

*Future Land Use &
Quality Communities Element*

Goals, Objectives and Policies

GOAL ONE: THE PATTERN OF LAND USE IN PINELLAS COUNTY SHALL PROVIDE A VARIETY OF URBAN ENVIRONMENTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A DIVERSE POPULATION AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY, CONSERVE AND LIMIT DEMANDS ON NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS, BE IN THE OVERALL PUBLIC INTEREST, AND EFFECTIVELY SERVE THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS OF THE POPULATION.

- 1.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall initiate a sector planning program to develop more localized sector plans that are responsive to the circumstances and issues affecting the various unincorporated communities throughout the County.
 - 1.1.1. Policy: The Local Planning Agency shall establish a schedule by December 2008 for developing sectors plans for those Planning Sectors that contain unincorporated areas. The Local Planning Agency will determine which Planning Sectors would most benefit from the preparation of a sector plan.
 - 1.1.2. Policy: At a minimum, the Sector Plans shall address land use, urban design, transportation, recreation/open space, and natural resources. Other planning subjects may be addressed in a sector plan based on the issues facing the local community.
 - 1.1.3. Policy: The Sector Plans shall be adopted as part of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan and shall be consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.2. Objective: Establish development regulations that respond to the challenges of a mature urban county with established communities that are experiencing infill development and redevelopment activity.
 - 1.2.1. Policy: Standards of density, intensity, permitted uses, and other land use characteristics for all land uses shall be listed in the Future Land Use Category Descriptions and Rules of the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element and incorporated as part of this policy.
 - 1.2.2. Policy: The Local Planning Agency (LPA) of the Board shall ensure that zoning provisions within the Land Development Code are in conformance with the density, intensity, and other relevant standards contained within the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element.

- 1.2.3. Policy: Plan designations on the Future Land Use Map shall be compatible with the natural environment, support facilities and services, and the land uses in the surrounding area.
1. 2.4. Policy: Recognizing that successful neighborhoods are central to the quality of life in Pinellas County, redevelopment and urban infill development should be compatible with and support the integrity and viability of existing residential neighborhoods.
- 1.2. 5. Policy: The Board shall implement land development regulations that are compatible with the density, intensity, and other relevant standards of those land use categories defined in the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element.
- 1.2.6. Policy: Land development regulations that implement the Comprehensive Plan may be more restrictive than the land use standards contained within the Plan.
- 1.2.7. Policy: Special exception land uses when authorized by the Board of Adjustment after a determination of compliance with the standards specified in the Zoning Chapter of the Pinellas County Land Development Code shall be consistent with the Zoning Chapter of the Pinellas County Land Development Code.
- 1.2.8. Policy: Conditional uses, when authorized by the Board of County Commissioners after a public hearing, shall be consistent with the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.2.9. Policy: The Pinellas County Land Development Code may allow a density bonus for Affordable Housing Developments as specified in the County's adopted State Housing Initiatives Partnership Housing Incentive Plan, and subject to program guidelines and specifications as well as compatibility with surrounding development, site constraints, and other appropriate considerations as determined through the Pinellas County Comprehensive Zoning Regulations and the site plan review process. Subject to the above constraints and considerations, any density bonus allowed for an affordable housing development shall not exceed 50 percent of the existing allowable density on a property as determined by the Future Land Use Map or the applicable land development regulations, whichever is more restrictive. A density bonus shall not be allowed for affordable housing developments located within the coastal storm area.
- 1.2.10. Policy: Affordable Housing Developments (AHDs), as defined in the Pinellas County Affordable Housing Incentive Plan (AHIP) and in the Pinellas County Comprehensive Zoning Regulations and certified by the County as an AHD, may be permitted at densities up to 10 units per acre in the Commercial Neighborhood land use

category and up to 12.5 units per acre in the Residential/Office/Retail, Residential/Office General, and Commercial General land use categories. The permitting of affordable housing developments within these land use categories shall be subject to program guidelines and specifications as well as compatibility with surrounding development, site constraints, and other appropriate considerations as determined through the Pinellas County Comprehensive Zoning Regulations and the site plan review process. Application of this affordable housing incentive shall not be allowed within the coastal storm area.

- 1.2.11 Policy: The following criteria will be used in determining preferred locations for Affordable Housing Development (AHD):
1. A mode of transportation other than privately-owned vehicles (e.g. a bus stop) is available within walking distance of the proposed AHD;
 2. The proposed AHD is located in proximity to neighborhood services such as a grocery store, pharmacy, or bank;
 3. The proposed AHD is located in proximity to places of employment;
 4. The proposed AHD is compatible with the surrounding development pattern;
 5. There is adequate infrastructure to serve the proposed AHD; and
 6. The proposed AHD is located outside the coastal storm area.
- 1.3 Objective: Pinellas County, through its comprehensive planning program and land development regulations, shall support efforts to create, recreate, and maintain areas of mixed-use development at appropriate locations to achieve the following objectives:
- provide vibrant and safe walkable areas;
 - concentrate growth in relatively discrete areas that are compatible with the community character, local traditions, and historic heritage;
 - place housing in proximity to employment opportunities, services and amenities;
 - establish urban areas that support transportation choices other than privately-owned vehicles and are more efficiently served by transit;
 - establish quality-designed urban environments that create vibrant, livable places;
 - provide locations that create a range of housing opportunities and choices, including the provision of affordable housing;
 - provide urban areas that incorporate well-designed public spaces;
 - encourage development at an intensity and scale that is compatible with proximate residential neighborhoods;
 - provide adequate buffering and a transition gradient between non-residential and/or higher density residential development and proximate residential neighborhoods and/or less intensive nonresidential development;

- encourage development that is compatible with the natural environment and the overall vision of the community.

1.3.1. Policy: The following guidelines shall be used in determining appropriate locations for mixed-use development:

Table 1

| FORM OF DEVELOPMENT ² | Type of Mixed-Use Development | | | Type of Use within Mixed-Use Development | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | Mixed-use Projects | Large-scale Mixed-Use Areas | Neighborhood-scale Mixed-Use Areas | Residential | Retail/Personal Service | Office | Light Manufacturing/Assembly | Research/Development Light Intensity | Manufacturing/Assembly | Institutional/Civic |
| Neighborhoods | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traditional | | | | | | | | | | |
| Suburban | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mobile Home & Manufactured | | | | | | | | | | |
| Large Multi-family Communities & Resorts | | | R | R | R | R | | | | R |
| Centers | | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | O | O | | O | O | O | | R | | O |
| Town | O | O | O | O | O | O | | R | | O |
| Suburban Commercial | O | O | | O | O | O | | R | | O |
| Neighborhood | | | O | R | O | O | | | | O |
| Village | | | O | R | O | O | | | | R |
| Corridors | | | | | | | | | | |
| Interstate | O | O | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial | O | O | O | O | O | O | | R | | O |
| Employment | O | O | | O | O | O | R | R/O | | O |
| Residential | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scenic/Non-Commercial ³ | R | R | R | O | R | R | | | | O |
| Coastal | O | O | O | O ¹ | O | O | | | | O |
| Transit | O | O | O | O | O | O | | R | | O |
| Districts | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employment | O | O | | R | R | O | O | O | | R |
| Airport | O | O | | | R | O | O | O | | |
| University/College Campuses | O | O | | O | R | R | | R | | O |
| Arts and Cultural | R | O | | O | O | O | | | | O |
| Historic - Appropriate uses will vary depending upon the historic development pattern within the district | | | | | | | | | | |
| Medical | | R | | R | R | O | | R | | R |

O = This type of use is generally appropriate within this specific form of development

R = This type of use should be regulated to ensure that it is compatible with this specific form of development

¹ = Limitations on residential densities within the coastal high hazard area and the coastal storm area may restrict residential development

² = The general forms of development that comprise the urban land use morphology in Pinellas County are described in the Definition Section of the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element

³ = Development policies specific to scenic/non-commercial corridors place additional requirements for locating mixed use development along these corridors

In addition to using **Table 1**, appropriate locations for mixed use development shall be determined based on a balancing of the guidelines listed below that are applicable to the area under consideration:

LARGE-SCALE MIXED-USE PROJECT OR MIXED-USE AREA

1. The location can serve as a walkable destination for nearby areas.
2. There is adequate infrastructure serving the proposed location, including a transportation network that will provide an acceptable level of service.
3. There are transportation choices other than privately-owned vehicles that service the proposed location. If the proposal involves an existing town center, at least one of the following public transit services is available to serve the proposed mixed-use development:
 - a. The location is served, or is scheduled to be served within 6 months, by enhanced bus service with no more than 15 minute headways during morning and evening rush hours. Service by more than one bus route is preferred, and the presence of a public or private circulator system that serves the location and has a service interconnection with the bus system may improve the location's suitability for mixed-use development.
 - b. The location is served by a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route that is in operation or that has been selected for BRT service through the MPO process and there is a firm funding commitment to establish BRT and have it operational within 5 years.
 - c. The location would be served by a commuter rail line or a guideway system where funding is committed for constructing the line or system and it will be operational within 5 years. If the proposal involves a mixed-use project or mixed-use area on the scale of a suburban commercial center or larger, at least one of the following public transit services is available to serve the proposed mixed-use development:
 - d. The location is served by a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route that is in operation or that has been selected for BRT service through the MPO process and there is a firm funding commitment to establish BRT and have it operational within 5 years.
 - e. The location would be served by a commuter rail line or a guideway system where funding is committed for constructing the line or system and it will be operational within 5 years.
4. The location has direct access or is in close proximity to a segment of the countywide or a local multi-use path or trail system.
5. The location can accommodate a mix of land uses, including a residential component, that are able to blend with surrounding uses without juxtaposing incompatible uses or building types.
6. The mixed-use development will create opportunities for providing a mix of housing types in a range of prices, a certain percentage of which will meet the County's affordable housing criteria.
7. The mixed-use development can accommodate one or more of the County's targeted industries or businesses.
8. The mixed-use development is of sufficient size to allow a decrease in density/intensity from the center of the mixed-use development to the periphery that is compatible with the surrounding land uses.
9. The mixed-use development will provide services (e.g. services such as convenience groceries, dry cleaners, and personal care) and amenities within walking distance of

residential development within the mixed use project or area or of residents in the surrounding community, if applicable.

10. Compatibility of mixed-use development with other goals, objectives, and policies of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
11. The relationship of the mixed-use development to plans of other local governments and the Regional Planning Council, to the Countywide Plan, and to the strategies in Pinellas by Design.

NEIGHBORHOOD-SCALE MIXED-USE PROJECT OR MIXED-USE AREA

1. The location can serve as a walkable destination for nearby areas.
2. There is adequate infrastructure serving the proposed location, including a transportation network that will provide an acceptable level of service.
3. The location can accommodate a mix of land uses, including a residential component, that are able to blend with surrounding uses without juxtaposing incompatible uses or building types.
4. The mixed-use development is of sufficient size to allow a decrease in density/intensity from the center of the mixed-use development to the periphery that is compatible with the surrounding land uses.
5. The mixed-use development will provide services (e.g. services such as convenience groceries, dry cleaners, and personal care) and amenities within walking distance of residential development within the mixed use project or area or of residents in the surrounding community, if applicable.
6. Compatibility of mixed-use development with other goals, objectives, and policies of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
7. The relationship of the mixed-use development to plans of other local governments and the Regional Planning Council, to the Countywide Plan, and to the strategies in Pinellas by Design.

- 1.3.2. Policy Mixed-use development shall be integrated into a walkable area, which exhibits most, if not all, of the following characteristics:
- a. A pedestrian-friendly environment that results in active, walkable streets.
 - b. Building setbacks are reduced.
 - c. Buildings are interconnected by a continuous network of safe, convenient, comfortable, and interesting sidewalks, paths, and bicycle routes.
 - d. If residential neighborhoods and other walkable destinations are located nearby, mixed-use development is interconnected with the surrounding community by a network of safe, convenient, comfortable, and interesting sidewalks, paths, and bicycle routes.
 - e. Pedestrian-scale streetlights and other amenities are installed.
 - f. There is safe, convenient access to public transit.
 - g. The development will provide well-designed public spaces (e.g. pocket parks and plazas) and space for civic uses such as libraries, community centers, law enforcement substations.
 - h. Applicable livable community characteristics identified in the policies in support of Goal 2.

- 1.3.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall establish the Community Redevelopment District- Activity Center Future Land Use Map category to recognize those areas of the County that are appropriate locations for mixed uses development that serve as community focal points of commerce, employment, and housing.
- 1.3.4. Policy: Use of the Community Redevelopment District-Activity Center Future Land Use Map (FLUM) category shall require a special area plan approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The special area plan shall, at a minimum, address the following:
- a. Permitted uses and locational criteria;
 - b. Density and intensity standards;
 - c. Provisions for mixed use;
 - d. Design guidelines, if any;
 - e. Provisions for affordable housing and employment, if any;
 - f. Provisions that achieve a walkable area;
 - g. Impacts on public services and facilities;
 - h. Integration with planned and existing mobility systems;
 - i. Integration and compatibility with the surrounding community;
 - j. Incentives that may be offered to encourage development that has an overall community benefit; and
 - k. Consistency with the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.3.5. Policy: Special area plans, as described in Policy 1.3.4., and the County’s land development regulations as they apply to the Community Redevelopment District-Activity Center FLUM category may require that, in order to exceed an established base residential density or intensity of use, a project shall provide public benefits and amenities that support one or more of the objectives listed in Objective 1.3. Pinellas County would determine what public benefits and amenities would be acceptable for receiving additional development rights, and the extent of those additional development rights.
- 1.3.6. Policy: Special area plans, as described in Policy 1.3.4., and the County’s land development regulations as they apply to the Community Redevelopment District-Activity Center FLUM category may require that development above an established base residential density or intensity of use rely upon the transfer of development rights from other properties to the subject property or properties.
- 1.3.7. Policy: Mixed-use development shall enhance, and not compromise, the integrity and viability of existing and planned residential neighborhoods.
- 1.3.8. Policy: Mixed-use development shall create a strong sense of community identity through consideration of such mechanisms as optional and/or required urban design and architectural design criteria, recognizing historic setback patterns and lot sizes, the creation of

places that are oriented to the pedestrian and alternative modes of travel such as bicycle use, providing greenspace and landscaping in public spaces, and other appropriate mechanisms that may be specific to a particular location.

- 1.3.9. Policy: When considering a Future Land Use Map amendment to designate a Community Redevelopment District-Activity Center, implementation of Policies 4.2.3. and 4.2.4. of the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element shall take into consideration the area's historic development pattern, the interrelationship of the proposed designation with the surrounding community, whether the proposed Community Redevelopment District-Activity Center has historically served as a community focal point, the impact on traffic patterns resulting from mixed use development and an emphasis on pedestrian activity and non-motorized modes of travel, and the ability of the surrounding road network to distribute vehicle trips away from road corridors experiencing concurrency problems.
- 1.3.10. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County shall identify proposed amendments to the Land Development Code to include mixed-use development standards to achieve the intent expressed in Objective 1.3. The proposals shall also consider additional code amendments to implement recommendations in *Pinellas by Design* and the livable community objectives and policies under Goal 2 of this element.
- 1.3.11. Policy: By December 2009, Pinellas County in coordination with the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization shall have completed a study of the impact of mixed-use development on the transportation network and on parking demand, which shall recommend parking standards for mixed-use development.
- 1.3.12. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will evaluate the results of the study completed in Policy 1.3.11 and shall have amended its land development regulations as determined appropriate.
- 1.3.13. Policy: The Residential/Office Limited, Residential/Office General, Residential/Office/Retail, and Community Redevelopment District-Activity Center land use categories shall require a mixture of uses distributed as follows within each category: Residential (5 percent to 30 percent), and Non-residential (70 percent to 95 percent).
- 1.4. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to use its countywide authority under the Community Redevelopment Act, Part III of Chapter 163, F.S., as a tool to foster the revitalization of areas that are confronted with slum or blighting conditions.
- 1.4.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall use the policies approved by the Board of County Commissioners on July 23, 2002, or as they may be

subsequently modified by the Board, as the basis for conducting the County's responsibilities under the Community Redevelopment Act.

- 1.4.2. Policy: By March 2009, the Planning Department will complete a report on the County's current program and policies for designating and funding community redevelopment areas (CRAs), the results that have been achieved through implementation of community redevelopment plans, and opportunities for improving the use of CRAs that take into consideration the goals of *Pinellas by Design* and the *Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan*.
- 1.4.3. Policy: The report prepared in response to Policy 1.4.2 will consider the creation of new community redevelopment areas. This report will evaluate whether the County should consider establishing CRAs in the unincorporated area and whether there are alternative approaches that could achieve the same objectives.
- 1.5. Objective: Pinellas County shall promote the redevelopment and renewal of designated blighted areas within the unincorporated County, as outlined in the *Consolidated Plan* required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.
- 1.5.1. Policy: The Pinellas County Department of Community Development shall administer the *Consolidated Plan*.
- 1.5.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall determine whether a redevelopment plan should be prepared for the Lealman Community to further the efforts undertaken in response to the *Lealman Revitalization Plan* approved by the Board of County Commissioners in July 2001. This evaluation of need for a redevelopment plan or a comparable revitalization effort shall take into consideration the County's brownfield program and the inherent economic and employment opportunities represented by the large industrial area located at the headwaters of Joe's Creek and along the CSX Railroad line.
- 1.6. Objective: Pinellas County shall annually review, and amend as necessary, land use and development code provisions which restrain development and redevelopment in areas such as hurricane velocity zones and flood-prone areas to comply with the most recent standards of the National Flood Insurance program and all other applicable federal and state regulations, including any relevant findings derived from interagency hazard mitigation reports, in order to protect property and the health, safety and welfare of all residents.
- 1.6.1. Policy: Development or redevelopment in storm impact areas shall be restricted based upon the Natural Disaster Planning objectives and policies listed in the Coastal Management Element. The policies

associated with those objectives shall be consistent with the criteria in the National Flood Insurance Program, and the County's Flood Damage Prevention and Flood Plain Management provisions of the Land Development Code.

- 1.6.2. Policy: The Land Development Code provisions regulating development or redevelopment in flood-prone areas shall be reviewed and amended as necessary should the criteria in the National Flood Insurance Program be modified.
- 1.6.3. Policy: The Local Planning Agency shall review those interagency hazard mitigation report recommendations addressing the elimination or reduction of land uses that are susceptible to damage by natural hazard, and shall recommend to the Board any changes to the Future Land Use Map and/or Plan policies considered critical to reducing, or mitigating, such hazard.
- 1.7. Objective: The LPA of the Board of County Commissioners shall identify existing land uses that are inconsistent with characteristics of the surrounding area on a case by case basis or through the completion of specific area studies.
 - 1.7.1. Policy: Pinellas County's program for eliminating or reducing these inconsistent land uses shall be based upon the regulations for nonconforming uses contained in the Pinellas County Land Development Code and any other applicable ordinances which may be developed.
 - 1.7.2. Policy: By December 2008, Pinellas County shall have completed an assessment of the nonconforming use provisions within the Land Development Code and submit recommended amendments to the Board of County Commissioners for updating the Code based on this assessment and prior Board direction. This assessment shall also include mobile home parks whose existing density exceeds that allowed by the Future Land Use Map and/or the Zoning Atlas.
- 1.8. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to implement future land use policies that restrict the proliferation of urban sprawl at a density which is not compatible with support facilities.
 - 1.8.1. Policy: The County shall continue to utilize a maximum density of 0.5 unit per gross acre in the northern portion of Planning Sector 2 as a mechanism to contain urban sprawl and protect the County's wellfields.
 - 1.8.2. Policy: Within the constraints imposed by approved major projects and developments of regional impact, the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element for Planning Sector 2 shall continue to maintain a gradient of decreasing residential densities from west to east and from south to north within the Sector.

- 1.8.3. Policy: The Board shall continue to pursue acquisition of open space and environmentally sensitive areas.
- 1.8.4. Policy: The Board shall continue to designate environmentally sensitive areas as Preservation or Preservation-Resource Management on the Future Land Use Map.
- 1.9. Objective: Through the application of innovative land development regulations the County will support planned residential developments and mixed land use development techniques which include intensity and use characteristics designed to make these developments more liveable and compatible with the natural environment.
- 1.9.1. Policy: The Board shall continue to utilize its innovative development regulations and staff shall continue to examine innovative techniques used elsewhere for incorporation into the Board's planning and regulatory program.
- 1.10. Objective: The scenic/non-commercial corridor policies adopted in the Comprehensive Plan shall continue to be enforced to preserve the scenic/non-commercial designations approved by resolution by the Board of County Commissioners for specific transportation corridors, and to protect their traffic carrying capacity.
- 1.10.1. Policy: Land uses along designated scenic/noncommercial corridors shall be managed to protect the traffic carrying capacity and the scenic nature of these roadways.
- 1.10.2. Policy: Low density residential development (0-5 units per acre) shall be the preferred land use along designated scenic/noncommercial corridors with the intent of keeping residential densities as low as possible within that range.
- 1.10.3. Policy: If improvements, such as a major capacity expansion to a roadway within a scenic/non-commercial corridor, or other changes within the corridor are determined to render low density residential use as untenable, then nonresidential Future Land Use Map (FLUM) categories may be considered under the following conditions:
- a. the proposed category is compatible with the existing delineation of surrounding FLUM categories and the existing land use pattern;
 - b. the offsite impacts of the proposed category are compatible with, and will not adversely affect, existing and planned uses surrounding the subject site and within the corridor; and
 - c. the density/intensity of the proposed category is consistent with the intent of Objective 1.10 and policies 1.10.1 and 1.10.2. of this element.

- 1.10.4 Policy: Through application of the County Land Development Code, Pinellas County will ensure that development and redevelopment is consistent with the desire to preserve, and where possible, enhance the scenic vistas along designated scenic/noncommercial corridors.
- 1.10.5 Policy: The County shall coordinate with municipalities on implementation of the scenic/noncommercial corridor policy on County-operated facilities.
- 1.11. Objective: Pinellas County shall implement its land use policies in a manner that clearly defines the future land use categories and the regulations pertaining to them that manage growth in Pinellas County.
- 1.11.1 Policy: Land use categories shall be defined with enough detail to minimize internal conflict among uses and to provide precise indications of the level of development for facility and services planning.
- 1.11.2. Policy: Zoning, signage, subdivision, and other existing County land development regulations that are discussed in any element of the *Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan* or have been approved by the Board of County Commissioners shall be consistent with the Plan and include additional regulations that are specified by and based upon the Plan.
- 1.11.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to use the Countywide Sign Ordinance as the basis for County regulations pertaining to signs to meet the safety, environmental, and aesthetic needs of the County.
- 1.12 Objective: Pinellas County shall promote the location of community or neighborhood commercial development within centers in order to achieve optimal land use relationships, avoid commercial intrusion and impacts into established neighborhoods, achieve compatibility with traffic movement objectives, minimize air pollution, and serve the immediate retail shopping needs of limited or defined geographic areas.
- 1.12.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall restrict the proliferation of strip commercial development in areas where it has not yet become established as the predominant commercial land use pattern
- 1.12.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall permit commercial development in a manner that will maintain the economic vitality of recognized and established commercial areas.
- 1.12.3. Policy: By December 2009, Pinellas County shall consider amendments to its Land Development Code to support redevelopment of commercial corridors and employment corridors within unincorporated Pinellas County that are consistent with the livable

community concepts espoused in Goal 2 of this element and its supporting objectives and policies.

- 1.13. Objective: The Future Land Use Map and land use policies shall define the location, type, and intensity of industrial activities (including manufacturing, services, warehousing, and trade) that may be operated in order to diversify the County's economy and provide a broad range of employment opportunities to the County's residents.
- 1.13.1. Policy: The Land Development Code shall continue to be reviewed and amended as necessary to restrict the impacts of industrial development upon surrounding land uses and the natural environment. A review of the Land Development Code will evaluate the efficacy of various techniques such as minimum setbacks and buffering requirements, groundwater protection measures, distinguishing between where industrial activity is allowed either as a permitted or a conditional use, restrictions on certain industrial activities occurring outdoors, and the application of performance standards.
- 1.13.2. Policy: Pinellas County will evaluate recommendations in the Industrial Lands Study, upon its completion in 2008, and develop recommended amendments to the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan and land development regulations based on the Study's results. The proposed amendments will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners no later than June 2009, and will include recommendations on retaining sufficient acreage with appropriate future land use designations to accommodate the anticipated employment growth, by type, within the County.
- 1.13.3. Policy: In areas where the full range of activities permitted under the Industrial Limited category is not appropriate, Pinellas County may allow research/development and light manufacturing/assembly (Class A) uses as conditional uses upon properties designated on the Future Land Use Map as Commercial General or Residential/Office/Retail as long as specific criteria identified in the Pinellas County Zoning Code are met. In areas designated on the Future Land Use Map as Community Redevelopment-Activity Center, research/development and light manufacturing/assembly (Class A) uses may be allowed through provisions within the applicable special area plan, as long as specific criteria identified in the Pinellas County Zoning Code are met.
- 1.14 Objective: Pinellas County will encourage a land use pattern that provides opportunities for employment in proximity to housing and that more effectively balances the number of jobs with the number of housing units within different areas of the County.

- 1.14.1 Policy: As a means to reduce vehicle miles traveled and vehicle hours traveled for work trips, Pinellas County shall take steps to encourage the creation of housing and employment in proximity to each other where analysis of existing conditions and future growth reveals a significant disparity between the number of housing units and jobs.
- 1.14.2 Policy: By June 2009, Pinellas County will identify specific policies and/or actions that would encourage additional employment in Planning Sectors 1 through 6 so that projected employment growth would be more comparable with projected population growth in these sectors.
- 1.14.3 Policy: Mixed-use projects and mixed-use areas that contain both residential units and jobs aligned with the employment objectives in the Economic Element shall be supported at appropriate locations as determined by the locational criteria for mixed-use development and other pertinent policies within this Plan.
- 1.15. Objective: Recognizing the economic significance of the mid-county Gateway Area, Pinellas County shall consider the recommendations in the *Gateway to the Future Plan* approved by the Board of County Commissioners on July 12, 2005 to position the Gateway Area to achieve maximum countywide benefit and as an opportunity to model sustainable planning practices and design concepts.
- 1.15.1. Policy: By December 2008, Pinellas County will convene an Intergovernmental Team comprised of the County and the cities of St. Petersburg, Largo, and Pinellas Park to assess the benefits of collaborating on development of an Areawide Development of Regional Impact (DRI) or a Sector Plan per s. 163.3245, F.S., to bring continuity and cohesion to planning for the Gateway Area.
- 1.15.2. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate both internally and with affected jurisdictions and agencies in implementing recommendations contained in the *Gateway to the Future Plan*.
- 1.16. Objective: Pinellas County will implement its Brownfield Program to maximize the beneficial reuse of vacant and abandoned properties in a manner that contributes to economic vitality, community revitalization, community health, and environmental improvement.
- 1.16.1. Policy: Pinellas County will implement its Brownfield Program in both the unincorporated County and within those municipalities who wish to participate in the County's program.
- 1.16.2. Policy: The Pinellas County Brownfield Program will work with public and private entities, landowners and purchasers to assess the impacts of previous site uses and to facilitate cleanup of eligible properties

in order to return them to a productive economic purpose and desirable community use.

- 1.16.3. Policy: The Pinellas County Brownfield Program will utilize, and leverage, private, local, state and federal funding resources and incentives to recycle Brownfield properties for a beneficial economic and community purpose.
- 1.16.4 Policy: The Pinellas County Brownfield Program will facilitate the clean-up and beneficial reuse of contaminated properties and remove them as a threat to community health and safety.
- 1.16.5. Policy: The process of designating a Brownfield under the County's Brownfield Program will include a review for consistency with the principles, goals, objectives and policies of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.17 Objective: Pinellas County shall preserve and seek to enhance established community values, a community's unique identity, and their social support structure, and will make decisions that are in concert with a community's established vision for their future.
 - 1.17.1 Policy: As appropriate, and as resources allow, the Capital Improvements Element shall include any public facilities that have been identified to implement this objective.
 - 1.17.2. Policy: Consistent with the purpose and intent of the Comprehensive Plan, Section 134-82(c) of the Land Development Code, Pinellas County shall make decisions, both unincorporated and countywide, that do not detract from the established community identity and social support structure but, instead, serve to preserve and enhance that identity and structure.
 - 1.17.3 Policy: Pinellas County may amend the Future Land Use Map Series to identify a local community with a Community Overlay, and include in the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element complementary guiding principles, policies, strategies or other appropriate provisions that are specific to that community and that further the achievement of Objective 1.17 within that community. The complementary principles, policies, strategies, or other provisions shall not conflict with or modify the characteristics, standards, criteria, and definitions contained in the Future Land Use Category Descriptions and Rules of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan, shall be developed so that the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan remains internally consistent, and shall be initiated through a process approved by the Local Planning Agency.

Alderman Residential Rural Community Overlay

- 1.17.4 Policy: Pinellas County recognizes the significant contribution that the rural character of the Alderman Residential Rural Community makes toward providing a diverse mix of neighborhoods in urbanized Pinellas County; therefore, decisions by Pinellas County and its representatives will take into consideration the need to preserve and support the Community's rural character.
- 1.17.5 Policy: To help preserve the Alderman Residential Rural Community's rural character, a residential density of no greater than 0.5 units per acre shall be the preferred land use on the Pinellas County Future Land Use Map; therefore, increases in density will be discouraged within the Alderman Community Overlay.
- 1.17.6 Policy: An application to amend the Pinellas County Future Land Use Map (FLUM) for a parcel of land within the Alderman Residential Rural Community Overlay to increase the permitted residential density above 0.5 residential unit per acre shall require a corresponding amendment to the Future Land Use Map series within the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan to remove the subject parcel from the Alderman Residential Rural Community Overlay. A proposed amendment to the boundaries of the Alderman Residential Rural Community Overlay and a proposed amendment to increase residential density within the Overlay shall not be considered small scale development amendments as described in s.163.3187(1)(c) of the Florida Statutes.

Tierra Verde Community Overlay

VISION: Tierra Verde is a beautiful, tranquil, family oriented residential island community, surrounded by natural lands, the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay. Small businesses and commercial uses serve to complement and support island residents. The surrounding waters support a thriving recreational boating industry with marinas and boat access points that are complementary to the character and scale of the community.

- 1.18 Objective: The Board of County Commissioners will utilize a Community Overlay to define and recognize Tierra Verde as a cohesive community and their decisions will support the local vision, community character, and natural environment.
- 1.18.1 Policy Land use, zoning and conditional use decisions by Pinellas County that affect properties in Tierra Verde should be compatible with the Island's established residential development pattern, allow for recreational boating opportunities where consistent with the Island's

character, and/or enhance the viability of local businesses that serve the community.

- 1.18.2 Policy: The quality of life and residential character of the Tierra Verde community will be protected by retaining sufficient acreage on the Future Land Use Map for businesses that serve the local residents, by supporting recreational boating, by establishing community gathering places, and by respecting and protecting the natural environment that surrounds the Island.
- 1.18.3 Policy: All development on the Island should be compatible with the community and surrounding residential properties, and fit within the height, scale and criteria of current development regulations.
- 1.18.4 Policy: The siting of boat access facilities and services on the Island will be consistent with the siting criteria included in the Coastal Management Element of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.18.5 Policy: Pinellas County will consider Tierra Verde's coastal vulnerability when making land use, zoning and conditional use decisions in the community.
- 1.18.6 Policy: Pinellas County will work to enhance communication between the County and Tierra Verde businesses and residents.
- 1.19. Objective: The natural surroundings of Tierra Verde will be preserved and enhanced as they provide a vital coastal habitat function as well as a resource-based recreation function dependant on a coastal location.
- 1.19.1 Policy: Land use, zoning, conditional use and project decisions by Pinellas County and other agencies will place a priority on the protection of native vegetation, terrestrial and marine habitats and dependent species.
- 1.19.2 Policy: Pedestrian and bicycling connectivity on the Island, and to connect to points off the island, will be maintained and improved where feasible, as well as opportunities for kayaking and non-motorized water access.
- 1.20 Objective: Identify and prioritize infrastructure improvements necessary to maintain public safety and quality of life in Tierra Verde.
- 1.20.1 Policy: Pinellas County will identify infrastructure improvements that support the Vision for Tierra Verde and include them within the Capital Improvements Element of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan and/or in other applicable implementing plans or programs,

1.20.2 Policy: In determining priorities for infrastructure improvements Pinellas County will consider input from the community.

1.21. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to pursue an overall beautification program for landscaping the County's roadway corridors and shall provide funds for implementing this program.

1.21.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue implementation of a landscaping program for the public rights-of-way along the arterial and collector roadways of the County. This program shall use native and drought-tolerant trees and plants where feasible.

1.21. 2. Policy: Pinellas County's overall beautification program shall further other applicable objectives and policies of the Comprehensive Plan as they relate to such goals as water conservation and the use of native and drought-tolerant vegetation.

GOAL TWO: IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN PINELLAS COUNTY BY CREATING DIVERSE AND WELL-DESIGNED WALKABLE DESTINATIONS THAT PROVIDE CHOICES IN HOUSING, SERVICES, WORKPLACES, AND TRAVEL MODES.

2.1. Objective: Create livable streets that are designed and oriented towards a multimodal transportation system.

2.1.1 Policy: Where appropriate, the County Land Development Code will promote development and re-development in commercial and employment corridors, and/or in mixed-use development as determined by Policies 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 of this element that includes the following pedestrian-friendly design features:

- a. Continuous sidewalks with a minimum width of five feet, buffered from traffic by on-street parking and/or landscaping, and that include pedestrian amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, bus shelters, and lighting.
- b. Minimal front setbacks, building heights within a comparable range, and street trees to provide a sense of vertical enclosure on streets. Building heights should occur within a comparable range of surrounding structures.
- c. Buildings should be served by primary walkways that directly link the building's main entryway to the street and parking lot. These primary walkways should be visually distinct from parking lot and driveway surfaces and may include textured or colored materials.
- d. Permanent structures such as utility poles and traffic control poles within the sidewalk that restrict pedestrian movement should be discouraged.
- e. Provide direct routes between destinations, especially between adjacent parcels, to create walking and bicycling connections

between neighborhoods and centers as described in the FLUM Category Descriptions and Rules of this element. Potential conflicts between pedestrians and motor vehicles should be minimized.

- f. Clear passage zones equal to the required minimum sidewalk width in areas with movable obstructions, such as outdoor seating. Benches should be placed on a separate pad behind the back of sidewalk or between the sidewalk and the street to avoid clear passage zone obstruction.
- g. Drive-through windows along building façades facing the public right-of-way should be discouraged.
- h. Access across property lines that allow vehicular and pedestrian movement between properties without returning to the street.
- i. Build-to lines are used as an alternative to setbacks in order to form a continuous street edge and provide a sense of enclosure.
- j. Parking located to the side or rear of the structure.
- k. Land development regulations that ensure signage requirements do not create visual clutter.

- 2.1.2 Policy: When appropriate, implement the following livable roadway strategies within the public right-of-way on commercial corridors, employment corridors, residential corridors, scenic/non-commercial corridors, transit corridors, the coastal corridor, and in mixed-use centers and districts:
- a. Construct sidewalks on both sides of the street with a landscape strip;
 - b. Provide bike lanes, wider sidewalks, landscape strip, raised median, or other roadway treatment;
 - c. For roads that contain more than 4 travel lanes, consider pedestrian crossing treatments such as bulb-outs, crossing islands, pedestrian refuge islands in the median, in-pavement pedestrian lights, countdown signals, mid-block signals, and “hot response” signals;
 - d. For roads that have blocks more than 800 linear feet in length, consider the use of mid-block crossings; and
 - e. Require accommodation of bicycle travel and pedestrian needs in plans for future arterial and collector road construction, widening or reconstruction projects.
- 2.1.3 Policy: Where there is not enough existing right-of-way to accommodate the design features in Policy 2.1, consider requiring or providing an incentive for the dedication of additional right-of-way.
- 2.1.4 Policy: In areas where arterial roadway volumes and speeds are not appropriate for the design standards in Policy 2.1.2, consider the use of these roadway designs on parallel service roads or perpendicular collector roads.

- 2.1.5 Policy: The following criteria should be used in prioritizing sidewalk improvements needed to fill gaps: (1) proximity to public schools; (2) proximity to major public parks or cultural facilities; (3) proximity to high density residential and commercial areas, or any area exhibiting (or potentially exhibiting) a high volume of pedestrian activity; (4) location alongside arterial and collector streets; (5) proximity to transit routes; and (6) proximity to identified redevelopment areas.
- 2.1.6 Policy: Pinellas County will support improvements to Alternate U.S. Highway 19 in Palm Harbor that enhance this roadway’s function as a coastal corridor linking downtown Clearwater, Dunedin, Palm Harbor, and Tarpon Springs, and will coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation on the design of these improvements within Palm Harbor.
- 2.2 Objective: Design and provide safe, attractive, convenient, and comfortable transit stops.
- 2.2.1 Policy: Where feasible, provide transit stops with amenities including weather protection, ample paved walkways, sidewalks, lighting, and landscaping, and ancillary uses that provide conveniences to transit patrons such as cafes, news stands and food kiosks. Where transit stops can be retrofitted to meet these standards, the re-design of these stops may be prioritized in areas where higher residential densities or higher intensity commercial, employment, mixed use centers exist.
- 2.2.2 Policy: Land development regulations should ensure that parking, landscaping, or other design requirements do not contain barriers to transit.
- 2.2.3 Policy: The provision of landscaping, consistent with Policies 1.21.1 and 1.21.2 of the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element, near the transit stop in the form of shade trees is encouraged to maximize passenger comfort.
- 2.3 Objective: The County Land Development Code will encourage design of parking lots and driveways to support pedestrian safety, connections and comfort by reducing the number of curb cuts and providing interconnectivity between and through sites.
- 2.3.1 Policy: Allow a parking requirement reduction for properties that share both cross access and a common entrance drive.
- 2.3.2 Policy: New commercial, office, and retail buildings and centers should be planned to reduce the number of curb cuts and driveways. Where

possible, projects should share driveways and parking access with adjacent sites to provide an interconnected system of auto and service access points.

- 2.3.3 Policy: The location and width of driveways should be reviewed through local site plan review processes to identify opportunities for shared driveways with neighboring properties and to reduce access points on the surrounding road network to the extent possible.
- 2.3.4 Policy: Parking lots and driveways should provide pedestrian connections to building entrances. Dedicated walkways through parking lots and sidewalks should be included in the design of access roadways.
- 2.3.5 Policy: Parking lots should include trees to provide shade and reduce temperature for pedestrians.
- 2.3.6 Policy: Service windows and stacking lanes for drive-through businesses should not face public streets.
- 2.3.7 Policy: Mid-block and rear alleys should be utilized where feasible for access to parking, utilities, service and unloading areas in order to minimize the number of required curb cuts along primary access routes.
- 2.4 Objective: The County Land Development Code will promote high quality design standards that support a community's image and contribute to its identity and unique sense of place.
 - 2.4.1 Policy: Encourage building design to provide an ordered variety of entries, porches, windows, bays and balconies along public rights-of-way where it is consistent with neighborhood character.
 - 2.4.2 Policy: Buildings with facades greater than 50 feet in length should be broken down in scale by means of the articulation of well-proportioned and separate areas. Strategic elements include the variation of architectural treatment and elements such as colors, materials, and heights.
 - 2.4.3 Policy: For ground-level facades that face a right-of-way, a minimum standard should be established for the percentage of the exterior wall containing transparent structures such as windows and doors. This standard should apply to both facades of a building on a corner lot.
 - 2.4.4 Policy: Buildings should include street level elements oriented to the pedestrian, such as awnings, arcades, and signage.

- 2.4.5 Policy: In areas of the County having a historic or consistent design character, new development should be designed to maintain and support the existing character.
- 2.4.6 Policy: Preserve the character of existing residential neighborhoods by requiring infill or remodeled structures to be compatible with the neighborhood and adjacent structures.
- 2.4.7 Policy: Promote housing diversity and avoid creation of homogeneous developments, and promote the inclusion of a variety of housing types in all residential communities through local land development regulations.
- 2.4.8 Policy: Local setback requirements should allow porch easements in subdivision design and promote living areas of the structure that are closer to the street than garage areas.
- 2.4.9 Policy: Encourage single family attached and multi-family developments to be designed to include orientation of the front door to a neighborhood sidewalk and street.

GOAL THREE: PINELLAS COUNTY'S PLAN SHALL PROMOTE A BALANCED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

- 3.1. Objective: The Pinellas County Land Development Code shall be applied in a manner that ensures compatibility between the Future Land Use Map, existing environmental conditions and constraints, as well as environmental management goals.
 - 3.1.1 Policy: Environmentally-sensitive lands which are designated by the Preservation land use category on the Future Land Use Map, shall be protected through the application of existing land development regulations or the development of new regulations.
 - 3.1.2. Policy: Designated preservation areas shall be retained as undeveloped land suitable for passive recreation, conservation, or aesthetic uses to provide opportunities to appreciate the natural environment.
 - 3.1.3. Policy: The natural environment shall be both preserved and enhanced by a sensitive land use program which will include adherence to, but not be limited to, the following chapters of the Land Development Code: Habitat Management and Landscaping; Floodplain Management; Flood Damage Prevention; Site Development and Platting; Comprehensive Zoning Regulations; and any other applicable regulations that deal with on-site environmental concerns but also with surrounding land uses.
 - 3.1.4. Policy: The Local Planning Agency of the Board shall continue to recommend provisions within the zoning regulations for retaining

open space and preserving groundwater recharge characteristics in both developed and developing areas of the County.

- 3.2 Objective: Pinellas County shall continue its proactive program for managing the impacts of development upon the County's natural resources (including wetlands, uplands, and the marine environment), and shall continue to ensure that these resources are successfully integrated into the urban environment such that the overall function and viability of these areas is maintained, or where practical, enhanced or restored.
- 3.2.1. Policy: Significant wetlands and twenty-five year floodplains shall continue to be protected and conserved by their existing designations of Preservation on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM), as adopted by the Board and based upon the comprehensive assessments performed by Pinellas County to evaluate, and subsequently identify, those wetland and floodplain resources with significant value or function.
- 3.2.2. Policy: Where development activity results in an adverse impact to wetlands, or unique ecosystems as determined by Pinellas County, mitigation by the developer shall be considered as one means to compensate for the loss of natural system function when the impact is unavoidable.
- 3.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to use a variety of methods for protecting the County's open space areas and natural resources (including wetlands) which include, but are not limited to, the acquisition of open space and environmentally sensitive areas, allowing the Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs), density averaging, and requiring upland buffers adjacent to wetlands and other natural environments identified by Pinellas County.
- 3.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to protect the natural resources of the County through, at a minimum, the application of the Pinellas County Stormwater Management Plan and the Florida State Implementation Plan addressing air quality, as well as enforcement of the Flood Damage Prevention, Flood Plain Management, Habitat Management and Landscape, and the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority sections of the Land Development Code, and the Future Land Use Map.
- 3.2.5. Policy: Shorelines shall be protected by preservation land use designations, aquatic preserves, development setbacks, public acquisition, or other measures as deemed necessary.
- 3.2.6. Policy: Natural drainage features/areas shall be utilized where possible as part of the Pinellas County Stormwater Management Plan.

- 3.2.7. Policy: No development use shall occur over natural water areas unless so indicated as a recognized use on the Future Land Use Map.
- 3.2.8. Policy: The potable water system, wellfields, wellheads and aquifer recharge areas shall be protected through ongoing implementation of the County's groundwater protection program; by the County's continued acquisition of environmentally sensitive areas; by permitting in the area east of East Lake Road and north of Keystone Road in the vicinity of the Eldridge-Wilde wellfield only Preservation, Preservation-Resource Management, Recreation/Open Space, and Residential Rural (0.5 unit per acre) land uses designations, and institutional uses approved through the County's conditional use or special exception process that are consistent with the very low density characteristics of the area; by regulation of borrow pits, and by prohibiting landfills and additional commercial and industrial land uses within the zones of protection determined by the County's groundwater protection program.
- 3.2.9. Policy: Natural drainage storage areas shall continue to be preserved by land use provisions.
- 3.2.10. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue its program of integrated land and water resource planning and management, as exemplified by the commitment to comprehensive watershed studies and the preparation of management plans, by the enforcement of a comprehensive wellhead protection program including land use restrictions, permitting and monitoring criteria, and land acquisition, by ongoing implementation of a multi-faceted water conservation and demand reduction program, by exploring reasonable technologies for water supply, and by the application of Comprehensive Plan policies and land development regulations directed at such things as habitat management and enhancement, promotion of native and drought tolerant plantings, wetland protection, stormwater treatment, and floodplain management.
- 3.2.11. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to identify and protect isolated wetlands and other environmentally sensitive vegetative communities and habitats through the site plan process, which includes the application of project-appropriate land development regulations, conservation easement requirements, staff review of pertinent vegetation and habitat information, specific permitting requirements, and field work by development review staff.
- 3.2.12. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to participate in efforts, such as those underway by the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program, and via local watershed planning and similar initiatives in response to Policy 2.1.2. in the Natural Resource Conservation and Management (NRCM) Element of this Plan, to identify significant wetland and other habitat areas for protection, restoration and/or

enhancement. Staff will periodically review, at a minimum, the maps and related information from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to ensure that the most accurate information is being used at all times, and to determine if there are additional significant wetland areas that should be amended to Preservation or Preservation-Resource Management on the Future Land Use Map.

GOAL FOUR: PINELLAS COUNTY SHALL WORK TOWARD A LAND USE PATTERN THAT CAN BE SUPPORTED BY THE AVAILABLE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC FACILITIES THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SERVE THAT DEVELOPMENT.

- 4.1. Objective: The Pinellas County Concurrency Management System will insure the compatibility of all proposed development with the capacities of the existing and planned support facilities for which a level of service standard has been adopted in this plan.
 - 4.1.1. Policy: The Concurrency Management System will ensure proposed development to be considered for approval shall be in conformance with existing and planned support facilities and that such facilities and services be available, at the adopted level of service standards, concurrent with the impacts of development.
 - 4.1.2. Policy: On an annual basis, the Local Planning Agency of the Board shall develop and recommend adoption of a concurrency test statement that assesses the demands of existing and committed development upon support facilities.
- 4.2. Objective: The Concurrency Management System, applicable policies within the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan, and the standards and the locational and use characteristics as set out in the Future Land Use Category Descriptions and Rules of the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element comprise the County's program in which development shall be coordinated with the availability of public and private utilities.
 - 4.2.1. Policy: Land use location and intensity shall be accurately defined and monitored through the Concurrency Management System, the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element, including Policy 1.2.1., to ensure coordination with the availability of facilities and services.
 - 4.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County's Land Development Regulations shall require developers to submit their proposed development plans to the affected public utilities, who will in turn submit to the County, prior to the County's issuance of development orders or building permits, a statement of their ability to serve the proposed development.

- 4.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall discourage approval of Zoning and/or Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendments that would increase the number of trips generated on corridors designated as long term concurrency management, congestion containment and constrained corridors in the Concurrency Test Statement.
- 4.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall discourage approval of Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendments that would increase the number of trips generated on corridors operating at peak hour level of service E and F in 2005 and 2015 as identified in the Transportation Element.
- 4.2.5. Policy: As a part of its water supply and water resource protection program, Pinellas County shall continue to implement its concurrency management system, to schedule capital improvements, and to make land use and development-related decisions that consider both existing and projected water demand as well as fiscal and environmental constraints.
- 4.3. Objective: Pinellas County Land Development Regulations shall require that the level of population density and development intensity in the coastal planning area shall be compatible with the evacuation capabilities provided for in the hurricane evacuation program.
 - 4.3.1. Policy: In order to limit the exposure of residents and property to coastal hazards and not increase existing and planned demands on hurricane evacuation corridors and public shelters, the population density and development intensity within the coastal planning area shall be consistent with Objective 1.3 of the Coastal Management Element and the supporting policies.
- 4.4. Objective: The Pinellas County Concurrency Management System shall insure that building permits and development orders for developments of regional impact are not authorized unless the needed support facilities and services are available or such authorization is conditioned on the availability of the facilities and services necessary to serve that development at the time it is needed.
 - 4.4.1. Policy: Pinellas County's Concurrency Management System shall include, as a minimum, level of service standards for roadways, potable water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, drainage and recreation and open space.
- 4.5. Objective: Pinellas County's land development regulations shall be applied to ensure the availability of suitable land for utility facilities necessary to support development.

- 4.5.1. Policy: The County shall maintain procedures in cooperation with utility companies by which the utilities are informed of development occurring in the County.
- 4.5.2. Policy: Public utilities shall be permitted in all future land use categories including planned residential developments and developments of regional impact provided the performance standards in the Power Plant Siting Act, Transmission Line Siting Act, Pinellas County Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element, Pinellas County Zoning Regulations, and any other applicable land development regulations are met.
- 4.6. Objective: Development and redevelopment activities along U.S. Highway 19 shall be consistent with state and local efforts to provide an efficient north/south limited access highway corridor within Pinellas County.
- 4.6.1. Policy: Mixed-use development, as provided in the Residential/Office/Retail future land use designation, shall continue to be the preferred land use pattern along U.S. Highway 19. The restrictive floor area ratio and residential density requirements of this designation shall be utilized to limit the impact of development upon the traffic-carrying capacity of U.S. Highway 19.
- 4.6.2. Policy: The number of curb cuts on U.S. Highway 19 providing access to businesses and other development located along this corridor shall be kept to a minimum by requiring new development and redeveloped sites to provide access to adjacent projects whenever feasible.
- 4.6.3. Policy: As part of the County's sector planning program, Pinellas County, in coordination with affected local governments and agencies, shall study the U.S. Highway 19 corridor in north Pinellas County to determine if changes to the adjacent land use pattern could enhance both its function as a major commercial and employment corridor and as the primary north-south highway in the County.
- 4.7. Objective: The Future Land Use Element of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan shall be consistent with the Countywide Future Land Use Plan, including the categories, rules, policies, and procedures thereof.
- 4.7.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall, as a component of its Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element, establish and maintain consistency with the Countywide Future Land Use Plan and Rules.

Natural Resource Conservation and
Management Element

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: By September of 2008, Pinellas County will evaluate the possibility of, or need for, buffers to protect nesting bald eagles.
- 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 RESPITE 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 January 2009, 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.

- 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.

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's 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: By December 2008, 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.
- 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 by 2009, shall develop criteria for acceptable materials to use for this purpose.
- 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.
 - 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 2008, Pinellas County will implement an environmentally-preferred and sustainable purchasing policy applicable to County-owned and leased space.
 - 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 by 2009.
 - 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, and consider, if feasible, seeking certification of existing buildings under one of the green building standard programs (e.g. US Green Building Council, Florida Green Building Coalition, etc.)

- 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: By December 2008, determine a threshold, incentives and criteria for requiring and/or encouraging LEED standards/certification, or equivalent standard, in private design, that can be implemented through the update to Land Development Code.
- 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 2010, 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.
- 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.
- 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 demonstrate its leadership on Climate Change by developing a climate action plan, to be initiated with the adoption of a Cool Counties resolution in 2008.
- 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: By December 2008, establish a multi-jurisdictional task team to coordinate on native tree protection strategies and goals that could be modeled countywide.
- 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 CAMPAIRNGS, 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.

*Recreation, Open Space and
Culture Element*

Goals, Objectives and Policies

THE PROVISION OF RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

GOAL ONE: TO ADMINISTER OUTSTANDING COUNTYWIDE RECREATIONAL, OPEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS THAT PROVIDE, THROUGH ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE, SUFFICIENT RESOURCE-BASED REGIONAL PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS THAT ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE, FOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, AND ENHANCE THE COUNTY'S ECONOMIC VITALITY AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

- 1.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to provide a system of regional resource-based County parks and environmental lands to adequately meet the needs of Pinellas County residents through the Year 2025.
 - 1.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall maintain a minimum level of service standard of 14.0 acres of parks and environmental lands, in combination, for every 1,000 residents within the County through the Year 2025.
- 1.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to coordinate efforts with all levels of government and the private sector to increase the availability of public resource-based parklands and open space acreage to meet the adopted level of service standard defined in Policy 1.1.1.
 - 1.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall annually review and update existing intergovernmental agreements with local, state and regional governments for the operation and use of park and recreational facilities and the management of open space acreage.
 - 1.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to seek public and private resources to support the acquisition and development of County recreation, resource-based park facilities, and open space acreage through grant-in-aid programs or other assistance programs.
 - 1.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue the appointment of citizens to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board to provide citizen advice regarding resource-based recreation opportunities and utilization of County parkland.
 - 1.2.4. Policy: The Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall have the opportunity to review and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding proposed uses or activities which are inconsistent with County policy in County parks.

- 1.3. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to acquire open space, park and environmental land acreage countywide, with particular emphasis on filling in the gaps in the system and connecting existing properties.
- 1.3.1. Policy: Pinellas County's land acquisition and management program will focus on making parks and environmental lands available to all County residents, consistent with adopted park and environmental land management plans.
- 1.3.2. Policy: As new opportunities become available, or as County properties are surplus, the Pinellas County Department of Culture, Education and Leisure and the Department of Environmental Management will evaluate the recreational and/or environmental benefit, or potential benefit, of properties, including their ability to enhance the existing open space or park inventory.
- 1.4. Objective: Pinellas County will protect its open spaces and scenic vistas for their contributions to quality of life.
- 1.4.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to pursue incentives, enforce existing ordinances, and consider new regulations that require the provision of open space areas and retention of open vistas, where appropriate.
- 1.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall enforce existing land development regulations, and evaluate the need for additional provisions or incentives for the retention of recreation and open space acreage, based on criteria and standards that reflect environmental, aesthetic and community needs.
- 1.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County will encourage and incentivize the retention and reestablishment of open vistas, where appropriate, with particular emphasis on coastal areas and lands surrounding parks and environmental lands.
- 1.4.4. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate with other local governments and government agencies to protect open vistas along causeways and bridges.
- 1.4.5. Policy: Pinellas County will protect its environmental lands and resource-based regional parks from the impact of incompatible uses as identified in approved management plans, and from conversion to other purposes and uses that are inconsistent with approved management plans.
- 1.4.6. Policy: Pinellas County departments will maintain active lines of communication to remain apprised of potential opportunities to purchase open space lands.

- 1.5. Objective: In recognition of the limited amount of available open space remaining within the County, Pinellas County shall prohibit the conversion of dedicated recreation/open space land uses, and encourage the retention of non-dedicated recreation/open space land uses.
- 1.5.1. Policy: By December 2012, Pinellas County will evaluate whether additional policies, regulations, and/or incentives are required to support the retention of recreation/open space land use designations on golf course properties, small parks and other similarly designated privately-owned open space properties.
- 1.6. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to improve public access to County parks and other facilities including County beach access parks, multi-use trails and boat ramp facilities.
- 1.6.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), other agencies and governments, work to enhance physical access to park and recreation areas by automobile, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation.
- 1.6.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to design and develop park facilities with access for the physically challenged.
- 1.6.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to emphasize the importance of providing sustainable public access to the County's resource-based regional parks and environmental lands, in accordance with approved management plans, as a means of instilling appreciation of the resources, understanding of their value and contribution to our quality of life, and a sense that each of us is a custodian of our natural surroundings.
- 1.6.4. Policy: Pinellas County will maintain an attractive countywide way-finding/directional signage system (brown and white signs) to identify the location of major resource-based parks, cultural facilities and environmental lands.
- 1.7. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to implement and enhance a comprehensive countywide system of greenways, blueways and trails.
- 1.7.1. Policy: By December 2012, Pinellas County will have completed a long-range, detailed greenways, blueways and trails master plan, that:
- Identifies and maps existing corridors
 - Identifies and maps potential expansions, linkages, view sheds, and access areas for acquisition
 - Explores alternative expansion methods, such as easements
 - Catalogs facilities, amenities and the various types of experiences available to users.

- 1.7.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with other local governments and agencies to accomplish the development of an integrated system of greenways, blueways and trails.
- 1.7.3. Policy: Pinellas County's system of greenways, blueways and trails will emphasize connectivity between established resource-based parks and preserves, as well as key recreational destinations, and provide Pinellas County residents and visitors with new opportunities in which to recreate, exercise and enjoy; multiple uses shall be encouraged where appropriate.
- 1.7.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to evaluate opportunities for land acquisition along the Brooker/Anclote corridor to enhance both the recreational and environmental greenway system.
- 1.7.5. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will evaluate opportunities for enhancing public recreational access along the Joe's Creek Greenway corridor.
- 1.7.6. Policy: Pinellas County will support and promote the identification, including directional and way finding signage, and enhancement of regional systems of greenways, blueways and trails, and connect to such systems as opportunities arise.
- 1.7.7. Policy: The greenways, blueways and trails plan will recognize the value of connectivity between neighborhoods and workplaces, and the recognition of the trails network as a legitimate mobility alternative to the automobile will be a primary goal.
- 1.7.8. Policy: By December 2009, the County will evaluate its land development regulations and the development review process to identify opportunities and incentives for public access to the greenways, blueways and trails system to be accomplished in partnership with private development.
- 1.8. Objective: Pinellas County Departments shall cooperatively develop educational programs and materials concerning the conservation, protection, restoration, and interpretation of natural, historic and cultural resources.
- 1.8.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to provide educational materials at existing and future County parks, educational facilities and environmental lands that promote native vegetative communities and wildlife, with particular emphasis on Florida-friendly landscaping techniques.
- 1.8.2. Policy: Pinellas County will implement all of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan in coordination so as to achieve a sustainable natural community and to support and promote the provision of

nature-based and heritage-based tourism opportunities that contribute to environmental and cultural awareness and responsible stewardship among both citizens and visitors.

- 1.8.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to provide locations for multi-use pavilions and outdoor classrooms for sustainability/environmental education at public sites such as beaches, parks and environmental lands, consistent with approved management plans.
- 1.8.4. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate the marketing of its regional park system, environmental lands and related recreational opportunities with the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS

GOAL TWO: TO PROTECT, IN PERPETUITY, THE OPEN SPACE VALUE AND COUNTYWIDE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF THE COUNTY'S REGIONAL PARKS, ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS AND OPEN SPACES, AND TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT AND ADHERE TO THE INDIVIDUAL MANAGEMENT PLANS AND STRATEGIES FOR THESE IRREPLACEABLE PUBLIC ASSETS.

- 2.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to design and develop its resource-based parks, open spaces and environmental lands with a focus on the conservation, protection, restoration, management and interpretation of natural and cultural resources.
- 2.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County's land acquisition and multiple land use management efforts shall continue the commitment to linking open space areas, and creating a network of greenways and green spaces, which can be managed to support the protection, enhancement and restoration of functional and connected natural systems while contributing to watershed protection and providing resource-based recreational opportunities, including nature-based experiences, for both residents and visitors.
- 2.1.2. Policy: While recognizing the importance of its resource-based regional parks' core recreational value countywide to residents and visitors, Pinellas County will recognize the importance of the system's value to wildlife, including migratory birds, and maintain an appropriate balance.
- 2.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to design and manage its parks and environmental lands to protect and restore, where possible, native vegetative communities and critical wildlife habitat, including all

flora and fauna identified as threatened, endangered or species of special concern.

- 2.1.4. Policy: By December 2012, Pinellas County will complete the systematic identification, analysis and protection of critical habitats in the resource-based regional park system.
- 2.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will appropriately manage the historic tree canopies within its regional parks system and environmental lands.
- 2.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to landscape park areas utilizing a minimum of 85 percent native shrubs and trees.
- 2.1.7. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to educate property owners adjacent to parks and environmental lands in a manner that fosters environmental stewardship.
- 2.1.8. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to incorporate environmental/historical/archaeological education exhibits and kiosks to support the education curriculum at regional parks and environmental lands, consistent with approved management plans.
- 2.1.9. Policy: Pinellas County may incorporate public art, where appropriate, in the design of future facilities, commissioned sculpture and outdoor art throughout the parks and environmental lands, consistent with approved management plans and the County's Public Art and Design Master Plan.
- 2.2. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to protect, enhance and manage the resource-based parks for their habitat value and resource-based recreational purpose, balancing recreational activities and opportunities with environmental and cultural stewardship, so as to not negatively impact the critical and irreplaceable ecosystems found in the regional resource-based park system.
 - 2.2.1. Policy: In furtherance of Objective 2.2, by December 2012, Pinellas County will develop specific management plans for each regional park in the regional park system.
 - 2.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall, consistent with adopted management plans, continue to implement multiple land management practices within County parks to achieve the goals of the Recreation, Open Space and Culture Element as well as the Natural, Resources Conservation and Management Element.
 - 2.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County will develop, maintain and operate regional resource-based parks in accordance with adopted management plans and master plans.

- 2.2.4. Policy: Resource-based regional park management plans shall, at a minimum, include the following:
- Overall objectives, strategies and policies
 - A suitability assessment method to assess compatibility and impacts of proposed uses
 - Monitoring and mitigation procedures
 - Strategies for resource management
 - A table showing the percentage of land to be used for conservation/preservation, open space, and developed areas
 - A matrix that identifies development restrictions and identifies permitted uses within each land use
 - Relationship to other adjacent or nearby public facilities, as applicable
 - A determination of the capacity to accommodate special events
 - Identification of desired visitor experiences, including activity, duration, available food and beverages, etc. to determine needs and opportunities for concession, public access, transportation, promotion, etc.

STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS TO THE WATER

GOAL THREE: TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC CONNECTIONS TO PINELLAS COUNTY WATERS AND WATERWAYS THROUGH THE MAINTENANCE, PROMOTION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-SENSITIVE EXPANSION OF RECREATIONAL ACCESS.

3.1. Objective: In recognition of their recreational and economic importance, Pinellas County will encourage and support the retention, acquisition, and expansion, where appropriate, of water dependent recreation-related land uses, including marinas, boat ramps, and other means of public water and waterway access.

3.1.1. Policy: By December 2009, and in conjunction with the recommendations of the Boating Access Task Force and the parameters set forth in the Coastal Management Element of this Comprehensive Plan, Pinellas County will investigate potential changes to land development regulations and the utilization of other creative land

use planning techniques in an effort to discourage or prevent the loss of water dependent land uses.

3.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County will pursue partnerships with other agencies and municipalities to improve and increase opportunities for public access to the water and waterways countywide.

3.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to investigate opportunities for additional boat ramps and mooring fields, with particular emphasis on a North County deep water ramp.

3.1.4. Policy: As recommended by the Boating Access Task Force, Pinellas County will continue to explore opportunities for marinas that are in danger of conversion to other uses to continue operation.

3.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will strive, as far as practicable, to maintain the current ratio of boat ramp lanes and parking spaces to registered Pinellas County boaters; and to maintain the existing ratio, as of June 2007, of different types of boat ramps.

3.2. Objective: Pinellas County will continue to maintain and enhance, where feasible, the operation and efficiency of existing boat access facilities.

3.2.1. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will have installed signs and/or graphics at County boat ramps regarding boat ramp use and etiquette.

3.2.2. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will develop a Pinellas County Boat Ramp Guide to Pinellas County, showing the type of access, locations, amenities, hours of operation, etc.

3.2.3. Policy: In furtherance of boater and wildlife safety, Pinellas County will conduct an annual summit with the Sheriff's Marine Unit regarding marine enforcement, monitoring and speed restrictions.

3.3. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to identify and prioritize coastal properties within the County for acquisition, consistent with the State's land acquisition program and Tampa Bay Estuary Program goals.

3.3.1. Policy: The County's process for identifying and prioritizing coastal properties for acquisition shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

- degree of environmental significance and pristine condition;
- consistency with hazard mitigation requirements;
- beach access and management opportunities; and
- urban park and open space needs

- 3.3.2. Policy: The County shall actively coordinate and collaborate with other coastal governments and agencies in achieving this objective.
- 3.4. Objective: Pinellas County will maintain, enhance and expand, where possible, public beach and shoreline access sites.
- 3.4.1. Policy: The County shall continue to acquire beach access sites in locations that enhance public access.
- 3.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County will give priority to those public access acquisitions or improvements that are located where public access is needed most.
- 3.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County will actively seek partnerships and shared funding opportunities for the acquisition of beach access sites.
- 3.4.4. Policy: Pinellas County will seek to obtain, as necessary, perpetual easements for public beach accesses, and for privately-owned beach property located landward of the Erosion Control Line that requires renourishment.
- 3.4.5. Policy: By December 2008, Pinellas County will create a model dune/beach management plan that includes best management practices and can be shared with municipalities.
- 3.4.6. Policy: Pinellas County will cooperate with the coastal municipalities to maintain and enhance the existing system of primary beach accesses, defined as 100 parking spaces and one restroom facility per mile of restored beach.
- 3.4.7. Policy: By December 2012, Pinellas County will develop a web-based Pinellas County Beach Access Guide, showing the different types of facilities or amenities available at different beach accesses.
- 3.4.8. Policy: Pinellas County will encourage the use of consistent beach access signage, provided at no cost by the Florida Coastal Management Program of the Department of Environmental Protection.
- 3.4.9. Policy: Consistent with existing agreements, Pinellas County will share responsibility and cooperate with the coastal municipalities to identify and maintain existing vehicular access, particularly shell paths without structures, for resource management, construction, and emergency access to coastal areas.
- 3.4.10. Policy: Pinellas County will investigate ideas and incentives to establish 'maintenance of views to the water from public roadways' to be used in the evaluation of proposed development projects in the unincorporated county.

- 3.4.11. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with managing agencies, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and municipalities to manage coastal resources.
- 3.4.12. Policy: Pinellas County shall not expend public monies for renourishment/restoring sand beaches where the amount of public access does not meet the minimum standards established by the State of Florida for State-financed beach renourishment/restoration projects.
- 3.4.13. Policy: The County will consider including, where practical, catwalks or other facilities for fishing on new or rebuilt County bridges.
- 3.5. Objective: Pinellas County will identify innovative ways to increase and enhance public accessibility to the beach, including the consideration of transportation and parking alternatives that also address pedestrian safety.
 - 3.5.1. Policy: By December 2012, Pinellas County will evaluate the feasibility of joint-use off-beach parking facilities, shuttle services to major beaches during peak weekend hours, and the acquisition of property near major causeways for future off-beach parking facilities.
 - 3.5.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to provide bicycle parking facilities at County-maintained beach accesses.
 - 3.5.3. Policy: In furtherance of pedestrian safety, Pinellas County will coordinate with the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Florida Department of Transportation to encourage the construction of traffic control/pedestrian crossings on Gulf Boulevard near beach access points.

FACILITY-BASED RECREATION

GOAL FOUR: TO MAKE URBAN LEVELS OF FACILITY-BASED RECREATION MORE ACCESSIBLE TO UNINCORPORATED RESIDENTS THROUGH CREATIVE STRATEGIES AND BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIPS.

- 4.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to periodically assess facility-based recreation needs and citizen priorities, including neighborhood-level priorities, as a means to determine the best strategies and funding mechanisms to support a long term sustainable investment in facility-based recreation.

- 4.1.1. Policy: The affordability of facility-based recreation to unincorporated residents will be a priority in developing facility-based recreation strategies.
- 4.1.2. Policy: In addition to looking at how and where traditional amenities like playgrounds and athletic fields for organized sports are needed, the County will also continue to evaluate needs and opportunities for more non-traditional activities, such as skate parks and bicycle tracks.
- 4.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to seek creative funding and facility partnerships to meet facility-based recreation needs, including consideration of mutually beneficial interlocal and joint use agreements between the County and the School Board, adjacent municipalities, volunteer groups and other recreational service providers.
- 4.1.4. Policy: By December 2012, Pinellas County will complete a study to determine what facility-based recreational opportunities can best be addressed by: offering them exclusively through County facilities and programming; partnering with other local governments and agencies; supporting non-profit organizations, etc.
- 4.1.5. Policy: By December 2012, Pinellas County will conduct a service analysis to determine how well programs are serving the facility-based recreational needs of the unincorporated communities, and, based on the findings, implement changes to existing programs and/or develop new programs or strategies as appropriate, and where feasible.
- 4.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to collect data regarding the use of municipal facilities by unincorporated residents as a basis for future decisions regarding subsidies or reimbursements.
- 4.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to encourage the provision of facility-based recreational opportunities, where feasible, by public agencies, private enterprise and private developers.
 - 4.2.1. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will evaluate existing regulations to consider new incentives or requirements for the provision of onsite recreational amenities by developers.
 - 4.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to explore and pursue partnerships and public and private resources to support the acquisition of recreation and open space acreage.

- 4.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to meet regularly with special district recreation providers to coordinate opportunities for capital improvements, programs and funding, where mutual benefit is provided.
- 4.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County will annually review existing agreements relating to the provision of facility-based recreation to facilitate recreational priorities and objectives.
- 4.2.5. Policy: Consistent with the Public School Facilities Interlocal Agreement, Pinellas County will coordinate with the Pinellas County School Board regarding the co-location of recreational uses, joint planning, development, operations and maintenance of facilities, and will annually review the School Board's five-year plan to identify opportunities.
- 4.2.6. Policy: In order to enhance facility-based public recreation opportunities, Pinellas County shall continue to coordinate with the Pinellas County School Board to determine the feasibility of making public school recreational facilities more accessible to surrounding neighborhoods.
- 4.2.7. Policy: As feasible and appropriate, and consistent with Objective 4.2. (and in conjunction with such activities as redevelopment, neighborhood revitalization, etc.), Pinellas County shall support the assemblage of land and assist in the development and improvement of neighborhood recreational facilities in coordination with neighborhood associations and organizations specializing in the delivery of recreational services.
- 4.3. Objective: Pinellas County will support the role of recreation/community centers in meeting the social, wellness, fitness and facility-based recreation needs of unincorporated residents.
- 4.3.1. Policy: Pinellas County will support the establishment of community centers in unincorporated areas consistent with the recommendations from the Recreation, Open Space and Culture System Master Plan, where feasible from a financial and operational perspective.
- 4.3.2. Policy: By December 2012, Pinellas County will undertake a study to identify vacant/under-utilized commercial space as possible locations for community centers or other recreational facilities.
- 4.4. Objective: Pinellas County will take a lead role in the identification of the opportunities for development of a regional sports complex, in partnership with other agencies.

- 4.4.1. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will identify a site and a partner for a regional sports complex.
- 4.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County will initiate discussions with potential commercial, municipal and/or non-profit agency partners to manage the proposed sports complex
- 4.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County will seek alternative funding sources for the proposed sports complex to minimize construction and/or operational costs.
- 4.5. Objective: The provision of facility-based recreation shall be compatible with surrounding land uses and shall not compromise the integrity of critical or significant natural systems.
 - 4.5.1. Policy: The location of facility-based recreation sites and activities will not conflict with the County's goals for protecting those habitats identified by Pinellas County staff as critical or significant, or impact those areas set aside expressly for natural systems management.
 - 4.5.2. Policy: The location of facility-based recreation sites and activities, including neighborhood-level parks, playgrounds and ballfields, must be compatible with, and should complement surrounding land uses.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

GOAL FIVE: TO PROMOTE THE ARTS, CULTURE, AND HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES WITHIN PINELLAS COUNTY, AND THEIR PRESERVATION, THROUGH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND BY RAISING AWARENESS OF EXISTING FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS.

- 5.1. Objective: Pinellas County recognizes that cultural resources enhance the County's quality of life and shall increase awareness, appreciation, and opportunities for engagement with the County's cultural resources among both residents and visitors.
 - 5.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall utilize the Pinellas County Cultural Affairs Department to increase awareness among both residents and visitors of the existence and variety of the County's cultural resources.
 - 5.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County will recognize and consider the visions, goals and recommendations within the Pinellas County Community Cultural Plan, Public Art and Design Master Plan, the Heritage Village

Strategic Master Plan, and the Historic Preservation Program as referred to in Policy 5.3.3.

- 5.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall identify and pursue specific opportunities to inform residents and visitors of the cultural facilities and activities accessible to the public with the intent of increasing participation in, and support for, these cultural resources.
- 5.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue its efforts to promote tourism activities, including heritage tourism that emphasizes appreciation of the County's cultural resources.
- 5.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will investigate the development of a cultural overlay district concept.
- 5.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate a multi-agency cooperative marketing and advertising program that reaches out to residents and visitors to promote awareness of cultural resources and their contribution to quality of life.
- 5.1.7. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to support non-profit cultural providers in the County through grants, advocacy, and other appropriate means.
- 5.1.8. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will develop a cultural resources guide to enhance community understanding of the cultural amenities available in Pinellas County.
- 5.2. Objective: Pinellas County will encourage and promote public art and design, and seek ways to increase opportunities for public art and design throughout the County landscape.
 - 5.2.1. Policy: By December 2008, Pinellas County will have developed a Public Art and Design Master Plan that identifies opportunities, locations and priorities for public art and establishes an implementation/funding strategy and schedule.
 - 5.2.2. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will establish public art educational materials to build community understanding about art in public places.
 - 5.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County will investigate revising building and land development regulations to create incentives to encourage private development to integrate public art into project designs, where appropriate.
 - 5.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to integrate art into County project designs, as appropriate.

- 5.2.5. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to identify opportunities for public art in regional parks and environmental lands, where appropriate and consistent with applicable management plans.
- 5.3. Objective: The County shall continue to identify, protect and preserve historic and archaeological resources in Pinellas County, including coastal areas. Particular emphasis will be given to increasing the interpretation and appreciation of such resources.
- 5.3.1. Policy: By December 2010, the County shall update the 1994 countywide inventory of historic and archaeological resources. The findings will be utilized as the primary basis for identifying potentially significant historic and archaeological resources in the County. The inventory may be further revised as needed, based upon information that meets acceptable professional criteria for identifying these resources.
- 5.3.2. Policy: Concomitantly with the update to the countywide inventory of historical and archaeological resources, the County will update its Geographic Information System (GIS) in order to have an accurate database for making preservation decisions, including in association with redevelopment planning.
- 5.3.3. Policy: Based on the findings of the County's Historic Preservation Task Force and the resulting development of a historic preservation program, potential amendments to this Comprehensive Plan may be required to adequately protect historic resources, and inform County residents, businesses and local leaders of the value those resources bring to the character and quality of communities throughout Pinellas County. Furthermore, potential amendments to the County's Land Development Code may be required to adequately protect historic and archaeological resources.
- 5.3.4. Policy: As additional sites of potential historical or archaeological significance are identified in unincorporated Pinellas County, they shall be submitted to the Florida Department of State for inclusion in the Florida Master Site File.
- 5.3.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to provide for the protection, preservation, and appropriate use of historically significant housing, structures, and archaeological resources through implementation of the historic preservation and comprehensive zoning chapters of the Pinellas County Land Development Code.
- 5.3.6. Policy: Historic and archaeological sites as identified in the County's Geographic Information System shall be shown on site plans submitted for development or redevelopment.

- 5.3.7. Policy: When appropriate, and as resources allow, Pinellas County shall continue to support citizen-initiated efforts to preserve and protect historic and archaeological resources.
- 5.3.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to offer incentives to protect and restore designated historic properties in the unincorporated area and, when appropriate, shall coordinate with the municipalities on intergovernmental efforts to protect historic resources.
- 5.3.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall recognize historic and archaeological resources that could potentially be affected by land use and zoning changes.
- 5.3.10. Policy: Pinellas County shall promote the protection, preservation, or sensitive adaptive reuse of historic and archaeological resources located in coastal areas and provide public access where appropriate and possible.
- 5.3.11. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue its historical and archaeological preservation education programs to inform residents and visitors about the history and prehistory of Pinellas County, and to increase an awareness of the significance of the County's historic and archaeological resources.
- 5.3.12. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret archaeological and historic sites and buildings that are listed on the official National Register, or are of local historical significance within County parks and environmental lands.
- 5.3.13. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to support County historic and archaeological sites and structures such as the old County Courthouse, the Philippe Park Indian Mound and Fort DeSoto, as well as interpretive centers such as the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center and Heritage Village, that contribute to heritage-based tourism and cultural stewardship.
- 5.3.14. Policy: When a significant historic structure or archaeological site is acquired by Pinellas County, the County shall assess the feasibility of preserving the historic structure or the significance of the archaeological site.
- 5.3.15. Policy: The County may identify and include public infrastructure improvements as part of its overall program to promote the protection and preservation of significant historic and archaeological resources.
- 5.3.16. Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will establish a countywide guide to historically significant facilities.

- 5.3.17. Policy: Pinellas County will maintain repositories for the protection and interpretation of archaeological, historic and public art collections.
- 5.3.18. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to offer historical and cultural programming and interpretation within its system of regional parks and environmental lands, where appropriate and consistent with applicable management plans.
- 5.3.19. Policy: Historical and cultural programming activities will not compromise the environmental, historical, archaeological and resource-based integrity of the regional parks and environmental lands in which they are located.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE COUNTY'S RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

GOAL SIX: TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE A SUSTAINABILITY ETHIC, ENSURING THAT ECOLOGICAL LIMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ARE CONSIDERED IN ALL DECISIONS AND DESIGNS AFFECTING CULTURAL, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING, AND THAT ALL DECISIONS AND PROJECTS CONTRIBUTE INCREMENTALLY TO ACHIEVING AND SUSTAINING SOCIAL EQUITY, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND A QUALITY COMMUNITY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS.

- 6.1. Objective: Pinellas County will support and facilitate realization of the concept of livable urban communities by planning for, and providing, quality recreational opportunities and open spaces throughout the County, in a responsible manner that promotes and protects the environmental value of the County's natural reservations.
- 6.1.1. Policy: In association with the update to the Land Development Code, Pinellas County will review, and amend as necessary, the regulations to implement recreation and open space aspects of quality community/livable community initiatives.
- 6.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to implement programs that support bicycle lanes, trails and other alternatives to automobile travel, contribute to environmental quality and provide visual relief from urban surroundings.
- 6.1.3. Policy: To meet the needs of residents and further the ideal of quality communities as a function of recreation, leisure and mobility opportunities, the design and functionality of the Pinellas County regional park system and environmental lands, where appropriate, will have a renewed focus on the value of connectivity, on safe and attractive gathering places, on functional and attractive design, and on open vistas and open spaces.

- 6.1.4. Policy: Planning for recreational facilities will consider the needs of all members of the community and strive to provide equal access for everyone, including the underserved, through such means as partnering with the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), providing bike lanes where needed, and filling in the gaps where facilities may be inadequate or lacking.
- 6.1.5. Policy: In recognition of the County's near built-out condition and the fragile balance between the urban interface and its regional parks system and environmental lands, Pinellas County will institutionalize sustainability ethics as a way to help the County's natural reservations remain intact for habitat value and the enjoyment and benefit of future generations.
- 6.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County will integrate Green Design, as feasible and appropriate, into park and environmental land facilities and structures.