

IV. Goals, Objectives and Policies

Introduction

The following represents the Livable City Element goals, objectives and policies of the City of New Port Richey. These goals, objectives and policies are intended to address the establishment of long-term directives for preserving and enhancing the community's natural, social and economic environments.

Implementation

The implementation of objectives and policies contained in this section shall be facilitated through the application of the regulations set forth in the City Code of Ordinances and Land Development Code, as appropriate.

Goal LIV 1: City Level Design

An enhanced sense of community through development designed to foster public life and meet citywide needs.

Traditional Neighborhood Design

Objective LIV 1.1

Preserve and continue a pattern of compact, walkable neighborhoods supported by Centers and Employment Districts providing locally-oriented goods and services and employment opportunities.

Policies

LIV 1.1.1 Encourage new development and redevelopment to utilize traditional neighborhood development (TND) principles which address the following features:

- a. *Neighborhood identity*: Compatibility of neighborhood components, distinctively designed streets and public spaces and gateways and emphasis on natural features.
- b. *Residential variety and diversity*:



Public spaces contribute to neighborhood identity.



The diverse housing stock allows a range of incomes within the same neighborhood.



Appropriately scaled parks within walking distance of each other are important community gathering spaces.

Varied residential densities, a mixture of housing types, ancillary dwellings, and home-based employment opportunities.

- c. *Coordinated community planning:* Create synergies through connected open spaces, active uses facing public spaces, collocation of school sites and parks, and coordinated utilities placement.
- d. *Central places:* Neighborhood serving uses at a central gathering place with high quality pedestrian environments.
- e. *Linkages:* Interconnectivity of neighborhoods internally and to surrounding neighborhoods via a grid network of streets, sidewalks and open space (e.g., greenways).
- f. *Mobility choices:* Walkable-scale blocks and streets system providing alternative trip routes (i.e., grid network), sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle facilities and transit stops.
- g. *Cars and streets:* Streets scaled to discourage speeding, with on-street parking, where feasible.
- h. *Parking:* Cars stored toward the back of the lot, accessible by alleys, when feasible; shared driveways; and duplex or quadriplex garages at the rear lot line.
- i. *Street-friendly housing:* Housing close to and facing the street with active areas such as porches, windows and doorways oriented to the street; garages located to the side or rear, or set back deeper than the main part of the house.
- j. *Social space:* A variety of sizes and types of open space in each neighborhood, encouraging both active and passive uses and fostering interaction between neighbors.
- k. *Design:* Design sensitivity to established natural, physical or cultural contexts.



Shaded streets provide pedestrian comfort and consequently encourage pedestrian use.



A well-designed street is narrow enough to discourage speeding but wide enough to allow on-street parking.



Street-friendly housing is close and oriented to the street.

Mixed Use Development

Objective LIV 1.2

Mixed-use developments that create inviting and attractive destinations through synergistic relationships between buildings, spaces and the pedestrian-oriented transportation system.

Policies

LIV 1.2.1 Mixed use development shall be of an appropriate size and scale for the neighborhood and designed to enliven the street. Certain conditions and performance standards will be applied concerning such issues as noise, glare, air quality, traffic and parking.

LIV 1.2.2 At minimum, new mixed use developments shall conform to the existing character of the neighborhood in the following ways:

- a. Maximize views of significant landmarks;
- b. Reflect significant architectural styles in the neighborhood;
- c. Varied and interesting building designs;
- d. Connection to the local street pattern as much as possible in the layout of mixed use developments; and
- e. Incorporation and highlighting of existing historic sites, as well as the natural environment, in the overall architectural and landscape design.

LIV 1.2.3 The City shall develop design standards for all mixed use zoning districts providing for building heights, rear parking or structured parking, street-facing windows and entries, and zero setback along the street, except that front gardens may be provided for ground floor residential uses. These zoning designations and their accompanying design standards and performance requirements are proposed to provide a new form of mixed use development that results in a high quality environment with a strong pedestrian-oriented streetscape and minimal adverse impacts.



This mixed use development has dwelling units on the second floor and office space on the first.



The development shown in the top photo has rear parking that is accessed from a side street. .



A mixed use development with “shop top” housing where retail and services are convenient to residents. Notice the high quality public space adjacent to the street.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Objective LIV 1.3

Safer, more livable communities that foster interaction between people and discourage criminal activities through effective use and property design of the physical environment.

Policies

LIV 1.3.1 Incorporate public safety considerations and CPTED techniques into project design and development review for new development and redevelopment in the City.

LIV 1.3.2 Natural surveillance techniques should be considered in the location of physical features, mix of activities and uses, people and lighting in such a way as to maximize visibility.

LIV 1.3.3 Promote the inclusion of pedestrian-friendly streets and sidewalks as a means of natural surveillance.

LIV 1.3.4 Encourage site and building design that orients doors and windows to overlook streets and parking areas.

LIV 1.3.5 Physical attributes that express ownership, such as pavement treatments, landscaping, art, signage, screening and fences should be used as a form of territorial reinforcement.

LIV 1.3.6 Sidewalks, entrances, landscaping and fencing should be used as natural access control to provide physical guidance to and from entrances and exits and to prevent public access from dark or unmonitored areas.

LIV 1.3.7 Low-growing landscaping, outdoor lighting and property maintenance should be used to maximize visibility on a site, in accordance with CPTED principles.

LIV 1.3.8 Delineate private space from public space with plantings, pavement designs, gateway treatments, and low fencing, where feasible.

LIV 1.3.9 Open space areas and accesses thereto should be located and designed to maximize natural surveillance as a measure to enhance community safety and crime prevention and minimize opportunities for public nuisance.



Active environments contribute to natural surveillance of the street.



Buildings oriented to the street with windows along the front of the building reinforce natural surveillance of the street.



The picket fence along the front of this building serves as a form of territorial reinforcement.

Sustainability

Objective LIV 1.4

Reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and minimize waste and pollution in order to promote a more healthy, productive and sustainable community.

Policies

LIV 1.4.1 Promote and encourage building, site and community design that increases energy efficiency.



This mall is automobile-oriented and devoid of trees and green space; features that do not contribute to a community's long term sustainability.

LIV 1.4.2 Select plant material appropriate to the local climate, soils, and water availability to conserve water, reduce pesticide use, reduce plant mortality, and lower maintenance costs.

LIV 1.4.3 Promote development within environmentally suitable areas including land previously developed (e.g., redevelopment and infill development).

LIV 1.4.6 Minimize the amount of sites dedicated to impervious surfaces.

LIV 1.4.7 Consider implementation of a Dark Sky Initiative as a means of reducing light pollution and energy consumption.



Well designed outdoor lighting can promote safety, minimize light trespass and nuisance, and conserve energy.

LIV 1.4.6 Preserve the City's urban forest through tree protection regulations and reforestation programs.

Like biking and walking, transit can reduce our "environmental footprint" by using less fuel and creating less pollution than single-occupancy cars.

Trees are an important component of the livable and sustainable city. Trees reduce pollution and stormwater runoff, increase oxygen, improve soils, conserve water and provide shade.



Open Space

Objective LIV 1.5

Create open spaces that soften the visual impact of the built environment, create recreational opportunities and provide for wildlife habitat and movement.

Policies

LIV 1.5.1 In coastal areas, open space shall include conservation areas, preservation areas, mitigation areas, greenways and passive recreational uses such as boardwalks and nature observation areas.



Green space balances the hardscape of the urban environment.

LIV 1.5.2 When feasible, required open space should include as much of the most significant, productive, or sensitive natural resources areas on the site as possible. The siting of development should be controlled to minimize impacts on the functions of the open space and the natural resources therein.



This picturesque vista of the river is protected by designated open space.

LIV 1.5.3 In established neighborhoods, open space may include preservation area, mitigation areas, amenity stormwater systems, and trails.

LIV 1.5.4 Functional recreation and civic spaces shall include but not be limited to parks, tot lots, trails, public squares and plazas.

LIV 1.5.5 Protect views of the Pithlachascotee River and other valued views through design techniques such as building setbacks, heights and massing.



Preservation of open space through acquisition and development regulations are methods of protecting natural lands for enjoyment by future generations.

LIV 1.5.6 Development and redevelopment shall include functional civic space located with convenient access for intended users.

LIV 1.5.7 When feasible, open space, recreation and civic space for developments should be integrated into or oriented to a system of open space (e.g., greenways), particularly when contiguous parcels have already been identified or reserved for such purposes.

LIV 1.5.9 New development and redevelopment are encouraged to preserve linear open space corridors or create new ones, particularly where such corridors would connect to an existing or planned multi-use trails or community focal points such as parks, schools and shopping in the vicinity of the development.



Clustered development allows sensitive environmental lands to be conserved.



Integration of open space into a greenway and trail system is beneficial from both recreational and natural systems perspectives.



A maintenance plan should be developed for designated open space.

Creative Space

Objective LIV 1.6

Expand public experience and exposure to culture, create vitality and enhance the aesthetic environment through public art and places within the community oriented to the arts community.

Policies

LIV 1.6.1 Consider public art and cultural facilities as a public benefit in connection with new development projects.

LIV 1.6.2 Provide for the incorporation of public art in the design and construction of public facilities.

LIV 1.6.3 Create an environment in the City in which creative professionals may live and work successfully. Seek opportunities for affordable live/work spaces for artists and other types of creative workers.

LIV 1.6.4 Continue to invest in community facilities such as the library and recreation center as places for civic, cultural and social exchange, and encourage activities and programs involving the arts, heritage and interpretive sciences.

LIV 1.6.5 Ensure that public art projects are compatible with the character and identity of the surrounding neighborhood.

LIV 1.6.6 Use the work of artists, craftspeople, architects and landscape architects in the design and improvement of public spaces.



Affordable live/work spaces for artists can foster the City's creative sector.



This public art is at a recreation center.



Public art can convey a community's history.

Murals are significant in that they bring art into the public sphere. For artists, their work gets a wide audience that otherwise might not set foot in an art gallery.



Outdoor Gathering Space

Objective LIV 1.7

Provide functional places for civic engagement in neighborhoods which serve to foster and enrich public life.

Policies

LIV 1.7.1 Promote development that incorporates plazas, green space and other focal elements appropriate for public gatherings, outdoor dining, open air markets, seasonal events, vendor carts and kiosks.



Locate civic spaces in locations that allow users to observe activities on the street or enjoy a scenic view.

LIV 1.7.2 Promote the use of community and cultural centers, libraries, schools, parks, religious facilities and other community facilities as gathering places.



Provide comfortable seating areas and plazas with places for public art adjacent to library and other community center entryways.

LIV 1.7.3 Enhance entrances to recreational facilities so that they are inviting and facilitate public gatherings.

LIV 1.7.4 Encourage small-scale retail in civic spaces, such as cafes, newspaper stands, and coffee carts.

LIV 1.7.5 Seek potential new sites for art and cultural facilities, public spaces, open space and community gardens that encourage and support pedestrian and bicycle travel and person-to-person contact, particularly in neighborhoods that lack these amenities.



Outdoor gathering space can be informal green space like this example with walkways, decorative lighting and an architectural focal point.

LIV 1.7.6 Create “outdoor rooms” by partially surrounding the space by buildings, landscaping elements and architectural features and limiting interaction with moving vehicles. Multiple buildings on a single parcel can be arranged to create courts, plazas, patios and covered space.

Public Infrastructure

Objective LIV 1.8

Public infrastructure design that contributes to the community aesthetic.

Policies

LIV 1.8.1 Look for opportunities to incorporate art in the design of public infrastructure such as bridges and sound walls.

LIV 1.8.2 Remove or mitigate elements of existing infrastructure that are visually unappealing or disruptive.

LIV 1.8.3 Encourage the use of compact and well-designed utility elements, such as transformers, switching devices, and backflow preventers. Place these elements in locations that will minimize their visual intrusion and buffer with landscaping.

LIV 1.8.4 Encourage regional stormwater facilities to accommodate stormwater in a central facility and reduce gaps in the urban fabric created by stormwater facilities on individual sites.



Stormwater retention facilities can be designed to have a natural appearance.



Landscape treatment of stormwater as pictured can effectively address water management as well as provide an attractive amenity to developments.

This retaining wall for an overpass on US 19 has decorative panels to improve its appearance.



Schools

Objective LIV 1.9

Integrate school facilities with surrounding neighborhoods in a manner that encourages pedestrian and bicycle travel and strengthens the development pattern and design integrity of neighborhoods.

Policies

LIV 1.9.1 Encourage school design that is compatible to the existing or planned development pattern in the surrounding neighborhood.

LIV 1.9.3 Schools and other publicly-owned community facilities such as libraries, parks and community centers can be collocated to allow for shared resources, cost savings and opportunities for greater social interaction.

LIV 1.9.4 Encourage middle and elementary school design to accommodate drop-offs and pick-ups on site, without interrupting traffic flow on local streets.

LIV 1.9.5 School facilities should be sized and located to enable children to walk or bicycle to them.

LIV 1.9.6 Encourage “walk to school” programs (e.g., walking school buses) to increase safety and to reduce school-related automobile trips.

LIV 1.9.6 Participate in the FDOT Safe Routes to School funding program to increase pedestrian safety and encourage walking as the primary mode of travel to schools.

LIV 1.9.7 Connect schools to residential neighborhoods, parks and other community focal points through sidewalks and trails.

LIV 1.9.8 Coordinate with the School Board and the MPO for the provision of sidewalk facilities on school routes.



Participants in a “walking school bus” program.



The Schwettman Education Center campus (old Gulf High School) is characteristic of traditional design that compliments the neighborhood.

Streets and Alleys Network

Objective LIV 1.10

Preserve, enhance and extend the pattern and character of the streets and alleyway system, including the prevailing grid, as a means to facilitating multimodal mobility and reducing the future need for wider streets.

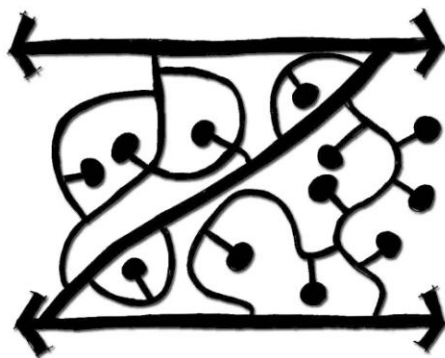
Policies

LIV 1.10.1 Where conditions permit, new development should be designed around a grid network of streets, or a modified grid, to improve interconnectivity between neighborhoods and surrounding neighborhood-serving uses.

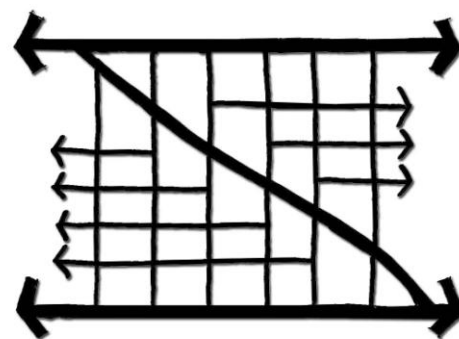
LIV 1.10.2 Provide a sufficient number of intersections in the street network so that automobiles and other transportation modes have multiple path choices and traffic can spread out uniformly in the network.



Curvilinear street patterns and few intersections in this conventional subdivision reduce the number of paths available to drivers and pedestrians.



Curvilinear streets that terminate with cul-de-sacs increase trip lengths to multiple destinations, limit available routes creating overburdened collector streets and make way-finding difficult.



The grid patterned street and alley network is direct to multiple destinations, provides alternative routes when obstructions are present and is easy to navigate.

Greenways and Trails Network

Objective LIV 1.11

Create a citywide network of greenways and trails to connect people with places, enhance the beauty of neighborhoods, improve the economy through tourism and provide opportunities for physical activity to improve fitness and mental health.

Policies

LIV 1.11.1 Require development to provide a trail in lieu of a sidewalk when proximate to existing or planned trails.

LIV 1.11.2 Choose trail routes that minimize the number of at-grade crossings with streets or driveways. Where crossings are unavoidable, signalized intersections with high visibility crosswalks are recommended.

LIV 1.11.3 Trails should connect residential neighborhoods to community focal points such as civic places, schools, parks and shopping.

LIV 1.11.4 As a means to enhance trail connectivity, coordinate trail planning with neighboring jurisdictions to match and link elements when a trail crosses jurisdictional boundaries.

LIV 1.11.5 Obtain use rights for creation of greenways and trails through cooperative agreements, easement-based public lands, public rights-of-way and fee simple land acquisition.



Off-street trails, like the Pinellas Trail, are the most enjoyable to users.



Coordinated trail planning among neighboring jurisdictions makes trails more useful for commuting.



Trail street crossings should be clearly demarcated to increase driver visibility of trail users.



This trail was built where a sidewalk previously existed.

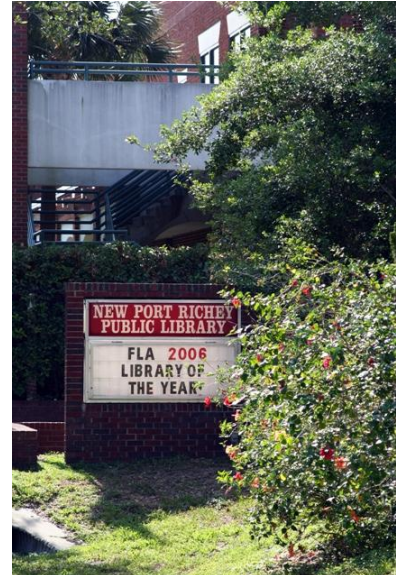
Public Library

Objective LIV 1.12

Help meet the informational, educational, recreational, cultural and economic development needs of the community through facilities and services of the New Port Richey Public Library.

Policies

- LIV 1.12.1 Continue to provide the community with quality library programs and services through support of the adopted New Port Richey Public Library Long Range Plan.
- LIV 1.12.2 Provide adequate library space to comfortably serve library patronage.
- LIV 1.12.3 Provide programs and services that meet the informational, recreational, cultural and research needs of the community.
- LIV 1.12.4 Support the business community and the City's redevelopment by continuing to attract patrons to Downtown.
- LIV 1.12.5 Consider ways to expand the library and library parking to accommodate the needs of the community.



The City's Public Library is an important community focal point which attracts people to Downtown.



The New Port Richey Public Library has a long tradition beginning with the establishment of the Avery Library and Historical Society in 1919.



The library provides a safe and inviting place for quiet study and reflection by people of all ages and backgrounds.