

Chronological Mileposts in the History of the Pinellas Peninsula

Prehistory – 1513	Indigenous cultures: Archaic through Mississippian
1513 – 1842	<p>Early contacts, itinerant fishers, and sparse settlement</p> <p>1513 – 1565 Age of the Conquistador (throughout <i>La Florida</i>)</p> <p>1513 – 1763 First Spanish period (throughout <i>La Florida</i>)</p> <p>1528 – 1549 Conquistors/missionaries visit <i>Punta Pinal</i> (Panfilo de Narvaez through Dominican Fr. Luis Cancer de Barbastro)</p> <p>1500s – early 1700s Demise of indigenous native peoples (Tocobagas)</p> <p>1763 – 1784 English period (sparse settlement in Tampa Bay region)</p> <p>1784 – 1821 Second Spanish period (throughout <i>La Florida</i>)</p> <p>late 1810s – 1842 Seminoles arrive and live in west central Florida</p> <p>1820s – 1840s Early white settlers and sailors arrive (i.e., Odet Philippe)</p> <p>1835 – 1842 Second Seminole War</p>
1842 – 1860	<p>Early organized settlement under Armed Occupation Act of 1842 (settlers obtain clear titles to property, rather than occupying lands as squatters)</p> <p>mid 1850s Increased travel by boat to Key West, Cedar Keys, Tampa</p>
1861 – 1877	<p>Civil War and Reconstruction</p> <p>1860s – early 1870s Abandonment of some farmsteads; population decline</p>
1877 – 1888	<p>Enhanced agriculture and slight population growth</p> <p>mid 1870s Decline of cotton; early emphasis on citrus (still small-scale before the arrival of railroads); early “roads”</p> <p>mid 1870s – mid 1880s Arrival of notable developers and their agents (i.e., Hamilton Disston, Anson Safford, John C. Williams)</p>
1888 – 1901	<p>Railroads usher in the “Bourbon Era” along the Pinellas Peninsula</p> <p>1887 – 1888 Orange Belt connects region with Sanford and points north</p> <p>1880s – 1900s Expansion of farms and citrus enterprises near railroads</p> <p>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)</p> <p>1898 Spanish-American War, and later construction of Fort De Soto and expansion of facilities of Egmont Key</p>
1901 – 1918	<p>First land boom and demands for “home rule”</p> <p>1901 – 1911 Increased demands for separation from Hillsborough</p> <p>1901 – 1950s Expansion of citrus culture across Pinellas</p> <p>1910s Opening of additional railroad lines to Pinellas</p> <p>1912 Political autonomy from Hillsborough County</p> <p>1917 – 1918 Participation in World War I</p>
1918 – 1926	<p>Second land boom along the Pinellas Peninsula</p> <p>early 1920s Improved transportation through “good roads movement”</p> <p>1921 Last major hurricane to hit the Tampa Bay region directly</p> <p>1924 Opening of Gandy Bridge</p>
1926 – 1940	<p>Economic retrenchment, increased agricultural productivity, and some growth</p> <p>1926, 1928, 1935 Major hurricanes hit southern Florida</p> <p>1934 Opening of Ben T. Davis (Courtney Campbell) Causeway</p>

1941 – 1945	Mobilization and globalization during World War II
1945 – 1971	Golden age of roadside attractions, fun ‘n’ sun, and Progressive Pinellas
early 1950s – present	Increased suburbanization; demographic explosion
1950s – 1960s	Finger islands appear along the coast; dredging; Tampa Bay and Boca Ciega Bay become “sick”; acres of mobile homes replace citrus groves
early 1950s – 1990s	Cold War industries (Honeywell, GE, etc.)
early 1950s	Early suburban shopping centers (Tyrone Gardens, Central Plaza)
1950s – 1960s	Decline in agriculture, commercial aquaculture, and sponging
1950s – 1960s	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)
1954	Sunshine Skyway, beginnings of new US-19 move
1954 – 1964	transportation arteries further from downtowns
1954 – 1964	Early challenges to segregation (sit-ins, expansion of segregated facilities such as Gibbs Junior College in defiance of <i>Brown</i>)
1964 – 1971	Legal challenges to segregation (from the initiation of the <i>Bradley</i> case to the 1971 federal implementation decree requiring busing to maintain integrated facilities)
1960s	Arrival and expansion of Interstate highways in region
1960s	Remodeling “God’s Waiting Room”
1971 – Present	Built culture, a concrete county, and changes in the Florida “Dream”
1971	Disney opens, Tampa International Airport arrives
1970s – 1990s	Decline of state societies, changes in tourism, snowbirds fly in different directions
1970s – present	Condos consume the shoreline, cross-county congestion