



BEACH FACTS

for residents about beach nourishment

Public Safety

Beaches save lives and reduce infrastructure, environmental and property damage during severe storms and hurricanes by dissipating wave energy. They reduce the amount of damage and insurance costs in our state. This is the number one reason to maintain adequate beaches.

Economy

Tourism is the Number One industry in Pinellas County. More than 13.3 million people visited our county in 2004. The total economic impact of tourism added more than 6.2 billion dollars in jobs, purchases and taxes in Pinellas County.

Jobs

82,000+ jobs in Pinellas County are created by tourists visiting our beaches. Those jobs paid our neighbors, friends and residents \$2,750,000,000 (**billion** dollars) in salary and wages.

Taxes

Florida \$3,400,000,000 in sales taxes was paid by tourists that reduce the amount of taxes we have to pay.

Pinellas Nourishment is locally funded by a 1% tax included in bed tax for tourists and visitors. So Pinellas residents do not pay for nourishment.

Infrastructure

Beaches are like roads and bridges. As years go by weather takes its toll and they have to be re-stored. Beaches are a key economic ingredient in our community.

Environment

By protecting the upland land and environment beaches prevent more severe storm and hurricane damage. In addition, beaches provide nesting areas for sea turtles and shore birds and they are home to crabs and seashell life.

Return on investment

Approximately, 850%. - The state of Florida spends \$30-40 million in an average year to maintain beaches. \$3.4 billion of additional sales taxes were paid by tourists. Those taxes help lower our taxes.

Developed for:

The Barrier Island Governmental Council of Pinellas County

Including the cities and towns of:

- Belleair Beach
- Belleair Shore
- Clearwater
- Indian Rocks Beach
- Indian Shores
- Madeira Beach
- North Redington Beach
- Redington Beach
- Redington Shores
- St. Pete Beach
- Treasure Island

ENJOY OUR BEACHES OFTEN.



All of the local numerical information was taken from the "2004 Pinellas County Visitor Profile." State figures came from a Tampa Tribune article "Building on Shifting Sands" May 8, 2005.



Do you know the answers to these beach questions?

What is the most important reason to nourish beaches?

The primary function of beaches is to be a physical barrier to protect lives and the upland infrastructure, environment and property during major storms or hurricanes. Beaches deflect the wave energy and reduce destruction on land. They turn destruction into damage and reduce the cost to rebuild or repair.

Beaches keep eroding over and over again. Why?

80-85% of beach erosion is caused by water moving through channels or passes occurring naturally through barrier islands or that were cut to better accommodate boat traffic.

Why bother restoring beaches that are only going to be washed away?

Beaches, roads, bridges are part of our infrastructure. They provide economic benefits and revenue while serving residents. Like roads and bridges, they wear out with time and need to be maintained.

What do beaches add to our natural environment?

Beaches provide the habitat for nesting sea turtles, beautiful and unique shore birds and several types of crabs.

Why do you say beaches are part of our community infrastructure?

As you read this, beaches create jobs as well as added sales and increase property tax revenue for services.

Why spend money for beaches that mostly tourists and visitors use?

Tourism is the #1 industry in Florida. The #1 reason visitors come to Florida is our beaches.

Who cares about tourism? They just crowd our roads and restaurants.

Pinellas - 82,000 jobholders in Pinellas County were paid \$2.75 billion dollars in salary and wages that were created by tourism.

Florida - \$3,400,000,000 in sales taxes were paid by tourists that reduces the amount of taxes we have to pay.

Why should my county tax dollars be spent on nourishing beaches?

Pinellas – Our county pays for beach nourishment from a 1% tax included in the bed tax for tourists and visitors. So local taxpayers are not paying for the county portion.

Restoring beaches is welfare for the rich. (Do beaches pay their share of taxes?)

Pinellas - Beach residents and businesses along the barrier island of Sand Key pay 12% of the county ad valorem taxes even though they are about 5% of the land in Pinellas County. So beaches pay more than twice the amount of taxes for county services than residents on the main land.

What is my city and county's interest in beach nourishment?

- Adds to our economy
- Adds jobs
- Adds tax revenues from tourism
- Improves our property values throughout the county
- Provides for our recreation and enjoyment
- Attracts our friends and visitors
- A habitat for sea turtles, shore birds and sand crabs and more

