

The Florida League of Cities is pleased to announce the

2025

# FLORIDA MUNICIPAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

THIS PROGRAM RECOGNIZES INNOVATIONS AND  
EXCELLENCE IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

The Florida Municipal Achievement Awards Program provides municipalities the opportunity to receive deserved recognition for outstanding and innovative efforts in four categories:

**ECONOMIC  
ADVANCEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
STEWARDSHIP**

**LOCAL  
ACTION**

**PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENT**





## CATEGORIES

### ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AWARD

This award focuses on a city program that supports, highlights or partners with a city's local business community to improve the economic well-being of a city.

### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

This award focuses on a city program that promotes environmental sustainability, improves and protects environmental conditions or provides environmental education and outreach programs within a city.

### LOCAL ACTION AWARD

This award will be given to a city for a specific, single citywide effort that successfully addresses a local need.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD

This award focuses on a city program that builds a more vital, participative community. The program develops civic awareness, increases education and knowledge of local government functions or promotes active participation among their residents, businesses and visitors.

## AWARD CRITERIA

- 1. Objectives:** What were the program's goals?
- 2. Implementation and Outcomes:** How were the program's objectives accomplished? Were the desired goals met? If so, what were the outcomes?
- 3. Measurable:** How did you measure the program's success?
- 4. Innovative:** Why do you feel this program was a creative way to meet your objectives?
- 5. Adaptable:** Can this program be used in other cities?

## NOMINATION MATERIALS

- 1. Narrative (no more than 1,200 words maximum):** Answer all five criteria questions listed above in 1,200 words or less.
- 2. Summary (no more than 150 words maximum):** Summarize your nomination in 150 words or less.
- 3. Letter of recommendation:** Include a letter of recommendation from the Mayor, Council/Commission or Clerk/Manager.
- 4. Supporting materials:** Please include any newspaper articles, data, pictures, etc., that support your narrative.



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Your nomination must include a 1,200-word or less narrative, a 150-word or less summary, a letter of recommendation and supporting materials.
2. Include word counts at the end of the narrative and summary.
3. There should be no photos or supplemental materials within the narrative or summary.
4. Supporting material (newspaper clippings, photographs, etc.) is limited to 20 pages.
5. **The deadline to submit entries is March 28, 2025.**
6. Entries will now be submitted online at <https://flcities.com/municipal-achievement-awards>. All nomination materials should be combined into a single PDF document. No mailed, faxed or emailed submissions will be accepted.

## CHECKLIST

Use the checklist below to make sure the nomination packet is complete. Each nomination should include:

- Letter of recommendation from the Mayor, Council/Commission or a Clerk/Manager
- Summary of 150 words or less (with word count)
- Narrative of 1,200 words or less answering each award criteria (with word count)
- Supporting materials

## RULES

1. The 1,200-word-or-less narrative must answer each criteria question.
2. A municipality may submit one nomination in the following categories: Economic Advancement, Environmental Stewardship, Local Action and Public Engagement. Each nomination must be for a different project.
3. The Florida Municipal Achievement Awards Program is open to Florida cities, towns and villages that are current members of the Florida League of Cities.
4. A municipality that has already won can submit a new project in the same category after five years. (Please visit <https://flcities.com/municipal-achievement-awards> for a list of past winners).
5. Your nomination will not be judged if your nomination does not meet the instruction and rule requirements. Judges reserve the right not to award a winner in every category.

**The deadline to submit entries is March 28, 2025.** Winners will be announced in May 2025.

The judges' decision is final, and all material received becomes the property of the Florida League of Cities, with permission to use it perpetually and universally in any manner deemed appropriate by the League.



For more information, contact Eryn Russell at [erussell@flcities.com](mailto:erussell@flcities.com).

# CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2024 Florida Municipal Achievement Award Winners...



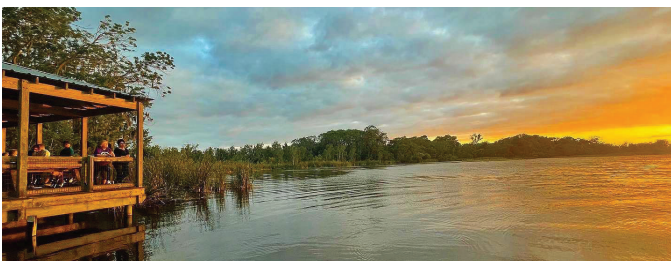
## Economic Advancement Award



### City of St. Cloud, Economic Gardening

The City of St. Cloud developed a Downtown Economic Gardening Program, an approach that promotes companies growing from within their own structure. The St. Cloud Program was multiple layers of financial and technical assistance programs for businesses affected by the pandemic and prolonged construction of the city's streetscape project. The program offered \$190,000 in grants, technical support, fee waivers and marketplace information for small and mid-size businesses.

## Environmental Stewardship Award



### Town of Oakland, Oakland Nature Preserve

The Town of Oakland supports the Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP), which offers diverse ecosystems, engaging classrooms and outdoor pavilions that welcomed 40,000 guests in 2023. The Preserve hosts students for hands-on science education as well as summer camps and a Youth Climate Project. For adults, it offers programs that include firefly hikes and senior walking groups. Supported by the Town, the ONP's conservation efforts include tree planting and land acquisition.

## Local Action Award



### City of Sarasota, Attainable Housing Density Bonus Program

The City of Sarasota has been focused on a voluntary density bonus program to incentivize the private development of attainable housing units. In 2023, the Sarasota City Commission adopted a downtown attainable housing density program. Several projects have been submitted for an estimated creation of 87 attainable housing units downtown. In March 2024, the Commission approved a second attainable housing density program that will incentivize the creation of mixed-use development and require housing for a mix of incomes along the major commercial corridors and commercial centers.

## Public Engagement Award



### City of DeLand, DeLand Digital Historic Tour

The City of DeLand developed a campaign showcasing the city's historical assets. The City launched two digital historic tours on Google Maps and Google Earth. These self-guided tours take participants on a journey to explore some of DeLand's most iconic landmarks dating back 140-plus years. More than 20 sites are featured on the tours, which map out the City's four historic districts.