



CITY OF  
**SANFORD**  
FLORIDA



City Manager's  
**Annual Report**  
In Brief 2025  
Oct 2024- Sept 2025

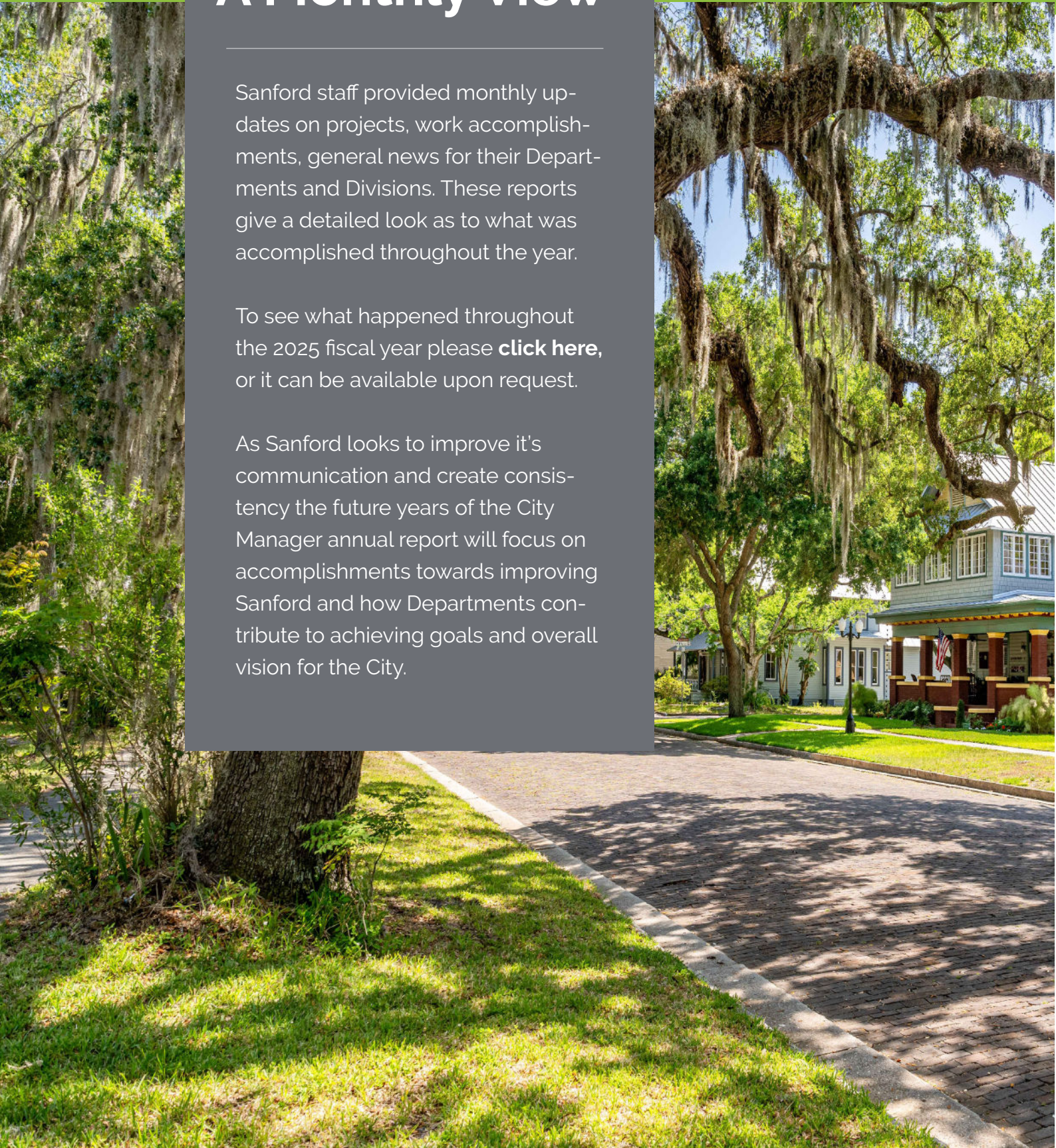
# A Monthly View

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Sanford staff provided monthly updates on projects, work accomplishments, general news for their Departments and Divisions. These reports give a detailed look as to what was accomplished throughout the year.

To see what happened throughout the 2025 fiscal year please **click here**, or it can be available upon request.

As Sanford looks to improve its communication and create consistency the future years of the City Manager annual report will focus on accomplishments towards improving Sanford and how Departments contribute to achieving goals and overall vision for the City.



# Message from the City Manager



## **A Year of Transformation and Forward Thinking.**

The 2025 Fiscal Year was one of reevaluation and innovation for our future. As our City grows City staff, are continuing to look for opportunities to more efficiently and effectively serve our community.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our dedicated city employees for their hard work and commitment, and to our residents and business community for their continued trust and support.

**Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr.**  
City Manager



# City- At- A-Glance

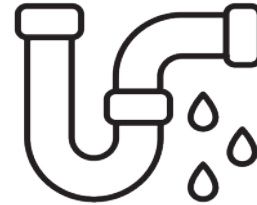
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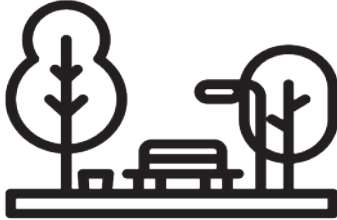
**13% reduction in Part I crimes**

(year to date)

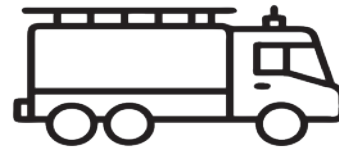
\*As of August 31



**2,737 Million Gallons of  
Wastewater Treated**



**27 Parks &  
282 Acres Maintained**



**Over 34 Fire Department Lead  
Public Education Events**



**Recovered \$165,772.85 Through  
Claim Subrogation.**

\*As of May 2025



**6 Home Safety Repair Projects  
were Completed**

Funded by the Community Development Block

Grant (CDBG)

# City Manager

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Hosted Community Survey on Waterfront Connection property, over the year the location was renamed to the opportunity site. The feedback by the community has been used to state requirements and wants for the location. As of FY25 year end the has been put back out to bid.

Mayfair Golf Course will be open to the public starting in December of 2025, the continuous efforts of staff continued diligently throughout the year to see to it's completion.

Along with Mayor Woodruff met with Deltona's mayor, City manager and economic development director to discuss the Sister City agreement between the two cities.

# Economic Development

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Over the last year new ownership was established for the Seminole Towne Center Mall, the City continued to have meetings as development of this location continues.

As representatives of the City, Economic Development staff attended various events such as: the Sanford Regional Chamber of Commerce meetings, Sanford Main Street Board meetings, the River Council meetings, the Sanford Airport Authority Monthly Board Meeting, Redevelopment Visionaries meeting, pre-app meetings, and meetings with local businesses who asked for a City presence while working with clients.

Worked with Airport Staff, to monitor and confirm a very high demand for existing warehouse and office space on the Authority's property. Focus remains on bringing new product to the market by overcoming the resistance in the capital markets to long term leases vs ownership that is required by the Federal Aviation Authority. Recent success in overcoming the objection is indicated by the recent announcement of Hill Dermaceutical to construct an additional 80,000 square feet adjacent to their current facility. Our Department is committed to insuring that other developers hear this story, and in turn, get a comfort level to proceed with the many projects we have in the planning pipeline. Air service continues to grow as the Frontier Airlines/Spirit Airlines rivalry provides numerous route opportunities for Allegiant.

As the CRA nears sunset, any CRA approved projects need to commence by sunset, December 31, 2025, and be completed within the one-year project closeout period, ending December 31, 2026. The Civic Center Waterfront Greenspace project has been completed and the property purchase processes are underway for the properties located at 2nd Street and Palmetto Avenue southeast corner and 2nd Street and Magnolia Avenue southwest corner. As we finish working through the due diligence period, closing dates have been scheduled for both properties on the same day, October 6, 2025. The purchase of both of these properties within the CRA boundaries fills immediate parking needs prior to being developed in the future. The amphitheater audio, visual, and lighting, as well as the Fort Mellon Park speakers projects both went out to bid. The owner of the 311 East First Street building, where Workspace Collective will be located, canceled the CRA Commercial Redevelopment Grant due to not being able to complete the site improvements within the required timeline. The owner made it very clear that he is still opening Workspace Collective at this location, but it will occur in 2026.

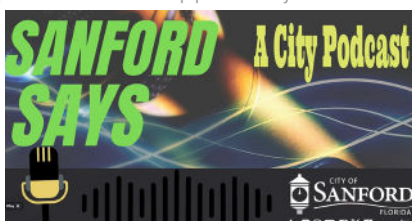
# Communications

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Launched the "Clocktower Chronicle E-Newsletter

The Communications Team successfully launched a citywide quarterly e-newsletter, The Clocktower Chronicle, which garnered over 1,300 subscribers in its first month.

Increased Social Media Engagement Through Video Content, the addition of the digital media specialist position provided more opportunity for this.



Introduction of video to the City of Sanford's podcast "Sanford Says".

The City of Sanford social media channels saw a continuing increase of followers throughout the year.

The increase of digital media interns also created opportunities to collaborate on campaigns with the intention to increase interaction with younger generations.

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

## Community Relations & Neighborhood Engagement ---

As of the end of FY25 All Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Safety Home projects have been completed. Additionally this year, Public Services and Economic Development Business Improvement workshops were conducted to provide an overview of the programs, guide participants through the application process, and respond to questions from the community

Race, Equality, Equity & Inclusion (REEI) held a special Pathways to Reconciliation Subcommittee meeting at the Dr. Velma H. Williams Community Center, where the Goldsboro Quilters and community members were invited to share personal stories that will inform the design of the commemorative quilt

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) staff is now utilizing a new statewide software platform, Promise, to enhance client service and operational efficiency.

My Brother's Keeper: Twenty-two students at Markham Woods Middle School are participating in the program platform,

The Race, Equality, Equity, and Inclusion (REEI), in partnership with the Mayor's Youth Council (MYA), hosted two Sanford Speaks community dialogues centered on youth perspectives



## Finance/IT ---

By the end of FY25 24 modernization processes are in progress throughout Finance, IT, HR, Police, and Utilities. Along with those accomplishments the Division soft launched of the new Employee Portal for a central source of information for employees.

Completed, printed, and delivered the 2026 Budget. For the FY25 Budget year the Sanford Finance Department was awarded the Distinguished Budget Award by the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association). In addition, they also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 37th consecutive year for the FY 24 ACFR.

The Purchasing Division continues to review and work on ways to improve the purchase order processing times . The annual average for the year was 25 days, however the quarter 4 average was 18 days. This met the Department's goal of achieving a 20 or less average.

## Human Resources ---

Continued to host interactive lunch and learns for employee education and development. A few of the courses hosted related to Florida Retirement System, "Stop the Bleed", and defensive Driving.

Worked with Purchasing and City Administration to review and analyze insurance requirements for vendors.

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## City Clerk ---

Traci Houchin, City Clerk, and Cathy LoTempio, Deputy City Clerk, earned a place on the 2025 Municipal Clerks Honor Roll

# Development Services

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Code Enforcement Officer attended the Florida Association of Code Enforcement Conference. Mr. Raimondo was a keynote speaker

Planning City staff has initiated updates to the Land Development Regulations to incorporate the Gateway Overlay standards outlined in the Lake Mary Boulevard Small Area Study, previously approved by the City Commission, County Commission, and the Sanford Airport Authority. These updates will include revisions to Schedule U – Overlay Districts and Schedule R – Airports and Aircraft, ensuring alignment with adopted planning frameworks and regulatory guidance.

Three Code Enforcement Officers completed Civilian Parking Enforcement Specialist Training.

Development Services initiated the Permitting Process study to evaluate success and search for areas of service that can be improved upon.

# Public Works

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The Department was awarded a grant to clean-up the brownfield on the Fulton St. parcel where the future Public Works Emergency Operations Building will be located.

The 2nd Streetscape construction will be started in June, and will continue into 2026. This project is in partnership with CRA, be a welcomed improvement to our downtown when completed.

The Artisan and Trailhead Restrooms are open.

Hosted a public Works Rodeo to engage employees in the work public works does for the community in an interactive way.

Continuation of repairs/replacing sidewalk panels throughout the city.



# Utilities

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The main water treatment project improvements for PFAS (Per-and-poly fluoroalkyl substances) and 1,4 Dioxane

The City's staff are repairing fire hydrants that have been placed "out of service". A contract was received from R&M Solutions for hydrants heavy repairs and maintenance.

The previous year's efforts related to the Vacuum Sewer System have allowed the system for the majority of the 2025 to function effectively.

As of September 88% of new water meters have been installed. Total has been 24,630 meters. The project will continue on into the next year.



[Click here to watch the video.](#)

In collaboration with the Communication office created a public educational video to provide insight into the water treatment process.

Prepared and submitted 93 Bacteriological samples from the distribution system and one (1) bacteriological sample from 12 Water Wells

The North Plant in September received cement pad for odor control unit.

# Parks

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In continuation of the Palm Tree Project along Seminole Boulevard, 168 palms were carefully pruned to enhance the city's scenic gateway to the Riverwalk.

The City of Sanford Parks Division has expanded its fleet with a new 8-yard garbage truck, enhancing efficiency and cleanliness as the city grows as a destination for festivals, special events, and Riverwalk activities.

Parks staff upgraded the Purple Martin habitat located on the Northshore Park at the Sanford Marina. In partnership with the Seminole Audubon Association, The area has been expanded from eight gourds to thirty-two, this allows our feathered friends more room to grow.

The City of Sanford Parks Division is actively addressing shoreline erosion along the Riverwalk, where around 80 washout holes near the seawall were identified. Crews quickly secured the areas and began repairs to prevent safety hazards, preserve the seawall's integrity, and maintain the Riverwalk's beauty.

Parks Staff are working with the sign contractor to replace the aged signs and missing section markers in the Sanford Municipal Cemetery.

Parks staff received a certificate of recognition from Masjid Al Hayy for Outstanding Leadership and unwavering commitment to strengthen and developing our community.

# Recreation

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Star Spangled Sanford was held on July 4th at Ft. Mellon Park and along Seminole Boulevard on the lakefront. The event was well attended even though a lightning strike hit a tree near the fireworks display and set off the show prior to the event start. No one was injured and the event continued until 9pm honoring the signing of the

Westside Mentoring continues to hold on-going mental health sessions for both students and parents through the partnership with SISTAS (Sistas Inspiring Sisters to Achieve Success Inc.) Organization and Educating the Whole Child,

The Sanford Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken 12U State Champion baseball team competed in the Cal Ripken 12U Southern Regional tournament in Ft. Myers, Florida and came away with the third-place finish.

The 49th annual Golden Age Games were held November 1st – 3rd at various venues throughout Sanford.

Parks and Recreation staff have completed the redesign of the Veterans Memorial Park Pathways to History signs and is quoting the fabrication.

The Sanford Museum has created a new exhibit titled "Under the Radar: Sanford During the WWII Years". The exhibit celebrates Sanford's involvement in WWII on the 80th anniversary of the war's end.

The Museum entryway and doors rehabilitation project has been completed and was funded by the Community Redevelopment Agency.

The Jeff Triplett Afterschool Program registration kicked off on July 7th with openings for 75 children. In the first 5 minutes, 63 children had been registered, and the online registration was completed later that morning.



# Police

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Participated in another National Drug Take Back day organized by the National Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Chief Cecil Smith was honored with a Law Enforcement Leadership Award by the Bethune-Cookman University Center for Law and Justice at the 7th Annual Florida HBCU Law Enforcement Career Symposium and Luncheon.

Criminal Investigations Section and Neighborhood Response Unit conducted a Burglary Prevention Operation in areas with previous burglary activity



The Community Relations Unit visited the seniors at Bahama Bay Club, teaching them about the latest fraud trends and how to spot a scam.

As of August 31 – we are showing a 13% reduction in Part I crimes (year to date).

Sanford Officers participated in the FOP's Annual Cops for Christmas event, providing over 130 children with gifts for Christmas 2024.



Recruiting initiatives- The Sanford Police Department now offers a starting salary of \$64,000 — the highest starting pay for law enforcement in Seminole County.

The Community Relations Unit hosted a very successful Blue & You BBQ and School Supply give-away. The event was greatly attended, and the agency was able to give out school supplies to many families in need.

# Fire

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Station 40 Ground breaking was held on November 6th, 2025. At the end of the year construction of Station 40 is underway and currently is anticipated with a March/April completion date.

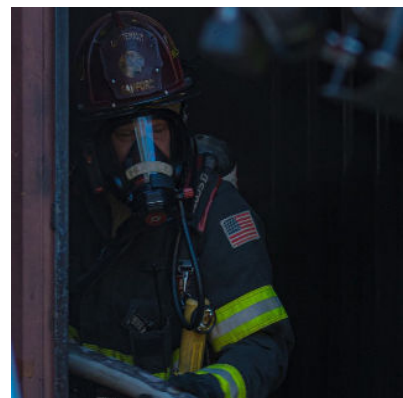
The Fire Department earned the Florida Municipal Insurance Trusts "Certificate of Safety Recognition" with a score of 95%.event

Strategic Plan for Fire Department has been started and is being developed.

Technical Rescue Team Training completed with surrounding agencies.

The Fire Department provides assistance to properly install car seats. This safety initiative was utilized by over 18 residents.

Sanford City Commission Unanimously Voted Not to Move Forward With the Proposed Fire Assessment fee.



# What Was Trending in 2025?

Top Social Media Post from the City of Sanford.\*

1

**Relocation of a Gator found in Lake Carola.**

Posted: May 8, 2025  
Views: 118,670  
Interactions: 765

2

**The Mayfair Country Club Clubhouse has reached its 26th week of construction**

Posted: May 13, 2025  
Views: 62,401  
Interactions: 444

3

**Sanford discontinues adding fluoride to our drinking water**

Posted: May 7, 2025  
Views: 58,091  
Interactions: 872

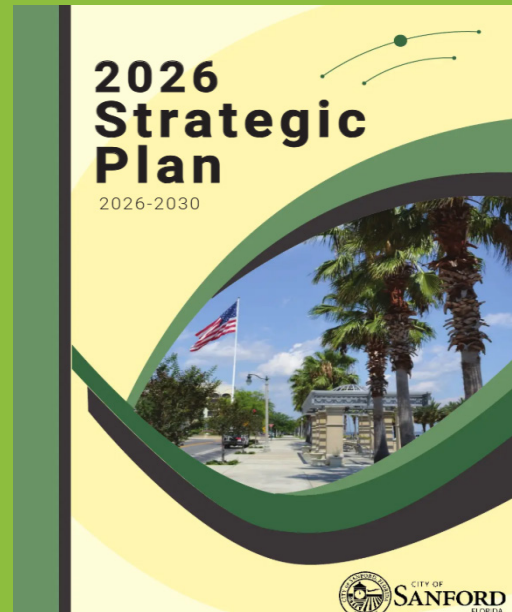
# A Strategic Future

Sanford's Launch of the new five year Strategic Plan, starting in fiscal year 2026.

Throughout the year in 2025 the strategic plan for the City of Sanford has been worked on by City staff. An updated strategic plan was a priority as it creates a road map for where the City is and where they would like to be over the next several years.

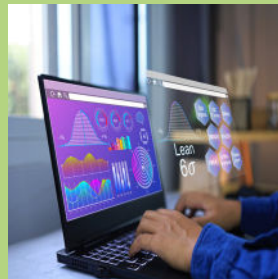
Strategic plan updated the City vision, mission, goals and prioritizes. This allows all Departments and each role to contribute to the City achieving their Goals and moving toward a shared Vision.

The strategic plan and it's progress will be presented each year with the City Manager report. Click any of the pictures to be redirected.



## Quarterly Reporting

Starting in Fiscal Year 2026, our residents and customers can view quarterly updates which provides insight into the work Departments do, and updates on various topics.



## Dashboards

Visual dashboards have been available on and off in years past. The City is now prioritizing this tool to bring quarterly updates on project and strategic information.



## Project Updates

Using Maps, and other reporting tools the City is keeping our residents up to date on projects throughout our City.



Stay Connected. Stay Informed



### City of Sanford:

sanfordfl.gov  
407.688.5000  
300 N. Park Ave, Sanford, FL 32771

### City Manager:

Norton N. Bonaparte Jr.  
407.688.5009  
Norton.bonaparte@sanfordfl.gov

