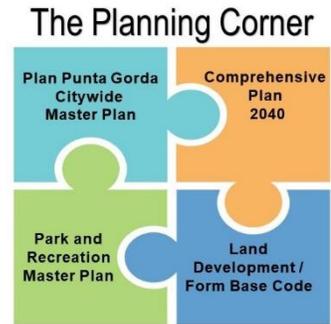


Comprehensive Plan Elements Update

Most communities across the United States have some sort of vision plan. This vision plan defines how a community sees itself in the future and loosely defines how it can get there. The City of Punta Gorda's vision plan is [Plan Punta Gorda 2019 Citywide Master Plan](#). The City also has a Comprehensive Plan. Beginning in the mid-1980's the State of Florida required every City and County have a [Comprehensive Plan](#). The initial [Florida Statue](#) that mandated the Comprehensive Plan requirement was known as the Growth Management Act. The intent of this Act was to develop an integrated planning system at all levels of government, local, regional, and state. As such these local Comprehensive Plans are required to meet certain minimum standards, have a basic common structure, and be updated regularly.



The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) is the State agency tasked with reviewing local Comprehensive Plan updates and coordinating the State's planning activities. In addition to FDEO local government Comprehensive Plan updates are reviewed by other state agencies and local/regional governments including the following:

- [Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#) (FDEP)
 - Lead state agency for environmental management & stewardship
- [Florida Department of State](#)
 - Lead state agency for corporations, cultural affairs, elections, historical resources, and library& information services
- [Florida Department of Transportation](#) (FDOT)
 - State agency responsible for the construction and maintenance of the state's transportation network
- [Regional Planning Council](#) (regional government)
 - Florida is composed of 10 regional planning council areas
 - The councils are designed to foster regional cooperation for planning, emergency management and other interests of specific regional interest
 - Punta Gorda is within the [Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council](#) area
- [Water Management District](#) (regional government)
 - Florida is composed of 5 water management districts with each district area defined by a major watershed area of the state
 - Punta Gorda is within the [Southwest Florida Water Management District](#) (SWFWMD – often pronounced as “swift-mud”)
- County government
 - [Charlotte County](#)
 - Punta Gorda is the only incorporated City in Charlotte County

All of these agencies, regional, and local governments have say in the City of Punta Gorda's Comprehensive Plan update, through their responsibility to review and comment on the plan. However, the most important plan reviewer is the Community, which through our elected officials on City Council have the ultimate review and approval authority for our Comprehensive Plan updates. The first drafts of these updates will be published to the [City's website](#) and the [Plan Punta Gorda](#) website this week and next.