

St. Cloud Downtown Plan

St. Cloud, Florida



Client

Community Redevelopment Agency,
City of St. Cloud
Renaissance Planning Group, Tampa, Lead

Dates

July 2009

Program

Town Center
Mixed Use Downtown
Historic Preservation
Urban Infill

Relevance

Downtown Revitalization
Placemaking
New Urbanism

Services

Urban Design

Team

MASTER PLANNER
Renaissance Planning Group

Project Challenge

Founded as a colony in 1909 by the Grand Army Republic for retired soldiers of the Civil War, St. Cloud became known as “Soldier City”. The city has defined its character as a transportation crossroads with access to central Florida’s attractions, and having excellent weather, schools, and public amenities.

A Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) was established in the city to address blight and disinvestment issues and promote redevelopment of significant residential, commercial, and the historic downtown areas. The CRA represents the heart of St. Cloud’s economic activity, community identity, and civic pride.

Project Description

The Downtown plan is one of several areas in this study, and is intended to build upon the City’s history, community character, and identify strategies to reinforce its strengths, and define a framework that will guide growth and investment to achieve its potential.

The downtown development pattern is a rigid 300 by 300-foot grid of blocks and streets containing buildings in varied condition, some of which contribute to Downtown’s walkability, and therefore would remain into the future. As a result, physical planning included these contributing buildings, infilling elsewhere as appropriate. Interestingly, St. Cloud’s prominent open space—Veteran’s Park—is located opposite Downtown on the other side of the wide and busy 13th Street. Planning for a calmer, walkable 13th Street as well as formative open space in downtown are key design issues.



Aerial view of downtown St. Cloud.

John Moynahan Urban Design & Planning

St. Cloud Downtown Plan

St. Cloud, Florida



Downtown St Cloud's streets receive infill buildings, new park space, parking facilities, street trees, lighting, and furniture. Busy 13th Street is transformed into an urban boulevard fronted by buildings inspired by Florida's traditional architecture.



View of prominent intersection on 13th Street.