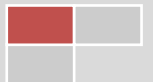


2040

City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan

Introduction



City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2040



Welcome to the City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2040. Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes requires all cities and counties in the State of Florida to maintain a comprehensive plan providing a long range (10 to 20 years) vision of future development and redevelopment. The Florida Department of

Economic Opportunities requires evaluations and appropriate updates to the comprehensive plan in a seven year cycle known as the Evaluation and Appraisal Review (EAR). The City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2040 is a result of the recommendations from the last major evaluation of the City's 2025 Plan.

The City of Punta Gorda's Comprehensive Plan is divided into eleven (11) sections are briefly described below:

#1 Future Land Use Element

The **Future Land Use Element designates** areas within the City suitable for residential, commercial, recreational, conservation, preservation and public development. It is considered the most important element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. This element covers a planning timeframe out to year 2040, provides future population projections and defines level of service issues.

#2A Conservation Element

The **Conservation Element** inventories and describes the City's existing and proposed natural preserves and conservation areas within and adjacent to the City.

#2B Coastal Management Element

The **Coastal Management Element** inventories and describes the City's existing coastal areas and their importance to the City's economy and tourism industries within and adjacent to the City.

#3 Infrastructure Element

The purpose of the **Infrastructure Element** is to provide for necessary public facilities and services correlated to future land use projections. The element is divided into three (3) sections:

1. The **Potable Water and Sanitary Sewer Section** outlines the City's existing conservation programs and practices and identifies additional future efforts and programs that the City plans to evaluate to determine their applicability and likelihood of success in decreasing the City's potable water demand.
2. The purpose of the **Solid Waste Section** is to ensure that necessary sanitation facilities and services are in place to provide for the needs of current and future populations in the City of Punta Gorda. It also details the City's curbside collection and disposal process services for solid waste, recyclables, yard waste and hazardous waste.
3. The **Stormwater Management Section** identifies operating responsibilities of stormwater management facilities, geographic service areas, predominant types of land uses, the design capacity of the stormwater management facilities, current demand, and the level of service provided by the facilities.

#4 Housing Element

The **Housing Element** evaluates the City's housing inventory and provides guidance in developing policies to meet the City's existing and future housing needs. The Goals, Objectives, and Policies (GOP) provide a complete range of housing options to include moderate, low, and very low income households, group homes, foster care facilities, and households with special housing needs.

#5 Recreation & Open Space Element

The **Recreation and Open Space Element** provides for a system of public and private recreation and open space sites which are available to all City's residents and visitors. Punta Gorda's long term goal regarding recreation and open space facilities are directed towards the coordination of public and private recreation resources to meet demand; to provide public parks appropriately located to the population they are intended to serve; to coordinate the City facilities with those of other governments; and to acquire important open space systems that protect property from storm surge events and/or preserve important habitats.

#8 Community Facilities Element

The **Community Facilities & Services Element** identifies and describes the locations and arrangements of the City's facilities and the services provided. The facilities and services may be considered the "social infrastructure" which is integral to the standard of living enjoyed by the City's and visitors. Included in this section are general government administration and operations, utilities, fire and emergency medical services, police, and all other City facilities and services.

#7 Transportation Element

The **Transportation Element** assesses the needs for current and future transportation systems, establishes level of service guidelines, provides strategies for alternative modes of transportation, and sets standards for the provisions of public facilities.

#8 Public School Facilities Element

The **Public School Facilities Element** focuses on school planning. This element requires local governments to adopt a school concurrency system which ensures the coordination

between the City, County, and School Board in planning and permitting development that affects school capacity and utilization rates. The Florida Statute mandating the **Public School Facilities Element** also requires the City to update their existing Interlocal Agreement (a partnership between the City, County and local School Board, that establishes interlocal coordination efforts between the agencies) and requires amendments to the existing **Capital Improvements Element** and the **Intergovernmental Coordination Element**.

#9 Inter Governmental Coordination Element

The **Intergovernmental Coordination Element** facilitates the comprehensive planning process through the coordination of local development and growth management with Charlotte County, adjacent municipalities, and state and federal agencies. This element will coordinate the processes and procedures with the various entities to ensure compatibility. If incompatible goals, objective & policies are identified, then it is the intent of this element to develop and implement processes to assist in resolving such issues.

#10 Capital Improvement Element

Capital Improvement Element considers the need for and the location of public facilities in order to encourage the efficient use of those facilities. The element:

1. evaluates the need for public facilities within the City
2. estimates the cost of improvements for which the local government has fiscal responsibility
3. analyzes the fiscal capability of the local government to finance and construct improvements
4. guides the funding of improvements through adopted policies
5. provides the scheduling of funding and construction of improvements in a manner necessary to ensure that capital improvements are provided when required based on needs identified in the other comprehensive plan elements.

5. utilizes the vast resources as a catalyst for increasing economic development, cultural heritage and sustainable tourism

City staff invites you to read through the elements and provide comments and/or suggestions to The City of Punta Gorda's Chief Planner at:

UrbanDesign@pgorda.us

The City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2040, can also be viewed on line at:

<http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/comprehensive-plan>

#11 Historic Element

The **Historic Element** considers the need for preserving and protecting the City's past which includes historical, architectural, maritime, and archaeological sites. The element:

1. furthers the City's founder, Isaac Trabue's, vision of preserving land along the harbor for the public
2. identifies historical, architectural, maritime, and archaeological and ecological sites of significance
3. educates the population on the importance of historical preservation
4. strengthens relationships with educational establishments and increase technology