

Recreation, Open Space & Culture Element

THE PROVISION OF RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

GOAL ONE: TO ADMINISTER OUTSTANDING COUNTYWIDE RECREATIONAL, OPEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS THAT PROVIDE, THROUGH ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE, SUFFICIENT RESOURCE-BASED REGIONAL PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS THAT ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE, FOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, AND ENHANCE THE COUNTY'S ECONOMIC VITALITY AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

- 1.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to provide a system of regional resource-based County parks and environmental lands to adequately meet the needs of Pinellas County residents through the Year 2025.
 - 1.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall maintain a minimum level of service standard of 14.0 acres of parks and environmental lands, in combination, for every 1,000 residents within the County through the Year 2025.
- 1.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to coordinate efforts with all levels of government and the private sector to increase the availability of public resource-based parklands and open space acreage to meet the adopted level of service standard defined in Policy 1.1.1.
 - 1.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall annually review and update existing intergovernmental agreements with local, state and regional governments for the operation and use of park and recreational facilities and the management of open space acreage.
 - 1.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to seek public and private resources to support the acquisition and development of County recreation, resource-based park facilities, and open space acreage through grant-in-aid programs or other assistance programs.
 - 1.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue the appointment of citizens to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board to provide citizen advice regarding resource-based recreation opportunities and utilization of County parkland.
 - 1.2.4. Policy: The Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall have the opportunity to review and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding proposed uses or activities which are inconsistent with County policy in County parks.

- 1.3. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to acquire open space, park and environmental land acreage countywide, with particular emphasis on filling in the gaps in the system and connecting existing properties.
- 1.3.1. Policy: Pinellas County's land acquisition and management program will focus on making parks and environmental lands available to all County residents, consistent with adopted park and environmental land management plans.
- 1.3.2. Policy: As new opportunities become available, or as County properties are surplus, the Pinellas County Department of Culture, Education and Leisure and the Department of Environmental Management will evaluate the recreational and/or environmental benefit, or potential benefit, of properties, including their ability to enhance the existing open space or park inventory.
- 1.4. Objective: Pinellas County will protect its open spaces and scenic vistas for their contributions to quality of life.
- 1.4.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to pursue incentives, enforce existing ordinances, and consider new regulations that require the provision of open space areas and retention of open vistas, where appropriate.
- 1.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall enforce existing land development regulations, and evaluate the need for additional provisions or incentives for the retention of recreation and open space acreage, based on criteria and standards that reflect environmental, aesthetic and community needs.
- 1.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County will encourage and incentivize the retention and reestablishment of open vistas, where appropriate, with particular emphasis on coastal areas and lands surrounding parks and environmental lands.
- 1.4.4. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate with other local governments and government agencies to protect open vistas along causeways and bridges.
- 1.4.5. Policy: Pinellas County will protect its environmental lands and resource-based regional parks from the impact of incompatible uses as identified in approved management plans, and from conversion to other purposes and uses that are inconsistent with approved management plans.
- 1.4.6. Policy: Pinellas County departments will maintain active lines of communication to remain apprised of potential opportunities to purchase open space lands.

- 1.5. Objective: In recognition of the limited amount of available open space remaining within the County, Pinellas County shall prohibit the conversion of dedicated recreation/open space land uses, and encourage the retention of non-dedicated recreation/open space land uses.
- 1.5.1. Policy: By December 2012, Pinellas County will evaluate whether additional policies, regulations, and/or incentives are required to support the retention of recreation/open space land use designations on golf course properties, small parks and other similarly designated privately-owned open space properties.
- 1.6. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to improve public access to County parks and other facilities including County beach access parks, multi-use trails and boat ramp facilities.
- 1.6.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), other agencies and governments, work to enhance physical access to park and recreation areas by automobile, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation.
- 1.6.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to design and develop park facilities with access for the physically challenged.
- 1.6.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to emphasize the importance of providing sustainable public access to the County's resource-based regional parks and environmental lands, in accordance with approved management plans, as a means of instilling appreciation of the resources, understanding of their value and contribution to our quality of life, and a sense that each of us is a custodian of our natural surroundings.
- 1.6.4. Policy: Pinellas County will maintain an attractive countywide way-finding/directional signage system (brown and white signs) to identify the location of major resource-based parks, cultural facilities and environmental lands.
- 1.7. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to implement and enhance a comprehensive countywide system of greenways, blueways and trails.
- 1.7.1. Policy: By December 2015, Pinellas County will consolidate its greenways, blueways and trails into a master plan of existing and planned facilities and amenities. [10-57]
- 1.7.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with other local governments and agencies to accomplish the development of an integrated system of greenways, blueways and trails.

- 1.7.3. Policy: Pinellas County’s system of greenways, blueways and trails will emphasize connectivity between established resource-based parks and preserves, as well as key recreational destinations, and provide Pinellas County residents and visitors with new opportunities in which to recreate, exercise and enjoy; multiple uses shall be encouraged where appropriate.
- 1.7.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to evaluate opportunities for land acquisition along the Brooker/Anclote corridor to enhance both the recreational and environmental greenway system.
- 1.7.5. Policy: Pinellas County will evaluate opportunities for enhancing public recreational access along the Joe’s Creek Greenway corridor as the opportunity arises. [10-57]
- 1.7.6. Policy: Pinellas County will support and promote the identification, including directional and way finding signage, and enhancement of regional systems of greenways, blueways and trails, and connect to such systems as opportunities arise.
- 1.7.7. Policy: The greenways, blueways and trails plan will recognize the value of connectivity between neighborhoods and workplaces, and the recognition of the trails network as a legitimate mobility alternative to the automobile will be a primary goal.
- 1.7.8. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, the County will evaluate its land development regulations and the development review process to identify opportunities and incentives for public access to the greenways, blueways and trails system to be accomplished in partnership with private development. [10-57]
- 1.8. Objective: Pinellas County Departments shall cooperatively develop educational programs and materials concerning the conservation, protection, restoration, and interpretation of natural, historic and cultural resources.
- 1.8.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to provide educational materials at existing and future County parks, educational facilities and environmental lands that promote native vegetative communities and wildlife, with particular emphasis on Florida-friendly landscaping techniques.
- 1.8.2. Policy: Pinellas County will implement all of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan in coordination so as to achieve a sustainable natural community and to support and promote the provision of nature-based and heritage-based tourism opportunities that contribute to environmental and cultural awareness and responsible stewardship among both citizens and visitors.

- 1.8.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to provide locations for multi-use pavilions and outdoor classrooms for sustainability/environmental education at public sites such as beaches, parks and environmental lands, consistent with approved management plans.
- 1.8.4. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate the marketing of its regional park system, environmental lands and related recreational opportunities with the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS

GOAL TWO: TO PROTECT, IN PERPETUITY, THE OPEN SPACE VALUE AND COUNTYWIDE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF THE COUNTY’S REGIONAL PARKS, ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS AND OPEN SPACES, AND TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT AND ADHERE TO THE INDIVIDUAL MANAGEMENT PLANS AND STRATEGIES FOR THESE IRREPLACEABLE PUBLIC ASSETS.

- 2.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to design and develop its resource-based parks, open spaces and environmental lands with a focus on the conservation, protection, restoration, management and interpretation of natural and cultural resources.
- 2.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County’s land acquisition and multiple land use management efforts shall continue the commitment to linking open space areas, and creating a network of greenways and green spaces, which can be managed to support the protection, enhancement and restoration of functional and connected natural systems while contributing to watershed protection and providing resource-based recreational opportunities, including nature-based experiences, for both residents and visitors.
- 2.1.2. Policy: While recognizing the importance of its resource-based regional parks’ core recreational value countywide to residents and visitors, Pinellas County will recognize the importance of the system’s value to wildlife, including migratory birds, and maintain an appropriate balance.
- 2.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to design and manage its parks and environmental lands to protect and restore where possible, native vegetative communities and critical wildlife habitat, including all flora and fauna identified as threatened, endangered or species of special concern.
- 2.1.4. Policy: As funding and staffing become available, Pinellas County will systematically analyze and identify the critical habitats in each resource-based park and identify appropriate protection strategies.
[10-57]

- 2.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will appropriately manage the historic tree canopies within its regional parks system and environmental lands.
- 2.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to landscape park areas utilizing a minimum of 85 percent native shrubs and trees.
- 2.1.7. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to educate property owners adjacent to parks and environmental lands in a manner that fosters environmental stewardship.
- 2.1.8. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to incorporate environmental/historical/archaeological education exhibits and kiosks to support the education curriculum at regional parks and environmental lands, consistent with approved management plans.
- 2.1.9. Policy: Pinellas County may incorporate public art, where appropriate, in the design of future facilities, commissioned sculpture and outdoor art throughout the parks and environmental lands, consistent with approved management plans and the County's Public Art and Design Master Plan.
- 2.2. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to protect, enhance and manage the resource-based parks for their habitat value and resource-based recreational purpose, balancing recreational activities and opportunities with environmental and cultural stewardship, so as to not negatively impact the critical and irreplaceable ecosystems found in the regional resource-based park system.
- 2.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County will develop specific management plans for each regional park in the regional park system as funding and staffing become available. [10-57]
- 2.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall, consistent with adopted management plans, continue to implement multiple land management practices within County parks to achieve the goals of the Recreation, Open Space and Culture Element as well as the Natural, Resources Conservation and Management Element.
- 2.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County will develop, maintain and operate regional resource-based parks in accordance with adopted management plans and master plans.
- 2.2.4. Policy: Resource-based regional park management plans shall, at a minimum, include the following:
- Overall objectives, strategies and policies

- A suitability assessment method to assess compatibility and impacts of proposed uses
- Monitoring and mitigation procedures
- Strategies for resource management
- A table showing the percentage of land to be used for conservation/preservation, open space, and developed areas
- A matrix that identifies development restrictions and identifies permitted uses within each land use
- Relationship to other adjacent or nearby public facilities, as applicable
- A determination of the capacity to accommodate special events
- Identification of desired visitor experiences, including activity, duration, available food and beverages, etc. to determine needs and opportunities for concession, public access, transportation, promotion, etc.

STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS TO THE WATER

GOAL THREE: TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC CONNECTIONS TO PINELLAS COUNTY WATERS AND WATERWAYS THROUGH THE MAINTENANCE, PROMOTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-SENSITIVE EXPANSION OF RECREATIONAL ACCESS.

3.1. Objective: In recognition of their recreational and economic importance, Pinellas County will encourage and support the retention, acquisition, and expansion, where appropriate, of water dependent recreation-related land uses, including marinas, boat ramps, and other means of public water and waterway access.

3.1.1. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Regulations, Pinellas County will investigate techniques to discourage or prevent the loss of water dependent land uses. [10-57]

3.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to pursue partnerships with other agencies and municipalities to improve and increase opportunities for public access to the water and waterways countywide. [10-57]

3.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to investigate opportunities for additional boat access facilities with particular emphasis on a North County deep water ramp. [10-57]

- 3.1.4 Policy: Pinellas County will strive, as far as practicable, to maintain the current ratio of boat ramp lanes and parking spaces to registered Pinellas County boaters; and to maintain the existing ratio, as of June 2007, of different types of boat ramps.
- 3.2. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to maintain and enhance, where feasible, the operation and efficiency of existing boat access facilities.
- 3.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to maintain its signs and/or graphics at County boat ramps regarding boat ramp use and etiquette. [10-57]
- 3.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to maintain its Pinellas County Boat Ramp Guide to Pinellas County, showing the type of access, locations, amenities, hours of operation, etc. [10-57]
- 3.2.3. Policy: In furtherance of boater and wildlife safety, Pinellas County will conduct an annual review with the Sheriff's Marine Unit regarding marine enforcement, monitoring and speed restrictions. [10-57]
- 3.3. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to identify and prioritize coastal properties within the County for acquisition, consistent with the State's land acquisition program and Tampa Bay Estuary Program goals.
- 3.3.1. Policy: The County's process for identifying and prioritizing coastal properties for acquisition shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:
- degree of environmental significance and pristine condition;
 - consistency with hazard mitigation requirements;
 - beach access and management opportunities; and
 - urban park and open space needs
- 3.3.2. Policy: The County shall actively coordinate and collaborate with other coastal governments and agencies in achieving this objective.
- 3.4. Objective: Pinellas County will maintain, enhance and expand, where possible, public beach and shoreline access sites.
- 3.4.1. Policy: The County shall continue, as practical, to acquire beach access sites in locations that enhance public access. [10-57]
- 3.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County will give priority to those public access acquisitions or improvements that are located where public access is needed most.
- 3.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County will actively seek partnerships and shared funding opportunities for the acquisition of beach access sites.

- 3.4.4. Policy: Pinellas County will seek to obtain, as necessary, perpetual easements for public beach accesses, and for privately-owned beach property located landward of the Erosion Control Line that requires renourishment.
- 3.4.5. Policy: Pinellas County will cooperate with the coastal municipalities to maintain and enhance the existing system of primary beach accesses, defined as 100 parking spaces and one restroom facility per mile of restored beach.
- 3.4.6. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to maintain its web-based Pinellas County Beach Access Guide, showing the different types of facilities or amenities available at different beach accesses. [10-57]
- 3.4.7. Policy: Pinellas County will encourage the use of consistent beach access signage, provided at no cost by the Florida Coastal Management Program of the Department of Environmental Protection.
- 3.4.8. Policy: Consistent with existing agreements, Pinellas County will share responsibility and cooperate with the coastal municipalities to identify and maintain existing vehicular access, particularly shell paths without structures, for resource management, construction, and emergency access to coastal areas.
- 3.4.9. Policy: Pinellas County will investigate ideas and incentives to establish 'maintenance of views to the water from public roadways' to be used in the evaluation of proposed development projects in the unincorporated county.
- 3.4.10. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with managing agencies, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and municipalities to manage coastal resources.
- 3.4.11. Policy: Pinellas County shall not expend public monies for renourishment/restoring sand beaches where the amount of public access does not meet the minimum standards established by the State of Florida for State-financed beach renourishment/restoration projects.
- 3.4.12. Policy: The County will consider including, where practical, catwalks or other facilities for fishing on new or rebuilt County bridges.
- 3.5. Objective: Pinellas County will identify innovative ways to increase and enhance public accessibility to the beach, including the consideration of transportation and parking alternatives that also address pedestrian safety.

- 3.5.1. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to evaluate the feasibility of joint-use off-beach parking facilities, shuttle services to major beaches during peak weekend hours, and the acquisition of property near major causeways for future off-beach parking facilities, as opportunities arise. [12-10]
- 3.5.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to provide bicycle parking facilities at County-maintained beach accesses.
- 3.5.3. Policy: In furtherance of pedestrian safety, Pinellas County will coordinate with the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Florida Department of Transportation to encourage the construction of traffic control/pedestrian crossings on Gulf Boulevard near beach access points.

FACILITY-BASED RECREATION

GOAL FOUR: TO MAKE URBAN LEVELS OF FACILITY-BASED RECREATION MORE ACCESSIBLE TO UNINCORPORATED RESIDENTS WHEN OPPORTUNITIES ARISE THROUGH FINANCIALLY-FEASIBLE STRATEGIES AND BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIPS. [10-57]

- 4.1. Objective: Pinellas County will support facility-based recreation opportunities, on a case by case basis, that are financially feasible and based on funding availability, staffing levels and citizen priorities.[10-57]
- 4.1.1. Policy: The affordability of facility-based recreation to unincorporated residents will be a priority when developing or partnering on any facility-based recreation strategies. [10-57]
- 4.1.2. Policy: As funding and staffing allows, the County will evaluate opportunities for traditional and non-traditional recreational activities (such as skate parks and bicycle tracks). [10-57]
- 4.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to utilize creative funding and facility partnerships to meet facility-based recreation needs, including consideration of mutually beneficial interlocal and joint use agreements between the County and the School Board, adjacent municipalities, volunteer groups and other recreational service providers. [10-57]
- 4.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to encourage the provision of facility-based recreational opportunities, where feasible, by public agencies, private enterprise and private developers.
- 4.2.1. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will evaluate existing regulations to consider new

incentives or requirements for the provision of onsite recreational amenities by developers.

- 4.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to explore and pursue partnerships and public and private resources to support the acquisition of recreation and open space acreage.
- 4.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to meet regularly with special district recreation providers to coordinate opportunities for capital improvements, programs and funding, where mutual benefit is provided.
- 4.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County will annually review existing agreements relating to the provision of facility-based recreation to facilitate recreational priorities and objectives.
- 4.2.5. Policy: Consistent with the Public School Facilities Interlocal Agreement, Pinellas County will coordinate with the Pinellas County School Board regarding the co-location of recreational uses, joint planning, development, operations and maintenance of facilities, and will annually review the School Board's five-year plan to identify opportunities.
- 4.2.6. Policy: In order to enhance facility-based public recreation opportunities, Pinellas County shall continue to coordinate with the Pinellas County School Board to determine the feasibility of making public school recreational facilities more accessible to surrounding neighborhoods.
- 4.2.7. Policy: As feasible and appropriate, and consistent with Objective 4.2. (and in conjunction with such activities as redevelopment, neighborhood revitalization, etc.), Pinellas County shall support the assemblage of land and assist in the development and improvement of neighborhood recreational facilities in coordination with neighborhood associations and organizations specializing in the delivery of recreational services.
- 4.3. Objective: Pinellas County will support the role of recreation/community centers in meeting the social, wellness, fitness and facility-based recreation needs of unincorporated residents.
- 4.3.1. Policy: Pinellas County will support the establishment of community centers in unincorporated areas consistent with the recommendations from the Recreation, Open Space and Culture System Master Plan, where feasible from a financial and operational perspective.

- 4.3.2. Policy: Pinellas County will consider the potential of vacant/under-utilized commercial space as possible locations for community centers or other recreational facilities if such opportunities become available and are financially feasible. [12-10]
- 4.4. Objective: Pinellas County will take a lead role in the identification of the opportunities for development of a regional sports complex, in partnership with other agencies.
 - 4.4.1. Policy: By December 2012, Pinellas County will identify a site and a partner for a regional sports complex. [10-57]
 - 4.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County will initiate discussions with potential commercial, municipal and/or non-profit agency partners to manage the proposed sports complex
 - 4.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County will seek alternative funding sources for the proposed sports complex to minimize construction and/or operational costs.
- 4.5. Objective: The provision of facility-based recreation shall be compatible with surrounding land uses and shall not compromise the integrity of critical or significant natural systems.
 - 4.5.1. Policy: The location of facility-based recreation sites and activities will not conflict with the County's goals for protecting those habitats identified by Pinellas County staff as critical or significant, or impact those areas set aside expressly for natural systems management.
 - 4.5.2. Policy: The location of facility-based recreation sites and activities, including neighborhood-level parks, playgrounds and ballfields, must be compatible with, and should complement surrounding land uses.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

GOAL FIVE: TO PROMOTE THE ARTS, CULTURE, AND HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES WITHIN PINELLAS COUNTY, AND THEIR PRESERVATION, THROUGH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND BY RAISING AWARENESS OF EXISTING FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS.

- 5.1. Objective: Pinellas County recognizes that cultural resources enhance the County's quality of life and shall increase awareness, appreciation, and opportunities for engagement with the County's cultural resources among both residents and visitors.
 - 5.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall utilize the Pinellas County Cultural Affairs Department to increase awareness among both residents and

visitors of the existence and variety of the County's cultural resources.

- 5.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County will recognize and consider the visions, goals and recommendations within the Pinellas County Community Cultural Plan, Public Art and Design Master Plan, the Heritage Village Strategic Master Plan, and the Historic Preservation Program as referred to in Policy 5.3.3.
- 5.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall identify and pursue specific opportunities to inform residents and visitors of the cultural facilities and activities accessible to the public with the intent of increasing participation in, and support for, these cultural resources.
- 5.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue its efforts to promote tourism activities, including heritage tourism that emphasizes appreciation of the County's cultural resources.
- 5.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will investigate the development of a cultural overlay district concept.
- 5.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate a multi-agency cooperative marketing and advertising program that reaches out to residents and visitors to promote awareness of cultural resources and their contribution to quality of life.
- 5.1.7. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to support non-profit cultural providers in the County through grants, advocacy, and other appropriate means.
- 5.1.8. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will develop a cultural resources guide to enhance community understanding of the cultural amenities available in Pinellas County.
- 5.2. Objective: Pinellas County will encourage and promote public art and design, and seek ways to increase opportunities for public art and design throughout the County landscape.
 - 5.2.1. Policy: By December 2008, Pinellas County will have developed a Public Art and Design Master Plan that identifies opportunities, locations and priorities for public art and establishes an implementation/funding strategy and schedule.
 - 5.2.2. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will establish public art educational materials to build community understanding about art in public places.

- 5.2.3 Policy: Pinellas County will investigate revising building and land development regulations to create incentives to encourage private development to integrate public art into project designs, where appropriate.
- 5.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to integrate art into County project designs, as appropriate.
- 5.2.5. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to identify opportunities for public art in regional parks and environmental lands, where appropriate and consistent with applicable management plans.
- 5.3. Objective: The County shall continue to identify, protect and preserve historic and archaeological resources in Pinellas County, including coastal areas. Particular emphasis will be given to increasing the interpretation and appreciation of such resources.
- 5.3.1. Policy: By December 2010, the County shall update the 1994 countywide inventory of historic and archaeological resources. The findings will be utilized to identify potentially significant local, state and national register eligible historic and archaeological resources in the County. The inventory may be further revised as needed, based upon information that meets acceptable professional criteria for identifying these resources. [10-20]
- 5.3.2 Policy: Concomitantly with the update to the countywide inventory of historical and archaeological resources, the County will update its Geographic Information System (GIS) in order to have an accurate database for making preservation decisions, including in association with redevelopment planning.
- 5.3.3 Policy: Based on the findings of the County's Historic Preservation Task Force and the resulting development of a historic preservation program, potential amendments to this Comprehensive Plan may be required to adequately protect historic resources, and inform County residents, businesses and local leaders of the value those resources bring to the character and quality of communities throughout Pinellas County. Furthermore, potential amendments to the County's Land Development Code may be required to adequately protect historic and archaeological resources.
- 5.3.4. Policy: As additional sites of potential historical or archaeological significance are identified in unincorporated Pinellas County, they shall be submitted to the Florida Department of State for inclusion in the Florida Master Site File.
- 5.3.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to provide for the protection, preservation, and appropriate use of historically significant housing,

structures, and archaeological resources through implementation of the historic preservation and comprehensive zoning chapters of the Pinellas County Land Development Code.

- 5.3.6. Policy: Historic and archaeological sites as identified in the County's Geographic Information System shall be shown on site plans submitted for development or redevelopment.
- 5.3.7. Policy: When appropriate, and as resources allow, Pinellas County shall continue to support citizen-initiated efforts to preserve and protect historic and archaeological resources.
- 5.3.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to offer incentives to protect and restore designated historic properties in the unincorporated area and, when appropriate, shall coordinate with the municipalities on intergovernmental efforts to protect historic resources.
- 5.3.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall recognize historic and archaeological resources that could potentially be affected by land use and zoning changes.
- 5.3.10. Policy: Pinellas County shall promote the protection, preservation, or sensitive adaptive reuse of historic and archaeological resources located in coastal areas and provide public access where appropriate and possible.
- 5.3.11. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue its historical and archaeological preservation education programs to inform residents and visitors about the history and prehistory of Pinellas County, and to increase an awareness of the significance of the County's historic and archaeological resources.
- 5.3.12. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret archaeological and historic sites and buildings that are listed on the official National Register, or are of local historical significance within County parks and environmental lands.
- 5.3.13. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to support County historic and archaeological sites and structures such as the old County Courthouse, the Philippe Park Indian Mound and Fort DeSoto, as well as interpretive centers such as the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center and Heritage Village, that contribute to heritage-based tourism and cultural stewardship.
- 5.3.14. Policy: When a significant historic structure or archaeological site is acquired by Pinellas County, the County shall assess the feasibility of preserving the historic structure or the significance of the archaeological site.

- 5.3.15. Policy: The County may identify and include public infrastructure improvements as part of its overall program to promote the protection and preservation of significant historic and archaeological resources.
- 5.3.16. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will establish a countywide guide to historically significant facilities.
- 5.3.17. Policy: Pinellas County will maintain repositories for the protection and interpretation of archaeological, historic and public art collections.
- 5.3.18. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to offer historical and cultural programming and interpretation within its system of regional parks and environmental lands, where appropriate and consistent with applicable management plans.
- 5.3.19. Policy: Historical and cultural programming activities will not compromise the environmental, historical, archaeological and resource-based integrity of the regional parks and environmental lands in which they are located.
- 5.3.20 Policy: Pinellas County shall cooperate with the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to provide them with additional local information on the evaluation of nominated National Register eligible sites. [10-20]
- 5.3.21 Policy: Pinellas County shall coordinate with and request from SHPO an evaluation of historic bridges located within Pinellas County that have been recommended eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Florida Department of Transportation. [10-20]
- 5.3.22 Policy: Pinellas County shall develop strategies for documenting under-recorded historical and archaeological resources by emphasizing the documentation of linear resources (e.g. canals, railroads, historic road segments), by coordinating with local genealogical and historical societies to conduct surveys of historic cemeteries and unmarked graves in future cultural resource surveys, and by developing contexts for these resources to accurately assess their historic significance. [10-20]
- 5.3.23 Policy: Pinellas County shall consider coordination with municipalities, as appropriate, to record cultural resources related to the histories of ethnic enclaves (e.g. African-Americans, Greek heritage of Tarpon Springs, etc.). [10-20]

- 5.3.24 Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to conduct oral interviews to gather information about historical and cultural resources within the County. [10-20]
- 5.4 Objective: Pinellas County shall develop cooperative ventures with the State and local communities and municipalities, to develop a collaborative countywide educational outreach to promote historic preservation in Pinellas County. [10-20]
- 5.4.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall work with the Ozona and Crystal Beach communities to gauge the level of support for protecting historic resources in these communities. [10-20]
- 5.4.2 Policy: Pinellas County shall consider developing strategies for updating documentation for existing National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites. [10-20]
- 5.4.3 Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to assist municipalities, as appropriate, with nominations of eligible sites for listing on the National Register and shall coordinate with municipalities in the review of existing National Register historic boundaries and contributing properties as necessary. [10-20]
- 5.4.4 Policy: Pinellas County shall assist National Register nominations of eligible historic resources as evaluated by State Historic Preservation Office. [10-20]
- 5.4.5 Policy: Pinellas County shall develop a countywide historic preservation toolbox that would guide owners of historic properties on the availability of local programs and incentives that would help preserve and promote historic properties in Pinellas County. [10-20]
- 5.4.6 Policy: Pinellas County shall encourage municipalities to enact local historic preservation ordinances, historic property tax exemption ordinances, and historic preservation programs. [10-20]
- 5.4.7 Policy: To promote local historic preservation incentives available to municipalities, Pinellas County shall continue to support historic property ad valorem tax exemptions within municipalities that have adopted a local historic property tax exemption ordinance similar to the Pinellas County Historic Property Tax Exemption provisions in the Pinellas County Code. [10-20]
- 5.4.8 Policy: By 2010, Pinellas County shall amend the Historic Preservation Ordinance adopted in 1992 in order to meet the program requirements of becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG), and provide technical assistance to increase the number of municipalities participating in the state CLG program. [10-20]

- 5.4.9 Policy: Pinellas County shall develop strategies to provide municipalities with technical assistance and educational opportunities in historic preservation. [10-20]
- 5.4.10 Policy: Pinellas County shall support local historic preservation educational outreach programs available to all residents and visitors of Pinellas County interested in historic preservation, including owners of historic properties, realtors and developers, preservation commission and historical society members, municipalities, and historic preservation professionals. [10-20]
- 5.4.11 Policy: Pinellas County shall promote the economic benefits of historic preservation to real estate professionals, including realtors, developers, and insurance companies. [10-20]
- 5.4.12 Policy: Pinellas County shall coordinate with historical societies and museums to develop exhibits for schools and libraries highlighting cultural resources of the county. [10-20]
- 5.4.13 Policy: Pinellas County shall support the activities, policies and programs of the Pinellas County Historic Preservation Advisory Board. [10-20]

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE COUNTY’S RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

GOAL SIX: TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE A SUSTAINABILITY ETHIC, ENSURING THAT ECOLOGICAL LIMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ARE CONSIDERED IN ALL DECISIONS AND DESIGNS AFFECTING CULTURAL, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING, AND THAT ALL DECISIONS AND PROJECTS CONTRIBUTE INCREMENTALLY TO ACHIEVING AND SUSTAINING SOCIAL EQUITY, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND A QUALITY COMMUNITY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS.

- 6.1. Objective: Pinellas County will support and facilitate realization of the concept of livable urban communities by planning for, and providing, quality recreational opportunities and open spaces throughout the County, in a responsible manner that promotes and protects the environmental value of the County’s natural reservations.
- 6.1.1. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will review, and amend as necessary, the regulations to implement recreation and open space aspects of quality community/livable community initiatives.
- 6.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to implement programs that support bicycle lanes, trails and other alternatives to automobile travel, contribute to environmental quality and provide visual relief from urban surroundings.

- 6.1.3. Policy: To meet the needs of residents and further the ideal of quality communities as a function of recreation, leisure and mobility opportunities, the design and functionality of the Pinellas County regional park system and environmental lands, where appropriate, will have a renewed focus on the value of connectivity, on safe and attractive gathering places, on functional and attractive design, and on open vistas and open spaces.
- 6.1.4. Policy: Planning for recreational facilities will consider the needs of all members of the community and strive to provide equal access for everyone, including the underserved, through such means as partnering with the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), providing bike lanes where needed, and filling in the gaps where facilities may be inadequate or lacking.
- 6.1.5. Policy: In recognition of the County's near built-out condition and the fragile balance between the urban interface and its regional parks system and environmental lands, Pinellas County will institutionalize sustainability ethics as a way to help the County's natural reservations remain intact for habitat value and the enjoyment and benefit of future generations.
- 6.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County will integrate Green Design, as feasible and appropriate, into park and environmental land facilities and structures.