

NATURAL, HISTORIC, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MAJOR FINDINGS

GEOLOGY

1. Pinellas County contracted with the Florida Sinkhole Research Institute, and subsequently, the University of South Florida to evaluate local sinkhole hazard and the feasibility of predictive models in the attempt to minimize sinkhole damage in Pinellas County.
2. Foundation failures appear to be more common in north Pinellas County; however, overall, Pinellas County has a fairly low percentage and probability of sinkhole collapse when compared to other areas of karst topography.

GROUNDWATER

1. Pinellas County continues to utilize the Future Land Use Element, land development regulations, and land acquisition as effective tools for protecting aquifer recharge areas and wellfields in the northeastern (Sector 2) portion of the County. Amendments to the Future Land Use Map in 1982 decreased the allowable density of development on approximately 22,600 acres of land in Sector 2. Densities were decreased from 7.5 dwelling units per acre (u.p.a.) to 0.5 u.p.a. in the northernmost part of the Sector, and to 1.0 u.p.a. and 5.0 u.p.a. in the central and southern parts of the Sector. In addition, wetland systems and other environmentally sensitive lands were designated as Preservation on the Future Land Use Map.
2. Pinellas County adopted a Wellhead Protection Ordinance in 1990 which enhanced the groundwater protection program strategies described above. The Ordinance includes a wellhead protection overlay zoning district defining the protection area, and includes specific restrictions on the types of uses allowed within the District, construction and storage practices required in the District, and permit requirements for certain uses.
3. The Clearwater/Dunedin recharge area found west and south of Lake Tarpon exists primarily because of limestone formations overlain by relatively thin sinkhole perforated clay deposits and sands. The peak potentiometric highs in this area are found near Coachman and Countryside areas of Clearwater. These highs represent the area of highest potential energy and best withdrawal capacity. Curlew Creek, with its deep stream bed, partially divides the north and south portion of the recharge area in the western portion of the County.
4. Pinellas County is dependent upon groundwater for its potable water supply. In order to preserve the high quality groundwater resource for potable uses, the County has an extensive water conservation program in place, including a progressive program of reclaimed water distribution aimed at ultimately making 100 percent of its treated wastewater available as reclaimed water for irrigation and similar purposes by 2002.

5. In response to drought conditions and the increased demand placed on the region's groundwater resources, the Southwest Florida Water Management District declared the Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area (NTBWUCA) in 1989.
6. Much of the recharge area for the regional groundwater supply within the Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area is outside of Pinellas County. For this reason, Pinellas County supports the need for coordination with other local governments and agencies in the identification and protection of those areas of significant natural recharge to the Region's groundwater supply.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND LIVING RESOURCES

1. Pinellas County is home to the following native vegetative communities: South Florida Coastal Strand, Pine Flatwoods, Sand Pine Scrub, Sand Hill Community, Mixed Forest including Upland Hardwood Hammocks, Wetland Hardwood Hammocks, Hardwood Swamps, Cypress Swamps, Freshwater Marsh and Ponds, and Tidal Wetland Communities including Mangrove Swamp, Salt Marshes and Salt Barrens, and Seagrass Meadows.
2. Native vegetative communities such as the Sand Pine Scrub and Sand Hill Communities provide habitat for several threatened and endangered flora and fauna, including: the Florida Golden Aster, the Curtiss Milkweed, the Short-tailed Snake, the Eastern Indigo Snake, and the Southern Bald Eagle. These communities provide well-drained habitats, which also makes them desirable for development.
3. The Preservation land use category of the Future Land Use Element continues to be used as a primary implementation mechanism to recognize and identify environmentally sensitive lands and features in the natural environment that should be kept essentially in their natural condition.
4. Typical areas identified and designated as Preservation continue to include marine wetlands, major freshwater wetlands, tidal marshes, tidal swamps, shoreline vegetation, drainage/floodway corridors, areas within the 25-year floodplain, critical wildlife habitat, hardwood swamp, and cypress swamp.
5. As of 1997, there are 9,041 acres of land designated as Preservation on the Pinellas County Future Land Use Map within the unincorporated area of Pinellas County.
6. Pinellas County continues to acquire and manage lands for purposes of protecting, preserving and restoring functioning native terrestrial, estuarine, aquatic and marine wildlife and plant populations.

7. Pinellas County is committed to providing educational and recreational opportunities that enhance appreciation for, and encourage stewardship of, natural systems and their dependent living resources.
8. Intergovernmental coordination is considered integral to the protection, enhancement or restoration of natural systems within the County and the region as a whole.
9. The County practices comprehensive watershed planning and management which addresses not only stormwater management, but also natural resource protection, enhancement and restoration.
10. The biological resources within a watershed frequently serve as indicators of the health of the overall watershed and its function. For this reason, biological targets, or goals, are being established in some watershed plans. This innovative method of evaluating the effectiveness of the County's management plans goes way beyond the traditional approach which emphasized only regulatory water quantity and quality standards in flood control project design.
11. Pinellas County uses a multi-faceted approach to protect its marine and coastal resources which includes land acquisition, research and education, as well as land development and land use regulation. The County is unique in having a countywide Water and Navigation Control Authority that controls the siting of marinas, boat ramps and docks throughout the County for the purpose of public safety and natural resource, including manatee protection.
[ORD. 03-33]

AIR QUALITY

1. Pinellas County's primary air pollution concern continues to be ground level ozone.
2. However, a review of the air quality data for Pinellas County shows a marked improvement in ambient ozone concentrations since 1988.
3. Since the elimination of lead in gasoline, Pinellas County air quality monitoring data shows extremely low ambient concentrations of this pollutant.
4. The U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) reclassified the Tampa Bay air shed (which includes Pinellas County) to "attainment/maintenance" status for ozone in February of 1996.

FLOODPLAINS

1. Pinellas County continues to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
2. Pinellas County also participates in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) and has been awarded a Class 8 rating. As a result, unincorporated County residents holding NFIP policies receive a reduction on their flood insurance premiums.
3. In conjunction with participation in the CRS, the County has adopted a Repetitive Loss Plan. This Plan identifies areas of repetitive loss from flood damage, and indicates what measures the County takes to attempt to avoid or alleviate repetitive flood damage.

HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Two surveys of historic resources in unincorporated Pinellas County resulted in identification of 139 historic structures. The majority of the historic structures surveyed were wood frame, single-family houses that date from the 1900 to 1930 era. Two of the surveyed structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Resources.
2. The majority of the historic structures (77) are located in old Palm Harbor, Ozona and Crystal Beach areas and are identified in the surveys as eligible for local designation. The Ozona area is identified as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Resources.
3. To preserve historic and archaeological resources, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (The Board) adopted a Historic Preservation Code that provides for designation and protection of historic structures and archaeological sites in unincorporated Pinellas County.
4. Downtown Palm Harbor was designated as a Historic District in 1994. It is the first historic district in the unincorporated area and it contains nine contributing historic structures. A plan is being developed to enhance the historic character of the District.
5. To enhance preservation education and protection of archaeological resources in unincorporated Pinellas County, the County sponsored excavation of the Yat Kitischee archaeological site, placed the site under public ownership, published the Yat Kitischee archaeological booklet and distributed this educational booklet to the Pinellas County and Hillsborough County public school systems. This booklet is currently part of the school system curriculum. The County has also assumed management of Weedon Island preserve, a significant archaeological site listed on the National Register of Historic Resources. Plans are being developed to establish an archaeological interpretive exhibit center at the Weedon Island preserve.

**NATURAL, HISTORIC, ND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES**

GEOLOGY

1. GOAL: GEOLOGICAL FEATURES SHALL BE IDENTIFIED AND MANAGED TO PROTECT BOTH THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

1.1. Objective: Information on areas with high sinkhole / subsidence susceptibility shall be made available for use in County planning and private land development.

1.1.1. Policy: By January 1, 1998, Pinellas County shall publicize the availability of information on areas with high sinkhole / subsidence susceptibility at County offices.

1.2. Objective: Coastal geologic features shall provide both public enjoyment and natural functions.

1.2.1. Policy: In conjunction with other policies found in the Coastal Management Element, beach nourishment projects shall be designed to include dune restoration.

1.2.2. Policy: All beach projects shall be designed and implemented to protect the ability of sea turtles to nest on Pinellas County beaches.

1.2.3. Policy: County owned beach front property shall be managed to provide for public access, public facilities, and the preservation or enhancement of natural functions.

GROUNDWATER

2. GOAL: PROTECT THE FUNCTIONAL INTEGRITY OF NATURAL GROUNDWATER AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS AND WELLFIELDS IN A MANNER THAT PRESERVES AND ENHANCES WATER QUALITY.

2.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to implement a groundwater protection program.

- 2.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall adopt zones of protection for its wellfields, determined by a flow net based on potentiometric surface
- 2.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall control the use and storage of hazardous substances within the wellfield protection zones.
- 2.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall operate an emergency response program that includes provisions for responding to accidental pollution events and providing a list of toxic and hazardous substances subject to the restrictions of the program.
- 2.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall use its existing monitoring well maintenance program to protect the County wellfields by recording and analyzing groundwater quality and quantity.
- 2.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall use the Future Land Use Element to restrict the density and intensity of development within the identified wellfield protection zones.
- 2.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall share information with adjacent counties and municipalities in an ongoing effort to protect the various potable wellfields and recharge areas. The County will continue to pursue an interlocal agreement to formalize the multi-jurisdictional coordination process.
- 2.1.7. Policy: The County shall utilize the Future Land Use Element to protect aquifer recharge areas by limiting residential density to a maximum of 0.5 unit per acre within the northern portion of Sector 2 (which includes the Eldridge-Wilde Wellfield and surrounding lands), and by designating major wetland systems and associated uplands as preservation.
- 2.1.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall protect groundwater quality by strict adherence to the Groundwater Protection Program, by preservation or restoration of natural drainage features through local regulation, by adherence to applicable federal, state and local regulations in county-designed projects, and by supporting system improvements which are designed to protect and enhance the raw water supply.
- 2.1.9. Policy: The County shall enforce ordinances that regulate borrow pits and landfills throughout Pinellas County. Landfills shall be prohibited within the zones of protection to be determined in the County's groundwater protection program.

- 2.1.10. Policy: The County shall prohibit additional commercial or industrial land uses within areas critical to the protection of the County's wellfields in Sector 2 as determined by the County's groundwater protection program.
- 2.1.11. Policy: The County shall protect the wellfields in Sector 2 through lease agreements with property owners and by designating county-owned wellfields as Recreation/Open Space, Preservation - Resource Management, or Preservation on the Future Land Use Map.
- 2.1.12. Policy: Pinellas County shall encourage and participate in efforts by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to prioritize the identification of groundwater recharge areas within the Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area (NTBWUCA).
- 2.1.13. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to regulate the direct or indirect release of pollutants into sinkholes in order to prevent groundwater contamination.
- 2.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall enforce its water shortage program in accordance with the Water Shortage Plan of the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Section 82 Pinellas County Code, "Water Shortage Plan".
 - 2.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall utilize the provisions of County Code Section 82 in cooperating with the Southwest Florida Water Management District in dealing with water shortages and enforcing water use restrictions as provided in Section 373.609, FS.
 - 2.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall designate one or more persons who will become knowledgeable of the SWFWMD water use restrictions. In the event of a shortage, these persons will keep abreast of which set of restrictions is in force and will serve as local information sources for the County.
 - 2.2.3. Policy: The County shall continue its commitment to implement proactive, innovative, and creative conservation education programs and technologies.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND LIVING RESOURCES

3. GOAL: TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, RESTORE AND APPROPRIATELY MANAGE THE NATURAL SYSTEMS AND LIVING RESOURCES OF PINELLAS COUNTY TO ENSURE THE HIGHEST ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY POSSIBLE.

- 3.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall implement management programs for the conservation of native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, and wildlife species.
- 3.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to identify habitat that needs to be conserved.
- 3.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to follow an active program of preservation, conservation and/or restoration of functioning native terrestrial, estuarine, aquatic, and marine vegetative communities.
- 3.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall identify and preserve naturally occurring vegetative communities, terrestrial, estuarine, marine and aquatic habitats, and breeding populations of wildlife species which occur naturally in Pinellas County.
- 3.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall review and amend, as necessary, existing ordinances in order to protect and conserve native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine estuarine, and aquatic habitats, and wildlife habitat from destruction by development activities.
- 3.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to require that the type, intensity and location of development be correlated inversely with the rarity and character of the native vegetation communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine, and aquatic habitats, and wildlife species existing on each site.
- 3.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall require that development of a site require maintenance or improvement of existing vegetative communities including the removal of ecologically undesirable vegetation.
- 3.1.7. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to make a target list of ecologically undesirable plant species available to the public.

- 3.1.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to acquire properties which contain desirable habitats, or which have the potential to be restored to provide desirable habitat.
- 3.1.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to manage County-owned lands through actions directed at improving populations of wildlife species native to the County, by providing avenues for the dispersal of isolated populations of wildlife over a wider area, by management of exotic and nuisance species, and where possible by providing educational opportunities, and/or opportunities for public viewing and the enjoyment of wildlife.
- 3.1.10. Policy: Pinellas County shall designate environmentally sensitive lands in unincorporated areas for protection based on locally determined criteria that further the goals, objectives and policies of this element.
- 3.1.11. Policy: Pinellas County shall protect natural reservations as identified within the Recreation and Open Space Element by designating, whenever possible, natural reservations as Recreation/Open Space, Preservation-Resource Management, or Preservation on the County's Future Land Use Map.
- 3.1.12. Policy: Watershed and waterbody management plans shall include, where feasible, planned corridors and contiguous conservation and preservation areas.
- 3.1.13. Policy: Consideration will also be given to the protection of important, but isolated, lands where the isolation itself is providing an important habitat/species protection function.
- 3.1.14. Policy: Pinellas County's land acquisition efforts shall include a commitment to linking open space areas, and creating a network of greenways and greenspaces, which can be managed to support the protection, enhancement and restoration of functional and connected natural systems while providing, where appropriate and feasible, unique recreational opportunities, including nature-based experiences, for both residents and visitors.
- 3.1.15. Policy: By December of 1998, Pinellas County shall utilize environmentally beneficial landscape principles, incorporating low maintenance design, at all County properties.
- 3.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to develop comprehensive management plans reflecting an increased commitment from the public and private sector for the protection of native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, and native wildlife species, including those identified as threatened, endangered or species of special concern.

- 3.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall adopt development regulations to protect threatened, and endangered species and species of special concern, and to restrict activities which adversely affect the survival of members of these species.
- 3.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall implement recovery programs for native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, and wildlife species identified as threatened, endangered and species of special concern, as well as those habitats identified in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) as being of special concern, and/or identified by the County.
- 3.3. Objective: Pinellas County shall protect, and conserve living marine resources within the coastal planning area by preserving where appropriate, or restoring where possible marine and estuarine habitats, including coastal wetlands and tidal streams.
- 3.3.1. Policy: The County shall continue to prohibit dredging and filling or other development activities having significant long-term impacts on marine and estuarine habitats such as seagrass beds, mangroves, tidal marshes and tidal flats, except in cases clearly in the public interest.
- 3.3.2. Policy: The County shall continue to enforce its erosion control regulations to reduce sedimentation and turbidity in coastal habitats (particularly seagrass beds) resulting from upland development activities.
- 3.3.3. Policy: The County shall continue to encourage alternatives to the hardening and bulkheading of natural coastal shorelines, natural stream courses, and tidal creeks through the enforcement of land development regulations.
- 3.3.4. Policy: The County shall continue its program to provide for the eradication of ecologically undesirable vegetation from intertidal, riverine and nearby upland areas that is not indigenous to Florida and which has altered natural ecosystems by competitively excluding native plant species.
- 3.3.5. Policy: The County shall continue to cooperate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program and other appropriate agencies in protecting, restoring or enhancing natural habitats, estuaries, and natural systems such as tidal flats, tidal streams, mangrove forest, seagrass beds, salt barrens, salt marshes and uplands by participating in revegetation projects, the development and implementation of management plans for Tampa Bay and the Boca Ciega Bay and Pinellas County aquatic preserves, Pollution Recovery Trust Fund environmental enhancement projects, Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board Cooperative

Funding projects, and other appropriate restorative and mitigative programs.

- 3.3.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to prohibit non-water dependent development or redevelopment within natural intertidal areas (e.g., salt marshes, tidal flats and mangrove forests).
- 3.3.7. Policy: The County shall continue to enforce its regulations that require natural upland buffers adjacent to estuaries, bays and other surface waters.
- 3.3.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to support the protection of manatees through such measures as enforcing no-wake zones and sea grass protection areas, and by providing manatee signage.
- 3.3.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall participate with other agencies in determining appropriate measures for protecting manatees, including the development of manatee protection measures by the Tampa Bay Regional Council's Agency on Bay Management, Manatee Task Force. The recommended measures shall be reviewed by the County and those measures that are considered appropriate, and within the purview of the Board of County Commissioners to implement, shall be recommended for adoption as a part of the Comprehensive Plan.
- 3.3.10. Policy: The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners shall continue to utilize its regulatory authority as the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority to ensure development is consistent with the objectives and policies of this Element pertaining to the protection, enhancement, and restoration of coastal resources.
- 3.3.11. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to use its land development code, and in particular, its countywide controls under the Water and Navigation Control Authority, to exercise locational restrictions and site-specific development controls to ensure development is undertaken in a manner that does not compromise the County's goal for protecting coastal and marine habitats and dependent species. [ORD. 03-33]
- 3.4. Objective: The County shall support and cooperate in the development of comprehensive and coordinated management plans for Tampa Bay and the aquatic preserves located in Pinellas County by providing staff resources and technical support in the preparation, review, and implementation of these management plans.

DCA 03-01
[ORD. 03-33] 05/06/03

- 3.4.1. Policy: The County shall cooperate with, and assist as appropriate, the Southwest Florida Water Management District in the development and implementation of Surface Water Improvement and Management Plans for water bodies in Pinellas County.
- 3.4.2. Policy: The County shall continue to participate with the Department of Environmental Protection in the development of the Boca Ciega Bay and Pinellas County Aquatic Preserves Management Plan.
- 3.4.3. Policy: The County shall continue to participate in the Agency on Bay Management and the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program as a means to provide a multi-jurisdictional/-multi-disciplinary forums for managing the resources of Tampa Bay.
- 3.4.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall coordinate with other local governments in protecting multi-jurisdictional estuaries by soliciting municipal comments before applications for development are heard by the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority.
- 3.5. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue its public education program regarding the need to conserve native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, wildlife species and wildlife habitat occurring in Pinellas County.
- 3.5.1. Policy: Where mutual benefit is achieved, Pinellas County shall actively pursue interactive public involvement and functional partnerships with the Pinellas County School Board, as well as area colleges and environmental organizations for the purposes of developing and disseminating educational materials and programs.
- 3.6. Objective: Pinellas County shall coordinate with other local governments and agencies relative to the conservation, protection and management of native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, wildlife species and habitat in Pinellas County.
- 3.6.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall share information concerning native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, wildlife species and habitat occurring in Pinellas County with local governments, other agencies, and environmental interest groups.
- 3.6.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall develop innovative education facilities and programs at various County parks and preserves including the Brooker Creek Preserve, the Weedon Island Preserve, Sawgrass Lake Park and the Botanical Learning Center.

AIR QUALITY

4. GOAL: PINELLAS COUNTY WILL MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY TO LEVELS THAT SURPASS ALL STATE AND FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR REGULATED AIR POLLUTANTS TO ENSURE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ITS CITIZENS.
- 4.1. Objective: Pinellas County will maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone as described in the 10-Year Maintenance Plan, Statement of Commitments, established within the Florida State Implementation Plan.
- 4.1.1. Policy: Measures necessary to reduce ozone precursor emissions shall be implemented in accordance with the Florida State Implementation Plan.
- 4.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall support federal fuel volatility regulations as a means of significantly reducing mobile source pollutant emissions.
- 4.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall support the use of the latest and most applicable urban photochemical smog models and the latest and most applicable mobile source emissions models in determining air pollution control strategies.
- 4.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to require vapor control systems for all new and reconstructed gas stations.
- 4.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to monitor and reduce transportation related air quality impacts.
- 4.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall maintain detailed mobile source emission inventories.
- 4.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall give priority, whenever feasible, to those highway improvements resulting in the greatest reductions of air pollution concentrations.
- 4.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to implement the county signalization system as a means of improving traffic flow and reducing vehicular air pollution emissions.
- 4.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to review, and require modification(s) when necessary, to Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) for air quality impacts.
- 4.2.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to perform computer modeling on existing and planned transportation facilities in order to identify

potential air quality problems, develop appropriate mitigation plans and verify that any transportation project, program, and/or plan conforms with the Florida State Implementation Plan.

- 4.2.6. Policy: The Pinellas County Air Quality Division shall maintain its membership on the Technical Coordinating Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and review transportation related projects subject to the requirements of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) and their successors.
- 4.3. Objective: Pinellas County shall support the success of the Inspection and Maintenance Program mandated by the Clean Outdoor Air Law.
 - 4.3.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the State Inspection and Maintenance Program in Pinellas County.
 - 4.3.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to promote and support the State Inspection and Maintenance Program through public education and legislative comment.
- 4.4. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to assess, on an annual basis, the effectiveness of its existing air pollution control program and the need for revised control strategies or additional program elements.
 - 4.4.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to maintain the status of its existing approved local air program in accordance with Florida Statutes and interagency agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
 - 4.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to monitor and study the impacts of atmospheric deposition and will coordinate with other local and state agencies to assess the negative impacts, if any, on environmental quality.
 - 4.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall maintain its air monitoring network and upgrade air monitoring stations as new standards or procedures are promulgated by the US Environmental Protection Agency.
 - 4.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to maintain the air compliance and inspection program to effectively meet interagency agreements with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).
 - 4.4.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to meet its obligations for receipt of Federal Section 105 Air Pollution Control Grant funds.

4.4.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall amend its comprehensive air quality ordinance as needed to ensure the effectiveness of the Air Quality Compliance Program and protect the health and welfare of the citizens of Pinellas County.

5. GOAL: PINELLAS COUNTY SHALL IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF NON- CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS SUCH AS HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

5.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall participate in the development and implementation of reasonable and effective federal and state regulatory programs to minimize human exposure to carcinogens and toxic substances, consistent with Title III of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments.

5.1.1. Policy: The application of pesticides and other toxic substances shall be timed and performed in such a manner as to minimize exposure to humans and non-targeted wildlife and vegetation.

5.1.2. Policy: New solid waste incinerators will be equipped with the Best Available Control Technology to minimize emissions from entering the environment.

5.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to make information available to the public on radon.

5.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to encourage the use of alternative pest control practices.

5.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue its implementation of delegated NESHAP's responsibilities regarding asbestos.

5.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to monitor and study the levels and sources of toxic air pollutants consistent with EPA programs and objectives.

6. GOAL: PINELLAS COUNTY WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC AWARENESS CONCERNING AIR QUALITY ISSUES THROUGH THE USE OF IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS, AND THE USE OF COUNTY MEDIA FACILITIES.

6.1. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to promote air quality awareness through a public education program.

6.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to notify the public of air pollution episodes.

FLOODPLAINS

7. GOAL: PINELLAS COUNTY SHALL PRESERVE, PROTECT, RESTORE AND MANAGE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF ITS FLOODPLAINS TO MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE WATER QUALITY, PLANT AND ANIMAL DIVERSITY, AND AQUATIC PRODUCTIVITY.
- 7.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to protect floodplains, flood ways, and all other natural areas having functional hydrological characteristics.
- 7.1.1. Policy: All construction in floodplains and flood ways shall be required to comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency or Federal Insurance Administration standards and county building codes.
- 7.1.2. Policy: Developers shall be required, through the site plan review process, to incorporate those wetland portions of sites which are within 100-year floodplains as conservation easements.
- 7.1.3. Policy: Construction in floodplains shall continue to be limited by the enforcement of Section 158, the Pinellas County Floodplain Management portion of the Land Development Code, as amended.
- 7.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall not approve any request to increase residential density above 5.0 u.p.a. on the Future Land Use Element for areas within 100 year floodplains.
- 7.1.5. Policy: Wetlands and floodplains shall continue to be preserved through such means as a preservation designation on the Future Land Use Map, and shall be protected as conveyance systems, as well as wildlife and vegetative habitat.
- 7.1.6. Policy: The County shall enforce its erosion control regulations to reduce sedimentation in floodplains resulting from upland development activities.
- 7.1.7. Policy: The County shall encourage alternatives to the hardening and bulkheading of natural banks, natural stream courses, and creeks through the enforcement of appropriate ordinances.
- 7.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to maintain, and enhance where possible, the current balance of living resources in the floodplains of the County.
- 7.2.1. Policy: The County shall continue to prohibit dredging and filling or other development activities having significant long-term impacts on the

ecological or hydrological function of the floodplains, except in cases clearly in the public interest.

- 7.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall enforce its policies on natural systems and living resources (Goal 3 of the Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources Element) while considering the protection of the floodplains.
- 7.2.3. Policy: The County shall continue to cooperate with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and other appropriate agencies in expanding or enhancing existing natural habitats associated with floodplains.

HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

8. GOAL: TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES WITHIN PINELLAS COUNTY, AND TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF THE CULTURAL AMENITIES AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY'S RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

- 8.1. Objective: The County shall continue to identify, protect and preserve historic and archaeological resources in Pinellas County, including the coastal planning areas.
 - 8.1.1. Policy: The County shall utilize the historic and archaeological surveys conducted for Pinellas County in 1991 and 1993 as the primary basis for identifying potentially significant historic and archaeological resources in the unincorporated area. This inventory may be revised based upon information that meets acceptable professional criteria for identifying these resources.
 - 8.1.2. 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.
 - 8.1.3. 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.
 - 8.1.4. Policy: Historic and archaeological sites shall be shown on site plans submitted.
 - 8.1.5. Policy: When appropriate, and as resources allow, Pinellas County shall continue to support citizen-initiated efforts to preserve and protect historic and archaeological resources.

- 8.1.6. 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.
- 8.1.7. Policy: Pinellas County shall recognize historic and archaeological resources that could potentially be affected by land use and zoning changes.
- 8.1.8. 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.
- 8.1.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue its archaeological preservation efforts in the Weedon Island Preserve by supporting development of an archaeological interpretive center.
- 8.1.10. 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.
- 8.1.11. 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.
- 8.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall identify opportunities to increase awareness of the County’s cultural resources among both residents and visitors.
- 8.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall cooperate with the Pinellas County Arts Council to increase awareness among both residents and visitors of the existence and variety of the County’s cultural resources.
- 8.2.2. Policy: In support of Policy 8.2.1., 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.
- 8.2.3. Policy: When appropriate, information shall be provided about the County’s cultural and historical resources on the County’s World Wide Web site.
- 8.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue its efforts to promote tourism activities that emphasize appreciation of the County’s cultural as well as natural and historic resources.