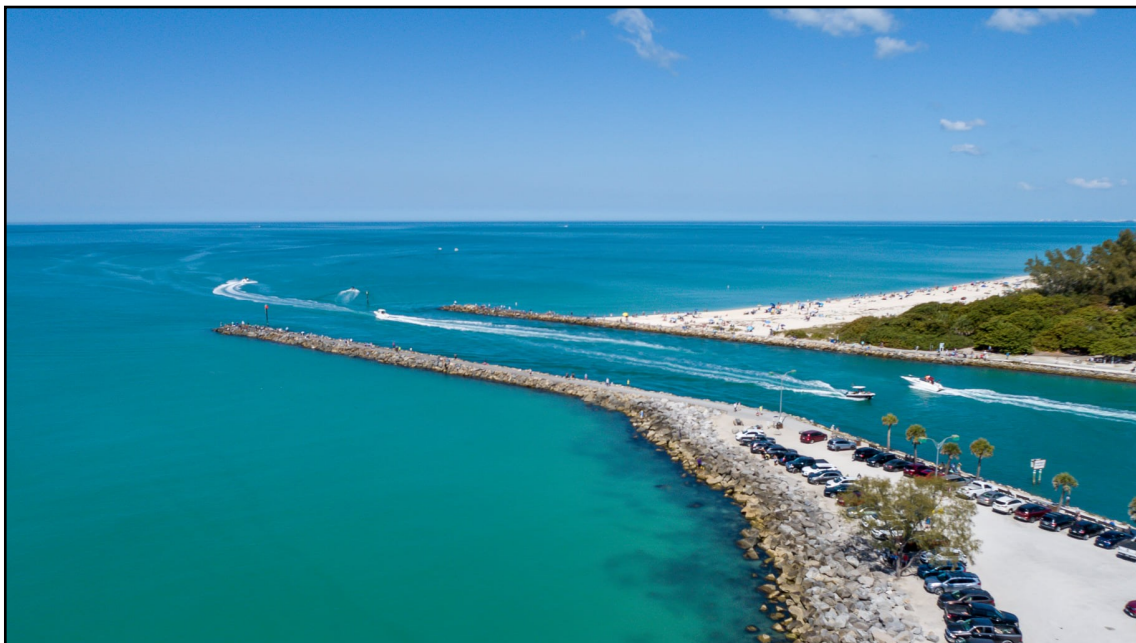
#### ***Objectives:***

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;
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, coordinate with stakeholders, and perform master planning to further opportunities to redevelop the Seaboard area;
2. Research the development of a business park on Venice Airport property, to provide economic support to the Airport and local relocation opportunities for service businesses;
3. Acquire additional public property as necessary, consider affordable housing opportunities, and consider future support of historic properties in the Seaboard district.



## ***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;
  - A. Communicate proactively with residents, developers, Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders regarding the new LDRs.
2. 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: Support opportunities to promote and incentivize mixed-use development, including affordable, workforce and market-rate housing.**

#### ***Objective:***

1. Update building codes to encourage and promote property upgrades, including renovation and/or preservation of historic sites;
2. Investigate programs and initiatives to implement locally, including impact fee reductions, half dwelling units, accessory dwelling units, surplus land, and repurposing existing structures.

### **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 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 a paid internship program for high school students.

**Policy 5: Monitor projected future growth, services and infrastructure requirements for residential expansion, industrial and retail growth in the northeast corridor.**

*Objective:*

1. Promote partnerships with neighborhood groups to assume responsibility for maintenance of city-owned properties (parks, open space);
2. Perform capital planning to provide all necessary city services including utilities, public safety, parks, solid waste, transportation, and multi-modal improvements.

**Policy 6: Promote expansion of safe biking and walking pathways.**

*Objective:*

1. 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.

**Policy 7: Support redevelopment of portions of the city to replicate or adhere to the original John Nolen Plan.**

**Policy 8: Support affordable housing initiatives by utilizing incentives and LDRs to promote this goal with other agencies and expert providers without the use of taxpayer funds.**