



The Bay: Important Milestones to Date

Timing	Milestone	Description
November 2013	Bayfront 20:20 formed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led by Visit Sarasota County, a Citizen coalition was created to facilitate with HR&A Associates a community dialogue that resulted in a Vision and Guiding Principles for transformation of city-owned land on Sarasota Bay into a community destination.
February 2015	Sarasota City Commission endorsed Bayfront 20:20 recommended Vision and Guiding Principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vision called for a long-term Master Plan for a legacy park that would provide open, public access to The Bay. The Guiding Principles called for: conservation of city land for a public park; environmental restoration, enhancement and sustainability; open, free and welcoming access; 360° connectivity, an activated and enlivened destination; a financially and operationally sustainable park.
July 2016	Sarasota City Commission agreed to a recommendation to form a planning committee, the Sarasota Bayfront Planning Organization (SBPO).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBPO asked to propose a Master Plan for development of the city-owned site, that would deliver on the Guiding Principles, be financially feasible, operationally doable and environmentally sustainable.
September 2018	Sarasota City Commission approved the Master Plan for the 53-acre site, and a conceptual Master Plan for the first phase of park.	
October-December 2018	SBPO recommended formation of a Bay Park Conservancy (BPC).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A park conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that partners with local government and the public to conserve, design and develop government-owned land as a public park for broad community use.
December 2018 and May 2019	Bayfront 20:20 and SBPO sunset.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both non-profit organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked closely and collaboratively with the City. Engaged broadly and dialogued frequently with the community. Were led by citizen volunteers, and Were 100% funded from private donations and gifts (\$200,000 and \$2 million, respectively).



The Bay: Important Milestones to Date (Continued)

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January 2019	The Bay Park Conservancy (BPC) -- a nonprofit 501(c)(3) -- commenced operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BPC focuses on conserving public land for public use; environmental restoration, enhancement and sustainability; and the design and development, funding and management of a new, signature public park on Sarasota Bay.
April 2019	Sarasota City Commission approved a 15-year comprehensive, renewable, Long-Term Partnership Agreement between the City and the Bay Park Conservancy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This public-private Partnership Agreement (the first of its kind in Sarasota) designates BPC as the exclusive design, planning and development; co-funding (primarily from private sources); and management partner of the City for the new Bay Park.
September 2019	Sarasota City Commission approved the Implementation Plan for Phase 1 of the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 is located on the south end of The Bay park along Blvd of the Arts from the Fountain Garden to the Resilient Shoreline and includes Common Ground and the Mangrove Bayou.
October-November 2020	Sarasota City and County Commissions approved Tax Increment Financing (TIF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TIF is an interlocal agreement to provide cooperative local city and county funding for capital improvements to The Bay... to the new park itself... and to a future, new Sarasota Performing Arts Center in the park (if/ when approved).
March 2021	The Bay Park Improvement Board (BPIB) convened for first join-up meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members include 2 City and 2 County Commissioners, and 1 representative from the community.
	Sarasota City Commission approved the Site Plan for Phase 1 of The Bay Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabled BPC to proceed with development of Phase 1 and the filing of an Army Corps of Engineers permit for the Sunset Pier.
November 2021	Sarasota City Commission approved the Second Amendment to the Long-Term Partnership Agreement between the City of Sarasota and the Bay Park Conservancy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enables The Bay Park to be built in 10 vs. 15 years. Will save at least \$15-20 million in capital costs and \$5-10 million in operating costs. Combines ALL agreements between the City and BPC into one Long-Term Partnership Agreement, including: the basic agreement, BPC Guiding Principles, the Bay Park Master Plan, the Implementation Agreement for managing the park, and the Conflict of Interest and Naming Rights Policies.



The Bay: Important Milestones to Date (Continued)

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September - October 2022	The BPIB, Sarasota City and County Commissions approve \$65 million in Phase 2 Capital Improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BPIB (September 14, 2022), the City Commission (October 3, 2022) and the County Commission (October 11, 2022) all approved Phase 2 park capital improvements which will be designed and built between 2023-2026.
October 2022	Grand Opening of The Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to be “one park for all,” the 10 Days at The Bay Grand Opening activated Phase 1 of the new signature public park with 90+ events that were open and accessible, free and welcoming to the entire community to experience and enjoy.
April-May 2023	Sarasota City Commission approves \$48 million in Phase 2 TIF-backed Bond financing and approves a Comprehensive Plan for the entire 53-acre site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding enabled Phase 2 design and development to begin in the summer of 2023 (through 2026). The 53-acre site-wide Comprehensive Plan creates one Bay Park Zoning District to ensure the site is a park in perpetuity and enables more park to be built for the community sooner, and for less money.
October 2023	First Anniversary of The Bay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14,000 people attended <i>The Bay Turns One!</i> First Anniversary five-day celebration that included 30+ “Best of The Bay” free offerings: concerts, a Boo! Halloween family event, a Multicultural festival, and the Taste of The Bay food festival.
November 2023	Sarasota City Commission approves updated Master Plan for the 53-acre site which includes enhancements to the area north of 10th Street and reflects input from citizens, boaters, and restaurant owners in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan enhancements include: more sustainable green space; a restored bayfront shoreline; a continuous walking path; restaurants for waterfront dining; improved boater experience due to increased boat ramp capacity, and the addition of day docks and amenities, and substantial sustainable water quality improvements.
March-April 2024	The BPIB, Sarasota City and County Commission approve the transfer of Tax Incremental District proceeds into the TIF Trust Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TIF Trust Funds are earmarked for capital improvements to The Bay – including designing and building “more park for all” in upcoming phases... and toward a future, new Sarasota Performing Arts Center in the park (if/ when approved) by the City.