

City of Longwood

Smart Growth America Six-Month Status Report

1. Focus on the Heritage Village

- The City established a City Hall Relocation committee to consider consolidating the existing City Hall facility onto one site within the Heritage Village. The relocation of City Hall will allow Longwood to open additional property within the Historic District to help inspire further development in the Heritage Village.
 - The City Hall relocation committee voted to focus on the police station site as the home of a future City Hall.
 - The City Hall relocation committee directed staff to seek a real estate consultant to evaluate properties and proposals related to the City Hall project. A bid is currently out and the opening is set for February 9, 2017.
- The City received approval from Seminole County to construct the Ronald Reagan Blvd. context-sensitive improvement project, which will reduce an impediment to pedestrian travel within the Heritage Village and help create a cohesive district between the SunRail area and the Historic District, while also providing bike lanes and on-street parking to help support the area.
 - As part of this agreement, the City received the ability to make improvements to County-owned properties to improve the aesthetics of the Heritage Village area. The City has also expressed to the County a desire to potentially use these parcels with valuable frontage for development, and redirect the existing stormwater to a new regional facility.
- The City has purchased additional property within the Heritage Village to support a regional stormwater system.

2. Develop a Strategic Plan

- The City is exploring how to best leverage some of the other planning efforts undertaken, including the Heritage Village Redevelopment Strategy, to enact a citywide strategic plan.

3. Develop a Formal Capital Improvement Planning Process

- During the SmartGrowth America workshops, staff began to select capital projects with the Smart Growth principles in mind. Projects that supported the Heritage Village and walkability were prioritized as part of the planning process.
- Staff will continue to work to formalize the Capital Improvement Planning process and incorporate these elements.
- The City hired an in-house City Engineer for the first time in many years. The City Engineer position, based in part on advice from SmartGrowth America, is housed in the

Community Development Department and will oversee capital improvements projects and planning.

4. Start With What You Can Control

- The newly-established City Hall Relocation Committee meets monthly to determine the best site for the relocation of consolidation of the existing City Hall administration buildings. This discussion has focused on utilizing City-owned property to house a new City Hall building, and open up other City-owned property to support redevelopment in the Heritage Village.
- Reiter Park, located in the City's historic downtown, has become a center of a number of improvement efforts.
 - The Church Ave. paving project was expanded to include improvements to Reiter Park including an expanded and improved parking area and on-street parking to help support City events.
 - Final design plans for the park including an amphitheater and splash pad are being prepared, and early discussions for the FY 2018 include securing the necessary funding, including grant funding, to complete the ambitious master plan sooner rather than later.
 - A historic building donated a small historic building that will be moved to the park and utilized in the final master plan.

5. Employ Walkability as an Economic Development Strategy

- The City has worked to promote economic development by walkability through a number of construction projects anticipated in the 2017 fiscal year, including the Church Ave. Complete Street project which creates new pedestrian connections and bicycle connections in the Historic District, the Ronald Reagan Blvd. context sensitive project, new sidewalks that will connect the SunRail area, as well as the approval of a Complete Streets policy and associated Development Code changes to support these walkability efforts.
 - The Church Ave. project which includes new pedestrian and bicycle connectivity is currently underway and scheduled for completion by the end of the year
 - New sidewalks were installed around the SunRail station to support walkability in that area