

The Bay: Important Milestones to Date

Timing	Milestone	Description
November 2013	Bayfront 20:20 formed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Citizen coalition 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 civic 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 to the park, 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 to propose a Master Plan for development of the city-owned site, that would deliver on the Guiding Principles and be financially feasible, operationally doable and environmentally sustainable.
September 2018	Sarasota City Commission approved the Master Plan for 53-acre site, and a conceptual Master Plan for the first 10-acre phase.	
October-December 2018	SBPO recommended formation of a Bay Park Conservancy (BPC).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BPC is a private-public partnership between the City and the Conservancy, shared financial goals and strategies to fund the entire park project, and a budget/ financial plan for development of the first phase of the park.
December 2018 + 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 (\$200,000 and \$2 million, respectively) from private donations and gifts.
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.

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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"> Agreement identifies 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"> First phase includes 10 acres.
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 Park... 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
	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 the first 10 acres and the filing to the Army Corps of Engineers for the Site Plan-approved Sunset Boardwalk design and plan in Phase 1.