

APPENDIX 6.
Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan

Goals, Objectives and Policies

GEOLOGY, GROUNDWATER PROTECTION AND AQUIFER RECHARGE

GOAL ONE: PROTECT AND MANAGE THE FUNCTIONAL INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTY'S GEOLOGIC FEATURES AND ATTRIBUTES, AND ITS NATURAL GROUNDWATER AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS AND WELLFIELDS, IN A MANNER THAT PRESERVES AND ENHANCES NATURAL FUNCTIONS, AND PROTECTS GROUNDWATER QUALITY.

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

1.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to enforce zones of protection for regional wellfields within Pinellas County boundaries, consistent with the adopted wellhead protection ordinance, as determined by a flow net analysis based on the Floridan Aquifer potentiometric surface.

1.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to control the use and storage of hazardous substances within its wellfield protection zones through implementation of the wellhead protection provisions of the Pinellas County Code.

1.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to utilize its 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, and shall require that businesses within the wellhead protection zone include emergency response measures within their operating permits.

1.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall rely upon and coordinate with Tampa Bay Water to assess groundwater quality and the impacts of groundwater withdrawals.

1.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to use the Future Land Use Map to restrict the density and intensity of development within the identified wellfield protection zone.

1.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to coordinate with adjacent counties, municipalities and agencies in an ongoing effort to protect regional wellfields and recharge areas.

1.1.7. Policy: The County shall continue to utilize the Future Land Use Map to protect aquifer recharge areas by limiting residential density to a maximum of 0.5 unit per acre within the northern portion of Planning Sector 2 (which includes the Eldridge-Wilde Wellfield and

surrounding lands), and by designating major wetland systems and associated uplands as preservation or preservation/resource management.

- 1.1.8. Policy: To protect groundwater recharge and groundwater quality, Pinellas County will preserve or restore natural drainage features through application of surface water management regulations during site plan review, by adherence to applicable federal, state and local regulations in County-designed projects, and by supporting potable water system improvements which are designed to protect and enhance the source water supply.
- 1.1.9. Policy: The County shall enforce ordinances that regulate borrow pits and landfills throughout Pinellas County, and landfills shall be prohibited within the wellhead zones of protection as determined in the County's groundwater protection program.
- 1.1.10. Policy: The County shall prohibit additional commercial or industrial land uses within the designated wellhead protection area in Planning Sector 2.
- 1.1.11. Policy: The County shall protect the wellfields in Planning Sector 2, including through lease agreements with property owners and by designating wellfields on County-owned property as Preservation - Resource Management, or Preservation on the Future Land Use Map.
- 1.1.12. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to 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).
- 1.1.13. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, evaluate the County's wellhead protection program to assess whether it continues to effectively regulate the direct or indirect release of pollutants into sinkholes, and areas of high groundwater recharge, in order to prevent groundwater contamination.
- 1.1.14. Policy: Pinellas County will regulate land use and development in a manner that protects the functions of natural drainage features for their contribution to recharge of the potable water supply.
- 1.1.15. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to encourage the development and implementation of source water protection initiatives and source water assessment programs by Tampa Bay Water.

- 1.1.16. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and utilize Florida Vulnerability Assessment (FAVA) data and maps, to identify and categorize recharge areas, and will incorporate the information into a geographic information systems format to facilitate use as a planning tool.
- 1.1.17. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to acquire lands that contribute to protection of potable water recharge areas to the regional wellfields in this County.
- 1.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to enforce its water shortage program in accordance with the Water Shortage Plan of the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Section 82 of the Pinellas County Code.
 - 1.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall utilize the provisions of County Code Section 82 in cooperating with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Tampa Bay Water to deal with water shortages and when enforcing water use restrictions as provided in Section 373.609, FS.
 - 1.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County staff shall, in times of declared water shortage, provide timely and accurate information to the public, and enforce water use restrictions, consistent with Southwest Florida Water Management District guidelines and County Commission directives.
 - 1.2.3. Policy: The County shall continue its commitment to be a model for, and to implement proactive, innovative, and creative conservation education programs and technologies.
- 1.3. Objective: Consideration will be given to the suitability of underlying soil conditions when making land use, zoning and development order decisions.
 - 1.3.1. Policy: Pinellas County will evaluate soil conditions and limitations in the review of land use and zoning changes, and site plans.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND LIVING RESOURCES

GOAL TWO: PINELLAS COUNTY WILL CONSERVE, PROTECT, RESTORE AND APPROPRIATELY MANAGE ITS NATURAL SYSTEMS AND LIVING RESOURCES ENSURE THE HIGHEST ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY POSSIBLE.

- 2.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to implement management programs for the conservation of natural ecosystems and species of conservation concern (inclusive of native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic ecosystems, and native wildlife species).

- 2.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall follow an active program of identification, protection, conservation and/or restoration of functioning native ecosystems and native habitats, including for species of conservation concern.
- 2.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to enforce existing ordinances that protect and conserve native ecosystems and wildlife habitat, including habitat for species of conservation concern, from destruction by development activities.
- 2.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to require that the type, intensity and location of development be correlated inversely with important ecosystems and native wildlife species existing on each site.
- 2.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to require that development of a site require maintenance or improvement of existing native vegetative communities and shall continue to require the removal of ecologically undesirable non-native vegetation.
- 2.1.5. Policy: The removal of ecologically-undesirable non-native vegetation will be required, to the degree feasible, in conjunction with County projects; native species and intact habitat will be protected or enhanced, and landscaping will, at a minimum, be 80 percent native species selected to suit the individual site and to meet Florida Yards and Neighborhoods standards.
- 2.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to make a target list of ecologically undesirable plant species available to the public through such means as, but not limited to, the provision of literature in department lobbies, in development regulations, on the County's website and in a variety of publications and educational outreach activities.
- 2.1.7. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to pursue the acquisition of properties which contain desirable habitats, have the potential to be restored to provide desirable habitat, or serve to "fill in the gaps" in ecological corridors, or connect and enhance functional wildlife habitats in Pinellas County and throughout the region.
- 2.1.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to manage County-owned environmental lands and resource-based parks to provide avenues for the dispersal of isolated populations of wildlife throughout Pinellas County and adjacent counties.
- 2.1.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall protect natural reservations as identified within the Recreation, Open Space and Culture Element by designating, whenever possible, natural reservations as Recreation/Open Space, Preservation-Resource Management, or Preservation on the County's Future Land Use Map.

- 2.1.10. Policy: Watershed and waterbody management plans shall identify existing and potential wildlife corridors and contiguous conservation and preservation areas and will identify opportunities to connect/enhance environmental lands and the open space network within the unincorporated county, municipalities and adjacent counties.
- 2.1.11. Policy: In the County's land acquisition, land regulation, and land management program, 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.
- 2.1.12. 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.
- 2.1.13. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to implement recovery programs for its natural ecosystems and for native wildlife including species of conservation concern, as well as those habitats identified in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) as being of special concern, those identified as natural resources of regional significance by the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, and/or those resources identified by the County.
- 2.1.14. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will evaluate the possibility of, or need for, buffers to protect nesting bald eagles. (10-57)
- 2.1.15. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate with Pasco and Hillsborough Counties regarding extension of regional ecological corridors and greenway systems, and will share information regarding land development proposals that might have extra-jurisdictional impacts on existing corridors.
- 2.1.16. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will determine the feasibility of regulatory techniques and/or incentives that can be used to help close the gaps in the ecological greenway system by partnering with the private sector on the set aside, or use, of lands that contribute to contiguity.

- 2.1.17. Policy: Pinellas County shall coordinate and share information with other local governments and agencies relative to the conservation, protection and management of natural ecosystems and native wildlife, including species of conservation concern in Pinellas County.
- 2.1.18. Policy: Pinellas County considers the protection of intact upland systems to be a priority and will continue to coordinate with environmental and regulatory agencies regarding the need to protect the County's diminishing uplands, particularly from wetland mitigation regulations applied during the development and permitting process.
- 2.1.19. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, a comprehensive review of existing environmental regulations will be initiated to identify opportunities to introduce new innovations, regulations and incentives that contribute to environmental improvement.

ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS AND RESOURCE-BASED PARKS

GOAL THREE: PINELLAS COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS AND RESOURCE-BASED PARKS ARE THE HALLMARK OF THIS COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT, AND THESE LANDS ARE TO BE PROTECTED AND MANAGED IN PERPETUITY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE BIODIVERSITY AND BIOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE REGION, AS A MEANS OF PROVIDING RESPIRE FROM URBAN LIFE AND BECAUSE THEY INSTILL FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH A SENSE OF APPRECIATION FOR FLORIDA'S NATURAL HERITAGE.

- 3.1. Objective: Pinellas County will, at all times and in all actions, be a leader in urban ecology by being a conscientious steward of its environmental lands and resource-based parks and will maintain the integrity of these lands for their ecological, hydrological and open space value, in a manner that contributes towards a net environmental and ecosystem benefit.
- 3.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to, through a variety of media, provide education and promote public access to its environmental lands and resource-based parks, consistent with approved management plans, as a means of instilling environmental stewardship, and appreciation of this County's natural resources.
- 3.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County will consider the impact of land use and zoning decisions, and site plan decisions, on environmental lands and resource-based parks, so that decisions do not inadvertently conflict with approved management plans or best management practices.
- 3.1.3. Policy: By December 2013, evaluate the creation of a Pinellas County environmental lands trust to be used to secure and acquire infill

parcels, by allowing for the contribution of lands or monies. [10-57]

- 3.1.4. Policy: To foster environmental stewardship, the County's public outreach efforts will include information and education on best management practices for the neighbors of environmental lands and resource-based parks, as well as watershed concepts that demonstrate the impact of activities on nearby lands to the health of the preserve ecosystem.
- 3.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to pursue acquisition of infill properties that "close the gaps" in existing environmental lands and resource-based parks that enhance existing boundaries or natural systems.
- 3.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County will develop trails, outdoor classroom areas, exhibits and other facilities at its environmental lands and resource-based parks that are accessible to the public in order to enhance visitor experiences, without compromising environmental integrity, and in accordance with approved land management plans.
- 3.1.7. Policy: Pinellas County will strengthen partnerships with the media and municipalities to promote the purpose and value of environmental lands and resource-based parks.
- 3.2. Objective: Pinellas County will complete land management plans for its resource-based parks by 2012 and for its environmental lands by 2015.
 - 3.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to develop and update comprehensive management plans for its environmental lands and resource-based parks to ensure the protection and conservation of natural ecosystems and native wildlife, including species of conservation concern.
 - 3.2.2. Policy: Each County environmental land and resource-based park land management plan will include, but not be limited to: natural resource descriptions, floral and faunal inventories, staffing needs, natural resource management strategies, educational programs, and resource-based recreation where compatible.
 - 3.2.3. Policy: Baseline environmental data will be collected for each environmental land and resource-based park in order to devise appropriate management strategies.
 - 3.2.4. Policy: Each management plan for a resource-based park will address which lands are available for educational activities or programming, as well as identify the capacity for events.
 - 3.2.5. Policy: Pinellas County will undertake a sustainability analysis when necessary to assess compatibility of and impacts of, proposed uses

in resource-based parks, preserves and managed environmental lands, including resource management strategies.

- 3.2.6. Policy: Subsequent to adoption of the Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan, the location of any new vertical water supply infrastructure within the Brooker Creek Preserve will require that the County conduct two public information meetings, with final action to be at a public hearing by the Board of County Commissioners, and subject to the uses, standards, processes, and resource management overlay requirements (i.e., the RMO-2 requirement) specifically defined in the Preservation-Resource Management Future Land Use Category, and the corresponding Preservation – Resource Management Zoning District. [09-14]
- 3.2.7. Policy: In addition to meeting environmental permitting requirements, and the requirements of the controlling land use category, any groundwater pumping decisions, including applications for permits, related to the Brooker Creek Preserve will also be evaluated by staff to ensure that impacts to wetlands and uplands can be avoided or minimized, and the public will be informed about a water use permit application for Brooker Creek Preserve before that application is submitted by Pinellas County. The filing of permit applications by Pinellas County for water use within the Brooker Creek Preserve shall require approval by the Board of County Commissioners at a public hearing. [09-14]

STRENGTHENED CONNECTIONS TO THE WATER

GOAL FOUR: PINELLAS COUNTY WILL REMAIN A LEADER IN THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF ITS SURFACE WATERS AND THE DEPENDENT HABITATS AND RESOURCES WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO THIS COUNTY'S CHARACTER, ECONOMY AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

- 4.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall protect, and conserve surface water resources and their living resources by preserving where appropriate, or restoring where possible, freshwater, marine and estuarine habitats, including coastal wetlands tidal streams, seagrasses, and other submerged aquatic vegetation, and by monitoring and managing, as best as possible, interactions between human activities and dependant marine and freshwater species.
- 4.1.1. 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.
- 4.1.2 Policy: The County shall continue to enforce its erosion control regulations

to reduce sedimentation and turbidity in coastal/marine habitats (particularly seagrass beds) and freshwater habitats that result from upland development activities.

- 4.1.3. Policy: The County shall continue to enforce alternatives to the hardening and bulkheading of natural coastal shorelines, natural stream courses, and tidal creeks consistent with the land development code.
- 4.1.4. Policy: The County shall continue its program to require 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.
- 4.1.5. Policy: The County shall continue to cooperate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and other appropriate agencies in protecting, restoring or enhancing natural freshwater habitats and adjacent uplands, as well as estuaries, and natural systems such as tidal flats, tidal streams, mangrove forests, seagrass beds, salt barrens, salt marshes and adjacent 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.
- 4.1.6. 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).
- 4.1.7. Policy: The County shall continue to enforce its regulations that require natural upland buffers adjacent to estuaries, bays and other surface waters, and shall review their effectiveness in association with the update of the Land Development Code.
- 4.1.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to support the protection of manatees through such measures as enforcing no-wake zones, implementing sea grass protection areas, and by providing manatee signage.
- 4.1.9. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to collect information (e.g., manatee watch line, mortality data, seagrass monitoring, etc.) required to identify critical use areas for manatees, and will use the information to annually assess and revise, if necessary, its manatee protection measures and programs.

- 4.1.10. Policy: By 2010, review existing County regulations (e.g., Zoning Code, Water and Navigation Control Regulations, Boating Regulations, etc.) to determine if they continue to adequately support manatee protection goals.
- 4.1.11. Policy: Pinellas County will continue its boater and public education efforts regarding coastal and marine resource protection, and will particularly target education towards areas and incidences of high susceptibility to interactions between boaters and manatees.
- 4.1.12. Policy: Pinellas County will assess, at least every two years, the effectiveness of its existing seagrass protection zones and determine whether additional zones or measures are required to protect existing or establish new, protection zones.
- 4.1.13. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to identify, implement and enforce appropriate measures to protect important sea grasses, including the waters of Fort DeSoto/Mullet Key, Safety Harbor, Weedon Island, Clearwater Harbor, St. Joseph's Sound and Boca Ciega Bay.
- 4.1.14. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to participate with other agencies in determining appropriate measures for protecting manatees, including the development of manatee protection measures by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Manatee Awareness Coalition.
- 4.1.15. Policy: Pinellas County will continue its land acquisition, management and protection efforts as one means of protecting the survivability of coastal and marine resources.
- 4.1.16. Policy: To further boater and wildlife safety, Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with the Sheriff's Marine Unit regarding marine enforcement, monitoring and speed restrictions.
- 4.1.17. Policy: Through implementation of land development regulations, by enforcing land use and zoning restrictions, by regulating the location of dock, marinas and boat ramps, by monitoring water quality and freshwater and marine resources, and through public education, Pinellas County will contribute to the protection of marine and freshwater-dependent species.
- 4.1.18. Policy: Pinellas County will continue active participation in State and regional technical forums regarding management and protection of freshwater, coastal and marine resources.
- 4.1.19. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to provide funding to support sea turtle nesting monitoring, and will partner with volunteer groups, research organizations and enforcement agencies to monitor sea turtle nesting areas.

- 4.1.20. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to support research organizations that provide education regarding measures the public can take to improve the survivability of sea turtles.
- 4.1.21. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to partner with the coastal municipalities to encourage enforcement of existing, or to implement new, lighting ordinances with a focus on reducing lights on the beach that may disorient nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings.
- 4.1.22. 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 freshwater, marine and coastal resources.
- 4.1.23. 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 goals for protecting coastal and marine habitats and dependent species, including manatees.
- 4.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to 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.
- 4.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to 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.
- 4.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall participate with the Department of Environmental Protection in the development of the Boca Ciega Bay and Pinellas County Aquatic Preserves Management Plan, as they are scheduled by the State.
- 4.2.3. Policy: Pinellas 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.
- 4.2.4. 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.

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

GOAL FIVE: PINELLAS COUNTY WILL BE A RECOGNIZED LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

- 5.1. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to be an innovative leader in environmental education and outreach, placing emphasis on the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems and native wildlife, including species of conservation concern.
- 5.1.1. Policy: Where mutual benefit is achieved, Pinellas County shall actively pursue and maintain interactive public involvement and functional partnerships with the Pinellas County School Board, as well as area colleges, environmental organizations and non-profits for the purposes of developing and disseminating educational materials and programs.
- 5.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to operate and enhance its environmental education facilities and programming with an emphasis on the County's natural and cultural heritage and the promotion of local sustainability ethics, and will use the County's Urban Sustainability Center/County Extension as one means of disseminating environmental education information to the public
- 5.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall maintain innovative education facilities and programs at various County parks and preserves including Brooker Creek Preserve, Weedon Island Preserve, Sawgrass Lake Park and the Florida Botanical Garden and County Extension.
- 5.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County will use its beaches, parks and preserves as locations to display and disseminate sustainability and environmental education.
- 5.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with the School Board on environmental education curriculum and programming.
- 5.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County will work to raise public awareness of existing environmental facilities and programs, and will specifically target marketing to under-served participants.

FLOODPLAINS AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

GOAL SIX: PINELLAS COUNTY WILL PRESERVE, PROTECT, RESTORE AND MANAGE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF ITS FLOODPLAINS TO MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE WATER QUALITY, PLANT AND ANIMAL DIVERSITY, AND AQUATIC PRODUCTIVITY, TO PROTECT THE FLOOD STORAGE VALUE AND PURPOSE, AND TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AND MINIMIZE PROPERTY DAMAGE.

- 6.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to protect floodplains, flood ways, and all other natural areas having functional hydrological characteristics in order to minimize adverse impacts on the natural system, public safety and investment, and floodplain function and purpose.
- 6.1.1. Policy: All construction in floodplains and flood ways shall continue to be required to comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency or Federal Insurance Administration standards and County building codes, and will meet or exceed the requirements of the County's participation in the Community Rating System (CRS).
- 6.1.2. Policy: Developers shall continue to be required, through the site plan review process, to incorporate those wetland portions of sites which are within 100-year floodplains as conservation easements.
- 6.1.3. 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, and in addition, will be subject to the permitting authority of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), as delegated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- 6.1.4. Policy: No development or fill is allowed within the 100-year floodway, but may be permitted within the 25-year and 100-year floodplain as long as there is no increase in base flood elevation as a result of the activity, and as long as the flood hazard reduction provisions of Section 158 of the Pinellas County Code are met.
- 6.1.5. Policy: Because of their contribution to floodplain stability and floodplain habitat value, special emphasis will be placed on protecting viable native floodplain forests from destruction by excavation activities during development and redevelopment.
- 6.1.6. Policy: To protect public safety and minimize potential property damage, any request to increase residential density above 5.0 units per acre on the Future Land Use Map within the 100 year floodplain for property located within a repetitive loss area, or located within an area of known flooding identified in an existing watershed plan approved by the Board of County Commissioners, must be able to demonstrate how existing flooding issues will be resolved.
- 6.1.7. Policy: To protect the natural recharge areas and extensive natural systems in northeast Pinellas County, the County will not approve any request to increase residential density above 5.0 units per acre on the Future Land Use Map for areas within 100-year floodplains located in Planning Sector 2 (East Lake Tarpon Planning Sector).

- 6.1.8. Policy A request to increase density over 5.0 units per acre on the Future Land Use Map within the 100 year floodplain where the property is also located within that area defined by the SLOSH model to be inundated by a Category 3 hurricane may be considered as long as the applicant can demonstrate that the impact of the proposed amendment on the demand for shelter space can be mitigated and the requirements of Policy 6.1.9 are met.
- 6.1.9. Policy: A request to amend the Future Land Use Map on a property within the 100 year floodplain to a designation with an increased maximum impervious surface ratio will be required to provide adequate information to demonstrate that their development proposal will meet County floodplain, flood protection and stormwater regulations, in which case a development agreement may be required to formalize floodplain management and public safety requirements. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate the disaster mitigation components of the Florida Green Building Coalition as a part of the project design.
- 6.1.10. Policy: A request to amend the Future Land Use Map or a development or redevelopment application for a project within a floodplain located within a watershed with an approved watershed plan will be reviewed for consistency with, and must further, the goals of the respective watershed plan.
- 6.1.11. Policy: A reduction in floodplain storage as a result of development or redevelopment activity will require comparable compensation.
- 6.1.12. Policy: As a part of the site plan review, for any project located within the floodplain, the development applicant will be required to provide adequate information to the County that demonstrates that floodplain functions will not be adversely impacted by the development, that adjacent properties will not be adversely affected, that the project is not inconsistent with an approved watershed plan, and that the offsite stormwater conveyance system will be able to accommodate flows from the project site.
- 6.1.13. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, the County will review existing regulations to ensure that site development, erosion control, habitat management, water quality and flood control requirements are internally consistent, mutually supportive, effective and sustainable for the long term.
- 6.1.14. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will evaluate how best to promote development and redevelopment proposals that demonstrate a sustainability commitment through such means as: reducing the amount of impervious surface on an already developed site, maximizing or restoring natural floodplain functions and habitat, demonstrating

innovation in stormwater management techniques, and/or recognizing the potential for changing long term floodplain conditions due to the anticipated impacts of climate change. [10-57]

- 6.1.15. Policy: The County shall encourage acceptable materials and alternatives to the hardening and bulkheading of natural banks, natural stream courses, lakes and creeks through the enforcement of appropriate ordinances, and in association with the update to the Land Development Code, shall develop criteria for acceptable materials to use for this purpose. [10-57]
- 6.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to maintain, and enhance where possible, the current balance of living resources in the floodplains of the County.
- 6.2.1. 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.
- 6.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall enforce its policies on natural systems and living resources in order to support the ecological value and natural function of its 25 and 100 year floodplains
- 6.2.3. 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.
- 6.2.4. Policy: Fill may be limited to the footprint of the building when necessary to protect floodplain function or habitat, and to meet the County's provisions for flood hazard reduction and standards for development in areas subject to flooding.
- 6.2.5. Policy: The County shall continue to enforce its erosion control regulations to reduce sedimentation in floodplains resulting from upland development activities.
- 6.2.6. 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 flood storage and conveyance systems, as well as wildlife and vegetative habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN EVERY-DAY PRACTICE

GOAL SEVEN: PINELLAS COUNTY WILL BE A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, A PROPONENT OF SMART AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND WILL HAVE A STRONG ECONOMY SUPPORTED BY SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES, PROGRAMS AND

PRACTICES.

7.1. Objective: Pinellas County intends to lead by example and will both exemplify and promote environmentally sustainable practices. [10-57]

7.1.1. Policy: By December 2008, for new County construction and in the redevelopment of County properties, Pinellas County will utilize low impact development principles, to the extent practicable, to address stormwater management needs and to model innovative techniques

7.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County will provide education to the public and the development community on the value and benefits of sustainable building and landscape design.

7.1.3. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will consider what enhancements are cost effective and feasible with regard to the sustainability components of its purchasing policy. [10-57]

7.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to meet its silver certification as a *Green Local Government* from the *Florida Green Building Coalition* and will strive to achieve the Platinum designation.

7.1.5. Policy: By December 2008, at new and remodeled County offices, identify, schedule and begin to implement green building practices that are appropriate to our climate and to the particular building type. [10-57]

7.1.6. Policy: By December 2008, develop a plan and schedule for ensuring that, to the extent practicable, County leased office space is energy and water efficient, practices office paper recycling and utilizes building maintenance practices that are not detrimental to public health.

7.1.7. Policy: By 2012, Pinellas County will require energy efficiency in all of its operations, buildings and leased spaces, and will incorporate, to the extent practicable, non-traditional, sustainable energy options where feasible, so as to be a model for sustainability and to reduce carbon emissions.

7.1.8. Policy: By January 2009, consider the development of a marketing initiative directed at using locally produced products locally.

7.1.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to utilize environmentally beneficial landscape principles, incorporating low maintenance design, integrated pesticide management and will incorporate Florida Yard and Neighborhoods landscape materials and designs, at all new or re-landscaped County properties.

7.1.10. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to work in partnership with its citizens, neighboring governments, developers, businesses, educators and

agencies to achieve a sustainable future, and will collaborate locally, regionally and nationally to identify innovative opportunities and ideas for consideration.

- 7.1.11. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will re-tool, where necessary, County practices and regulations, and will transform its development regulations into a Smart Growth and Quality Development Code, promoting flexibility, incorporating economic and environmentally sustainable incentives, and relying upon the creativity and dedication of County staff to model and implement.
- 7.1.12. Policy: By December 2008, consider using development agreements where appropriate to partner with the development community on quality environmental site and building designs.
- 7.1.13. Policy: Pinellas County will require that all new County buildings be constructed to meet a nationally recognized, high-performance green building rating system approved by the State of Florida Department of Management Services.
- 7.1.14. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, determine a threshold, incentives and criteria for requiring and/or encouraging LEED standards/certification, or equivalent standard, in private design. [10-57]
- 7.1.15. Policy: By December 2008, at least one County staff person will become a LEED-certified (or an equivalent green certification) professional to provide technical assistance to County and private projects.
- 7.1.16. Policy: By December 2008, Pinellas County will incorporate its sustainability commitment into new employee orientation, and will offer, and require all management staff to train in sustainable and efficient operations for incorporation into daily office operations.
- 7.1.17. Policy: By December 2011, develop a 'green' map for visitors, identifying conservation-minded and energy efficient operations and programs, such as clean marinas, hotels participating in programs to reduce waste and conserve energy, and travel destinations with natural or cultural interests. [10-57]
- 7.1.18. Policy: Utilize the Bushnell Center for Urban Sustainability at Pinellas County Extension Center as a catalyst for educating the public on energy efficiency, green building and design, natural resource conservation and disaster mitigation. [10-57]
- 7.2. Objective: Pinellas County will plan responsibly for climate change and will educate citizens and stakeholders so that they are partners in determining this

County's future.

- 7.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County will initiate a greenhouse gas reduction target for Pinellas County government operations and implement specific Climate Action Plan goals by 2015. [10-57]
- 7.2.2. Policy: Continue to monitor, and participate in, current science regarding the timeline and impacts of climate change on Florida and Pinellas County, and collaborate with other governments and organizations to identify best practices for promoting a climate-friendly economy, carbon-neutral practices, and contributing to meeting climate stabilization targets.
- 7.2.3. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, determine whether there is a need to further amend the Comprehensive Plan and land development regulations to protect public and private coastal infrastructure and investment from the inland advancement of coastal waters, and to coordinate land use planning decisions with the expectations of sea level rise.
- 7.2.4. Policy: Consistent with the State's initiative to improve the sustainability of Florida's energy production and consumption patterns, and to minimize the County's own carbon footprint, identify opportunities and funding for local implementation of renewable energy options that apply to the built environment, infrastructure, utilities and transportation sectors, using the FGBC Green Local Government Standard as a guide.
- 7.2.5. Policy: By January 2009, provide information to the public regarding how the County is planning to adapt to climate change, and encouraging residents to partner with the County in making conscientious choices to minimize their impact on the local, regional and global climate.
- 7.2.6. Policy: Through its Urban Sustainability Program, Pinellas County will provide education countywide regarding climate-friendly policies and programs, including emphasis on air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management
- 7.2.7. Policy: Redevelopment activities within the unincorporated County will contribute to the overall environmental improvement of the local and regional watershed.
- 7.3. Objective: Pinellas County will initiate a program to maximize retention and enhancement of the County's mature native shade tree canopy for the environmental value and for the contribution to this County's quality of life.

- 7.3.1. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, evaluate the need to update regulations aimed at preserving and enhancing the native tree canopy in the unincorporated area
- 7.3.2. Policy: Coordinate and share information regarding native tree protection strategies and goals that could be modeled countywide. [10-57]
- 7.3.3. Policy: Recognize that protection and enhancement of the native tree canopy is integral to the County's sustainability ethic and contributes incrementally to improving the local and global climate.

AIR QUALITY

GOAL EIGHT: PINELLAS COUNTY AMBIENT AIR QUALITY WILL MEET OR SURPASS ALL STATE AND FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR REGULATED AIR POLLUTANTS TO ENSURE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ITS CITIZENS.

- 8.1. Objective: Pinellas County will maintain all established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
 - 8.1.1. Policy: Measures necessary to reduce ozone precursor and primary/secondary fine particulate emissions shall be implemented in accordance with final guidelines established by the EPA and the most current Florida State Implementation Plan, Statement of Commitments, and Maintenance Plans.
 - 8.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall support federal fuel programs (e.g. volatility regulations, fuel sulfur content) as a means of significantly reducing mobile source pollutant emissions.
 - 8.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall support the use of the latest and most applicable air quality emissions models and the latest and most applicable mobile source emissions models in determining air pollution control strategies.
 - 8.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to require Stage I vapor control systems for all new and reconstructed gas stations as applicable.
 - 8.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will maintain detailed stationary and area source emission inventories for criteria pollutants in order to assess air quality impacts.
- 8.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to assess and monitor and reduce transportation related air quality impacts.
 - 8.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall maintain detailed mobile source emission inventories for criteria pollutants in order to assess air quality impacts.

- 8.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall give priority, whenever feasible, to those transportation projects (e.g. highway improvements) that result in the greatest reductions of air pollution concentrations.
- 8.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to implement countywide systems (e.g. signalization and ITS) as a means of improving traffic flow and reducing vehicular air pollution emissions.
- 8.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to assess existing and planned transportation facilities in order to identify potential air quality problems and, where appropriate, develop mitigation plans.
- 8.2.5. Policy: The Pinellas County Air Quality Division will continue to support the Technical Coordinating Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and review transportation related projects subject to the requirements of the SAFE, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA – LU).
- 8.2.6. Policy: The Pinellas County Air Quality Division shall continue to support diesel emission reduction programs such as the Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 Diesel Collaborative and grant applications for diesel reduction projects.
- 8.3. 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.
- 8.3.1. 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.
- 8.3.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall maintain its air monitoring network and upgrade air monitoring stations as new standards, procedures, or programs are promulgated by the US Environmental Protection Agency.
- 8.3.3. 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).
- 8.3.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to meet its obligations for receipt of Federal Section 105 Air Pollution Control Grant Funds.

- 8.3.5. 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.

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

- 9.1. 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 and related EPA/State toxics programs as developed.

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

- 9.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to make information available to the public on radon and make referrals to FDOH as deemed appropriate.

- 9.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to encourage the use of alternative pest control practices, through integrated pesticide management training.

- 9.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue its implementation of delegated NESHAP responsibilities regarding asbestos and other regulated air toxics.

- 9.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate with Municipal Building Departments and contractors to ensure awareness of asbestos compliance requirements.

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

- 9.1.7. Policy: Pinellas County will perform risk analysis with regard to measured and modeled Hazardous Air Pollutants consistent with EPA policies and guidelines.

- 9.1.8. Policy: Pinellas County will maintain detailed stationary, area, and mobile source emission inventories for hazardous air pollutants in order to assess air quality impacts.

GOAL TEN: 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,

10.1. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to promote air quality awareness through public education and outreach programs.

10.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to support an air quality forecasting program and notify the public of air quality on a daily basis, as well as pollution episodes as they occur.

10.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County will develop educational and outreach materials targeting voluntary emission reduction actions for everyday activities, as well as, during pollution episodes when they occur.

10.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to make air quality information available on a user-friendly Website that is updated on a regular basis.

10.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to utilize existing, as well as, develop new education and outreach materials. In addition, we will seek out, as well as, develop education and outreach events.

10.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will support developing Sustainability and Green County programs to include education and outreach on issues such as indoor air quality, transportation alternatives, and clean fuel vehicles.

Goals, Objectives and Policies

NATURAL DISASTER PLANNING

GOAL ONE: PINELLAS COUNTY WILL PROTECT HUMAN LIFE, PRIVATE PROPERTY AND PUBLIC INVESTMENT FROM THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANES AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS

- 1.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to implement, and update and revise, as necessary, its Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan, as approved by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, as part of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and shall continue to implement hazard mitigation measures to reduce the exposure of human life and public and private property to natural hazards.
- 1.1.1. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall provide guidelines for actions to be taken following natural disasters for immediate emergency recovery needed to protect the public health and safety, for short-range restoration, and for long-range reconstruction.
- 1.1.2. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish who will be responsible for making crucial decisions after a natural disaster regarding repair, reconstruction, relocation and hazard mitigation; this body could take the form of a recovery task force.
- 1.1.3. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish procedures for the restoration of essential public services and facilities following a disaster.
- 1.1.4. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of current hazard mitigation measures at preventing damage.
- 1.1.5. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish procedures for utilizing information obtained from damage assessment teams in expediting post-disaster recovery.
- 1.1.6. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall contain provisions for enactment of a temporary restriction on issuing permits for reconstruction and repair not immediately needed to protect the public health, safety and welfare, and contain recommendations to enact expedited processes, such as permitting selected minor repairs and licensing and/or registering contractors.

- 1.1.7. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish criteria for evaluating the options for repairing, replacing, modifying or relocating public and private facilities and infrastructure within coastal high-hazard areas. Any actions chosen by Pinellas County to repair, replace, modify, or relocate public facilities and infrastructure within the coastal high hazard area shall be consistent with federal and state funding standards.
- 1.1.8. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish that structures damaged by fire or natural forces to the extent that the cost of reconstruction or repair exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred shall be rebuilt to meet all applicable federal, state and local regulations. The Land Development Code shall determine the status of nonconforming uses when properties experience the level of damage addressed in this policy.
- 1.1.9. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall include guidelines and criteria for determining priorities for the acquisition of storm-damaged property in the coastal high-hazard area. These guidelines shall give priority to eliminating unsafe conditions and inappropriate uses. These guidelines/criteria will also be used to prioritize potential coastal acquisitions through the State's land acquisition program. In association with the update to the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan, additional criteria will be developed and included within the redevelopment plan to recognize pristine coastal properties or properties of significant or important environmental sensitivity. [10-57]
- 1.1.10 Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to implement its existing hazard mitigation programs that include shoreline restoration and enhancement, building code and floodplain regulations, development management techniques such as land use, zoning, and subdivision regulations, and other applicable hazard mitigation measures. Recommendations from interagency hazard mitigation reports may be incorporated, at the discretion of the County. These mitigation programs shall be amended, as necessary, to remain consistent with federal and state requirements.
- 1.1.11. Policy: Pinellas County will use its Comprehensive Plan, its Land Development Code, its Local Mitigation Strategy, and other applicable hazard mitigation measures, including appropriate recommendations from interagency hazard mitigation reports, to reduce unsafe conditions and inappropriate uses as opportunities arise, and to limit redevelopment in areas of repeated damage.
- 1.1.12. Policy: Pinellas County shall periodically evaluate both its Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan and its Comprehensive Plan with the Local Mitigation Strategy in order to determine if any amendments or

revisions are required in order to facilitate implementation of the final strategies.

- 1.1.13. Policy: The Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan for Pinellas County shall also address steps to attain disaster assistance and funding to promote redevelopment of private property and businesses in order to foster economic recovery.
- 1.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall cooperate with state and regional agencies, and with other local governments to maintain or reduce hurricane clearance times as a component of the evacuation times for Pinellas County.
- 1.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall work towards reducing the out-of-county hurricane evacuation clearance time of 55 hours in 2006, as determined in the *Tampa Bay Region Hurricane Evacuation Study 2006*, for a category 5 storm event as measured on the Saffir-Simpson scale.
- 1.2.2. Policy: The adopted level of service standard for out-of-county hurricane evacuation clearance time for a category 5 storm event as measured on the Saffir-Simpson scale shall be 16 hours.
- 1.2.3. Policy: Pursuant to the Capital Improvements Element, Pinellas County shall annually evaluate projects proposed for inclusion within the Six-Year Schedule of Improvements and shall place a high priority on improvement needs for critical links and evacuation route points, and for bridges, causeways and highway facilities designated as regional evacuation routes when scheduling capital improvement projects.
- 1.2.4. Policy: The Board shall continue to enforce its regulations requiring the development of a hurricane evacuation plan by recreational vehicle parks and transient accommodations.
- 1.2.5. Policy: The County shall coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation during preparation of the Transportation Improvement Plan for District 7 in order to encourage the State to give priority to road improvement projects on regional hurricane evacuation routes.
- 1.2.6. Policy: The County shall utilize the existing countywide computerized traffic signalization system and available law enforcement officers to expedite hurricane evacuation.
- 1.2.7. Policy: The County shall continue its public awareness campaign in cooperation with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Agency to educate the general public on proper hurricane evacuation procedures. As part of the County's public awareness campaign,

the County shall also publish and make available a hurricane preparedness publication to the general public prior to June 1 of each year.

- 1.2.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall cooperate with the State Division of Emergency Management to coordinate multi-county evacuations in a manner consistent with the Pinellas County Hurricane Evacuation Implementation Guide.
- 1.2.9. Policy: County-maintained roadways used as evacuation routes shall continue to be clearly posted.
- 1.2.10. Policy: Hurricane evacuation shall be planned and conducted in a manner consistent with the Pinellas County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- 1.2.11. Policy: To improve upon the intergovernmental and agency coordination, the County shall consider establishing an optional Public Safety Element of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.2.12. Policy: In assessing transportation needs, Pinellas County shall review its Special Needs/Evacuation Registration Program and other sources in considering the evacuation needs of at-risk populations that have special needs, language barriers, and that are transportation disadvantaged.
- 1.3. Objective: Pinellas County shall restrict development within the coastal storm area, and shall direct population concentrations out of the coastal storm area.
 - 1.3.1. Policy: The coastal high-hazard area (CHHA) shall be the area defined by the *Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH)* model to be inundated from a category one hurricane, as reflected in the most recent *Regional Evacuation Study, Storm Tide Atlas*.
 - 1.3.2. Policy: The coastal storm area shall be the area delineated in Figure 2 of the Coastal Management Element, which encompasses all of the following:
 - (1) The Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA),
 - (2) All land connected to the mainland of Pinellas County by bridges or causeways,
 - (3) Those isolated areas that are defined by the SLOSH model to be inundated by a category two hurricane or above and that are surrounded by the CHHA or by the CHHA and a body of water, and

- (4) All land located within the Velocity Zone as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- 1.3.3. Policy: If 20% or more of a parcel of land is located within the coastal storm area, then the entire parcel shall be considered within the coastal storm area. However, if either a parcel of land or a group of parcels that are part of a master development plan is equal to or greater than 5 acres and less than 50% of the parcel or group of parcels is within the coastal storm area, the property owner may elect to provide a survey of the parcel or parcels to determine the exact location of the coastal storm area.
- 1.3.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall prohibit the location of new, or expansion of existing hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities within the coastal storm area and the area inundated by a category 2 hurricane as depicted by the *SLOSH* model, as reflected in the most recent *Regional Evacuation Study, Storm Tide Atlas*.
- 1.3.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall not approve any request to amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to designate parcels of land within the coastal storm area with a FLUM category that permits more than 5.0 dwelling units per gross acre.
- 1.3.6. Policy: The area known as "Collany Island," subject to a zoning and land use plan amendment approved in Ordinance 04-92, was a one-time exception to provide a zoning and land use designation for the site that is more consistent with the character of the neighborhood than the former commercial designation and no precedent is set through the adoption of Ordinance 04-92 for other amendments for lands located in the coastal storm area. Additionally, this finding will reaffirm Pinellas County's commitment to Policy 1.3.5 of the Coastal Management Element that states Pinellas County shall not approve any request for residential density above five units per gross acre on the Future Land Use Map for areas within the coastal storm area.
- 1.3.7. Policy: Pinellas County shall prohibit the siting of new or the expansion of existing mobile or manufactured home communities within the coastal storm area. This policy does not apply to the replacement of individual homes within the community with modern manufactured housing, as long as the replacement manufactured homes are properly anchored and elevated to the base flood elevation.
- 1.3.8. Policy: During the statutorily required evaluation and appraisal process, the County's existing hazard mitigation programs, including those within the Land Development Code, shall be reviewed and revised if

necessary to reduce the vulnerability of future development in the coastal storm area. This review shall evaluate the recommendations of existing interagency hazard mitigation reports and the mitigation functions chapter of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

- 1.3.9. Policy: Consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of this Element and the availability of budgeted funds, the County shall evaluate the acquisition of storm-damaged property in the coastal storm area.
- 1.3.10. Policy: By June 1, 2008, Pinellas County shall evaluate the feasibility of limiting the capacity of hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities proposed to be located within area inundated by a category 3 hurricane as depicted by the *SLOSH* model, as reflected within the most recent *Regional Evacuation Study, Storm Tide Atlas*.
- 1.3.11. Policy: If Pinellas County elects to utilize the provisions of §163.3178(9), F.S., to comply with the State's coastal high-hazard provisions when amending the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan, any appropriate mitigation that may be required by this section shall be directed at increasing the number of hurricane shelter spaces, unless an alternative mitigation proposal has been approved by the Pinellas County Director of Emergency Management or her/his designee.
- 1.3.12. Policy: Mitigation required under Policy 1.3.11. above shall not exceed the amount required for a developer to accommodate impacts reasonably attributable to their development, and shall require Pinellas County and the developer to enter into a binding agreement to memorialize the mitigation plan.
- 1.4. Objective: Pinellas County shall restrict public expenditures that subsidize development or redevelopment in the coastal storm area.
- 1.4.1. Policy: County-funded infrastructure shall be prohibited within the coastal storm area except for the following:
- The expenditure for the maintenance, repair or replacement of existing facilities; or
 - The expenditure for restoration or enhancement of natural resources or public access; or
 - The expenditure needed to address an existing deficiency identified in this plan; or

The expenditure for the retrofitting of stormwater management facilities for water quality enhancement of stormwater runoff; or

The expenditure for the development or improvement of public roads and bridges identified in the Traffic Circulation Element of this plan; or

The expenditure for a public facility of overriding public interest to ensure public health, safety, and welfare.

- 1.4.2. Policy: When public infrastructure within the coastal storm area is destroyed or receives damage that equals or exceeds 50 percent of the cost of replacing the facility at its current location, the County shall analyze the feasibility of relocating this infrastructure landward of the coastal storm area. This requirement is included within the Pinellas County Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan as adopted within the Pinellas County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- 1.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall not construct bridges or causeways to barrier islands not serviced by such infrastructure at the time of Plan adoption.
- 1.4.4. Policy: Capital improvements identified the Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) under the jurisdiction of Pinellas County shall be considered to be incorporated into the Capital Improvements Element of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.5. Objective: Between June 2007 and June 2012, the existing deficit of public shelter spaces within the County shall be reduced by five percent.
- 1.5.1. Policy: The County shall coordinate with local jurisdictions and appropriate agencies (including the Tampa Chapter of the American Red Cross) in the development of a countywide plan for increasing the number of public shelter spaces in Pinellas County.
- 1.5.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall expand its coordination efforts within the limits provided by legislative authority to coordinate facility expansion plans and development review with the Pinellas County School Board so that new school facilities and facility expansion will be located and designed to provide hurricane shelters.
- 1.5.3. Policy: If the County determines, during its review of a proposed public school site for consistency with the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan and after consideration of the criteria in Section 235.26(9) of the Florida Statutes, that the site is an appropriate location for a

shelter, the final determination of consistency will include a recommendation that the public school be constructed to function as a public emergency shelter.

- 1.5.4. Policy: Whenever possible, new or expanded county buildings shall be located, designed, and constructed so that they may be utilized for hurricane shelters.
- 1.5.5. Policy: Alternatives to traditional public sheltering shall be developed and promoted through public education by Pinellas County and other appropriate agencies. Alternatives to traditional public sheltering shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, host home programs, inland sheltering, retrofitting of existing structures whenever possible, utilizing refuges of last resort as appropriate, and evacuation of guests from transient accommodations to inland "sister" transient accommodations.
- 1.5.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall initiate discussion of new cooperative efforts between the County, municipalities, the Pinellas County School Board, and other appropriate agencies in an attempt to increase the number of public shelters and to reduce the shelter deficit.
- 1.5.7. Policy: In order to reduce demand on limited public shelter spaces, Pinellas County shall utilize its public education program to inform Pinellas County residents about safe alternatives to using public shelter during hurricane evacuations.
- 1.5.8. Policy: As a means of identifying solutions to the existing public shelter deficit, Pinellas County shall continue to host occasional emergency shelter workshops, or summits, with affected governments and agencies in updating the status of public shelter availability and capacity.
- 1.5.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall participate with the State Division of Emergency Management and regional planning council in updating a regional evacuation study and, within a year of its completion, shall have evaluated any relevant recommendations, including those regarding shelter capacity, for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- 1.5.10. Policy: In assessing shelter space, Pinellas County shall consider the shelter needs of at-risk populations that have special needs, language barriers, and pets.

BEACHES AND DUNES

GOAL TWO: PINELLAS COUNTY SHALL CONSERVE, MAINTAIN AND RESTORE COASTAL BEACH AND DUNE SYSTEMS TO BALANCE THE BENEFITS TO STORM PROTECTION, RECREATION, AND THE ECONOMY WITH THEIR FUNCTION AS A NATURAL RESOURCE.

- 2.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to manage its sandy shoreline with the intent of restoring and preserving the natural functions of the beach and dune system.
 - 2.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to restore the developed sandy beaches and dunes primarily via its beach nourishment program; hard engineering structures shall be considered as a second option, to be implemented only if beach nourishment alone is insufficient in maintaining the beach and dune system.
 - 2.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue the role as the lead agency (local sponsor) for coordinating and managing Federal beach nourishment projects.
 - 2.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall monitor erosion of the County's nourished beaches and continue enhancement based on the results of the monitoring program.
 - 2.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to partner with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on beach restoration projects by submitting annual funding requests to the Florida Beach Management Program.
 - 2.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will not support shoreline hardening along the sandy beaches and dunes, except where necessary to protect upland property.
 - 2.1.6. Policy: Beach restoration projects will be designed and constructed to protect the ability of sea turtles and shorebirds to nest on Pinellas County beaches.
 - 2.1.7. Policy: Beach restoration projects will be designed and constructed with minimal impact to seagrasses and nearshore hardbottom.
- 2.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to protect the stability of the beach and dune systems by utilizing construction standards, development regulations and other appropriate measures that minimize human impacts.

- 2.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to implement County and State regulations pertaining to construction seaward of the State Coastal Construction Control Line. New development shall be prohibited in frontal dune and beach areas.
- 2.2.2. Policy: Vehicle traffic on the beach shall be prohibited with the exception of emergency law enforcement and maintenance vehicles, which shall be directed to marked driveways through the dunes.
- 2.2.3. Policy: Foot traffic will be directed to marked paths or dune walkovers in order to protect the dune system.
- 2.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County will support new dune walkover construction in locations where: 1) a dune exists, 2) public access is clearly marked, access to a public beach is provided, and public use is significant, 3) evidence of disturbance by pedestrian traffic, such as reduced dune elevation or disturbed vegetation, exists, and 4) construction of a dune walkover will not eliminate vehicle access to the beach.
- 2.2.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall designate undeveloped coastal barrier islands as Preservation, Recreation Open Space, or Preservation-Resource Management on the Future Land Use Map.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL THREE: ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE THE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSED IN THE FUTURE LAND USE AND QUALITY COMMUNITIES ELEMENT FOR THE UNINCORPORATED COASTAL PLANNING AREA.

- 3.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to ensure that adequate levels of service are provided by public facilities within the unincorporated coastal planning area, and shall utilize the annual update of the Capital Improvements Element to schedule required infrastructure improvements in the unincorporated coastal planning area.
- 3.1.1. Policy: The level of service standards adopted elsewhere for public facilities in the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan shall be the same standards used for public facilities and concurrency management within the coastal planning area.
- 3.1.2. Policy: The scheduling of public facility improvements within the coastal planning area shall be consistent with the Capital Improvements Element of this Plan.

- 3.1.3. Policy: The service areas for public facilities within the coastal planning area shall be those identified and/or established elsewhere in this Plan.
- 3.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall ensure that required infrastructure is available to serve development or redevelopment in the unincorporated coastal planning area, and shall require that development and redevelopment are consistent with the densities on the Future Land Use Map as well as with coastal resource protection and public safety policies.
- 3.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will consider new strategies for the future of the County's bridges and causeways that emphasize sustainability and balance citizen needs, economic priorities and fiscal resources.

COASTAL LAND USE

GOAL FOUR: LAND USE DESIGNATIONS AND DECISIONS IN THE COASTAL PLANNING AREA SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FUTURE LAND USE AND QUALITY COMMUNITIES ELEMENT OF THIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND COMPATIBLE WITH PROTECTION OF THE COUNTY'S NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES, REFLECTING THE NEED FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY, CONTINUED ECONOMIC VITALITY AND CONSIDERATION FOR THE VULNERABILITY OF THE COUNTY'S COASTAL LOCATION.

- 4.1. Objective: The County shall give priority to water-dependent and water-related land uses in the coastal planning area, in a manner consistent with its goals of long-term sustainability, continued economic vitality, the preservation of recreational and commercial working waterfronts, and the protection of coastal and marine habitats and species.
- 4.1.1. Policy: The County shall continue to enforce the performance standards for water-dependent and water-related land uses included within its Land Development Code.
- 4.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to conduct its comprehensive program of data collection, monitoring, education, interagency coordination and regulation to ensure that the location and impacts of water-related and water-dependent land uses do not conflict with the need to protect marine and coastal species and habitats, including the West Indian Manatee.
- 4.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continually evaluate the economic dynamics and trends affecting the viability of water dependent uses, including recreational and commercial working waterfronts, and adapt decisions and strategies relating to the protection of such uses as appropriate.

- 4.1.4. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will investigate and evaluate the following strategies, based on the recommendations from the Boating Access Task Force report approved by the Board of County Commissioners, toward the preservation of recreational and commercial working waterfronts:
- The feasibility of investing directly in property preservation through land acquisition;
 - Partnering and working with key municipal governments within the County that have jurisdiction over working waterfront areas;
 - Partnering and working with the private sector;
 - Protecting and maximizing the ability to use existing working waterfront facilities;
 - Making improvements to existing County facilities;
 - The feasibility of creating a working waterfront overlay zone.
- 4.1.5. Policy: To protect water dependent uses, including recreational and commercial working waterfronts, Pinellas County will discourage amendments to the Future Land Use Map and/or Zoning changes that would result in the discontinuation of such uses.
- 4.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to work with unincorporated waterfront communities to determine the need for additional regulatory incentives and criteria to support and/or enhance the preservation of viable recreational and commercial working waterfronts.
- 4.2. Objective: Boating access facilities will be sited or expanded in an environmentally-sensitive manner that strives to meet public access needs while minimizing negative impacts to coastal habitats, species and surrounding land uses.
- 4.2.1. Policy: The County shall as a minimum use the following criteria for siting marinas and boat ramp facilities:
- Adequate water depth to accommodate the proposed boat use. Sites that require no dredging or filling to provide access by canal, channel or road are preferred.
 - Preference shall be given to the expansion of suitable existing facilities rather than construction of newly developed sites.

- Located in areas where there is adequate flushing of the basin to prevent stagnation and water quality deterioration.
- No adverse impact on archaeological or historic sites as defined by state and local comprehensive plans.
- Potential impact of the proposed facility on the West Indian Manatee.
- Reasonable access to a large navigable water body and/or prime boater destination points.
- Minimal impacts to environmentally-sensitive resources, including upland areas, consistent with Federal, State and local regulations.
- Sufficient upland area to accommodate all needed utilities and support facilities, such as parking spaces, rest rooms, dry storage, etc.
- Capacity of the surrounding roadways to handle boating traffic to and from the marina or boat ramp.
- Compatibility with surrounding and adjacent land uses.
- Adequate wastewater treatment capacity for upland and marine pump-out facilities, in accordance with State standards.
- Encourage facilities to have slips available for public use.
- Consideration of public safety and welfare.
- Marina and boat ramp development should be sensitive to the special requirements for developing in the following areas:
 - a. Aquatic Preserves
 - b. Outstanding Florida Waters
 - c. Class II waters
 - d. Areas approved or conditionally approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for shellfish harvesting, and
 - e. Other highly productive and/or unique habitats as determined by FDEP, by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission (FFWCC), as identified in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), or by Pinellas County, based on vegetation and/or wildlife species.

- 4.2.2. Policy: No marina or boat ramp shall be constructed or expanded in areas determined by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or other governmental wildlife protection agency, to be critical to the survival of the West Indian Manatee.
- 4.2.3. Policy: No marina project shall be approved until a hurricane plan for the project has been established.
- 4.2.4. Policy: The development of marinas shall be supported as a means of providing public water access to the extent that their development and use shall not adversely impact estuarine resources.
- 4.2.5. Policy: To address potential environmental and coastal resource impacts, the Building and Development Review Services Department will coordinate with the Department of Environmental Management in the siting of high-and-dry marina facilities.
- 4.2.6. Policy: On a case-by-case basis, Pinellas County will consider the feasibility of mooring fields as a means of boating access to area waters.
- 4.3. Objective: Pinellas County will continue, and improve upon as necessary, its long-standing efforts to manage and protect its coastal and marine resources, including manatees and their essential habitat.
- 4.3.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to support the protection of manatees through such measures as enforcing land use, zoning restrictions and speed zones, implementing sea grass protection areas and land development regulations, regulating the location of docks, marinas and boat ramps, providing manatee signage, and educating the public.
- 4.3.2. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County shall review existing County regulations (e.g., Zoning Code, Water and Navigation Regulations, Boating Regulations, etc.) to determine if they continue to adequately support manatee protection goals. [10-57]
- 4.3.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to collect information (e.g., manatee watch line, mortality data, seagrass monitoring, etc.) required to identify critical use areas for manatees, and will use the information to annually assess and revise, if necessary, its manatee protection measures and programs.

- 4.3.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue its boater and public education efforts regarding manatee protection, particularly targeting areas and instances of high susceptibility to interactions between boaters and manatees.
- 4.3.5. Policy: To further boater and manatee safety, Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with the Sheriff's Marine Unit regarding marine enforcement, monitoring and speed restrictions.
- 4.3.6. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to monitor the boater to enforcement officer ratio as a means to determine if current levels of boating regulation enforcement are adequate, and if possible, will identify and evaluate potential funding sources for increasing boater regulation enforcement, if such a need is determined. [10-57]
- 4.3.7. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with boating regulation enforcement agencies as the primary means of collecting data (speed citations, accident reports, etc.) to evaluate the potential need for additional manatee-related speed zones and/or changes to existing speed zones.
- 4.3.8. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to track and evaluate signage related to boat speed restrictions, etc., and make appropriate adjustments as necessary. [10-57]
- 4.3.9. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to identify, implement and enforce appropriate measures to protect important manatee sea grass feeding areas.
- 4.3.10. Policy: Pinellas County will continue active participation in state and regional technical forums regarding management and protection of manatees.
- 4.3.11. 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 goals for protecting manatees.
- 4.4. Objective: By December 2008, Pinellas County will coordinate with Federal and State agencies to determine the need for a Manatee Protection Plan.
- 4.4.1. Policy: Pinellas County will utilize its existing Water and Navigation authority, land use planning and land development regulation strategies, and ongoing research and data collection to determine

the need for additional manatee protection strategies and/or a Manatee Protection Plan.

- 4.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate with State and Federal agencies and those municipal governments with water access, as well as boater groups and other affected stakeholders, in the development of manatee protection strategies and in determining the need for a Manatee Protection Plan.
- 4.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County will evaluate funding strategies and options for implementing manatee protection measures.
- 4.4.4. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate with Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies to maximize law enforcement coverage on the water within budgetary constraints.
- 4.5. Objective: Pinellas County will expand, promote and enhance its Clean Marina Program.
- 4.5.1. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to promote and expand its Clean Marina Program through outreach and educational efforts regarding the benefits of certification.
- 4.5.2. Policy: All County-owned marinas will initiate the process to obtain certification as a Clean Marina within six months of purchase, with the goal of becoming certified within one year.
- 4.6. Objective: In an effort to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of its coastal resources and land uses, Pinellas County will remain apprised of, and plan where appropriate for rising sea levels.
- 4.6.1. Policy: Pinellas County will evaluate the data and findings regarding sea level rise on at least a five-year basis.
- 4.6.2. Policy: Based on the evaluations directed by Policy 4.6.1, Pinellas County will continue to refine and incorporate long-term planning strategies, and amend land development regulations as necessary, to responsibly plan for the effects of rising sea levels.
- 4.6.3. Policy: Pinellas County recognizes the potential need for adequate coastal buffering in its response to future sea level rise, and will give preference to low environmental impact methods of shoreline protection, such as beach nourishment, where feasible and appropriate.

- 4.6.4. Policy: Pinellas County will encourage, and participate in, coordinated intergovernmental and interagency efforts to develop responsible strategies for addressing the potential negative effects of rising sea levels.
- 4.6.5. Policy: Pinellas County will share information with local municipalities regarding the implications of sea level rise and development decisions along the coast and other vulnerable areas.

*RECREATION, OPEN SPACE
& CULTURE ELEMENT*

of the

PINELLAS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Prepared By:

The Pinellas County Planning Department

as staff to the

LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY

for

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Adopted March 18, 2008 (Ordinance 08-19)
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Introduction

A LEGACY OF RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION

Pinellas County's focus has traditionally been the provision of larger regional parks in order to meet the needs of all County residents for resource-based recreation. This focus, in turn, has allowed the individual municipalities to concentrate on providing community and neighborhood parks with facility-based, organized recreational programs such as playgrounds, swimming pools, ballfields and golf courses. Traditionally, the programs of the Board of County Commissioners and the twenty-four municipal governments work in coordination to provide a balanced countywide system of resource and activity based recreational and open space opportunities. The focus was to enhance the inventory of facilities and provide linkages between Pinellas County-owned facilities and municipal facilities, working to expand the recreational network within the County.

With Pinellas County's sizable population and its associated urban development, areas of pristine natural beauty have become increasingly limited. Therefore, efforts to preserve areas of characteristic habitats and to set aside property for future recreation and open space needs continues to be extremely important. The County's ongoing commitment to acquiring and managing a system of regional parks and environmental lands remains part of this concerted effort.

The *Recreation, Open Space and Cultural Element* is mutually supportive of the *Natural Resources Conservation and Management Element*, especially in the field of natural system management, as well as the *Coastal Management Element*, in terms of continued acquisition and management of coastal lands and public access to the water. Not only do Pinellas County parks provide a variety of recreational opportunities for citizens and visitors, they provide important habitat for numerous plant and animal species as well.

This joint emphasis on providing quality recreational facilities and preserving its natural resources has made Pinellas County successful in protecting its green space, despite its highly urbanized nature. It is a legacy that has procured one of the most outstanding and award-winning systems of regional parks and environmental lands in the southeastern United States.

A CHANGING RECREATIONAL LANDSCAPE

As of 2007, Pinellas County has become home to over 952,650 people. Of those residents, approximately 17 percent are children between the ages of 5 and 19 years old. Clearly, over the last 25 years the population of the County has been increasing, and getting younger. As the number of children and youth increases, the need for facility-based active recreation has risen concomitantly. In addition, with an increasing trend towards fitness, more adults are also seeking facility-based active recreation and team sport opportunities.

The County's changing demographics mean more competition for limited recreational fields and facilities, and in recent years, several municipalities have begun expressing concern over

increasing numbers of unincorporated residents burdening their municipal recreation facilities. In some cases, municipalities are charging higher rates and fees to unincorporated residents using municipal recreation services. Consequently, in response to increasing questions from citizens, in 2002 the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to determine how to begin to provide more facility-based, active recreation opportunities for unincorporated youth. Active recreation was viewed primarily as organized team/league sports of baseball, football and soccer; although recreation trends evidence increasing interest in youth and adult activities and programs beyond these traditional sports. For example, access to therapeutic recreation is becoming an expectation in well-rounded urban communities; extreme sports are becoming popular among youth and young adults, and associated events are seen as potential moneymakers. The need for after-school and summer programs is a constant and is commonly addressed by municipal recreation programs. Overall, expectations of the community are going to continue to grow while the availability of land in an almost built-out County and the availability of money to meet these expectations will not always be so assured. This pressure is the same for the unincorporated County or a municipality.

Clearly then, solutions to the issue of facility-based active recreation are not simple, mainly because of the limited amounts of vacant land in the County. In addition, many of the municipalities have long established programs offering a wide range of recreational programs and activities. It would be impossible for the County to try to duplicate such a program in the short term. Therefore, both short-term and long-range options to address immediate unincorporated needs, as well as countywide conditions, must rely heavily on partnership and collaboration with other governments, agencies and area recreation providers to ensure quality, diversity and availability of recreational opportunities for all age ranges – a key component to long term quality of life. Importantly, while the County explores the provision of facility-based recreation, the long-standing program of providing regional resource-based parks and environmental lands for all County residents and visitors will continue to be a Board commitment, and is seen as equally integral to Pinellas County's long-term quality of life.

A STRONG EMPHASIS ON HISTORY AND CULTURE

Pinellas County enjoys a long and vibrant history, dating back long before the first European presence in the area. Archaeological evidence of a thriving pre-Columbian society abounds in certain parts of the County. Pinellas County understands the importance of preserving parts of the past. Certain significant areas of archaeological interest are located in regional parks and environmental lands, and thus protected from development and preserved for present and future generations to learn from and enjoy. Vestiges of the much more recent past are also protected. Heritage Village at Pinewood Cultural Park contains a conglomeration of historic buildings and artifacts moved from various areas of the County to one central location where history comes alive. The County also encourages the preservation of the historic neighborhoods and structures that are so foundational to the ambiance and unique character of the area.

A positive side effect of an urbanizing County is the increased desire for a diverse, well-rounded system of cultural facilities and attractions. While the provision of cultural activities has historically been within the realm of municipalities, the County is taking an increasing role by 'filling in the gaps' and providing certain types of cultural facilities and learning opportunities

that were not previously offered in the area. Examples include Heritage Village and the Botanical Gardens at Pinewood Cultural Park. The County is also putting a new emphasis on public art and festivals in some of its regional parks and in certain unincorporated areas. Like with facility-based active recreation, Pinellas County is committed to broadening its cultural offerings and meeting the needs and desires of its continually growing, and changing, population.

PURPOSE OF THE ELEMENT

Recreation is integral to a healthy, happy lifestyle, for individuals and communities as a whole. A comprehensive, well-designed system of parks, open space and cultural facilities is foundational to the well-being of a community and its citizens. The *Recreation, Open Space and Cultural Element* of the *Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan* re-emphasizes the County's traditional commitment to the provision of an outstanding, unparalleled system of resource-based regional parks and environmental lands; strengthens the County's role in the provision of facility-based, active recreation programs and facilities; asserts the County's position as provider of cultural events and activities; reaffirms the County's resolve to protect the historic and archaeological past; and above all, provides strong, foundational policies to shape a world class recreation, open space and cultural system where all residents will want to plan to stay.



Enjoying Pinellas County's Taylor Park

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT

of the

PINELLAS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Prepared By:

The Pinellas County Planning Department

as staff to the

LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY

for

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Introduction

Pursuant to Chapter 163.3177, Florida Statutes (F.S.), this Capital Improvements Element requires the coordination with the other applicable comprehensive plan elements to assure that it is financially feasible to implement the goals, objectives, and policies of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan, as adopted.

Analyses performed in the elements of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan have identified facility improvements needed to meet the demands of existing and future development. The identified facility improvements are relatively large scale, are of generally nonrecurring high cost, and which may require multi-year financing. A criterion adopted by Pinellas County for budgeting purposes classifies nonrecurring improvements as expenditures of \$50,000 or more for the construction, acquisition or installation of facilities, or the acquisition of land as capital improvements.

In addition to identifying the capital improvements that are expected to need to implement the Comprehensive Plan from Fiscal Year 2007 through the Plan's horizon in 2025, revenue sources available to county governments are analyzed as to how they may help fund the future improvements. Furthermore, analyses on projected revenues and on existing and projected encumbrances (such as bonds) are conducted.

Table 15 of this Element is the "Six-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements" that provides a brief description of specific capital improvement projects scheduled to receive funding during the current and the following five fiscal years. Table 15-A, "Six-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements, State Highway System Facility Construction" describes those projects scheduled to be state-funded over the next 6 fiscal years, Table 16, "U.S. Highway 10 (FIHS Segment) Long-Term Schedule of Capital Improvements" concentrates on proposed projects, through the Year 2025, to implement long-term concurrency issues along the U.S. Highway 19 corridor. Tables 15, 15-A, and 16 indicate whether the project is needed to correct an existing deficiency, replace facilities to maintain an acceptable level of service standard, or address future needs. Future needs are generally related to projections of growth based on the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan and are tied to the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element, although these projects may also include a component that alleviates an existing deficiency or improves a marginal condition. Future needs may also be generated by changes in state and federal regulations, changes in local policies, changes in public preferences, and changes within the operation of an infrastructure system. An estimate of the total project cost is also indicated in these tables. Capital improvement projects have been identified for surface water management, sanitary sewer, water supply, recreation, open space and culture, solid waste and resource recovery, historical resources, coastal management for beach renourishment and dune restoration, and traffic circulation and aviation.

Cost estimates for the projects identified in Table 15 were determined in the following manner:

- Coastal Management – project costs are based upon estimates provided by the Pinellas County Five-Year Beach Enhancement Plan and by the Pinellas County Public Works Department;

- Surface Water Management – project costs are based upon estimates provided by the administration and engineering staff of the Pinellas County Public Works Department;
- Transportation/Aviation – project costs are based upon estimates provided by the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport Master Plan Study and upon estimates provided by the St. Petersburg – Clearwater International Airport Manager's Office.
- Potable Water, Wastewater and Reuse – project costs are based upon estimates provided by the administration and engineering staff of the Pinellas County Utilities;
- Solid Waste and Resource Recovery – project costs are by the administration and engineering staff of the Pinellas County Utilities;
- Transportation/Traffic Circulation – project costs are based upon estimates provided by the staff of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Pinellas County Public Works Department;
- Recreation, Open Space and Culture – project costs are base on estimates provided by the Pinellas County Culture, Education and Leisure Department and the Pinellas County General Services Department/Real Estate Management; and
- Natural Resource Conservation and Management; project costs are based on estimates provided by the Pinellas County Public Works and Environmental Management Departments.

The cost estimates for projects identified in Table 15-A were derived from the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program, July, 2007. The project costs for U.S. Highway 19 projects depicted in Table 16 are estimates of the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization 2025 Long Range Plan.

In addition to providing funding for capital improvement projects identified in the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan, as required for compliance with Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners also provides major capital improvement funding for communication facilities, courthouse facilities, public facility management, facilities for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department, and capital facilities for storm water management, transportation, coastal management, recreation and open space, sanitary sewer, water supply, and the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport that are not necessary for the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

***FUTURE LAND USE &
QUALITY COMMUNITIES ELEMENT***

of the

PINELLAS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Prepared By:

The Pinellas County Planning Department

as staff to the

LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY

for

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**Adopted March 18, 2008 (Ordinance 08-19)
Amended October 21, 2008 (Ordinance 08-67)
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