



*Community  
Facilities &  
Services*

*City of Punta Gorda  
Comprehensive Plan*

*2025*



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## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

An important aspect of community facilities planning is the role of government within the community and what functions are assumed, what services are rendered, and the question of whether they will remain adequate in the future. The community facilities and services evaluated in this section consist of those facilities and functions that serve the residents of Punta Gorda. Those facilities discussed are the Punta Gorda City Hall and Annex Building, City Maintenance Operations, City Police, City Fire, Recreation and Open Space Systems, Water and Wastewater Systems, and the City Stormwater Facilities. The County facilities discussed, but not evaluated, in this report are the Courthouse, Public Library, County Landfill, and the Charlotte County Public Schools that serve the residents of the City of Punta Gorda. In addition, this element lists a variety of health, social and cultural facilities and services that are available to the residents of the City. All of these facilities serve a population greater than the City, but each has a great influence on the quality of life and the commerce of the City.

## II. INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

The purpose of the *Community Facilities and Services Element* is to identify the locations and arrangements of civic and community centers, public schools, hospitals, libraries, police and fire stations and other public facilities. This element identifies not only the City facilities but also other facilities and services available to the community. The element provides the effective coordination efforts of the agencies, such as the school boards or hospital authorities, having public development and service responsibilities, capabilities, and potential but not having land development regulatory authority.

### Relationship to the City's Comprehensive Plan

There are several key connections between the *Community Facilities and Services Element* and other elements of the City's Comprehensive Plan which include the following:

- The *Future Land Use Element* allows the land development authority to locate the specific facilities needed to maintain the adopted level of services standards at the time the development impacts occur. It is through the *Future Land Use Element* and the Future Land Use Map that the City's growth management strategy is fully implemented. Therefore, it is essential that the uses prescribed by the Future Land Use Map be consistent with sound urban development policies which promote compatibility between development activities.
- The *Conservation and Coastal Management Element* inventories and describes the City's existing and proposed natural preserves and conservation areas within and adjacent to the City.
- The *Infrastructure Element* is divided into three sections pertaining to Stormwater, Solid Waste and the provision of Sewer and Potable Water services. It connects to the *Future Land Use Element* through the impacts the proposed facilities have on the existing level of service at the time the proposed facilities are completed. Facility site location criteria and overall policies regarding the City's infrastructure must be taken into consideration during the establishment of levels of service for water and sewer facilities if the adopted level of service is to be maintained at the time the development impacts occur.
- The *Recreation and Open Space Element* identifies the potential recreational opportunities available to the residents of the City. Such opportunities

- typically include passive recreation, outdoor education, and resource-oriented activities such as hiking, boating and camping.
- The *Transportation Element* deals with the City's road network and addresses port and aviation facilities, bicycle paths and pedestrian walkways. The policies of the *Transportation Element* must reflect those of *Future Land Use Element* to ensure that roads are sited in the most appropriate areas possible and that these roads are designed in a manner which minimizes impacts to the surrounding land uses and promote a pedestrian friendly community.
  - The *Housing Element* lists and identifies the availability of the community facilities and services which affect peoples' housing decisions.
  - The *Capital Improvements Element* allocates sufficient funds in a timely manner for the efficient provision of public facilities and services. It includes a list of projected costs and revenue sources by type of public facilities for a five year period; many of those facilities are identified within this element.

### III. LEGISLATION

## Federal Regulations

Local governments coordinate with numerous agencies on a variety of issues. Depending on the specific issue will define the federal regulations requirements of the local government.

## State Regulations

### Florida Statutes

#### Chapter 163

Chapter 163 of the *Florida Statutes* has specific requirements that relate to ways of dealing with growth management. Adopted levels of service standards need to be maintained and to meet existing and future facility needs. The land development process should be managed “so that public facility needs created by previously issued land development orders or future development do not exceed the ability of the local government to fund and provide or require provision of the needed capital improvements.” Chapter 163.3177(7)(e) also indicates that this optional element will show how it will effect coordination between such agencies as the school board and hospital authorities which have public development and service responsibilities, capabilities, and potential, but not having land development regulatory authority.

#### Chapter 187

The *State Comprehensive Plan*, Chapter 187 of the *Florida Statutes*, is intended to be a direction-setting document. Its policies do not carry regulatory authority or authorize the adoption of agency rules, criteria, or standards not otherwise authorized by law. The State Comprehensive Plan has goals and policies pertaining to, but not limited to, the following topics: education, children, families, the elderly, health, public safety, public facilities, as well as cultural and historical resources. These goals and policies contain many statements which offer very general guidance to local governments.

### Florida Administrative Code (FAC)

As required by *Chapter 9J-5* of the *Florida Administrative Code*, the geographic service area and location of major system components for public education and health systems within the local jurisdiction are identified within this element.

## Strategic Regional Policy Plan

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP) states specific regional goals with which local government comprehensive plans must be consistent. There are policies in the regional plan relating to the siting of public facilities in order to discourage urban sprawl. The City aims to provide services and infrastructure in a compact and contiguous development pattern within the urban area. The SRPP also incorporates policies relating to law enforcement, fire fighting, correctional facilities, historic resources, economic development, natural resources, and emergency management.

## Local Regulations

### City Code of Ordinances

Chapter 8A City Finances: Provides the financial administrative responsibilities for the City's accounting and taxation and provides the budgeting details for the individual departments. This section also contains the financing methods of proposed expenditures and capital expenditures necessary to maintain or improve facilities needed to meet the adopted level of service.

### City Comprehensive Plan

The City's Comprehensive Plan provides the growth management strategies necessary for the City to meet future population growth and subsequent infrastructure and service demands. The plan is reviewed and approved by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for a variety of growth management and concurrency issues which are then implemented by the City through the adopted goals objectives and policies.

## **IV. INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS**

### **Administration**

Administrative facilities are the center of operations for the seat of government, whether it is at the municipal or county level. They may have one or more of the following characteristics:

- A seat of authority
- A place of assembly
- A departmental complex
- A depository of records

The objective of the City's administrative offices is the development and implementation of sound municipal management structure and processes that provide for efficient operations. This strategy will strengthen the City's standing with financial institutions and sets in place measures of performance for the organization as a whole and within each department.

Funding is the single greatest challenge to the planning of community facilities and services and more specifically the operation and maintenance of such facilities. The uncertainty of the impact of the impending State's tax reform initiatives on the 2008 fiscal year and future budgets will bring many challenges to the organization over the next planning decade. Nonetheless, the City continues to meet its obligations to provide the necessary services to meet growing demands. Specific needs for and benefit of public facilities and services must be identified to provide the facilities necessary to service the population efficiently and in financially feasible manner.

The City owns and maintains a variety of facilities ranging from government administration buildings, public utilities, to roads and swales. Map 6.1 shows the locations of the City's administration buildings and the public works facilities. Additional city owned facilities are delineated on other maps throughout this element.

# Map 6.1 - Administrative Facilities



## Facility Siting

Facility siting is an issue which must be given careful attention due to the City's coastal location. Siting of any facility outside of the Category two (2) Hurricane Vulnerability Zone is extremely difficult since most of the City's population centers are within the Category two (2) or less vulnerability zone. The majority of the City's platted communities exist within these areas. *The Conservation and Coastal Management Element* of this Comprehensive Plan identifies much of the City's land is platted within the Category two (2) or less storm surge zones. The majority of this platting occurred prior to the passage of the Growth Management Act in 1985. Although there is a severe shortage of suitable facilities to be used as emergency shelters, some progress has been made in establishing additional "refuge sites" to provide additional spaces. The City should require new facilities to provide shelter capacity as part of its development approval processes. However, such a regulatory approach will have to give careful consideration to legal issues. In addition the possible location of future government facilities outside of the Category 2 Zone poses some difficulty with regards to conflicting goals.

## Considerations for Facilities Planning

In siting City facilities, the government implements sound compact and contiguous urban techniques. Through the implementation of the land development regulations, the City will promote a coherent built environment which respects local historical and regional architecture, an integrated and balanced transportation system, adequate provision of utility infrastructure, schools parks and other public necessities, and preservation of the natural environment.

Given the anticipated tax cuts the City is facing, it will be imperative to review projects carefully. Alternative methods of funding will need to be sought. These funding methods may include partnerships, grants and tax credits.

The City prioritizes the siting of urban services to focus them on existing developed areas. Various departments identify needs for new facilities at different times, and have different expectations of how quickly their needs should be met. Established timing procedures with set lead times, provides future facilities in an equitable and efficient manner. A five (5) year capital improvement plan is reviewed and updated annually identifying the facilities to be built or expanded in the following five (5) years; however, there is no indexing system which identifies variables that indicate a need for construction. A master plan for space programming which includes projections for growth would be helpful in timing the provision of local government facilities.

Two (2) improvement projects within the City's immediate future plans include the relocation and building of the Public Works Campus and an expansion of the Council Chambers. As identified in the 1997 Comprehensive Plan, the Public

Works Campus is not compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and should be relocated when it is expanded. The design of the Government Center parking facility delineated an area which will allow for the City Council Chamber expansion. Both projects are being considered over the next planning decade.

## Punta Gorda City Hall and Annex Building

The Punta Gorda City Hall is centrally located in the City's Central Business District. The original City Hall, built in 1926, and listed on the National Register, underwent a major expansion in 1978 and contains the City Council's meeting room, the Office of the City Clerk and the Finance Department. The expansion added a new City Council meeting room and offices. In 1991, a City Hall Annex was constructed on adjoining City property and houses the offices of the City Manager, Human Resources, IT Services, Purchasing, Legal, Building, Growth Management (including the Urban Design, and Zoning Departments) and Code Enforcement Departments.

The historic Punta Gorda City Hall serves the largest concentration of population by virtue of its Central Business District location. The District contains a substantial number of daytime workers, as well as persons engaged in shopping and business activities. As the population increases, the demand for services will become greater and consequently will place more emphasis upon City Hall space. The existing City Hall and Annex offices are expected to meet future staffing space demands through the next planning decade. However an expansion of the City Council Chambers is necessary to properly facilitate the number of concerned citizens participating in public meetings.

An expansion of City Hall parking facilities, considered during the 1997 Comprehensive Plan, was completed in 2007. The parking design incorporated the expansion of the Council Chambers to provide additional seating capacity. The new Government Center parking facility will satisfy the immediate need for staff and customer parking during the daily working hours as well as providing additional downtown parking needs during off business hours. The parking will also be utilized for the Charlotte County Events Center, located adjacent to City Hall, which is scheduled for reopening in 2008.



## Public Works Campus

The Punta Gorda Public Works Campus consists of a variety of City buildings fronting three (3) residential streets. The Public Works Department is made up of six (6) Divisions under the direction of the Director of Public Works. Each Division has a variety of responsibilities:

- **Administration:** The Public Works Administration Division is composed of the Director and the administrative support staff. The Division provides technical and clerical support to divisions within Public Works. The administrative staff recognizes service area responsibilities, formulates programs, plans, organizes, directs and controls these programs. Citizen requests and inquiries are taken by the Administrative Division and routed for the appropriate action and/or response.
- **Canal Maintenance:** The Canal Maintenance Division is responsible for the maintenance of seawalls and dredging of canals located within the canal district. Some seawall construction is accomplished by divisional forces in conjunction with contractual services in the event of failures. Other duties include dockside dredging, sinkhole filling and related tasks.
- **Engineering:** Engineering is a service-oriented division that provides technical support and services to City departments, issues canal construction special permits, performs surveys and grade shots for City projects, project management and inspection duties on Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), and department projects. The Engineering Division is also the point of contact for information relating to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permit.
- **Parks & Grounds:** The Parks and Grounds Division is responsible for maintaining City parks, municipal grounds, downtown streetscape, street trees, playgrounds, tennis courts, City and community entrance features and medians. Other division responsibilities include irrigation design, installation and maintenance, herbicide spraying, fertilizing, cul-de-sac deliveries and all related tasks.
- **Right of Way Maintenance:** The Right-of-Way Maintenance Division is responsible for maintenance of streets, storm sewers, swales, sidewalks and related appurtenances located within the right-of-way. Normal operations include traffic sign maintenance, storm sewer cleaning, right-of-way mowing, swale improvements, tree trimming and street sweeping. Scope of operations includes one hundred and ten (110) miles of improved streets and two hundred and twenty (220) miles of stormwater drainage systems.
- **Sanitation:** The Sanitation/Refuse Collection Division presently collects refuse, yardwaste and white goods from approximately 10,300 residential and commercial accounts each month. In addition, the City provides weekly curbside recycling to all its residential customers. The curbside program

collects newspaper, mixed paper, office paper, junk mail, magazines, phone books, corrugated cardboard, plastics with 1 & 2 codes, brown, green and clear glass, and steel and aluminum cans

The City Public Works facility was damaged in 2004 when the City took a direct hit from Hurricane Charley forcing employees to be relocated to the City's Bayfront Center facility. In reviewing the growing needs of the City and considering the surrounding residential development, the 1997 Comprehensive Plan considered moving Public Works and Canal Maintenance yards to another area of the City more suitable to this type of facility. Both a new Fleet Maintenance garage and Public Works yard could be considered on one parcel of land. Plans to reorganize the department and relocate personnel to the Public Works Campus.

## **City Warehouse**

The City Warehouse is located adjacent to the Henry Street properties. The one facility was built in 1989 and the second warehouse was built in 2001. The warehouse facility is used for the Fleet supplies gasoline to operate the fleet of City vehicles and equipment. This facility will be included in the proposed relocation of the Public Works Campus.

## **Fleet Maintenance Building**

The City's Fleet Maintenance Building is located on a portion of a three-acre parcel of land adjacent to the City Warehouse. The primary function of the department is the maintenance of City-owned vehicles and heavy equipment. The department is responsible for vehicle maintenance and repairs and provides vehicle and equipment specifications necessary in the budget planning process.

## **Utilities**

### **Water Treatment Plant**

The Water Treatment division operates and maintains the Shell Creek Water Treatment Facility, which treats and supplies potable water to Punta Gorda Utility Water Customers. The plant is currently rated at 8,000,000 gallons per day. The division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Burnt Store Isles Elevated Tank, Punta Gorda Isles Ground Storage Tank and Booster Pump Station. The Water Treatment division is continuing to respond to increased requirements relating to water management, water quality and treatment standards required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and other regulatory agencies.

The division comprises of an operation division and maintenance division. There are ten (10) operators and seven (7) maintenance personnel and one (1) supervisor that are employed at the plant for a total of eighteen (18) employees. The plant is staffed twenty-four (24) hours a day, 365 days a year. Water is treated and pumped to utility customers.

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The Wastewater Treatment division operates and maintains the Punta Gorda Wastewater Treatment Plant, a 4.0 MGD (Million Gallon per day) plant. The division also operates and maintains the Master and Booster Pumping Stations. Wastewater residuals are beneficially reclaimed by land application to on-site agriculture fields. Treated water is discharged to an effluent disposal deep injection well.

## **Public Safety**

### **Police Protection**

The City Police Department is co-located with the City Fire Department, sharing the same 22,500 square foot building and communication facilities. The public safety building is a one-story cement block stucco structure built in 2002 to the most recent building codes.

The Police Department facilities include administrative offices, reception area, communication room, records room, and an evidence room. Currently the department's manpower consists of a police chief, deputy chief, two (2) captains, six (6) sergeants, twenty-three (23) patrolmen, four (4) detectives, and fifteen (15) non-uniformed personnel. The department operates twenty-seven (27) cruisers for patrol purposes. Based upon the 2007 population (Bureau of Economic Research at the University of Florida) of 17,444, the City has two (2.12) trained police personnel per 1,000 population. This standard relates favorable with the national average of 2.163 (Renner, p. 119) trained officers per 1,000 population.

### **Fire Protection**

Fire prevention and fire fighting is a major concern of the City of Punta Gorda. The primary objectives of the Fire Department are:

1. Prevention of Fires
2. Prevention of Loss of Life
3. Confinement of Fires to the Place of Origin
4. Extinguishment of Fires

The Fire Prevention Division accomplish their objectives by staying current with the Local, State and Federal codes, rules, ordinances, etc. relating to life safety and

building construction. The Division reviews all commercial and multi-family construction plans prior to building permit approval.

The adequacy of fire prevention and response capability is gauged by fire insurance ratings. The rating system most widely used throughout the United States has been established by the Insurance Service Office (ISO). When a community is evaluated for an insurance rating, the ISO specifically looks at five categories: training, water supply, manpower, communications, and equipment.

The City of Punta Gorda has a Class Four (4) Fire Insurance Rating. Since the last ISO inspection, the City has

- Added a third manned fire station,
- Established a Training Division,
- Acquired a 75' aerial ladder/Class 'A' pumper apparatus (new Dec. 2004)
- Constructed a new Public Safety building which houses the Fire Department, Police Department, and Emergency Dispatch center.
- Replaced the Class 'A' pumpers housed at Stations 2 & 3 in 2003.
- All of these improvements should favorably affect future ISO fire insurance rating evaluations for the City of Punta Gorda.

Fire protection for the City is provided by twenty-seven (27) career fire fighters and a complement of twelve (12) volunteers. Career fire personnel consist of a Chief, Assistant Chief, Fire Marshal, Training Chief, three (3) Battalion Chiefs, nine (9) lieutenants, twelve (12) fire fighters, one (1) inspector, one (1) Executive Assistant. Table 6.1 identifies the staffing and equipment per facility.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>Equipment Available</b>
<b>Station # 1*</b>	Public Safety Complex (Fire Administration) 1410 Tamiami Trail Punta Gorda, Florida 33950	4 fire fighters per shift Total: 12	One 75’ Quit (Fire Engine w/75’ ladder) 1 Battalion Chief Vehicle One Reserve Fire Engine
<b>Station # 2**</b>	10051 Burnt Store Road Punta Gorda, Florida 33950	2 fire fighters per shift Total: 6	One fire engine One Brush Truck
<b>Station # 3***</b>	1623 Aqui Esta Drive Punta Gorda, Florida 33950	2 fire fighters per shift Total: 6 (2 fire fighters per shift Total: 6 CCF & EMS)	One fire engine One Rescue (CCF & EMS)

Source: City of Punta Gorda’s Growth Management Urban Design

\* Station 1 does not include the Administrative or Fire Prevention Staff

\*\* Station 2 is being moved to a new facility on Acline Road

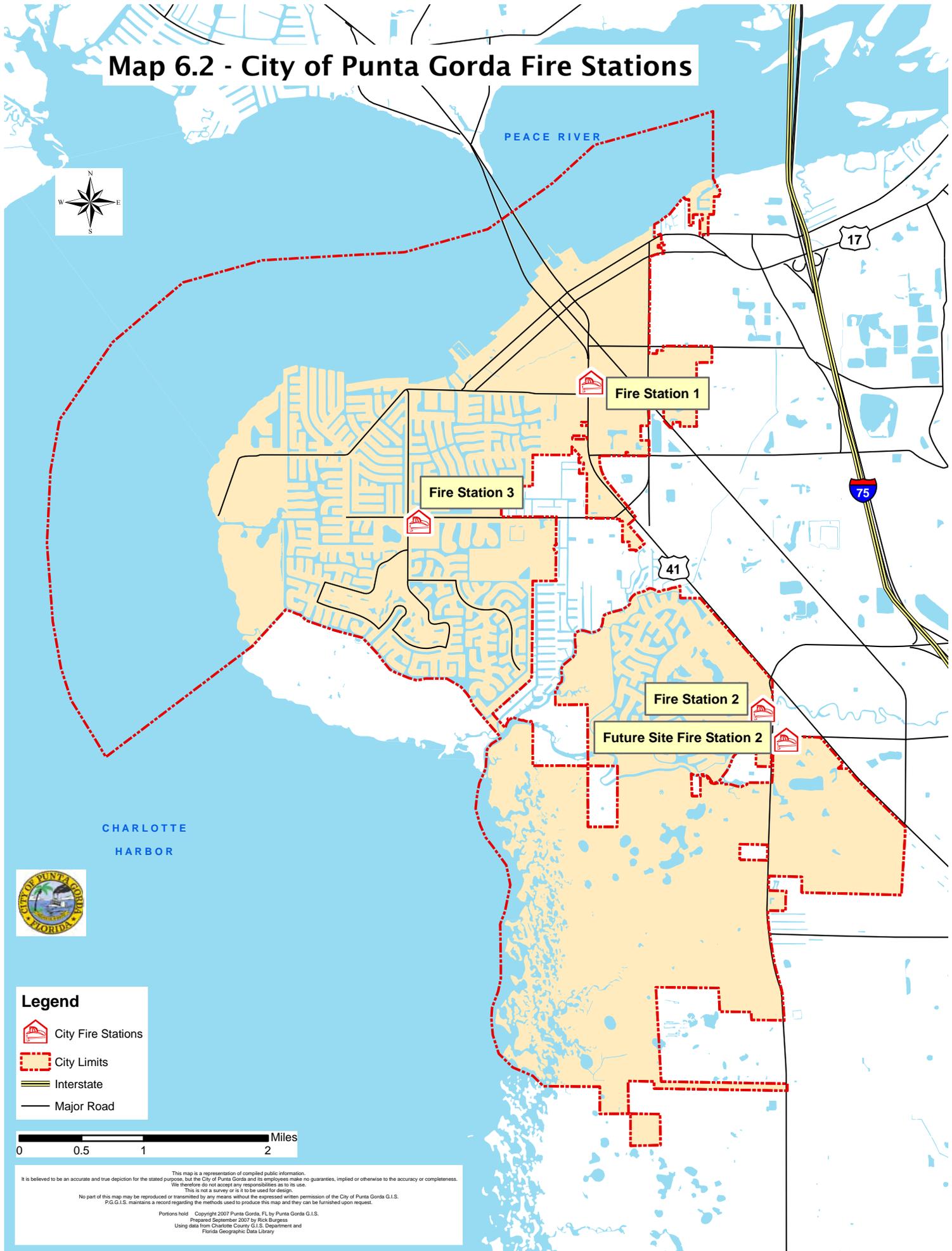
\*\*\* Station 3 includes Charlotte County employees and equipment assigned to this station by Charlotte County Fire & EMS (CCF&EMS)

The City of Punta Gorda's fire stations, as identified on Map 6.2, are funded through special assessments and impact fees. At this time, the first priority of the Fire Department is the replacement of the 'temporary' building being utilized as fire station #2. This project is currently budgeted and a Design/Build contractor has been selected, construction is anticipated to start in the first quarter of 2008.



At this time there are no deficits in the service response time for the City. In the calendar year 2007 the Punta Gorda Fire Department responded to 2,739 calls for service, the average response time from the dispatch of emergency apparatus to their arrival on scene was four (4) minutes and twenty-two (22) seconds. Based upon the current population of 17,444, the City has 1.55 fire fighters per 1,000 population. Future plans include the implementation of Non-Transport Advanced Life Support (ALS) level of emergency medical care with personnel assigned to the fire apparatus. The implementation of ALS level of care will require additional trained staff. This need will be reviewed over the next planning decade and will be implemented as funding becomes available.

# Map 6.2 - City of Punta Gorda Fire Stations



**Legend**

-  City Fire Stations
-  City Limits
-  Interstate
-  Major Road



This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be an accurate and true depiction for the stated purpose, but the City of Punta Gorda and its employees make no guarantees, implied or otherwise to the accuracy or completeness. We therefore do not accept any responsibilities as to its use. This is not a survey or is it to be used for design.

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## Other Community Facilities (not operated by the City)

There are a variety of community facilities available to the City's residents and tourists that are not located in and around the City yet not operated by the City. These facilities are described below and are identified on Map 6.3 Other Community Facilities.

### Charlotte County Courthouse:



Charlotte County Justice Center: The Justice Center, built in 1999, doubled the courtroom capacity to eight courtrooms and covers 160,000 square feet of space. It houses all functions related to the judicial system, including the States Attorney and the Public Defender, Sheriff's Civil Service Office and Clerk of the Courts. The Justice Center provides a total square footage of 400,000 square feet and provides additional parking spaces which can be used

outside of the normal business hours. The additional spaces provide a benefit to the downtown businesses. It is anticipated that the justice center will meet the needs of the County, including the City, at least until the year 2020.

### Library:

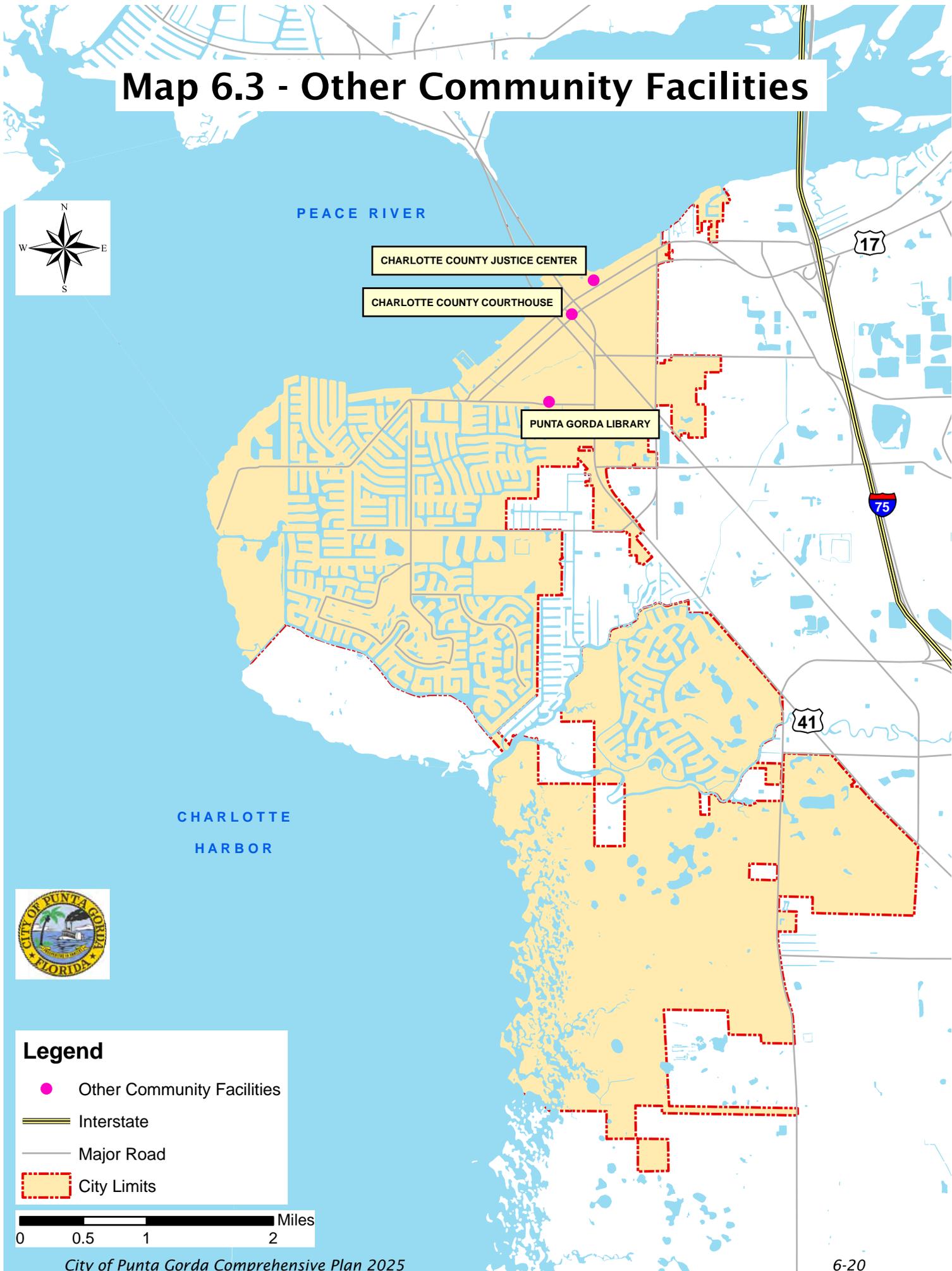
The Punta Gorda Library is operated by the Charlotte-Glades Library System and is operated under the Charlotte County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. The Charlotte-Glades Library System is a member of the Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN) which is a consortium of all types of libraries in southwest Florida. Through SWFLN Charlotte County libraries have access to a broad range of training opportunities as well as interlibrary loan support.

Essential service levels for materials and space are two (2) items per capita for libraries with service populations between 25,001 and 750,000 and 0.6 square feet per capita of building space. Currently, the Charlotte libraries provide 1.5 items per capita and 0.4 square feet of library space per capita. With the opening of the Mid-County Regional Library, also available to the City's residents, materials per capita will rise to 1.7 and square footage per capita to 0.49 county wide. The Punta Gorda Library however, will continue to lag significantly behind the standards for collection and space due to the building size and parcel location.

The ability of the library system to meet the needs of the community is impacted by the amount of resources available to it. The Charlotte-Glades Library System is funded by ad valorem taxes, impact fees, monies from State Aid to Libraries,

donations raised by the Friends of the Library, and individual gifts. Impact fees provide over 50% of the library's local materials budget. State aid to libraries is based on local operating dollars allocated to libraries.

# Map 6.3 - Other Community Facilities



## Public Schools

The public schools, identified on Map 6.4, are a cornerstone to the well-being and future of the community. Generally, new residential development occurring within the community is the primary contributor to student population growth and has the most significant impact on the public school system. Because of the relationship between residential development and the provision of public schools, coordination between local governments and the school district is critical to ensuring that future student growth needs are addressed and can be accommodated within the public school system. Recognizing the importance of planning for public schools, the 2005 Florida Legislature enacted legislation amending Sections 163.3180 and 163.3177(12), Florida Statutes (F.S.), mandating the implementation of public school concurrency supported by data and analysis.

The data, inventory and analysis contained in the *Public School Facilities Element* details the methods that have been employed to support the Charlotte County School Concurrency program and ensure that public school capacity needs are met. Within Charlotte County, the participants in school concurrency are the City of Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, and the School District of Charlotte County. The Goals, Objectives, and Policies section is adopted by ordinance and addresses the correction of existing school capacity deficiencies, establishes a level of service standard for schools, identifies the financial feasibility of the School District's Capital Plan, coordinates the location of planned public school facilities with the plans for supporting infrastructure, and coordinates location of public school facilities relative to the location of other public facilities such as parks, libraries and community centers to the extent possible. Further detail is available in the *Public School Facilities Element*.

Four (4) schools are located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City; however, they cannot be reviewed independently of the rest of the School District. These schools contribute to the whole of the Charlotte County School District and need to be reviewed in unison with the entire District. Table 6.2 details the enrollment, capacity and the utilization of each facility.

In addition, all of the public high schools, middle schools and elementary schools serve as Adult and Community Education sites depending on subject matter and availability.

# Map 6.4 - Public Schools



### Legend

- Schools
- City Limits
- County
- Interstate
- Major Road



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**Table 6.2 – Existing School Enrollment, Capacity and Utilization 2007/08**

SCHOOL NAME	Permanent Capacity	Modular/ Relocatable Capacity	Total FISH Capacity	SY 07/08		
				Enroll. 10/12/07	Cap.	Util.
<b>Elementary Schools</b>						
Sallie Jones	757		757	711	757	94%
East	887		887	539	887	61%
<b>Sub-Total Service Area (SJ,EE)</b>	<b>1644</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1644</b>	<b>1250</b>	<b>1644</b>	<b>77%</b>
Deep Creek	707	231	938	862	938	92%
Kingsway	745	36	781	848	781	109%
Peace River	887		887	519	887	59%
Neil Armstrong	887		887	514	887	58%
Liberty	713	126	839	713	839	85%
Meadow Park	511	342	853	736	853	86%
<b>Sub-Total Service Area (DC,KE,PR,NA,LE,MP)</b>	<b>4450</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>5185</b>	<b>4192</b>	<b>5185</b>	<b>81%</b>
Myakka River	685	54	739	681	739	92%
Vineland	699	286	985	812	985	82%
New Elementary School (2015)						
New Elementary School (2016)						
<b>Sub-Total Service Area (MR,VE,E1,E2)</b>	<b>1384</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>1724</b>	<b>1493</b>	<b>1724</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>Total Elementary Schools</b>	<b>7478</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>8553</b>	<b>6935</b>	<b>8553</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Middle Schools</b>						
L.A. Ainger	927	139	1066	985	1066	92%
Murdock Middle	867	158	1025	948	1025	92%
Port Charlotte Middle	974		974	965	974	99%
Punta Gorda Middle	1056		1056	1063	1056	101%
New Middle School (2018)						
<b>Total Middle</b>	<b>3824</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>4121</b>	<b>3961</b>	<b>4121</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>High Schools</b>						
Charlotte High	501	2399	2900	2121	2900	73%
Lemon Bay High	1154	523	1677	1559	1677	93%
Port Charlotte High	1947	261	2208	2238	2208	101%
<b>Total High School</b>	<b>3602</b>	<b>3183</b>	<b>6785</b>	<b>5918</b>	<b>6785</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>Student Total</b>	<b>14904</b>	<b>4555</b>	<b>19459</b>	<b>16814</b>	<b>19459</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>DOE Capital Outlay FTE Forecast</b>				<b>17525</b>		

Source: Public School Facilities Element

\* School located in the City Limits.

## Private Schools/Other Schools

There are a variety of private schools in the City and the County which do not receive any public funding. These facilities require that parents pay tuition fees for their children. Some of the schools offer subsidy programs to help offset the costs to families. Most of the private schools are church-supported or religious in orientation. Table 6.3 which follows lists the private schools in the County along with the grades they serve and their enrollment numbers.

School /Location	Students Served	Enrollment for 1995/96	Enrollment for 2005/06	Enrollment for 2006/07
Community Christian School of First Baptist Church 20035 Quesada Ave., Port Charlotte	PK - 8	252	311	278
Port Charlotte Christian School (Assembly of God) 3279 Sherwood Rd., Port Charlotte	PK-12	70	N/a	*
Port Charlotte Seventh Day Adventist School 2100 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte	K-10	108	75	75
St. Charles Borromeo (Catholic) School 21505 Augusta Ave., Port Charlotte	PK-8	270	314	*
Genesis Christian School 19150 Helena Ave., Port Charlotte	Pre-School - 7		140	90
Good Shepherd Day School 401 W. Henry St., Punta Gorda	Infants-8		191	183
Grace Community Day Care & School 4334 Laura St., Port Charlotte	Infants-2		130	120
Laurel Oaks Academy Inc. 4479 Melbourne St., Port Charlotte	Pre-School -8	72	N/A	*

Source: City of Punta Gorda Urban Design 2007

Note: There are many daycares and preschools serving infants and children; a few of the private schools serve children up to grade two or three. Also, many of the daycares and preschools are church affiliated. \*

\* Not available at the time of this draft

**Charlotte Technical Center**

Charlotte Technical Center is operated by School District of Charlotte County, and is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education. It is a specialized institution offering occupational, secondary & adult education, and support services designed to assist individuals in attaining their career goals.

**Charlotte County School Board Adult and Community Education Program**

This program reaches all areas of the County. More than 1,900 students participated in the various parts of this program during the 2004-2005 school year.

**Edison Community College**

The 200 acre campus serves the residents of the City as well as Charlotte County and surrounding areas. The college is part of the Florida Community College system. Student enrollment consists of 3,000 credit and non-credit students, 500 high school students taking dual-enrollment classes, and students obtaining their bachelor's degree from the articulation agreements set up by the college's University Center. Additional Services include:

- Associate Degrees in Arts
- Associate Degree in Science
- Certificate Programs
- Professional Development and Continuing Educational classes
- Career Services
- Charlotte County Family YMCA facility
- Accredited child care facility
- Cultural Events and meeting rooms

**Florida Gulf Coast University**

The 760 acre campus is located south of the City near I-75 and Alico Road. The university provides undergraduate education with a wide range of programs in the arts and sciences, business, environmental science, computer science, education, nursing/allied health, and social services. The programs are designed for college transfer students as well as beginning freshman. As of 2006 the school had a student enrollment of over 8,000 students consisting of both undergraduate as well as graduate students and non-degree seeking students. The university reached Gold Key Status in 2003 and has grown to over 50 buildings.

**IMPAC University**

IMPAC, Improved Management Productivity and Control University is a private graduate university located within the City boundaries and is dedicated to meeting the educational needs of business. The school provides programs in business, behavioral science, and technology and the interface among these three areas are

offered. The central focus in all programs is the linkage of academic learning with real life business goals and strategies. IMPAC University is now fully licensed by the State of Florida to offer graduate degrees.

## Recreation and Open Space

### City Park Facilities

The demand for outdoor recreation and open space continues to be a challenging issue. With population and demographic trends changing in Florida, a wide variety of recreational activities are needed. Increasing populations, retired populations and all income level families are seeking leisure-time activities. Thereby leading to continued demand for a variety of recreational facilities, organized open space and other leisure related activities.

As Punta Gorda's population grows, it is important that the quality of existing facilities improves as well as increasing the amount of recreation and open space to meet the needs of the community as a whole. The current City of Punta Gorda Strategic Plan identifies some of the areas the City is interested in improving and increasing services. Undeveloped Parks allows the City to plan for and provide the future service needed to manage the growing population.

The City continues to develop a park system that can be enjoyed and used by a multitude of users. Table 6.4 identifies the existing park systems which are maintained by the City's Parks and Grounds Division. The Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of City parks and recreation facilities. Approximately seventeen (17) developed parks and recreation facilities, identified on Map 6.5, are maintained by the Parks & Ground Division. Additionally, the Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division provide care and maintenance for the grounds of the City owned buildings. The Division also maintains all street trees and associated landscaping. The department operates with a maintenance staff of sixteen (16) full time employees under the direction of the Public Works Department.

Eight (8) undeveloped parks containing approximately  $\pm 30$  acres more or less exist in Punta Gorda. The City has successfully developed three (3) of the five (5) undeveloped parks listed in the 1997 Comprehensive Plan. Two properties, Zabian property and Hector House Plaza property were acquired between 1995 and 2003 assisting the City's provision of parkland in excess of five (5) acres per thousand (1,000) residents, the target included in the 1997 Comprehensive Plan. In the years to come, the City will still need to increase its parkland acreage as its population continues to rise. These acquisitions will not only ensure the City maintains an adequate number of parks, but also decrease the average distance from all residents to their nearest park.

**Table 6.4 – City of Punta Gorda Recreation Facilities and Sites**

Park Name	Location	Acres	Facilities Available	Recreation Type	Classification
AC Freedman House	639 East Hargreaves	<1	Historic museum house	Passive	Neighborhood/ Special Purpose
Alligator Creek Park	Alligator Creek & Taylor Road	<2	shoreline fishing	Resource based	Special Purpose
Alice Park	W. Retta Esplanade	1 +	Sidewalk for walking, jogging and biking, native plants, benches.	Passive	Neighborhood
Breakers (Brown) Park	Breakers Court/W. Retta Esplanade	1 +	Benches and beautiful Harbor views	Passive	Neighborhood
Charlotte County Events Center (in City owned by County)	75 Taylor Road	7+	Recreation center, fishing, picnicking	Resource-based	Special purpose
Cooper Street Recreation Center	Cooper and Mary Streets	3	Picnic Pavillion, 2 basketball courts, 1 baseball/softball field, 1 multi-purpose/open space field, 1 playground, 1 recreation center	Activity based	Neighborhood
Elizabeth & Wilson Park	Park Beach Circle	<3	Small walking/ jogging trail, native plants, benches and view	Passive	Neighborhood
Gilchrist Park	1000 West Retta Esplanade	12	Picnic tables, gazebo, 2 pavilions, , 4 tennis courts, 1 playground, 4 basketball courts, , fishing pier, sidewalk for walking, jogging & biking, gardens, restroom facilities, four parking lots.	Resource and Activity based	Special Purpose
Herald Court Plaza	Herald Court	<1	Pedestrian Plaza, fountain and seating areas	Passive	Neighborhood
Hector House Plaza	Taylor Street	<1	Pedestrian Plaza and seating areas	Passive	Neighborhood

Park Name	Location	Acres	Facilities Available	Recreation Type	Classification
History Park	Shreve Street	9	Historic structures saved from demolition; bike path/sidewalk	Resource based	Educational
Hounds of Henry	Shreve Street	<1	Fenced in dog area		Neighborhood / Special Purpose
Lashley Park*	200 Harbor Walk Dr	17	400' fishing pier, boat ramp and trailer parking, * full service public Marina, Gazebo w/fountain, Veterans garden, shelter w/ picnic tables, restrooms, sidewalks for walking, jogging and biking.	Resource based	Special Purpose
Mangrove Park	North of Patti Ave.	10	Observation piers, multi use path	Passive	Neighborhood
Punta Gorda Nature Park	1555 Aquí Esta Drive	21	Picnic tables, 1 mile nature trail hiking, jogging, two boardwalks, wetland area, educational. Signage, one fishing pier, benches and 2 parking lots.	Passive based	Neighborhood/ Environmental
Pittman Park	802 W. Retta Esplanade	1+	Sidewalk for walking, jogging and biking, native plants, benches.	Passive	Neighborhood
Ponce DeLeon Park	4000 West Marion Avenue	16	Picnic tables, historical interest, boat ramp and trailer parking, wildlife sanctuary, playground manmade beach, two fishing piers, ¼ mile boardwalk, restrooms	Resource based	Special Purpose
Sculpture Park	Corner of Henry and Marion	<1	Pond, Fountain, walking jogging and bike path	Passive	Neighborhood
Shreve Park	802 W. Retta Esplanade	<1	Sidewalk for walking, jogging and biking, native plants, benches.	Passive	Neighborhood
<b>Total Developed Park Acreage</b>		<b>109 ±</b>			

Source: Charlotte County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department 2005 and City of Punta Gorda's Urban Design 2007



Gilchrist Park Large Pavilion



Laishley Park Gazebo and Fountain



Ponce Park picnic area and playground

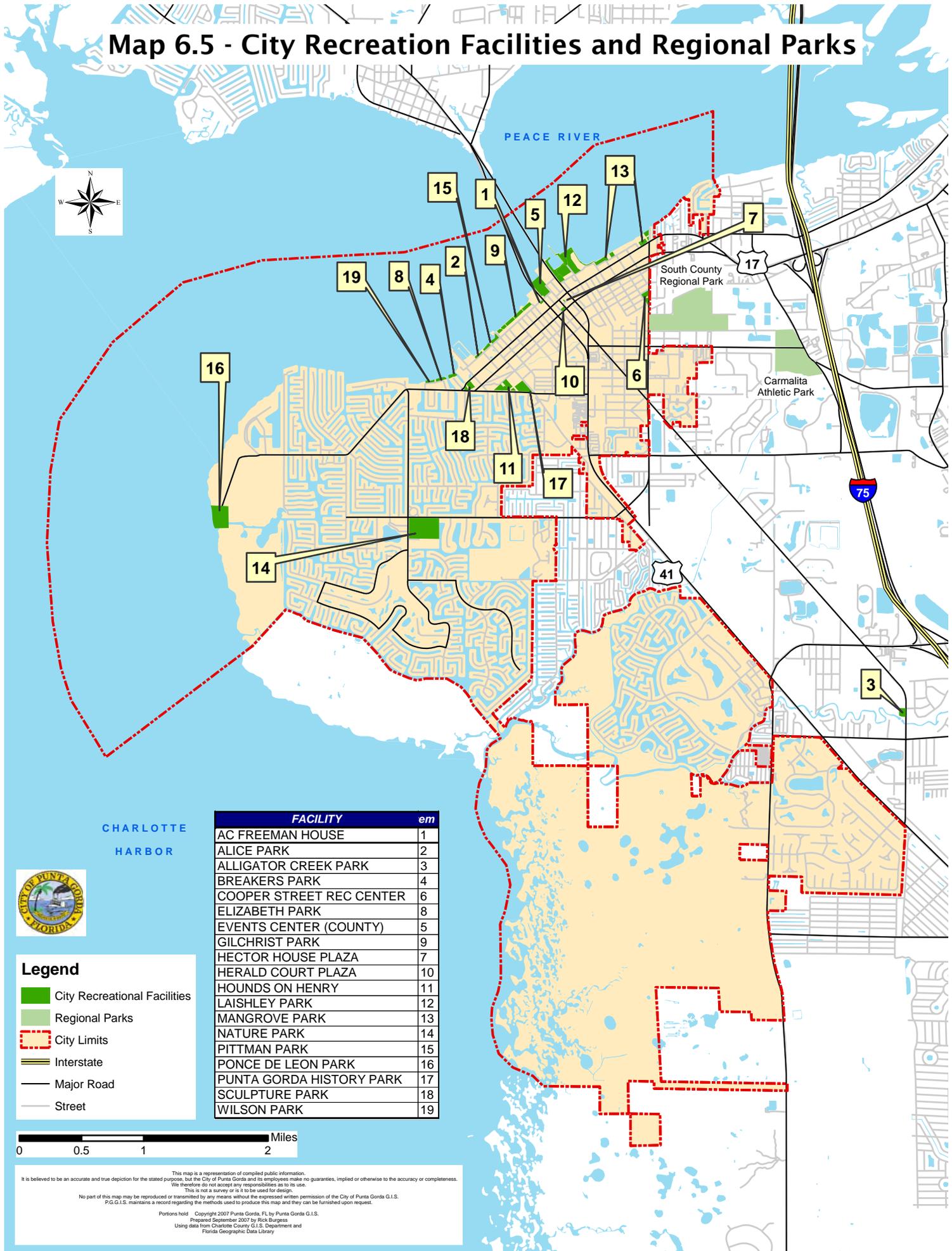
**School Facilities**

School facilities also assist the City and County to serve the daily needs of the residents. These systems provide diversity, organized and year-round programs which are very accessible to the population. These systems tend to be more intensely developed than other parks.

Park Name	District	Location	Acres	Facilities Available	Public Access	Recreation Type
Baker Elementary	City	Charlotte Avenue.	6.28	Currently being developed to contain walking trail, open field, and seating areas	X	Passive
East Elementary	East County	Fairway Drive	16.3	general play field, softball field, basketball courts, covered play area	X	Activity-based
Sallie Jones Elementary	City	Narranja Street	13.1	general play field, softball field, basketball courts, covered play area	X	Activity-based
Punta Gorda Middle	City	Carmalita Street.	20.0	baseball field, softball field, general play field, basketball courts, tennis courts	X	Activity-based
Charlotte High	City	Cooper Street.	49.54	baseball field, softball field, general practice field, tennis courts, track, football field	X	Activity-based
<b>Total Acreage</b>			<b>105.22</b>			

Source: City of Punta Gorda, Recreation & Open Space Element 2007, Urban Design

# Map 6.5 - City Recreation Facilities and Regional Parks



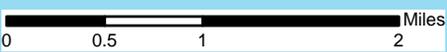
CHARLOTTE HARBOR



### Legend

- City Recreational Facilities
- Regional Parks
- City Limits
- Interstate
- Major Road
- Street

FACILITY	em
AC FREEMAN HOUSE	1
ALICE PARK	2
ALLIGATOR CREEK PARK	3
BREAKERS PARK	4
COOPER STREET REC CENTER	6
ELIZABETH PARK	8
EVENTS CENTER (COUNTY)	5
GILCHRIST PARK	9
HECTOR HOUSE PLAZA	7
HERALD COURT PLAZA	10
HOUNDS ON HENRY	11
LAISHLEY PARK	12
MANGROVE PARK	13
NATURE PARK	14
PITTMAN PARK	15
PONCE DE LEON PARK	16
PUNTA GORDA HISTORY PARK	17
SCULPTURE PARK	18
WILSON PARK	19



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## Level of Service

The current LOS standard for the City is 5.0 acres of developed parklands per functional or seasonal resident. Table 6.6 shows the current LOS per 1,000 population by a variety of land uses. It is the goal of the 2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan to review the existing LOS, the existing and future land use, existing facilities, index the permanent population and recommend a new LOS Standard.

<b>Table 6.6 – Level of Services for Recreation &amp; Open Space</b>			
Future Land Use Category	Public/Semi Public	Recreational (Developed Parks**)	Open Spaces***
Proposed Ratio per 1,000 Persons	6.5	5	145.4
Total Lands Classification by Existing Land Use	264	435	3,924
YEAR 2008			
Population*	17,651	17,651	17,651
Total Acreage Required	115	88	2,567
Anticipated Surplus or Deficit	149	347	1,357
YEAR 2013			
Population*	19,500	19,500	19,500
Total Acreage Required	127	98	2,835
Anticipated Surplus or Deficit	137	337	1,089
YEAR 2018			
Population*	21,571	21,571	21,571
Total Acreage Required	140	108	3,128
Anticipated Surplus or Deficit	124	327	796
YEAR 2025			
Population*	25,615	25,615	25,615
Total Acreage Required	160	123	3,579
Anticipated Surplus or Deficit	104	312	345

Source: 2007 Urban Design

\* Population projections from the Bureau of Economic and Business Research

\*\* Adopted City Level of Service

\*\*\*Includes Conservation from Existing Land Use categories

### ***Funding Sources***

Impact fees and ad valorem taxes are the City's principal funding sources for parks and recreation. Impact fees can be used only for land acquisition and capital improvements that increase the level of service. Operation and maintenance expenses typically come from ad valorem taxes. A host of other, less reliable, sources exist—mostly in the form of grants. State acquisition programs and some limited Federal funds can be used to acquire open space which may have passive

recreational value. The City can supplement these funds by establishing a private civic fund to channel contributions and legacies to build parks. This fund could also help finance other projects such as museums and libraries.

### **Future Plans**

The function of a park extends beyond providing open space in a community. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan, scheduled for completion 2010, will provide an inventory of existing and proposed park sites. Each will be evaluated for its design as a passive or active park, and by how the community wants to use each park (for festivals, art markets, relaxing, sports activities, etc) with amenities added accordingly. The Plan will evaluate its level of service (LOS) to the residents through the Florida State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) a set of standards developed by the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as well as the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards.

## **Health Facilities**

Medical care in the City of Punta Gorda is available through a variety of County and private providers. Treatment in virtually every medical specialty is offered by facilitators. The county's hospitals provide a range of medical, wellness, and education services. They do so with highly trained physicians and nurses, along with the help of many hundreds of volunteers. Map 6.6 shows the locations of the major health facilities available to City residents, including hospitals, public health unit facilities, and community mental health facilities. The Charlotte County Health Department's facilities are listed in Table 6.7.

### **Charlotte Regional Medical Center**



Charlotte Regional Medical Center serves the immediate vicinity. The hospital has approximately 208 beds and a variety of health services. The facility provides acute care surgery, general surgery, cardiac catheterization lab, cancer care, emergency care. Specialized treatment for alcohol, drug problems and emotional help are also provided by the facility.

Other programs include the Regional Heart Institute the Vascular Screening Institute and a wellness Center Program (exercise facility). The hospital is currently expanding its facility to provide additional service to the residents of the City and

surrounding area. The City worked with the hospital in planning for that expansion by assisting in the development of a Medical Overlay District which will facilitate the needs for the area allowing for the development of buildings which are more compatible with functioning of a medical facility.

### **Charlotte Community Mental Health Services (CCMHS)**

Charlotte Community Mental Health Services, Inc. is the primary mental health provider in the City and the County. From its campus located just outside the Punta Gorda City Limits, CCMHS provides outpatient counseling and psychotherapy, case management, crisis stabilization, the Charlotte Geriatric Residential Facility, The Haven Drop-In Center, Charlotte County Healthy Families, therapeutic family care, a mobile crisis team, and the Parenting Family Resource Center. CCMHS employs 210 full and part time employees and provides professional services to approximately 2,800 individuals for 83,000 units of services in 2001. It is reasonable to expect this caseload to increase proportionate to the County's population. People from all parts of the County utilize CCMHS which also provides emergency assessment and crisis intervention to all of the organizations in Charlotte County when those services are needed.

### **Charlotte County Health Department**

Charlotte County Health Department is located in the City of Punta Gorda. It is an agency of the Florida Department of Health and is a dually funded agency, receiving funds from both the State and the County. The role of the unit is to provide services to protect the health of the county's residents and their environment. The services which the unit provides include clinics, community health, environmental health, communicable disease control, and vital statistics. The unit also operates a primary care program which coordinates all available health services and resources for low income eligible persons.

The Charlotte County Health Department provides a wide variety of programs for the community:

Primary Care provides coordinated, comprehensive, health care for acute and chronic diseases. Included are diagnosis treatments, patient education regarding specific illnesses and their prevention, as well as good health maintenance practices. Primary care services are provided on a sliding fee scale basis. Fees are based on income and family size at the initial visit and annually updated.

The Women's Health program provides family planning, cancer and sexually transmitted disease screening through the Primary Care clinic at all three clinic sites. Fees are on a sliding scale according to income.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program serves pregnant women, breastfeeding women, infants and children who are economically disadvantaged and at specific nutritional risk. Income eligibility is set at 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. Nutritional risk includes, but not limited to such factors as: anemia, inadequate growth patterns, and complications of pregnancy. The WIC Program provides not only nutrition education, but also food vouchers for

purchase of specific nutritious foods. Comprehensive nutrition counseling and services are offered as an integral part of all personal and public health services.

The Florida KidCare program is a state initiative to improve the health of hundreds of thousands of Florida's children. Funded through federal, state and private partnerships, Florida KidCare is a high quality, low cost, full benefit health insurance program for children and teens, birth through age 18, who are not covered by any other health insurance.

The Vital Statistics Department under the direction of the State Registrar is responsible for the uniform and efficient registration, compilation, storage, and preservation of all vital records for Charlotte County. Primary functions of the department include assuring total registration of birth, death, and fetal deaths and ensuring that the confidentiality and integrity of all vital records are maintained.

Environmental Health programs are designed to ensure the safety and sanitation of our environment by enforcement of public health laws. Typical activities include inspections, complaint investigations, plan reviewing, permits and regulatory enforcement. The following are typical environmental health programs:

<b>Table 6.7 – Charlotte County Health Department Facilities and Services</b>	
<b>Services</b>	<b>Location</b>
Punta Gorda Clinic Location Services include: Vital Statistics, Women Infants Children (WIC) Program & PG Primary Care Clinic	514 E. Grace Street Punta Gorda.
Port Charlotte Primary Care Clinic	1994 Kings Highway PC Port Charlotte 33980
Administration	1105 Taylor Road Punta Gorda, 33950
Englewood Primary Care Clinics, Includes Primary Care Clinic, WIC Program	6868 San Casa Road Englewood.
Environmental Health	18500 Murdock Circle, Room 203 Port Charlotte.

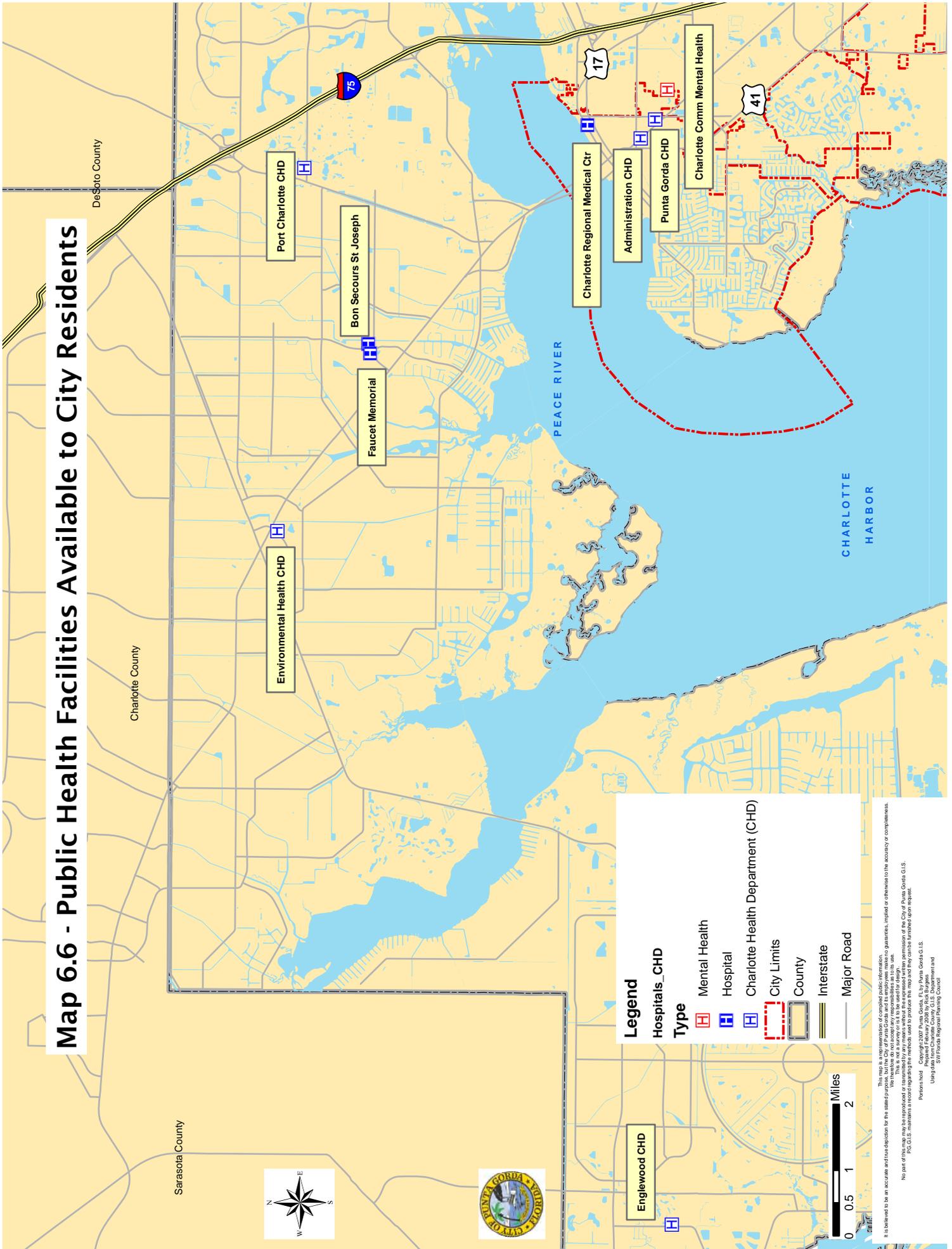
Source: Charlotte County Public Health Unit information brochure.

### ***Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes***

There are a variety of facilities and services for retirees in the City. These include centers for independent living, in-home care, assisted living or the full services of a nursing facility. There are numerous congregate living facilities and nursing homes in the City and the County and there is a demand for more, especially affordable/subsidized facilities. Demand will increase considerably, as the “baby-

boomer generation” starts retiring. This demand will require a significant addition of assisted living facilities and nursing homes. The Housing Element contains a more detailed discussion regarding these facilities.

# Map 6.6 - Public Health Facilities Available to City Residents



This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be an accurate and trustworthy for the stated purpose. However, the City of Punta Gorda does not warrant, imply or otherwise to the accuracy or completeness of the information. This is not a survey and is to be used for informational purposes only. No part of this map may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the City of Punta Gorda, FL. Copyright 2007 Punta Gorda, FL by Punta Gorda, FL. Using data from Charlotte County, FL Department and SW Florida Regional Planning Council.

## **Human Services (not operated by the City)**

Human services are provided to the City's residents by numerous public, private and non-profit agencies. Churches, religious organizations, and support groups also provide human services to their membership and the community. Each organization provides selected services that are based on its funding availability and targeted to serve specialized needs. Eligibility criteria are determined by the individual agencies.

### **Charlotte County's Department of Human Services**

The County's Department of Human Services is available to the City's residents under the direction of the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners. It employs social workers, case managers and program specialists who determine eligibility for several county, state, and federally funded grant programs which provide assistance to individuals and families. Services provided through these programs include 2-1-1 information and referral, economic counseling, hospital and prescription assistance, indigent burials, emergency food assistance, and home energy and utility assistance.

As a result of the large percentage of seniors in the City and the County, the Department has a separate division which serves only seniors, and focuses on aging issues and concerns. Additional grant funding from the Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, allows for several additional programs. They include: the Alzheimer's disease Initiative, the Medicaid Waiver Program, and the Home Care for Elderly Program. Other senior services include: case management, case aide, screening and assessment, homemaker, personal care, respite, transportation, companionship, congregate and home delivered meals, nutrition education, chore, emergency alert response, and outreach. Participation in human services programs currently ranges between 1,000 and 1,500 people per year.

The provision of human services is largely impacted by state and federal government. Federal welfare reform in the 1990's radically changed the scope of services that had been provided for more than thirty years. The Florida Department of Children and Families has already seen the privatization of several of its programs and the trend by state government toward privatization and local devolution continues.

### **Department of Children and Families**

The Department of Children and Families is a state agency which has many functions. It serves everyone from infants to senior citizens, while providing a wide range of programs and services. These services include aging and adult services, children and families protective supervision, children, youth and families (voluntary family services, child protection investigation, and foster care), developmental services, emergency preventive dental program, an economic

services/payment unit, emergency financial assistance for housing program, Florida adoption reunion registry, and project independence (career counseling, job training, etc.).

The City's aging population, which will continue to grow with the retirement of the "baby boomers", will require that their needs be considered in developing priorities and funding for long-term health care. Other issues facing the very elderly population include affordable and appropriate housing, prescriptions, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, transportation and family support.

### **Other Services**

Many public-private partnerships exist to link human service providers, non-profit agencies, faith-based organizations, and volunteers. Post hurricane season of 2004, the human services community developed a strong desire to work together in the recovery efforts by pooling funding resources, identifying unmet needs, and coordinating service delivery. These facilities are listed in Table 6.8 below.

<b>Human Service Provider</b>	<b>Service Provided</b>
Charlotte County Homeless Coalition	Provides shelter, food, financial assistance and works to change the personal and societal conditions which lead to homelessness. The Homeless Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization funded by government, corporate, individual and United Way support.
The Charlotte County Council on Aging	Assists elderly in filling out insurance/Medicare forms, visits homebound, provides discount transportation (Elderly transportation clients pay only 25% of Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda taxi fares.)
The United Way of Charlotte County	Programs developed that distribute basic needs and assistance, strengthen families, help kids succeed, prevent crime & violence and promote health & independence among the elderly. Volunteers provide these needed services.
Our Charlotte Elder Affairs Network (OCEAN)	Advocates for elderly. Provides information about services, make referrals to assisting agencies, analyze unmet needs and possible solutions
The Charlotte HIV-AIDS Network (CHAN)	Provides assistance and support to people with HIV and AIDS. Provides hotline service, volunteer assistance, support groups, a food pantry, advocacy, and referral to other available services.
Children & Families First	Program offers a variety of social services and educational programs for students and families Meadow Park and Vineland Elementary Schools. .
Emergency Shelters and Interim/ Transitional Housing	Provides shelters and housing for survivors of violence and abuse. Two facilities: the Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (CARE) and Domestic Abuse and Shelter Homes (DASH).
Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (CARE)	The center located in south-County area, has 22 beds in a range of bedroom sizes, as well as shared kitchen facilities. CARE coordinates a number of services with other agencies, and conducts outreach work.
Inter-Faith, Inter-Agency Network of Charlotte County (IINCC)	Non-profit agency was formed to assist in the collaboration of human services agencies, available resources and volunteers.
Charlotte County Collective (C3),	Educate and advocate on behalf of the of their target populations and to promote coordination and cooperation among the County's human services providers
Alliance for a Safe and Drug Free Community	Educate and advocate on behalf of the of their target populations and to promote coordination and cooperation among the County's human services providers

Source: Urban Design 2007

## **Social Services**

There are many other social programs and services available to the residents through Charlotte County. A sampling of these programs and services include:

The Charlotte County Veterans Services with offices located in Punta Gorda, provides advice, counseling, and assistance in filing for U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs benefits such as pensions, compensation, death benefits, health care, etc. The office also assists eligible claimants with State of Florida veterans' benefits such as disabled veterans license tags, real estate tax exemptions, and more.

## **Cultural Resources' Facilities**

Cultural life in the City is diverse and growing. Activities range from art lessons and gallery walks, exhibits, to community theater groups, choral groups, symphony orchestras and Broadway road shows. Cultural programs are in place throughout the City and County for both children and adults, which include painting, craft, piano, instrument and voice lessons and dance, music and theater groups. There are a wide variety of other fine performing groups. The small non-profit cultural groups in the city continue to grow in size and number and provide cultural activities by private or independent sponsors. Table 6.9 lists some of the facilities and services available to the City's residents.

<b>Cultural Resource Facility/Service</b>	<b>Description of Facility/Service Provided</b>
The Arts & Humanities Council 25096 Marion Ave., Punta Gorda	Funded through local, state and grant dollars. Offers a variety of programs including educational activities, and the Art in Public Places program. Represents and promotes more than 60 associated organizations. Advocates, supports, and develops cultural life through activities such as an annual cultural calendar, a bimonthly newspaper, an Arts in Public Places program, an all-arts festival in February an Arts Awards Program, lectures, workshops, an after school arts program and community outreach.
The Charlotte County Event Center 75 Taylor St. Punta Gorda  (Damaged by Hurricane Charley in 2004, the facility is being rebuilt)	Upon completion, will provide events, conferences, shows and will contribute to the City of Punta Gorda's downtown area.
The Visual Arts Center 210 Maude St. Punta Gorda	Not-for-profit organization that has been in existence for over 30 years. It has an exhibit hall, gift shop, student galleries, classrooms, provides an ever changing exhibit of the artistic talents of the Art Guild members.
The Charlotte County Performing Arts Center 701 Carmalita St. Punta Gorda	A collaborative funding effort between the Charlotte County School Board, The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, The City of Punta Gorda, and the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs Grant, resulted in the opening of the 900 seat theatre in 2003. Provides professional quality performing arts performances, but also meets the original high school demand for an auditorium, a band room, choir room and adjacent classrooms.
The Society for Entertainment and Arts Development (S.E.A.D.) 2424 Placida Rd. #D-301, Englewood	Provides educational programs for the youth of Charlotte County.
The Charlotte Symphony 701 Carmalita St., Punta Gorda	Performs concerts featuring nationally known guest artists and a variety of classic symphonic music with performances at the new Charlotte Performing Arts Center.
The Charlotte County Jazz Society	Dedicated to increasing the availability of jazz music in the area and promotes the study and appreciation of this original American art form.
The Charlotte Players Port Charlotte Cultural Center	Oldest performing arts organization in the county performing five mainstage productions a year. The performances are held at the Port Charlotte Cultural Center Theater.
The Sea Grape Gallery 13 W Marion Ave., Punta Gorda	The Sea Grape Gallery is a cooperative of 25 local artists that showcases established and developing artists' work.

Source: Urban Design 2007

## **Future Facilities Needs**

In determining the future facility needs, the City will implement sound compact and contiguous urban techniques. Through the implementation of the land development regulations, the City will continue to developing a coherent built environment which respects local historical and regional architecture, an integrated and balanced transportation system, adequate provision of utility infrastructure, schools, parks and other public necessities, and preservation of the natural environment. The City will evaluate the population projections, development trends and needs analysis to determine the future facilities. The evaluation recommendations will be incorporated within the Capital Improvements Program as it plans for new facilities during the next planning decade.

## V. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

**Goal 6.1:** Within financial feasibility, the City will provide high-quality and accessible community facilities and services which meet the information, educational, recreational, safety, health, welfare, and justice needs of its citizens.

**Objective 6.1.1:** The City of Punta Gorda will provide general government public facilities and services to meet the needs generated by new and existing residents of the community.

**Policy 6.1.1.1:** The City of Punta Gorda will develop personnel growth and space needs plans to assist in the determination of necessary public facilities and services.

*Measurement: Review of Strategic and Business Plans.*

**Policy 6.1.1.2:** The City of Punta Gorda will encourage urban center development (compact and diverse) with the siting and design of its future community facilities and services.

*Measurement: The development or redevelopment of community facilities and services implementing the Land Development Regulations.*

**Policy 6.1.1.3:** The City of Punta Gorda will place a high priority on flexibility in design, and will seek to share facilities where appropriate.

*Measurement: Number of shared use agreements signed and or implemented.*

**Objective 6.1.2:** The City of Punta Gorda will continue to assist in providing and maintaining a high-quality, accessible system of public libraries to meet the information, educational and recreational needs of City's residents and visitors.

**Policy 6.1.2.1:** The City will continue to work with the County through the collection of impact fees which incorporate funding for public libraries, as allowed by law.

**Measurement:** *Continued collection of impact fees.*

**Objective 6.1.3:** The City of Punta Gorda will coordinate with the School Board to provide a public education system which meets the needs of City's and County's existing and future population

**Policy 6.1.3.1:** The City of Punta Gorda will establish mechanisms designed to coordinate with the Charlotte County School Board, in order to provide to the greatest extent possible, compatibility between local land use and public school planning.

**Measurement:** *The implementation of the Interlocal School Agreement and number of School Concurrency Approval Development Letters included in the City's Staff Reports.*

**Policy 6.1.3.2:** The City of Punta Gorda will coordinate with the School Board to permit the joint use of school sites and City facilities with similar facility needs, such as libraries, parks and recreation facilities, health care facilities, and emergency shelters.

**Measurement:** *The adoption of the updated Interlocal School Siting and Facility Update Agreement.*

**Objective 6.1.4:** The City of Punta Gorda will both maintain and expand, when necessary, the Fire and Emergency Medical Services delivery system in order to provide the highest level of safety and protection to its citizens and property.

**Policy 6.1.4.1:** The City of Punta Gorda will coordinate the Five Year Stations Location and Master Plan with this comprehensive plan and its urban service area strategy.

**Measurement:** *The addition of new facilities within the urban core necessary to maintain the level of service to the City's residents and businesses.*

**Policy 6.1.4.2:** The City of Punta Gorda will continue to work with Interlocal Agreements to strengthen response times.

**Measurement:** *Number of Interlocal Agreements updated to improve response times.*

**Policy 6.1.4.3:** The City of Punta Gorda will continue to advance its technology and equipment with changing times.

**Measurement:** *Number of programs developed or implemented to meet local needs.*

**Objective 6.1.5:** The City of Punta Gorda will provide for the safety of its residents and visitors by maintaining or improving emergency storm plans.

**Policy 6.1.5.1:** The City of Punta Gorda will explore opportunities for developing additional refuge/shelter space possibilities, especially within the Category 4 or 5 hurricane storm surge zone.

**Measurement:** *The development of new shelter space facilities.*

**Policy 6.1.5.2:** The City of Punta Gorda will develop a mitigation plan to reduce the effects of natural hazards.

**Measurement:** *The completion of a mitigation plan and it's annual update.*

**Objective 6.1.6:** The City of Punta Gorda will endeavor to support those public facilities and services that provide for the health, safety, and well-being of the City's residents.

**Policy 6.1.6.1:** The City of Punta Gorda will encourage outreach and education efforts regarding mental and physical health, physical and emotional abuse prevention and recovery, substance abuse, and gang interdiction.

**Measurement:** *The number of public - private partnerships formed or public educational programs developed which enhance or promote public safety practices.*

**Policy 6.1.6.2:** The City of Punta Gorda will foster cooperation and coordination within the County to establish a clear direction which

minimizes duplication of effort and maximizes community resources.

***Measurement:** The review of development projects, Interlocal Agreements, and memorandums of agreements when requested.*

**Objective 6.1.7:** The City of Punta Gorda will provide support to the City's Police Department which will strengthen their policing capabilities and help to secure the safety of residents and visitors.

**Policy 6.1.7.1:** The City of Punta Gorda will engage in cooperative planning to accommodate growth and ensure safety. The City will encourage partnerships between public and private sectors and between community groups, local government and law enforcement agencies in order to amass and share information regarding planning and design practices that succeed in enhancing safety.

***Measurement:** The number of public - private partnerships formed or public educational programs developed which enhance or promote public safety practices.*

**Objective 6.1.8:** The City of Punta Gorda will support the development of the arts and arts-related activities, thereby enhancing the quality of life, civic and social pride, and community identity for its residents and visitors.

**Policy 6.1.8.1:** The City of Punta Gorda, will support the development of a public art program that seeks to improve the aesthetics of the City, increase civic and social pride, as well as increase community identity.

***Measurement:** The completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.*

**Policy 6.1.8.2:** The City of Punta Gorda will endeavor to expand its facilities and become a venue for more conventions, small scale exhibitions, and conferences.

***Measurement:** The provision of infrastructure services, the approval of development projects and the provision of a*

*Future Land Use Map which promote proposed development for facilities that support these activities.*

**Policy 6.1.8.3:** The City of Punta Gorda will consider the development of an annual awards program that would give recognition to design excellence in public and private development projects in the City.

**Measurement:** *The continuation of the recognition awards programs for projects completed within the City.*