Economic Development & Growth Management

"Promote sustainable growth, investment, and development to achieve a vibrant and diversified economy, offering a mixture of services and local employment opportunities."

Key Projects:

- Accela Implementation
- Unified Land Development Code Rewrite
- Impact Fee Incentive Program for Targeted Industries and Impact Fee Deferral Update
- Housing Study
- Activity Center 6 Master Plan
- Legacy Trail Extension Parking Enhancements
- Warm Mineral Springs Park Master Plan Implementation
- Entrepreneurial Leadership Center and Programming
- Support of Suncoast Technical College Expansion

CORE SERVICES

- Business Attraction and Recruitment Services
- Local Business Retention and Expansion Services
- Business Climate
- Current Planning
- Comprehensive Planning

Priority 1. Support workforce development programs in partnership with federal, state, local, and not-for-profit organizations to influence the workforce pipeline supply.

Programs/Initiatives:

- Pursue the development of a diversified economy that supports a wide range of businesses and sectors representative of targeted employers.
    - **ED&GM - Indicator 1.1:** Track the out-of-city workforce rate with a goal of achieving and maintaining a downward trend.
    - **ED&GM - Indicator 1.2:** Determine a realistic reduction of retail leakage (out of town spending) that can be realized within three years; create and implement a strategy to achieve the predetermined reduction.
    - **ED&GM – Indicator 1.3:** Advocate for large scale, impactful business developments in North Port for high-skill/high-wage employment opportunities.

- **ED&GM - Indicator 1.4:** Increase the number of viable projects and maintain the project pipeline, specifically targeting jobs at or above the median wage of the region.
- **ED&GM – Indicator 1.5:** Track educational levels of workforce with goal of increasing employment skills & credentials to meet the needs of employers coming to the City.

Priority 2. Improve City processes and regulations to support a business climate of innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment.

Programs/Initiatives:

- Develop and approve a series of economic development incentive programs and policies to encourage targeted development investment opportunities.
  - **ED&GM - Indicator 2.1:** Develop incentive program(s) compatible with attracting and/or retaining high-wage employers.

    ED&GM - Indicator 2.2: Implement concurrent application review to reduce overall review time.
  - **ED&GM - Indicator 2.3:** Implement "fast-track" program for identified Economic Development projects.
- Improve & maintain a Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) and Business Recruitment & Attraction (BRA) Plans.
  - **ED&GM – Indicator 2.4:** Track economic development outreach in concert with the Sarasota County Economic Development Council for existing and new businesses.
- Complete a customer-focused streamlined permitting process to stimulate economic development.
  - **ED&GM - Indicator 2. 5:** Present the overall update to the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) to City Commission for adoption.
  - **ED&GM - Indicator 2.6:** Develop a Post-Project Review/Audit process to ensure developer commitments have been completed and maintained.

- **ED&GM - Indicator 2.7:** Process and review of land development petitions under established timelines 80% of the time.

- Review and revise (if necessary) Master Plans in Activity Centers #1, #3, #5, #6, and #7.

- Seek and support enhanced availability of broadband access in North Port.

- Encourage walkable mixed-use development in North Port.

  - **ED&GM - Indicator 2.8:** Adopt incentives for walkable mixed-use development through revisions to Unified Land Development Code (ULDC).

Priority 3. Seek opportunities for strategic annexations in support of commercial development.

Priority 4. Strive to increase North Port's overall commercial/industrial land use percentage to 18% by 2033.

  - **ED&GM - Indicator 4.1:** Publish Annual Report highlighting Total Taxable Value percentages of Industrial, Commercial, & Residential classifications year over year.

Priority 5. Implement additional phases of the Warm Mineral Springs Master Plan and support development in North Port's Opportunity Zone, which includes Warm Mineral Springs, and the trailhead for Legacy Trail.

Priority 6. Pursue diversified housing options and affordability for current and future residents.

  - **ED&GM - Indicator 6.1:** Undertake a Community Housing Needs Study with recommended options and strategies for the City Commission's consideration.

  - **ED&GM - Indicator 6.2:** Propose options for affordable housing incentives to the City Commission.

- **ED&GM - Indicator 6.3:** Research and propose land use incentives to reflect inclusionary zoning.

Priority 7. Improve City gateway entry features to convey a sense of arrival in North Port.

- **ED&GM - Indicator 7.1:** Explore and present options for gateway entry features.