



The Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association celebrates excellence in planning.

Help us recognize and celebrate Great Places in Florida!

This initiative, sponsored by the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA FL), celebrates Great Places in Florida and the communities that sustain them.

To continue the community spirit of the inaugural year of the Great Places Award, APA FL is focusing on those unique, memorable places that work not only for their community but draw outsiders in and are models for others to emulate.

The Great Places Award is an annual selection of places that represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement and a vision for tomorrow.

What Makes a Great Place?

We all can think of a place that is unique or memorable, but what elements make it truly great? There are many characteristics that make a place special.

A Great Place

- *Promotes human contact and social activities.*
- *Is safe, welcoming, and accommodating for all users.*
- *Has design and architectural features that are visually interesting.*
- *Promotes community involvement.*
- *Reflects the local culture or history.*
- *Relates well to bordering uses.*
- *Is well maintained.*
- *Has a unique or special character.*

How Does the Program Work?

APA FL is seeking nominations from individuals, local governments and organizations for Great Places in Florida.

The Great Places will be recognized and celebrated by APA Florida and their communities.

A panel of experts from across the state will select the finalists, and the winner will be selected through the People's Choice online voting phase. The Great Places in Florida winner will be announced on October 25th, in celebration of National Planning Month.

Through the *Great Places in Florida* program, we celebrate the vitality and local partnerships that have made each place a focal point for community life.

Great Places in Florida Dates and Deadlines

- Nominations will be accepted from **Aug. 12 through Sept. 20 at 5 pm.**
- Selection Committee will deliberate and announce finalists on **Sept. 30.**
- People's Choice voting will run from **Oct. 7 through Oct. 18.**
- Winner will be announced **Oct.25.**

To nominate your favorite place, visit the APA FL Great Places website: florida.planning.org/greatplaces Nomination instructions and the complete nomination package can be found at the site.

Great Place in Florida: Nomination Form Instructions

Please include all of the requested information listed below when completing the Nomination Form located at the following link: florida.planning.org/greatplaces. The information collected via the form (including pictures) will be used by the selection committee to evaluate nominees for inclusion in the people's choice award. If selected for inclusion in the People's Choice voting and award, Items II and III will be displayed to the general public for their vote.

I. Overview

- Name and address (if applicable) of your great place
- Nominee contact: name, title, phone number, e-mail address, mailing address
- Official contact: name, title, phone number, e-mail address, mailing address. This is the contact information for an official representative of the great place. This could be a staff person or a government official. Each Great Place finalist will have to have someone from the local government or organization that the APA Great Places team can coordinate with for a recognition ceremony should the nominated place be selected in the people's choice.

II. Description and Details

- Short description of the place. In 150 words, describe the place and what makes it great. If selected as a finalist, this description will be used in the People's Choice poll.
- Long Description. Describe the place in between 300 and 400 words. Be sure to identify the responsible jurisdiction (city, county, etc.), physical size or dimensions, and any other important characteristics. Include additional details about the space and what it adds to the community. Remember these descriptions will be used by the selection committee in conjunction with the photos that you provide to help determine the finalists that will be posted for the public vote.
- The guidelines are provided below to help guide your description and we encourage you to use them if they apply. Please note that while descriptions are provided for four different types of areas there are no set number of finalists per area, all areas will receive equal weight when looked on by the selection committee:
 - For a street, identify the start and end points and the number of blocks. Describe the setting in which it is located. What is the street used for, is it residential, commercial, a mix? How do people use the street?
 - For a neighborhood, identify when the neighborhood was first settled. Describe its location (i.e. urban, suburban, rural, etc.), boundaries, density (i.e. dwelling units per acre) or street layout and connectivity; demographic and social characteristics; functionality (i.e. residential, commercial, retail, etc.); the activities and facilities that support everyday life (e.g., housing, schools, stores, parks, green space, businesses, public or private facilities, transit). Describe the extent to which there is diversity among the residents, based upon economic, social, ethnic, and demographic factors.
 - For a public space, describe its location, type (i.e. park, library, community center, museum, etc.), setting (downtown, neighborhood waterfront, business or entertainment district, historic area) and the date (approximate) the space was created.
- Remember, the criteria above have been provided to help guide submittals; they are by no means the only items that can be mentioned in the description of your great place but are provided to assist you in your nomination.

III. Images

Submit these items as separate files:

- Between two and five high quality images that demonstrate the qualities or characteristics that you are trying to highlight in your narrative. Photos with people in them are preferred but not mandatory.
- **Image Criteria:**
 - **File Types:** The Allowed File Types Are: .JPG, .JPEG, .PNG, .GIF, .PDF
 - **File Size Limit:** 10 MB

****NOMINATOR MUST HOLD ALL COPYRIGHTS TO IMAGES BEING SUBMITTED, OR OBTAIN WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM IMAGE OWNER****

IV. Additional Information

All entrants grant APA Florida the right to use any and all information related to the competition, including information on nominations obtained through the competition, for marketing purposes or any other purpose, unless prohibited by law.

Officers, employees, consultants, and agents of municipalities in which nominations are located are not eligible to serve as judges.

APA Florida reserves the right to limit the number of Great Place designations based on the quality of the nominations received.

The party submitting the nomination for each Great Place designated, by acceptance of the designation, agrees to release APA Florida, its officers, employees, and agents from all liability, claims, or actions of any kind whatsoever for injuries, damages, or losses to persons and property which may be sustained in connection with the receipt, ownership, or use of the Great Place designation.

Each application should include contact information for an official representative of the place. This should be an individual with authority to coordinate receipt of the award with APA Florida. A press conference or award ceremony for the winner will not be the responsibility of APA Florida, however we will make every effort to coordinate such an event with the official representative and ensure that a representative of the organization is present to deliver the award if requested.