

<p style="text-align:center">SPECIFIC IDEAS FROM THE WORKGROUP FOR NEW AND/OR MODIFIED OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES</p>

Water Supply and Sanitary Sewer Element

- Regarding Water Supply Policy 1.4.3. promoting the “use of native and drought tolerant plants through continued public education and enforcement of development regulations” it is suggested that in addition to public education, the County could be a role model by setting a goal for having a percentage of large County facilities (e.g., playgrounds) have native and drought-tolerant landscaping - something like:

*"By [some date], Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners **urban/constructed** facilities [above a certain size?] shall have 80% of their irrigated landscaped area in native or drought-tolerant landscaping".*

Note: Policy 1.3.3. of the Recreation and Open Space Element currently says *Pinellas County shall develop park areas utilizing a minimum of 80 percent native shrubs and trees.*

- Also, it was suggested that we elaborate upon Policy 2.1.12. of the Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources (NHCR) Element (where the County is supporting SWFWMD in identifying recharge areas). The workgroup suggested a new policy(ies) requiring us to produce a map of groundwater recharge areas throughout Pinellas County, then requiring follow up with some action to restrict direct or indirect release of pollutants into all these areas, not just the identified wellfield protection areas. For example:

“Pinellas County shall, in conjunction with appropriate agencies, prepare a map that identifies high groundwater recharge areas, including areas outside of the current wellhead protection zone.”

“Pinellas County shall regulate the direct or indirect release of pollutants into all areas identified as high groundwater recharge areas.”

“Pinellas County shall maintain a program of intergovernmental and interagency coordination and cooperation in order to protect, preserve, and enhance high groundwater recharge areas.”

(Please note: We will need to clarify which recharge areas are being discussed.)

- Related to Objective 1.8. of the Sanitary Sewer Element, it was suggested that language be included to strengthen the commitment to long-term maintenance of the sewer system- something like:

“Pinellas County Utilities shall continue to conduct self-audits of its wastewater operations and will address and implement pertinent results of these audits as necessary.”

- It was suggested that the Sanitary Sewer Element include additional policies supporting more education (e.g., “Utilitalk”) rather than regulation, encouraging reduction in size of lawns, etc. - something like:

“Pinellas County shall continue to develop, encourage and participate in education efforts directed at reducing the size of lawns.”

- A new **policy objective** regarding the maintenance of County-owned retention/detention ponds was suggested – something like:

*“Pinellas County shall continue to **review, upgrade and manage** ~~use a variety of methods for managing and enhancing~~ the ~~function and purpose optimization~~ of its retention/detention ponds.”*

- Based on the need to reduce the impact on surface water quality, we should include a new policy to promote removal of septic tanks within Pinellas County’s sanitary sewer service areas and encourage their removal within the municipal service areas.

Surface Water Management Element

- Regarding Objective 1.3., it was suggested the Surface Water Management Element have an educational objective regarding the relationship between the impact of backyard improvements (e.g., decks, patios, etc.), on the increase in impervious surface area, and the resultant impact on the surface water management system.
- Relating to Policy 1.7.2., which states *the County shall cooperate in the development of management plans for Tampa Bay and the aquatic preserves located in Pinellas County*, the workgroup suggests the County have an aquatic preserve management plan as well as a policy to encourage FDEP to develop management plans for spoil islands.
- Concerning Policy 1.7.7., which states *the County shall continue to support TBEP in its approach to the protection and restoration of Tampa Bay*, the workgroup agreed that there should be additional educational policies that help support TBEP goals through implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Tampa Bay.

- There was a suggestion to include policy language regarding committing to applicable federal, state or local standards; however, we need to make sure we don't inadvertently commit to, for example, TMDL-related requirements we might actually be challenging in the future.
- Relating to Policy 1.3.1., which requires the County to enforce County stormwater regulations on all development except individual single family areas, it was suggested that the Surface Water Management Element include a new policy to allow stormwater treatment banks/mitigation banks as an option for providing treatment for individual single family areas and/or for redevelopment areas where standards ~~could~~ cannot otherwise be met.
- Pinellas County should develop land development regulations that implement “low impact development” policies and regulations that reduce the amount of impervious surfaces and the correlated impacts on groundwater and surface water resources.

Floodplains Section of the Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources Element

- The workgroup agreed that it's appropriate to have policies with continuing support for the Adopt-a-Pond program because of its educational and management values – something like:

“Pinellas County shall work with SWFWMD to encourage better regulation of private stormwater treatment areas within the County.”

and/or

*“Pinellas County shall continue to educate homeowners’ associations and other similar groups and associations on appropriate maintenance practices for private stormwater ponds **through Adopt-a-Pond and other similar programs.**”*

- It was suggested the Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources Element have a policy to support protection of trees within the floodplains – something like:

“Special emphasis will be placed on protecting viable native floodplain forests from destruction by shall not be destroyed by compensating excavation activities during development.”

Recreation and Open Space Element

- Bruce Rinker, Environmental Lands Division Administrator of the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, suggested adding his definition of Pinellas County Preserves and Management Areas. He said that Pinellas County Preserves and Management Areas are “*designated wild areas that are managed for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of natural and cultural resources while providing for sustainable passive public recreational uses that are compatible with approved management plans and applicable ordinances and laws.*” He suggested emphasis should be placed on what the land can support.
- It was suggested revising Policy 1.3.6. (which states Pinellas County will evaluate the wildlife and habitat value of each of its parks to determine whether there are critically significant habitat areas within the parks) to include a completion date for the evaluation date, as well as a requirement for a management plan once that evaluation is done.
- It was suggested that we add a clearer definition of *critically significant habitat areas*.
- It was suggested that we amend Policy 1.3.1., which states Pinellas County is committed to linking open space areas and creating a network of greenways and greenspaces, and to state that such activities contribute to watershed protection.
- It was also suggested that we reference Florida-Friendly landscape techniques in Policy 1.5.1. – something like:

*Pinellas County shall continue to provide educational materials at existing and future County parks which support ~~native vegetative communities and wildlife~~ **Florida-Friendly landscaping techniques.***
- The workgroup suggested adding “consistent with Tampa Bay Estuary Program” to Objective 1.8. – something like:

*By December 1998, the County shall have established a process for identifying and prioritizing coastal properties within the County for acquisition, consistent with the State’s land acquisition program **and consistent with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program goals.***
- The workgroup agreed that the County should provide more access to active recreation through partnerships, especially with the School Board. Objective 1.7. and Policy 1.7.5., which state that Pinellas County shall support the development and improvement of recreational opportunities when accomplished in coordination with public and private organizations, can be modified to better reflect this partnership.

- The workgroup agreed that a policy requiring that the County evaluate the environmental benefit or potential of properties as they become available for purchase, or before they are surplus, should be added to the Recreation and Open Space Element.
- The County should refer to both the Culture, Education and Leisure Department and the Department of Environmental Management when addressing education in Objective 1.5 – something like:

Pinellas County, in coordination with its Culture, Education and Leisure Department and the Department of Environmental Management, shall continue to develop educational programs and materials concerning the conservation, protection and restoration of natural, historic and cultural resources.

Natural Systems and Living Resources Section
of the
Natural, Historic & Cultural Resources Element

- The workgroup suggested ensuring that Policy 3.1.15. is consistent with Policy 1.3.3. of the Recreation and Open Space Element by editing it to say:

*By ~~December of 1998~~, Pinellas County shall **continue to** utilize environmentally beneficial landscape principles, incorporating low maintenance design **and use of native vegetation**, at all County properties.*

- Relating to Objective 3.2., the workgroup suggested adding a new policy regarding inventorying ecosystems and developing **ecological** management plans for existing parks versus just having a policy for inventorying ecosystems and developing management plans for new parks.
- Regarding Policy 3.2.1., which discusses adopting development regulations to protect threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, the workgroup suggested including additional language about protecting ecosystems, not just individual species.
- The workgroup requested better defining Policy 3.3.1., especially the phrase “in the public interest.”
- The workgroup suggested editing Policy 3.3.3. as follows to further emphasize the most environmentally sound solution:

*The County shall continue to ~~encourage~~ **enforce** alternatives to the hardening and bulkheading of natural coastal shorelines, natural stream courses, and tidal creeks ~~through the enforcement of~~ **consistent with** land development regulations.*