



## NEWS FROM CITY HALL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: "SANFORD PROJECTS RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION"**  
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### **Sanford Projects Receive International Attention**

Two of Sanford's largest improvement projects have been recognized by the International Making Cities Livable Council.

Competing with projects from all over the world, the RiverWalk and First Street Streetscape improvements were critiqued and honored by a panel of international judges from various disciplines.

The Sanford RiverWalk received recognition as a Successful Nature Space. The City and its State and Federal partners invested over \$11 million to construct 1.2 mile of trail that contain strategically placed overlooks, interpretive plaques, recreational venues and structural enhancements that attract thousands of visitors each year. The project connects the City with its jewels, the St. Johns River and Fort Mellon Park, providing citizens and visitors a unique opportunity for connecting with nature. Florida Trend magazine recognized the RiverWalk as an aggressive approach to downtown revitalization, serving as the City's catalyst for "rebirth."

Sanford's First Street Streetscape received recognition as a Successful Urban Plaza. The \$2.3 million renovation project provides traditional pedestrian hardscape, lighting and landscaping all serving as a strong urban framework. The renovation of Magnolia Square highlights the urban plaza and serves as a gathering space for its residents and an event space attracting visitors from all over Central Florida.

The City holds a weekly Farmer's Market in Magnolia Square as well as monthly jazz concerts and numerous other events commemorating holidays such as Christmas and Halloween. Phase II of Sanford's First Street Streetscape is currently underway and is anticipated to finish in early summer.

The panel and conference commended both projects as giving Sanford a new vigor and understanding as to what makes a city livable. The award certificates were presented to City representatives at the Conference Awards Ceremony on May 12, 2009 in Portland, Oregon.

The IMCL Conference, which is held biannually in the United States and Europe, brings together people of vision from all disciplines and presents the best examples from across the globe and honors cities and civic leaders for their achievements.

The IMCL Conference focus its attention on the importance of making cities livable for children first, the need for public transit, bicycle lanes, and traffic calmed streets, for human mixed use scale architecture, reviving the city centers and creating public places where people can gather and socialize while strengthening the urban fabric.

For more information about Sanford, visit [www.sanfordfl.gov](http://www.sanfordfl.gov). For more information on the conference visit: <http://www.livablecities.org>.