

# **The Utilities Plan**



# INTENT AND PURPOSE

The City of Sarasota operates and maintains four utility systems - potable water, wastewater, reclaimed water, and solid waste. Sarasota County provides landfill capacity for solid waste disposal and operates and maintains the stormwater drainage system. These services are essential to the health, safety and welfare of the population of the City. The intent and purpose of the Utilities Chapter is to present a long-term strategic plan to meet the existing and future utility needs of the City's residents and businesses. The foundation for this Chapter is **Sarasota's Strategic Plan** and Florida statutory requirements.

## Sarasota's Strategic Plan Goals

In 2016, the City Commission adopted "The City Sarasota Strategic Plan", which provides the foundation for the City's Vision which is to be a world-class community and treasured destination, with enduring natural beauty, charm, and diversity. The City's motto is "Where Urban Amenities Meet Small-Town Living." Our mission is to provide high-quality services to our residents, businesses, and visitors, while safeguarding our natural resources and building a prosperous community.

Goals and key actions that have particular relevance to this chapter are:

Goal 1 – Recognize the vital role Sarasota's natural resources play in a healthy community and economy, and implement projects and policies that sustain them.

### Key Actions

1.6 – Improve community recycling utilization rates and decrease solid waste generation.

1.7 – Prioritize public education efforts to address urgent local environmental issues such as commercial recycling needs, and pollution from improper disposal of restaurant waste.

Goal 4 – Manage growth and development so residents, visitors and businesses are assured that the City's special character will be sustained; that the natural beauty, neighborhood quality, historic charms, urban vibrancy, and other features of Sarasota's high quality of life will be preserved throughout its future.

### Key Action

4.5 – Ensure adequate funding is planned to meet current and future service demands (including, but not limited to, providing adequate water, sewer and solid waste services a sustainable transportation network and public parking inventory; protected natural spaces; and sufficient affordable housing options).

## **Florida Statutory Requirements**

The Utilities Chapter is also intended to meet the requirements as outlined in Section 163.3177(6)(c), Florida Statutes.

## **Organization of the Utilities Plan**

The Utilities Plan consists of a goal followed by objectives and action strategies pursuant to the goal.

The Utilities Plan is organized around objectives addressing the following topics:

- Objective 1. Utility System to Meet Present and Future Needs,
- Objective 2. Environmentally Sensitive Utility Services, and
- Objective 3. Coordination with the Future Land Use Map.

The Utilities Plan is one of the eleven plans which collectively represent the *Sarasota City Plan*. This Plan can neither stand-alone nor be interpreted independent of the others.

## **Implementation of the *Sarasota City Plan***

Implementation of the *Sarasota City Plan* will require actions by both the public and private sectors. In this regard many of the plan components speak to “the City” pursuing certain actions to:

promote, provide, consider, identify, enhance, create, maintain, conserve, support, reduce discourage, coordinate, and employ.

While these actions may be initiated by City government itself, City government will also be expecting applicants seeking development approvals to pursue these same standards and best management practices as part of their applications.

# GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION STRATEGIES

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## Goal

It shall be the goal of the City of Sarasota to meet the existing and future utility needs of the city's residents and businesses through the provision of safe and efficient utility facilities; to construct, maintain, and operate utility facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner; and to coordinate provision of facilities with the future land use plan map.

## Objective 1 - Utility System to Meet Present and Future Needs

The City shall continue to provide a safe and efficient utility system that meets present and future needs.

### Action Strategies

- 1.1 **Potable Water:** New development shall be required to connect to the City's centralized water system pursuant to Chapter 37, Sarasota City Code, as may be amended.
- 1.2 **Potable Water Level-of-Service:** The potable water system shall provide 200 gallons per day of treatment capacity per equivalent residential unit (ERU) to ensure adequate and safe water supplies. Concurrency for potable water supply shall be determined consistent with the Concurrency Management System (Attachment 5) adopted in the Future Land Use Plan.
- 1.3 **Wastewater:** New development shall be required to connect to the City's centralized wastewater system pursuant to Chapter 37, Sarasota City Code, as may be amended.
- 1.4 **Wastewater Level-of-Service:** The wastewater system shall provide for 200 gallons per day of treatment capacity per equivalent residential unit (ERU) to ensure adequate and safe wastewater services.
- 1.5 **Elimination of Septic Systems:** The City will pursue the objective of eliminating the remaining septic systems in the City, taking into consideration the relationship of benefits to costs on a case by case basis.

- 1.6 **Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Level-of-Service:** The solid waste collection system shall provide collection and disposal of 6.9 pounds of waste per day per capita to ensure adequate and safe solid waste services. The City shall ensure safe and accessible locations of recycling and solid waste receptacles.

The City of Sarasota shall continue to coordinate with Sarasota County to ensure adequate allocation of landfill space by the County for the City's projected needs, including investigation of alternative methods of disposal such as resource recovery and recycling.

- 1.7 **Stormwater Drainage:** The City shall require development to provide facilities for stormwater drainage in accordance with the Engineering Design Criteria Manual and in accordance with the requirements of Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 62-25.
- 1.8 **Stormwater Drainage Level-of-Service:** The stormwater drainage system shall provide adequate capacity to maintain a minimum level-of-service C (Street and Yard Flooding only) using a 25-year/24-hour design storm.
- 1.9 **Sarasota County Stormwater Fee Proceeds:** Proceeds from Sarasota County Stormwater special assessments shall be used for maintenance, planning, elimination of structure flooding, and the reduction of pollutants carried by stormwater runoff into Sarasota Bay.
- 1.10 **Drainage System Improvements:** The City shall work with the Sarasota County Stormwater Environmental Utility to:
- complete Basin Master Plans,
  - evaluate the recommended improvements to the drainage system to correct existing deficiencies as identified in each Basin Master Plan, and
  - as the funds are available will consider implementing the improvements.
- 1.11 **Development:** Development shall be subject to the availability of adequate levels of service for potable water, wastewater, solid waste, and drainage improvements, pursuant to the relevant action strategies of the Capital Improvements Chapter. The design and function of utility infrastructure shall be in compliance with the requirements of the City's Engineering Design Criteria Manual (EDCM).
- 1.12 **Utility Capacity:** The Development Review Committee shall meet at least once per month to review requests for development approvals and assess the impacts of the proposed developments on levels of service for potable water, wastewater, solid waste, and drainage.

Development approval means approval of rezonings, conditional uses, site plans, and subdivision plats.

- 1.13 **Annexation:** The City may extend potable water and/or wastewater service to private users outside the City limits when a property is subject to an approved pre-annexation agreement. Potable water and/or wastewater service extensions to governmental entities will require the negotiation of an agreement between the City and the user and will only occur if annexation is explored by the City and is determined to be feasible and the agreement is in the City's interest.
- 1.14 **Capital Improvements:** The projects identified in Illustration CI-7 of the Capital Improvements Chapter, will be implemented to achieve and maintain the level-of-service standards.
- 1.15 **Inflow and Infiltration into the Wastewater System:** During the annual budget process, capital improvements which address inflow and infiltration control shall be given priority consideration for funding. Projects may include replacement or rehabilitation of the wastewater collection system in the City owned right-of-way or outreach and coordination with owners of private sewer mains. The most cost effective method will be determined from inspection of the wastewater gravity mains and use of empirical data.
- 1.16 **Southern Water Use Caution Area:** The City shall participate with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and any other relevant agencies, in the implementation of rules for the Southern Water Use Caution Area.
- 1.17 **Provision of High-Tech Infrastructure:** The City will encourage private utilities to provide the high-tech needs of its existing and potential businesses during the creation or renewal of franchise agreements for the use of the public right-of-way.
- 1.18 **Coordination with the Water Planning Alliance:** The City will coordinate its water supply planning efforts with the Water Planning Alliance, which has been formed in the four county area of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority. A City Commissioner is assigned as a member of the Planning Alliance Board, with a backup City Commissioner assigned to act in their place in the event of their absence.
- 1.19 **Coordination with SWFWMD:** The City will coordinate its water supply planning efforts with the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Regional Water Supply Plan.
- 1.20 **Water Supply Facilities Work Plan:** The City shall maintain and implement a Water Supply Work Plan to ensure that potable water facilities are sufficient to serve the City's population. The Five-year Schedule of Capital Improvements (Illustration CI-7) shall be updated annually to include water supply projects. The Water Supply Facilities Work Plan shall be updated within 18 months after the Southwest Florida Water Management District updates its Regional Water Supply Plan.

## Objective 2 - Environmentally Sensitive Utility Services

The City shall continue to provide utility services in an environmentally sensitive manner.

### Action Strategies

- 2.1 **Reclaimed Water Usage:** The City shall promote maximum usage of its reclaimed water. Information regarding reclaimed water usage shall be made available at the City's internet site, [www.sarasotafl.gov](http://www.sarasotafl.gov).
- 2.2 **Environmental Protection from Stormwater Runoff:** The quality and quantity of stormwater runoff shall be regulated in accordance with:
  - Chapter 17-25 Florida Administrative Code;
  - Environmental Resource Permitting of Surface Water Management Systems, administered by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, (Chapters 40D-4, 40D-40, 40D-45 and 40D-400, Florida Administrative Code);
  - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit No. FLS000004; and
  - The City's Engineering Design Criteria Manual (EDCM), Chapter 29.5, Ordinance 89-3278, in order to protect the quality of receiving water bodies. The EDCM will continue to require that any new development not be allowed to shed stormwater at a higher rate onto adjacent right-of-way or property than was discharged from the site in its prior existing state.
- 2.3 **Governmental Coordination:** The City shall coordinate with appropriate governmental agencies in controlling the impact of stormwater runoff on the quality of Sarasota Bay. The City will continue to coordinate with Sarasota County, the Town of Longboat Key, the City of North Port, the City of Venice, and the Florida Department of Transportation in compliance with the U.S. Pollutant Elimination System, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, Permit No. FL S 000004 MS4.
- 2.4 **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit:** The City shall comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. FLS000004. The provisions of this permit include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - litter control and disposal;
  - street sweeping;
  - construction, operations and maintenance of stormwater facilities;
  - operations and maintenance of solid waste transfer facilities;
  - employee training and licensing programs related to herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers;

- inspections for illegal dumping;
- programs related to oil recycling and the proper disposal of hazardous waste; and
- public education.

2.5 **Florida Department of Environmental Protection Permit:** The City shall comply with Florida Department of Environmental Protection Permit #FL0040771-01 to operate the advanced wastewater treatment and disposal system using reclaimed water for urban and agricultural irrigation and backup surface water discharge to Whitaker Bayou during wet weather months when necessary.

2.6 **Permeable Surfaces:** The Engineering Department shall explore the use of permeable surfaces as an alternative to impervious pavement surfaces to minimize runoff.

2.7 **Water Conservation:** The City shall comply with Environmental Resource Permitting of Surface Water Management Systems, administered by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), (Chapters 40D-4, 40D-40, 40D-45 and 40D-400, Florida Administrative Code) and cooperate with the SWFWMD on water conservation programs. The Utilities Department shall participate with SWFWMD by including water conservation educational material in utility bills at least once per year. The City will also continue to employ water conservation practices such as:

- Using urban and agricultural use of reclaimed domestic wastewater as the City's primary method of wastewater disposal;
- Exploring and implementing methods for expanding the use of reclaimed water;
- Metering of all potable water and reclaimed water use, including separate metering of potable water irrigation use;
- Meter maintenance which includes the repair and replacement of water meters;
- Enforcing requirements of Florida Statutes 553.14 limiting the gallons permissible for flushing water closets and flow rate of showers;
- Enforcement of City Ordinance 90-3418, limiting the gallons permissible for flushing water closets and flow rate of showers;
- Periodic system water audits;
- The Renewal, Replacement and Improvement program designed to update the distribution system infrastructure, thereby reducing leaks and unaccounted for water use; and
- Conservation Education Activities, including water treatment plant tours, speakers to address groups in the community, and periodic insertion of a brief message on water conservation in the body of water bills.

2.8 **Potable Water Protection:** The City of Sarasota shall continue to coordinate with Sarasota and Manatee Counties to ensure protection of the City's potable water sources and groundwater recharge areas pursuant to the Sarasota County Wellhead Protection Ordinance #92-079, or Manatee County Zoning Ordinance Section 738

(Groundwater/Wellhead Protection), and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Rule 62-521 that became effective in July 1995.

- 2.9 **Solid Waste Reduction:** The City shall cooperate with Sarasota County to reduce the volume of solid waste generated within the City limits and requiring landfill disposal. Recycling shall be mandatory within the City in accordance with Ordinance No. 94-3786, as may be amended. A City representative shall attend meetings of Sarasota County Government's Solid Waste Advisory Board.
- 2.10 **Hazardous Waste Disposal:** The City shall cooperate with Sarasota County in the Biannual Amnesty Days, an advertised outreach program encouraging people to take their hazardous waste to collection points for proper disposal. Hazardous wastes may be disposed of at the Sarasota County hazardous waste disposal site or, in the case of small quantities, at the City contractor's waste transfer station.
- 2.11 **Illegal Dumping:** The City shall continue to prohibit the illegal dumping of junk, inoperable or unlicensed motor vehicles, rubbish or trash.
- 2.12 **Underground Utilities:** In order to provide a higher level of protection for utility lines and facilities, the City shall require the placement of utilities underground when feasible.
- 2.13 **Aesthetic Treatment of Retention Ponds:** The City shall continue to make provisions in the Land Development Regulations for the aesthetic treatment of retention ponds.

### **Objective 3 - Coordination with the Future Land Use Map**

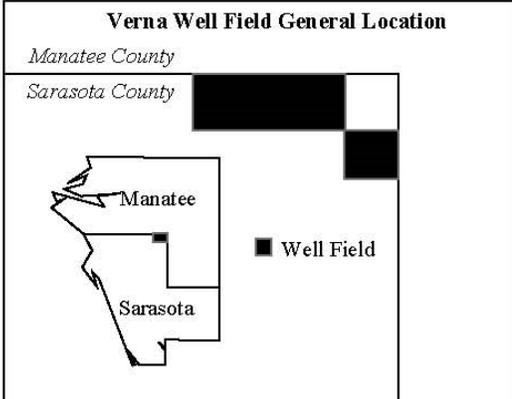
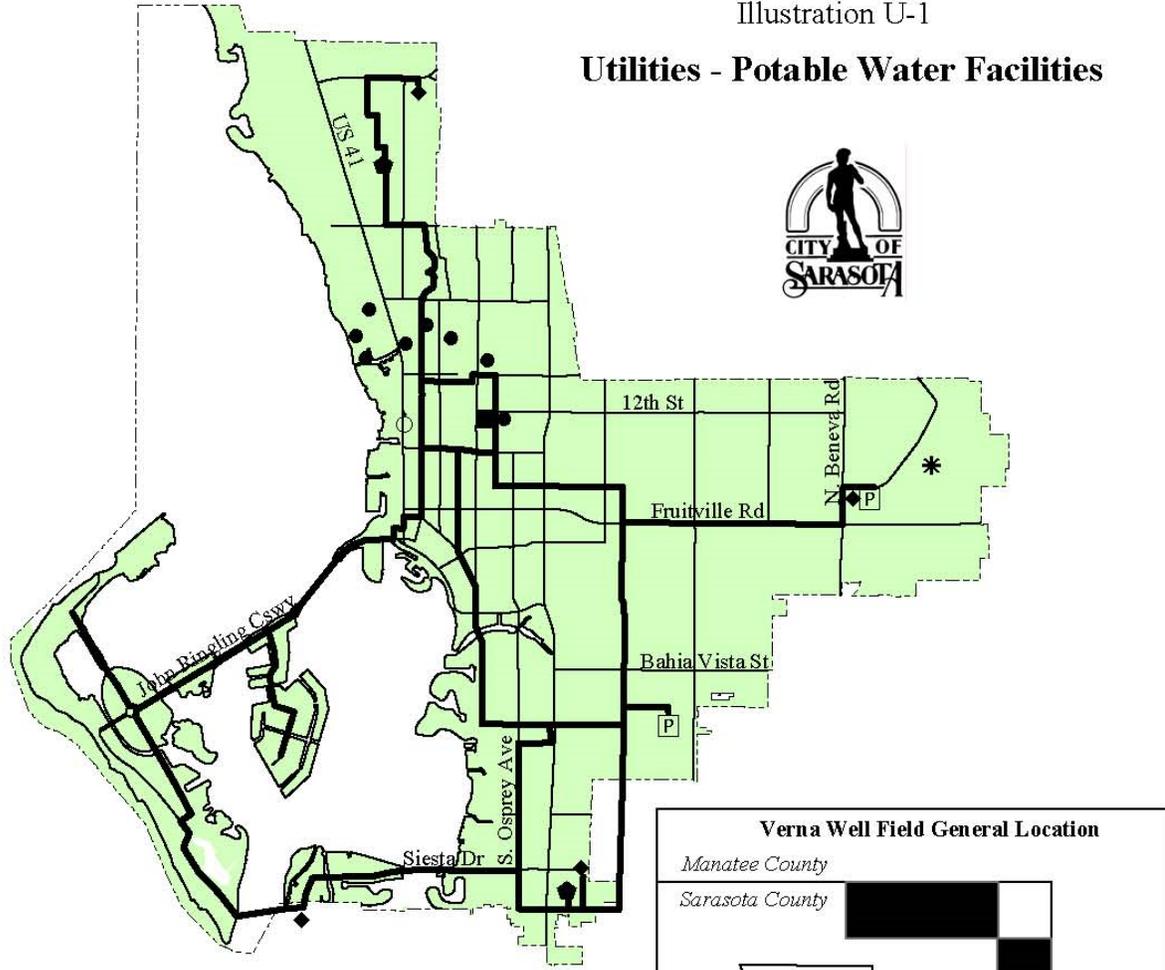
The City shall continue to coordinate the provision of utility facilities with the future land use map.

#### **Action Strategies**

- 3.1 **Utility Availability:** Land Use studies and amendments to the *Sarasota City Plan* shall consider the availability of utility facilities as a determinant of appropriate land use and shall encourage redevelopment and infill development to maximize existing facilities and discourage urban sprawl.
- 3.2 **Annexation:** To ensure adequate service delivery and discourage urban sprawl, properties proposed for annexation shall be within the Urban Service Boundary of the Future Land Use Plan.
- 3.3 **Stormwater Management:** The City will explore alternatives to balance redevelopment efforts and site specific stormwater management requirements.

- 3.4 **Regional Stormwater Management:** In recognition of the desires to improve watershed management while promoting continued urban development and redevelopment, the City shall assist Sarasota County in investigating the feasibility of utilizing aggregate and/or regional stormwater management facilities.

Illustration U-1  
**Utilities - Potable Water Facilities**



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▭ City Limits</li> <li>◆ Distribution Line Interconnect</li> <li>● Downtown Reverse Osmosis Well Field</li> <li>* Bobby Jones Well Field</li> <li>○ Discharge Location</li> <li>⬤ Elevated Storage</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Ground Storage Pumping Station</li> <li>■ Water Treatment Plant</li> <li>— Major Distribution Lines</li> <li>— Major Streets</li> <li>— City shoreline</li> </ul> |
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Source: City of Sarasota Public Works Department, 2003