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## Sarasota County ‘Green Map’ gives direction to environmentally conscious choices

Sarasota County’s numerous green resources can now accurately be described as being all over the map — the Sarasota County Green Map, that is. Already famed for its beautiful beaches and culture, the area is also cultivating a rich collection of environmentally friendly activities, organizations and facilities. Those resources can now be searched at [www.scgov.net/greenmap](http://www.scgov.net/greenmap).

“Sarasota County has an extensive array of sustainable attractions and educational venues,” says Lee Hayes with Sarasota County Natural Resources. “While these areas enjoy relative popularity, they present further opportunities for cost-effective recreation, revenue streams as eco-tourism, and marketing Sarasota as a beautiful place to live for relocating businesses and potential homeowners.”

Hayes hopes the new Green Map’s interactive mapping tool will raise awareness of sustainable living issues, and give residents and seasonal visitors an environmentally friendly method to search for specific, locally available green activities or facilities.

“One use would be to provide residents the ability to search for places to take leftover paint,” says Hayes. “By typing the word ‘paint’ into the search box, they could find all the locations of the county’s hazardous materials chemical collection centers, with driving directions and available services.”

Hayes added that searches could be incorporated to help local and out-of-town visitors find areas for kayaking, camping and more, resulting in potential vacationers and enhancement to the local economy.

The Sarasota County Green Map is a collaborative effort of Sarasota County government and SCOPE, and is part of an award-winning global [Green Map](#) movement, developed first by Wendy Brawer for New York City 15 years ago to encourage environmental awareness and sustainability consciousness. Today, there are more than 400 Green Map projects in 51 countries to help people locate sustainable urban and rural places and institutions.

For information about Sarasota County’s sustainability efforts, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000. To learn more about the Green Map movement, visit [www.greenmap.org](http://www.greenmap.org).