



Manatee County Strategic Plan

Vision

Manatee County is a thriving community where beaches, cities, and rural areas come together. Our vision is to continue to make Manatee County the premier place to live, work, and play.

Mission

Our mission is to serve our residents, visitors, and businesses by protecting our diverse landscapes while making balanced, transparent decisions and providing exceptional county services. We value innovative solutions, fiscal responsibility, and an informed and involved public.

Values

- **Accountability:** Ensuring responsible stewardship of resources and transparent decision-making.
- **Civility:** Promoting respectful and courteous interactions within the community.
- **Ethics:** Upholding integrity and moral principles in all governmental operations.

Manatee County's Goals

Goal 1 - Land Management & Development Policy

Make our rules and our work more up to date, and push our top legislative goals so we're ready for the future.

Goal 2 - Transportation & Infrastructure

Improve our transportation and infrastructure, reduce flooding, and build more multimodal trails so people can get around safely and easily.

Goal 3 - Government Efficiency, Transparency & Fiscal Stewardship

Make our government work better by using technology to be more efficient, save money, and stay open with the public.

Goal 4 - Public Safety & Environmental Protection

Protect our community by strengthening public safety and taking care of our environment in smart, responsible ways.

Goal 5 - Economic & Tourism Development

Grow our economy by bringing in key industries, supporting tourism, creating jobs, and working better with our regional partners.

Goal 6 - Veterans and Public Services

Improve life for veterans and our community by making essential services easier to access, building strong partnerships, and supporting programs that put people first.

Objectives	Actions
<p>GOALS</p> <p>Goal 1 - Land Management & Development Policy</p> <p>Make our rules and our work more up to date, and push our top legislative goals so we're ready for the future.</p>	
<p>1.1 Modernize the Comprehensive Plan and land development codes to support strategic growth, infill, and protection of rural and agricultural areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="813 359 1531 474"> Evaluate the Comp Plan and LDC to encourage redevelopment and infill opportunities within the Urban Service Area Development Services <li data-bbox="813 480 1531 590"> Evaluate the Comp Plan and LDC to promote the preservation of agricultural lands, strengthen policies to protect and preserve agricultural lands Development Services
<p>1.2 Streamline development review, permitting, and fee structures to provide predictable, timely, and customer-focused service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="813 596 1531 684"> Formalize and expand community benefit projects through incentives for expedited review and responsive processing Development Services <li data-bbox="813 690 1531 758"> Update Building and Development Review Fee Schedules Development Services <li data-bbox="813 764 1531 848"> Post Storm Permitting Plan (compliant with SB-180, FS 252.381 and FS 553.7922) Development Services
<p>1.3 Increase transparency and public access to information on land use decisions, capital projects, and development-related contracts and fees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="813 854 1531 921"> Software Implementation/Upgrades Development Services <li data-bbox="813 928 1531 995"> Contracts Listing Module within Onbase Financial Management <li data-bbox="813 1001 1531 1089"> Implementation of ClearGov as a Transparency Portal and CIP Project Tracker Financial Management <li data-bbox="813 1096 1531 1148"> Implementation of Oracle CIP Workflow Financial Management
<p>1.4 Strengthen legislative advocacy and intergovernmental partnerships that support the County's land management and development policy priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="813 1155 1531 1222"> Advocate for Florida Session priorities Government Relations <li data-bbox="813 1228 1531 1295"> Advocate for Federal priorities Government Relations <li data-bbox="813 1302 1531 1369"> Monitor targeted Campaigns in Florida Government Relations <li data-bbox="813 1375 1531 1428"> Communicate Regular Legislative updates Government Relations
<p>1.5 Advance environmental stewardship in land use and utility planning, including reclaimed water, biosolids, and parklands management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="813 1434 1531 1522"> Develop a comprehensive master plan to guide reclaimed water and biosolids management strategies. Property Management <li data-bbox="813 1528 1531 1591"> Environmental Stewardship and Compliance Property Management
<p>1.6 Develop a comprehensive master plan to guide reclaimed water and biosolids management strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="813 1598 1531 1665"> Survey and Mapping Services Property Management <li data-bbox="813 1671 1531 1759"> Update master plan to guide reclaimed water and biosolids management strategies. Utilities <li data-bbox="813 1766 1531 1850"> Evaluate and secure future landfill site options with the potential of entering into a MOU. Utilities

Objectives	Actions
<p>GOALS</p> <p>Goal 2 - Transportation & Infrastructure</p> <p>Improve our transportation and infrastructure, reduce flooding, and build more multimodal trails so people can get around safely and easily.</p>	
<p>2.1 Improve resiliency and capacity of transportation, stormwater, and utility infrastructure in high-growth and flood-prone areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="815 436 1529 525"> <p>■ Due to new development areas, create additional service areas to improve efficiency Utilities</p> <li data-bbox="815 531 1529 594"> <p>■ Implement Flood Resiliency Strategies Natural Resources</p> <li data-bbox="815 600 1529 663"> <p>■ Align Habitat Restoration with Infrastructure Projects Natural Resources</p> <li data-bbox="815 669 1529 732"> <p>■ Right-of-Way and Roadway Maintenance Property Management</p> <li data-bbox="815 739 1529 802"> <p>■ Public Safety and Flood Resilience Property Management</p> <li data-bbox="815 808 1529 871"> <p>■ Strengthen facilities, equipment, and capital readiness Public Safety</p> <li data-bbox="815 877 1529 961"> <p>■ Complete the drainage and safety improvements on 9th Ave NW from 99th ST NW to 75th ST NW Public Works</p> <li data-bbox="815 968 1529 1083"> <p>■ Complete all the watershed studies and Master Plans for all drainage basins inside the Future Development Area Boundary Public Works</p> <li data-bbox="815 1089 1529 1173"> <p>■ Start rehabilitation work on identified lift stations to improve reliability. Utilities</p> <li data-bbox="815 1180 1529 1264"> <p>■ Evaluate and document new water source options for future needs. Utilities</p> <li data-bbox="815 1270 1529 1354"> <p>■ Develop an advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) strategy to meet future regulatory and capacity needs. Utilities</p> <li data-bbox="815 1360 1529 1423"> <p>■ Expansion Distribution and Collection Service Areas Utilities</p> <li data-bbox="815 1430 1529 1493"> <p>■ Intake Structure Modernization Utilities</p> <li data-bbox="815 1499 1529 1583"> <p>■ Floodproofing and elevation of critical equipment (MCCs, blowers, pumps, SCADA cabinets). Utilities</p> <li data-bbox="815 1589 1529 1673"> <p>■ Assess existing and potential interconnections for mutual water system support. Utilities</p>
<p>2.2 Deliver priority road, bridge, and multimodal projects that reduce congestion, improve safety, and support economic development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="815 1703 1529 1787"> <p>■ Complete phase 2 of EMS traffic signal priority project from the Generational Impact Funds Public Works</p> <li data-bbox="815 1793 1529 1879"> <p>■ Construct the additional 2 lanes of Ft Hamer Rd from UMRR to US 301 Public Works</p>

Objectives	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 254 1524 338"> Complete the replacement of remaining large diameter prestressed concrete cylinder pipe (potable water) Public Works <li data-bbox="829 338 1524 411"> Widen or extend or design targetted road upgrades Public Works <li data-bbox="829 411 1524 506"> Construct intersection improvements and signalize targetted intersections Public Works <li data-bbox="829 506 1524 600"> Complete the waterline relocations across the intercoastal on Cortez and Manatee Ave Public Works <li data-bbox="829 600 1524 663"> Complete the Rural Rd Paving program Public Works <li data-bbox="829 663 1524 758"> Construct the new and relocate the primary Public Works Fleet Facility from 26th Ave E to the Lena Rd property Public Works <li data-bbox="829 758 1524 873"> Complete the establishment of a central public works facility at the Lena Rd property adjacent to the Fleet Services site Public Works <li data-bbox="829 873 1524 968"> Begin construction that would replace pipe failure from 2023 and reopen the sidewalk on the bridge Utilities <li data-bbox="829 968 1524 1062"> Annual Inspections ongoing, which will identify timing of needed improvements. Utilities <li data-bbox="829 1062 1524 1157"> Initiate design phases for key capital improvement projects. Utilities <li data-bbox="829 1157 1524 1251"> Finalize and approve design packages for major treatment facility upgrades. Utilities <li data-bbox="829 1251 1524 1346"> Finalize construction and interior upgrades for facility enhancement. Utilities
<p>2.3 Implement asset management practices for transportation, stormwater, and utility systems to extend asset life and optimize reinvestment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 1360 1524 1413"> Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance Property Management <li data-bbox="829 1413 1524 1486"> Pond and Canal Grounds Maintenance Property Management <li data-bbox="829 1486 1524 1560"> Stormwater Asset Management Property Management <li data-bbox="829 1560 1524 1644"> Annual Inspections ongoing, which will identify timing of needed improvements. Utilities
<p>2.4 Coordinate infrastructure planning with parks, habitat restoration, and capital facility projects to maximize community benefit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 1661 1524 1713"> Align Habitat Restoration with Infrastructure Projects Natural Resources <li data-bbox="829 1713 1524 1787"> Park Infrastructure Renewal Property Management <li data-bbox="829 1787 1524 1860"> Construct targetted trails to grow trail network Public Works <li data-bbox="829 1860 1524 1923"> Preserve recreation infrastructure. Sports & Leisure Services

Objectives	Actions
<p>2.5 Maintain reliable power, redundancy, and operational continuity for critical public facilities and infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 254 1508 331"> Construct a backup water main to improve service reliability for Blake Hospital. Utilities <li data-bbox="829 342 1508 422"> Assess and Implement FPL generator program at facilities to enhance power reliability. Utilities
<p>2.6 Improve the accuracy and availability of infrastructure records and as-built data to support efficient operations and emergency response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 443 1508 541"> Complete backlog of as-built record drawings created from new development growth for accurate asset documentation. Utilities
<p>GOALS</p> <p>Goal 3 - Government Efficiency, Transparency & Fiscal Stewardship</p> <p>Make our government work better by using technology to be more efficient, save money, and stay open with the public.</p>	
<p>3.1 Strengthen long-range financial planning, budgeting, and debt management to ensure sustainable, fiscally responsible service delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 711 1508 768"> Completion of FY27 Budget Process Financial Management <li data-bbox="829 779 1508 835"> Utilities CIP Bond Issuance Financial Management <li data-bbox="829 846 1508 903"> Evaluate Fleet and Fuel Rates Structures Financial Management <li data-bbox="829 913 1508 970"> Review Debt Policy - Update Financial Management <li data-bbox="829 980 1508 1037"> Fiscal Division Restructure (Operational Efficiency) Financial Management <li data-bbox="829 1047 1508 1104"> Develop On Demand Trainings for Procurement Methods Financial Management <li data-bbox="829 1115 1508 1203"> Identify and seek funding opportunities for funding new or enhanced county projects Government Relations <li data-bbox="829 1213 1508 1291"> Provide the necessary support to renew the infrastructure sales tax Public Works
<p>3.2 Increase transparency and public understanding of County finances, capital projects, and use of external funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 1320 1508 1398"> Implementation of ClearGov as a Transparency Portal and CIP Project Tracker Financial Management <li data-bbox="829 1409 1508 1465"> Implementation of Oracle CIP Workflow Financial Management <li data-bbox="829 1476 1508 1564"> Establish a centralized, transparent, and data-driven approach to managing and optimizing IT fiscal spend Information Technology Services <li data-bbox="829 1575 1508 1631"> Update Natural Resources Fee Schedules Natural Resources <li data-bbox="829 1642 1508 1698"> Develop Conservation-Based Revenue Initiatives Natural Resources <li data-bbox="829 1709 1508 1766"> Improve funding strategy & accountability Public Safety <li data-bbox="829 1776 1508 1833"> Optimize health & human services delivery Public Safety <li data-bbox="829 1843 1508 1921"> Establish key performance indicators to monitor Solid Waste program performance including LD's Utilities

Objectives	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create and execute a yearly plan to improve public and stakeholder communication for all thing Utilities. Utilities
<p>3.3 Modernize internal systems, processes, and organizational structures to reduce manual work and improve operational efficiency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthen Compliance and Policy Framework Human Resources ■ Modernize HR Technology Systems Human Resources ■ Deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to enhance service delivery, operational efficiency, and data-driven decision-making Information Technology Services ■ Deploy a secure, scalable, and centralized Internet of Things (IoT) infrastructure Information Technology Services ■ Building and Energy Management Property Management ■ Deploy emerging field capabilities (drones & sensors) Public Safety ■ Standardize process excellence & SOPs Public Safety ■ Upgrade mission-critical technology platforms Public Safety ■ Document the process for adding new projects to the CIP Public Works ■ Publish the process documenting the how a project is added to the CIP. Public Works ■ Implement pavement management software Public Works ■ Conduct ROW permitting software pilot Public Works ■ Negotiate and finalize updated utility service agreements with island municipalities. Utilities ■ Review and update the CMOM plan to continue to improve collection system reliability. Utilities ■ Create a phased plan for systemwide asset management implementation. Utilities
<p>3.4 Build countywide capacity for data-driven management through performance measures, analytics, and benchmarking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish a centralized, authoritative, and consistent view of critical data through a Master Data Management (MDM) program Information Technology Services ■ Strengthen Air Quality Monitoring & Reporting Natural Resources ■ Modernize GIS Tools for Land & Asset Management Natural Resources ■ Technology and Data Integration Property Management

Objectives	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit performance data to benchmark utility operations against industry standards. Utilities
<p>3.5 Expand the strategic use of grants and external funding while maintaining strong compliance and audit readiness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer externally funded grants for compliance Government Relations Write grant policies, procedures, and processes Government Relations Implement the system of record for grant reporting and monitoring Government Relations Manage Environmental Grants Portfolio Natural Resources Research and pursue applicable grants to support infrastructure and sustainability projects. Utilities Ensure compliance with updated Lead and Copper Rule requirements across the system. Utilities
<p>GOALS</p>	
<p>Goal 4 - Public Safety & Environmental Protection</p>	
<p>Protect our community by strengthening public safety and taking care of our environment in smart, responsible ways.</p>	
<p>4.1 Strengthen preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities for storms, disasters, and other public safety emergencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate Qalert system software with WEBEOC for emergency activation Government Relations Successfully operate ESF-18, pre, during and post storm Government Relations Manage the CDBG-DR process Government Relations American Rescue Plan management Government Relations Execute Long-Range Marine Access & Beach Management Plans Natural Resources Storm Preparation and Response Operations Property Management Develop standard operating procedures to strengthen emergency preparedness. Utilities
<p>4.2 Protect and restore natural systems, watersheds, and coastal resources that reduce risk to people, property, and infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Strategic Land Conservation & Acquisitions Natural Resources Manage & Maintain 30,000+ Acres of Conservation Lands Natural Resources Expand Watershed Health Monitoring Programs Natural Resources Aquatic & Vegetation Management Property Management Reservoir Shoreline & Watershed Protection Utilities

Objectives	Actions
<p>4.3 Enhance environmental regulation, monitoring, and public education to prevent pollution and improve ecosystem health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 254 1520 338"> Expand Countywide Environmental Education & Digital Learning Natural Resources <li data-bbox="829 344 1520 407"> Restore Coastal Ecosystems with Shellfish Programs Natural Resources <li data-bbox="829 413 1520 476"> Regulate Phosphate Mining & Reclamation Natural Resources <li data-bbox="829 483 1520 546"> Expand volunteer, intern, and pipeline programs Public Safety <li data-bbox="829 552 1520 636"> Achieve targeted completion milestone to advance water efficiency initiatives. Utilities <li data-bbox="829 642 1520 726"> Maintain participation and performance standards in the Partnership for Safe Water program. Utilities <li data-bbox="829 732 1520 795"> PFAS, Microconstituents & Emerging Contaminants Utilities
<p>4.4 Modernize public safety operations, staffing, and facilities to maintain high professional standards and accreditations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 814 1520 877"> Grow smart-city/public safety infrastructure Public Safety <li data-bbox="829 884 1520 947"> Build redundancy and disaster resilience Public Safety <li data-bbox="829 953 1520 1016"> Advance EMS clinical capabilities & integration Public Safety <li data-bbox="829 1022 1520 1085"> Optimize EOC operations & activation doctrine Public Safety
<p>4.5 Expand the use of data, analytics, and technology to target public safety, environmental, and code compliance risks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 1094 1520 1157"> Property Acquisition and Easement Management Property Management <li data-bbox="829 1163 1520 1226"> Expand data, analytics, and AI for safety & efficiency Public Safety <li data-bbox="829 1232 1520 1295"> Professionalize code compliance & neighborhood focus Public Safety <li data-bbox="829 1302 1520 1386"> Stand up Code Enforcement, EMS, Beach Patrol academies academies & standardized training Public Safety <li data-bbox="829 1392 1520 1507"> Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Prevention & Treatment Staff currently investigating drone technology for HAB identification. Utilities <li data-bbox="829 1514 1520 1598"> Update Cross Control Manual and implement cross-connection control and water conservation measures. Utilities
<p>4.6 Leverage County facilities and programs to promote health, wellness, and safe community activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="829 1608 1520 1713"> Complete the installation of neighborhood and thoroughfare lighting funded by the \$3M of Generational Impact Funds Public Works <li data-bbox="829 1719 1520 1782"> Serve as public safety and logistics hubs. Sports & Leisure Services <li data-bbox="829 1789 1520 1852"> Promote health and wellness among residents. Sports & Leisure Services <li data-bbox="829 1858 1520 1921"> Ensure safe and compliant event operations. Sports & Leisure Services

Objectives	Actions
GOALS	
Goal 5 - Economic & Tourism Development	
Grow our economy by bringing in key industries, supporting tourism, creating jobs, and working better with our regional partners.	
5.1 Leverage tourism, sports, arts, and cultural assets to increase visitor spending and year-round economic activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan first annual Manatee County Day Government Relations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Business Connections Government Relations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate operation of the larger 3rd water ferry service from downtown to AMI Public Works
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver world-class tournament and event experience. Sports & Leisure Services
5.2 Ensure publicly funded partners, programs, and events deliver measurable and transparent outcomes for residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate Funded Partners to Ensure Public Accountability Community & Veterans Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Transparency in Allocation through Community Outreach Community & Veterans Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize data-driven resources to increase County funded partner effectiveness Community & Veterans Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a unified approach across departments to deliver public services more clearly and efficiently Community & Veterans Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalize the process for translating data from the Community Needs & Resource Gap Dashboard (CNRGD) into immediate action Community & Veterans Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure contract compliance and public value. Sports & Leisure Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with regional partners to develop sustainable biosolids solutions. Utilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin renewable natural gas (RNG) project construction to enhance energy recovery. Utilities
5.3 Align transportation, land use, and park investments with economic and tourism development priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Rating System (CRS) Development Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Development and Special Projects Property Management
5.4 Build partner and vendor capacity through training, outreach, and contract management that supports public value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop On Demand Trainings for Procurement Methods Financial Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Local Government outreach Government Relations
GOALS	
Goal 6 - Veterans and Public Services	
Improve life for veterans and our community by making essential services easier to access, building strong partnerships, and supporting programs that put people first.	

Objectives	Actions
<p>6.1 Expand coordinated services that support veterans, families, and vulnerable residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member-Centric Needs Coordination Community & Veterans Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of Veterans Resource Hub @"Memorial" Park Government Relations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain safe, high-quality athletic facilities. Sports & Leisure Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase accessibility and ADA compliance. Sports & Leisure Services
<p>6.2 Strengthen community education, outreach, and engagement to connect residents with County programs and resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance community dialogue and education around housing stability and affordability by hosting a major public summit. Community & Veterans Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grow IFAS & Extension Education Programs Natural Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand Multilingual Public Outreach Natural Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Annual Fertilizer Ordinance Outreach Natural Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance Prescribed Fire Community Outreach Natural Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance interagency & community partnerships Public Safety
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevate community education & outreach Public Safety
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain community access to fitness and recreation facilities. Sports & Leisure Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand access to outdoor wellness amenities. Sports & Leisure Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build community engagement. Sports & Leisure Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness of programs and services. Sports & Leisure Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain access to knowledge resources. Sports & Leisure Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support literacy, learning, and civic engagement. Sports & Leisure Services
<p>6.3 Improve access to recreation, libraries, wellness, and enrichment services across all neighborhoods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand Youth & School-Based Field Trip Programs Natural Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA Compliance and Accessibility Property Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletic Field Lighting and Infrastructure Upgrades Property Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turf and Landscape Quality Improvement Property Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Beautification and Identity Property Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide high-quality public rental services. Sports & Leisure Services

Objectives	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Expand racquet sports offerings countywide. Sports & Leisure Services
<p>6.4 Develop targeted initiatives that advance housing stability, child safety, and other high-priority community needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Direct resources toward high-impact initiatives that improve children's safety. Community & Veterans Services ■ Optimize the alignment of allocations and resources to critical community needs. Community & Veterans Services
<p>6.5 Enhance one-stop and technology-enabled access points for public services, records, and information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish a robust, bi-directional system for community engagement and feedback concerning resource allocation and departmental performance. Community & Veterans Services ■ Resolve customer issues with a one call resolution Government Relations
<p>6.6 Use data, feedback, and performance measures to align funding and services with evolving community needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve Public Access to Environmental Data Natural Resources ■ Promote athletic engagement and active lifestyles. Sports & Leisure Services ■ Support families and youth enrichment during breaks. Sports & Leisure Services ■ Reach recreation-deficit areas. Sports & Leisure Services

Board Priorities 2026

Board Priorities 2026

These are the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners' priorities that emerged from the Dec 3, 2025 strategic plan work session. They show where commissioners aligned on what matters most for the county's future and on the projects they believe can move forward in 2026. Together, these priorities set the direction for the work ahead.

Goals	Objectives
1. Code Modernization and Simplification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Implement form-based code Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LDC updates Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Move forward with elements of the Comp Plan and LDA changes that can be enacted with SB180 Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve mixed-use and affordable housing incentives Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adjust density and height changes for key corridors Board Priorities
2. Regulatory Flexibility and Barriers Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Elimination of minimum lot sizes and parking ratios Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Revamp of non-affordable housing incentives Board Priorities
3. Permitting Reform for Capital Project Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Streamline permitting and eliminate bureaucratic inefficiencies Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use new technologies to improve processing of infrastructure-related applications Board Priorities
4. Industry Attraction and Agritourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Attract targeted agricultural and agritourism businesses Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Youth Agricultural Programming at Mixon for 4H students Board Priorities
5. Workforce Development and Apprenticeships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Economic Development Strategy and Job Creation Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create working coalitions with state officials Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create Apprenticeship Grant in partnership with workforce organizations Board Priorities
6. Animal Welfare Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clean up and finalize animal welfare plans, staffing, and volunteers post-move Board Priorities
7. Budget Reform and Millage Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Seek opportunities for real millage relief Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Shift from cost-based to priorities-based budgeting Board Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve internal efficiency of county government Board Priorities
8. Homelessness and Shelter Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Homelessness/Fresh Start Manatee and supportive ordinances Board Priorities

Goals	Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="828 252 1537 325">■ Ensure shelters and supportive services are coordinated and effective Board Priorities

Administration Priorities

Administration Priorities

These are the Administration’s priorities for carrying out the Board’s vision. The Board sets policy and direction, and the County Administrator and staff execute that work by strengthening operations, improving processes, and delivering services effectively. These priorities ensure the county runs efficiently, transparently, and in a way that supports residents and advances the Board’s goals.

Objectives
■ Provide professional development to staff to stay current with ever-changing regulations
■ Expand employee engagement and retention initiatives
■ Advance wellness and total compensation strategy
■ Strengthen labor and employee relations strategies
■ Implement pay compression mitigation plan
■ Construction services and workforce development
■ Parks and beaches workforce expansion
■ Execute comprehensive employee wellness & resilience
■ Build a comprehensive workforce analytics program
■ Enhance recruitment and talent acquisition strategy
■ Expand learning and development programs
■ Stand up Code Enforcement, EMS, Beach Patrol academies & standardized training
■ Implement targeted safety programs for all divisions
■ Build a stable and cohesive workforce in every division
■ Modernize staffing and deployment models

STRATEGIC PLAN GLOSSARY

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): A federal law requiring public facilities, programs, and services to be accessible to people with disabilities.

Affordable Housing: Housing that is priced so individuals and families can live in safe, stable homes without being financially overburdened. Typically defined as costing no more than 30 percent of a household's income, affordable housing includes a mix of solutions, such as workforce housing, mixed use developments, incentives for builders and zoning or code updates that allow a range of housing types and price points.

AWT (Advanced Wastewater Treatment): A higher level of wastewater treatment designed to remove additional nutrients, solids and contaminants to meet stricter environmental standards.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): The County's long range plan and budget for major infrastructure projects such as roads, utilities and facilities.

CIP Bond Issuance: Borrowing money through bonds to fund approved capital improvement projects.

CIP Project Tracker: A tool used to track the status, schedule and funding of capital projects in the County's CIP.

ClearGov: An online transparency and budgeting platform that shows County financial and project information in a user-friendly way.

CMOM (Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance): A structured utility plan designed to improve the performance and reliability of wastewater collection systems.

CNRGD (Community Needs & Resource Gap Dashboard): A data tool that identifies community needs, service gaps and priority areas for resource allocation.

Code Modernization: Updating land development codes and related rules so they are current, consistent and easier to use.

Community Needs & Resource Gap Dashboard (CNRGD): A data tool that tracks community needs and service gaps to guide funding and program decisions.

Community Rating System (CRS): A FEMA program that rewards communities for floodplain management practices that go beyond minimum standards and can lower flood insurance costs.

Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan): The County's long-term policy document that guides how land is used and developed over time.

CDBG-DR (Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery): Federal funding from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that supports long-term recovery, housing and infrastructure projects after disasters.

Debt Policy: The County's formal rules for how and when it takes on and manages debt.

Ecosystem Health: The overall condition of natural systems, such as wetlands, rivers, bays and wildlife habitat.

EMS (Emergency Medical Services): The County's system for providing emergency medical response, transport and clinical care.



STRATEGIC PLAN GLOSSARY

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): The County's central coordination location for managing major incidents and disasters.

Emergency Support Function 18 (ESF 18): The economic recovery and business support function activated during emergencies.

Fiscal Stewardship: Managing public funds carefully, responsibly, and in a way that delivers value to residents.

Flood Resiliency Strategies: Actions that reduce flood risk and improve the ability of infrastructure and neighborhoods to withstand and recover from flooding.

Florida Statutes (FS): State laws that set requirements and authorities for local governments. Examples in the plan include FS 252.381 and FS 553.7922 related to emergencies and permitting.

Form-Based Code: A type of land development code, focusing on the physical form and layout of buildings and streets to shape how communities look and feel.

Future Development Area Boundary (FDAB): A mapped boundary that identifies where future development and infrastructure expansion are planned or anticipated.

FS (Florida Statutes): The laws enacted by the State of Florida that govern local government authority, permitting, emergencies and regulatory requirements.

FY (Fiscal Year): The 12-month budget cycle used by the County, beginning October 1 and ending September 30.

Geographic Information System (GIS): Mapping and data tools that show locations, assets, land uses and environmental features.

Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB): A rapid growth of algae in water that can harm people, animals and ecosystems.

Internet of Things (IoT): Networks of connected devices, sensors and equipment that can collect and share data to improve operations and monitoring.

LDs (Lead and Copper Rule sampling locations): Refers to testing points used to comply with federal Lead and Copper Rule requirements.

Land Development Code (LDC): Local regulations that govern how property can be developed, including zoning, building standards and site design.

Lead and Copper Rule: Federal requirements that set standards and testing protocols for lead and copper in drinking water.

MCCs (Motor Control Centers): Electrical cabinets that control motors, pumps, blowers and other essential utility equipment.

MOU (Memorandum of Understanding): A formal agreement between parties that outlines roles, responsibilities or future intentions.

Master Data Management (MDM): A framework for creating a single, consistent and reliable source of key data across County systems.

Memorial Park Veterans Resource Hub: A planned one-stop hub where veterans and families can access services, information and support in a single location.

Millage: The property tax rate set by the Board that funds County services, expressed as dollars per 1,000 dollars of taxable value.



STRATEGIC PLAN GLOSSARY

On-Demand Trainings: Short training modules that staff can access at any time to learn about topics, such as procurement methods or policies.

Onbase: A County-used document and content management system that stores, tracks and manages records and workflows.

Partnership for Safe Water: An industry program that helps drinking water systems reduce risks and improve water quality beyond regulatory minimums.

PFAS (Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances): A group of long lasting human made chemicals found in some industrial and consumer products that can affect water quality and health.

Post-Storm Permitting Plan: A plan that streamlines and prioritizes permitting activities after storms so residents and businesses can rebuild more quickly while staying compliant with state law.

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe: A type of large diameter pipe used in water transmission that has a concrete core and a steel cylinder for strength.

QAlert: A software tool used to manage and track resident service requests and issues.

Reclaimed Water: Highly treated wastewater that is reused for purposes such as irrigation or industrial processes rather than discharged.

Renewable Natural Gas (RNG): Gas produced from organic waste sources, such as landfills or wastewater facilities, that can be processed into a cleaner energy source.

Right of Way (ROW): Public land used for transportation and utilities such as roads, sidewalks, and buried lines.

SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition): A system of sensors, controllers, and software that monitors and controls water, wastewater and other utility operations.

SB 180: A state bill referenced in the plan related to emergency permitting and development regulations that affects how the County implements certain code and Comp Plan changes.

Strategic Land Conservation: Programs to acquire and protect sensitive lands, conservation areas and habitat over the long term.

Transparency Portal: An online site where residents can view County budgets, spending, projects, and performance information.

UMRR (Upper Manatee River Road): A major road corridor referenced in transportation projects and improvements.

Urban Service Area: The portion of the County where urban levels of services such as utilities, roads, and public safety are planned and prioritized.

Utilities CIP: The capital improvement program specifically for water, wastewater, and related utility infrastructure projects.

Watershed Health Monitoring: Programs that track water quality and physical conditions in rivers, streams, bays, and basins to guide protection and restoration.

WEBEOC: A web-based emergency management platform used by the County to coordinate information, resources, and decisions during incidents.

