

**APPENDIX B.**

**Natural Resources Element, Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan**

## **PINELLAS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMPLIANCE**

### **Future Land Use Element**

- 2. Goal:** Pinellas County's plan shall promote a balanced relationship between the natural environment and development.
- Policy 2.2.1:** 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 (., Future Land Use Element).
- Policy 2.2.3:** 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), and requiring upland buffers adjacent to wetlands and other natural environments identified by Pinellas County.
- Policy 2.2.5:** Shorelines shall be protected by preservation land use designations, aquatic preserves, development setbacks, public acquisition or other measures as deemed necessary.

### **Natural, Historic, And Cultural Resources Element**

- 3. Goal:** To conserve, protect, restore and appropriately manage the natural systems and living resources of Pinellas County to ensure the highest environmental quality possible.
- 3.1. Objective:** Pinellas County shall implement management programs for the conservation of native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, and wildlife species.
- 3.1.2. Policy:** Pinellas County shall continue to follow an active program of preservation, conservation and/or restoration of functioning native terrestrial, estuarine, aquatic, and marine vegetative communities.
- 3.1.4. Policy:** Pinellas County shall review and amend, as necessary, existing ordinances in order to protect and conserve native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine estuarine, and aquatic habitats, and wildlife habitat from destruction by development activities.
- 3.1.6. Policy:** Pinellas County shall require that development of a site require maintenance or improvement of existing vegetative communities including the removal of ecologically undesirable vegetation.

- 3.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall implement recovery programs for native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, and wildlife species identified as threatened, endangered and species of special concern, as well as those habitats identified in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) as being of special concern, and/or identified by the County.
- 3.3. Objective: Pinellas County shall protect, and conserve living marine resources within the coastal planning area by preserving where appropriate, or restoring where possible marine and estuarine habitats, including coastal wetlands and tidal streams.
- 3.3.5. Policy: The County shall continue to cooperate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program and other appropriate agencies in protecting, restoring or enhancing natural habitats, estuaries, and natural systems such as tidal flats, tidal streams, mangrove forest, seagrass beds, salt barrens, salt marshes and uplands by participating in re-vegetation 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.
- 3.3.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to support the protection of manatees through such measures as enforcing no-wake zones and sea grass protection areas, and by providing manatee signage.
- 3.4. Objective: The County shall 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.
- 3.4.3. Policy: The 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.
- 3.5. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue its public education program regarding the need to conserve native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, wildlife species and wildlife habitat occurring in Pinellas County.
- 3.6. Objective: Pinellas County shall coordinate with other local governments and agencies relative to the conservation, protection and management of native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, wildlife species and habitat in Pinellas County.

3.6.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall share information concerning native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, wildlife species and habitat occurring in Pinellas County with local governments, other agencies, and environmental interest groups.

3.6.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall develop innovative education facilities and programs at various County parks and preserves including the Brooker Creek Preserve, the Weedon Island Preserve, Sawgrass Lake Park and the Botanical Learning Center.

**8. Goal:** to preserve and protect historic and archaeological resources within Pinellas County, and to promote awareness of the cultural amenities available to the county's residents and visitors.

8.1. Objective: The County shall continue to identify, protect and preserve historic and archaeological resources in Pinellas County, including the coastal planning areas.