Chronological Mileposts in the History of the Pinellas Peninsula

Prehistory – 1513  
Indigenous cultures: Archaic through Mississippian

1513 – 1842  
Early contacts, itinerant fishers, and sparse settlement
1513 – 1565  Age of the Conquistador (throughout La Florida)
1513 – 1763  First Spanish period (throughout La Florida)
1528 – 1549  Conquistors/missionaries visit Punta Pinal (Panfilo de Narvaez through Dominican Fr. Luis Cancer de Barbastro)
1500s – early 1700s  Demise of indigenous native peoples (Tocobagas)
1763 – 1784  English period (sparse settlement in Tampa Bay region)
1784 – 1821  Second Spanish period (throughout La Florida)
late 1810s – 1842  Seminoles arrive and live in west central Florida
1820s – 1840s  Early white settlers and sailors arrive (i.e., Odet Philippe)
1835 – 1842  Second Seminole War

1842 – 1860  
Early organized settlement under Armed Occupation Act of 1842
(settlers obtain clear titles to property, rather than occupying lands as squatters)
mid 1850s  Increased travel by boat to Key West, Cedar Keys, Tampa

1861 – 1877  
Civil War and Reconstruction
1860s – early 1870s  Abandonment of some farmsteads; population decline

1877 – 1888  
Enhanced agriculture and slight population growth
mid 1870s  Decline of cotton; early emphasis on citrus (still small-scale before the arrival of railroads); early “roads”
mid 1870s – mid 1880s  Arrival of notable developers and their agents (i.e., Hamilton Disston, Anson Safford, John C. Williams)

1888 – 1901  
Railroads usher in the “Bourbon Era” along the Pinellas Peninsula
1887 – 1888  Orange Belt connects region with Sanford and points north
1880s – 1900s  Expansion of farms and citrus enterprises near railroads
1880s – 1910s  Decline of early coastal communities bypassed by the railroad (Anona absorbed by Largo; Bay View overtaken by Clearwater; Anclote replaced by Tarpon Springs)
1898  Spanish-American War, and later construction of Fort De Soto and expansion of facilities of Egmont Key

1901 – 1918  
First land boom and demands for “home rule”
1901 – 1911  Increased demands for separation from Hillsborough
1901 – 1950s  Expansion of citrus culture across Pinellas
1910s  Opening of additional railroad lines to Pinellas
1912  Political autonomy from Hillsborough County
1917 – 1918  Participation in World War I

1918 – 1926  
Second land boom along the Pinellas Peninsula
early 1920s  Improved transportation through “good roads movement”
1921  Last major hurricane to hit the Tampa Bay region directly
1924  Opening of Gandy Bridge

1926 – 1940  
Economic retrenchment, increased agricultural productivity, and some growth
1926, 1928, 1935  Major hurricanes hit southern Florida
1934  Opening of Ben T. Davis (Courtney Campbell) Causeway
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1941 – 1945</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mobilization and globalization during World War II</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1945 – 1971</strong></td>
<td><strong>Golden age of roadside attractions, fun ‘n’ sun, and Progressive Pinellas</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>early 1950s – present</td>
<td>Increased suburbanization; demographic explosion</td>
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<td>1950s – 1960s</td>
<td>Finger islands appear along the coast; dredging; Tampa Bay and Boca Ciega Bay become “sick”; acres of mobile homes replace citrus groves</td>
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<td>early 1950s – 1990s</td>
<td>Cold War industries (Honeywell, GE, etc.)</td>
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<td>early 1950s</td>
<td>Early suburban shopping centers (Tyrone Gardens, Central Plaza)</td>
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<td>1950s – 1960s</td>
<td>Decline in agriculture, commercial aquaculture, and sponging</td>
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<td>1950s – 1960s</td>
<td>Increased popularity of roadside attractions (Sunken Gardens, Aquatarium, Tiki Gardens), motor courts and hotels, and other venues that gave the area a distinct character (opening of Fort DeSoto, dinners at the two Kapok Tree restaurants)</td>
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<td>1954</td>
<td>Sunshine Skyway, beginnings of new US-19 move transportation arteries further from downtowns</td>
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<td>1954 – 1964</td>
<td>Early challenges to segregation (sit-ins, expansion of segregated facilities such as Gibbs Junior College in defiance of <em>Brown</em>)</td>
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<td>1964 – 1971</td>
<td>Legal challenges to segregation (from the initiation of the <em>Bradley case</em> to the 1971 federal implementation decree requiring busing to maintain integrated facilities)</td>
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<td>1960s</td>
<td>Arrival and expansion of Interstate highways in region</td>
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<td>Remodeling “God’s Waiting Room”</td>
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<td><strong>1971 – Present</strong></td>
<td><strong>Built culture, a concrete county, and changes in the Florida “Dream”</strong></td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>Disney opens, Tampa International Airport arrives</td>
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<td>1970s – 1990s</td>
<td>Decline of state societies, changes in tourism, snowbirds fly in different directions</td>
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<td>1970s – present</td>
<td>Condos consume the shoreline, cross-county congestion</td>
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