

Environmental Science Forum Invitation to Participate

(June 14, 2006)

To the Environmental Science Forum Participants:

Pinellas County Government needs your input. As an active participant in community affairs and supporter of a quality environment, you have displayed the knowledge and expertise to provide invaluable assistance on a new collaborative I am creating – the Pinellas County Environmental Science Forum.

My idea for the Forum grew from concerns our citizens have raised about initiatives that might adversely affect our parks and preserves. Proposals such as reactivating irrigation wells at Brooker Creek Preserve have recently drawn community opposition and complaints. It is my desire to ensure that the concerns of the community are met with full constructive dialogue, debate and good scientific knowledge.

As you may be aware, Pinellas County owns and/or manages 20,130 acres of green space. There are a host of policies, procedures and ordinances we use to govern the management of this land. We also employ environmental scientists and certified park and recreation professionals who work hard at ensuring that these resources are properly managed and preserved. What we are missing is a broader range of voices that will give us greater community perspective as we consider initiatives that may impact these lands. I believe the forum will provide this valuable input.

I hope you are able to join us as a member of the Pinellas County Environmental Science Forum. Our intent is to reduce meeting time where possible by exchanging information with you via e-mail, conference call or direct mail on select projects within our parks and environmental lands programs. We hope to start this process as soon as possible and ask that you attend a brief kick-off meeting on June 26, 2006 at 3 p.m. at Heritage Village in the Pinellas Room at 11909 125th Street N, Largo.

I have personally called each of you to invite your participation. I hope you received my message and if I was fortunate to reach you, I thank you again for your willingness to serve. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact Liz Warren, Assistant County Administrator at (727) 464-3248.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Spratt
County Administrator