

**Appendix 17**  
**Supporting Pinellas County Documents**  
**Letter of Comprehensive Plan Compliance**  
**Board of County Commissioners Approval of Draft Plan Official Record**  
**Letter of Self-insurance**

**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS**

Nancy Bostock  
Neil Brickfield  
Susan Latvala  
John Morrone  
Norm Roche  
Karen Williams Seel  
Kenneth T. Welch



February 22, 2012

Mr. Paul Cozzie, Director  
Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources  
12520 Ulmerton Road  
Largo, Florida 33774

SUBJECT: Weedon Island Preserve Draft Management Plan - Review for Consistency with  
the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan

Dear Mr. ~~Cozzie~~ <sup>Peasal</sup>:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Weedon Island Draft Management Plan. The Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan contains several principles, goals, objectives, and policies relating to the management of coastal resources, the provision of recreation and open space, the conservation and protection of natural resources, and the restoration and preservation of historical resources in Pinellas County that are pertinent to this review.

Upon review of the Management Plan, it was noted that one correction needs to be made in the main body of the text. In Section 1, page 7, the plan refers to "*the 2008 Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.*" As the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan is monitored continuously and updated frequently, it is recommended that "2008" be dropped from the reference.

Based upon staff review, the proposed Management Plan for the Weedon Island Preserve is, consistent with, and will further the implementation of, the following principles, goals, and objectives of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan:

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
600 Cleveland Street  
Suite 750  
Clearwater, Florida 33755  
Phone: (727) 464-8200  
Fax: (727) 464-8201  
Website: [www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org)



## **PLANNING TO STAY- GOVERNING PRINCIPLES for a SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

### **Protect and Enhance our Natural and Cultural Heritage**

**Principle 4:** Pinellas County's rich natural heritage is part of the foundation for the quality of life enjoyed by residents and visitors, while the area's natural amenities and peninsular location have played a central role in defining the County's image. Pinellas County will therefore continue to naturalize the urban environment through programs to acquire and manage open space and environmental lands, to restore degraded natural habitats, to landscape road corridors, to establish new parkland, to protect natural areas from inappropriate development activity, and to provide greenways that tie together natural systems and neighborhoods.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ELEMENT**

Goal 2.: PINELLAS COUNTY WILL CONSERVE, PROTECT, RESTORE AND APPROPRIATELY MANAGE ITS NATURAL SYSTEMS AND LIVING RESOURCES TO ENSURE THE HIGHEST ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY POSSIBLE.

Objective 2.1.: 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).

Goal 3.: 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.

Objective 3.2.: 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.

### **RECREATION, OPEN SPACE and CULTURE ELEMENT**

Objective 1.8.: Pinellas County Departments shall cooperatively develop educational programs and materials concerning the conservation, protection, restoration, and interpretation of natural, historic and cultural resources.

Goal 5.: 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.

Objective 5.1.: 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.

Objective 5.3.: 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.

#### **COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT**

Goal 4.: LAND USE DESIGNATIONS AND DECISIONS IN THE COASTAL PLANNING AREA SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FUTURE LAND USE AND QUALITY COMMUNITIES ELEMENT OF THIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND COMPATIBLE WITH PROTECTION OF THE COUNTY'S NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES, REFLECTING THE NEED FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY, CONTINUED ECONOMIC VITALITY AND CONSIDERATION FOR THE VULNERABILITY OF THE COUNTY'S COASTAL LOCATION.

Objective 4.3.: Pinellas County will continue, and improve upon as necessary, its long-standing efforts to manage and protect its coastal and marine resources, including manatees and their essential habitat.

#### **FUTURE LAND USE and QUALITY COMMUNITIES ELEMENT**

Goal 3. PINELLAS COUNTY'S PLAN SHALL PROMOTE A BALANCED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

Objective 3.2.: 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.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT**

GOAL 1. PINELLAS COUNTY MAINTAINS AN INNOVATIVE AND PROACTIVE PROGRAM OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS AND SERVICES, TO IDENTIFY AND RESOLVE MUTUAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS, TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND ENHANCE SIGNIFICANT NATURAL RESOURCES, AND TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EXISTING AND FUTURE PINELLAS COUNTY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

In conclusion, the Pinellas County Planning Department finds that the Management Plan of the Parks and Conservation Resources Department for the Weedon Island Preserve is consistent with the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.

Respectfully yours,



Gordon Beardslee,  
General Planning Administrator, Planning Department

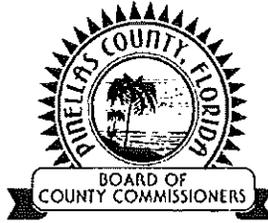
cc: Dr. Steven Harper, Operations Manager, Department Parks and Conservation Resources  
Pam Leasure, Environmental Program Manager, Department Parks and Conservation Resources

No. 21  
BCC 03-13-12  
9:33 A.M. WARDIA/Burgess

#21 2012 Weedon Island Preserve Management Plan approved; estimated Fiscal Year 2012 operating and maintenance costs of \$717,000.00, with an estimated \$25,000.00 in revenue generated through contracted vendor services; similar financial impact projected annually over ten-year period encompassed by the Plan (\$250,000.00 in Capital Improvement Program funds budgeted for Fiscal Year 2015-16 to support ecological restoration).

Commissioner Bostock commented that she attended the meeting in place of Chairman Morroni, noting a lot of good input was exchanged; and that she is pleased the lengthy report was distributed electronically.

Motion - Commissioner Latvala  
Second - Commissioner Roche  
Vote - 6-0



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: March 13, 2012

AGENDA ITEM NO. 21.

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Public Hearing

County Administrator's Signature:

**Subject:**

Approval of 2012 Weedon Island Preserve Management Plan

**Department:**

Parks & Conservation Resources

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Paul Cozzie, Director

**Recommended Action:**

I RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BCC) APPROVE THE 2012 WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT THE APPROVED PLAN TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL.

**Summary Explanation/Background:**

The Department of Parks & Conservation Resources has developed a draft of the 2012 Weedon Island Preserve Management Plan which has been reviewed by the Weedon Island Preserve Advisory Group and interested citizens. Pursuant to the County's lease and management agreement with the State of Florida, the management plan is required to be updated every ten (10) years. Staff recommends that current levels of service be maintained into the future, and suggests no major changes to the ongoing stewardship and operation of the Preserve. Opportunities to enhance levels of service could be achieved through collaboration with partnering organizations and volunteers.

**Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:**

The estimated annual cost in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 to operate and maintain Weedon Island Preserve totals \$717,000, with an estimated \$25,000 in revenue generated through contracted vendor services. A similar fiscal impact is projected annually for the ten (10) years encompassed by the management plan, as detailed on page 57. This funding level emphasizes protection of existing assets and maintenance of current levels of service. Capital Improvement Program funds of \$250,000 are budgeted for FY15-16 to support ecological restoration.

**Exhibits/Attachments Attached:**

Attachment: Draft of the 2012 Weedon Island Preserve Management Plan

**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS**

Nancy Bostock  
Neil Brickfield  
Susan Latvala  
John Morroni  
Norm Roche  
Karen Williams Seel  
Kenneth T. Welch



315 Court Street  
Clearwater, Florida 33756

March 6, 2012

DEP, Office of Environmental Services  
Attn: Paula Allen  
Mail Station 140  
Tallahassee, FL. 32399-3000

Re: Pinellas County Self-Insurance

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with Florida Statute §768.28 Pinellas County is self-insured. This self-insurance includes Workers' Compensation.

Pinellas County also has Public Entity Excess Liability insurance coverage above \$1.5 million with Star Insurance Company for General Liability, Auto Liability and Workers' Compensation.

Sincerely,

Virginia E. Holscher  
Director  
Pinellas County Risk Management

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
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Clearwater, Florida 33756  
Phone: (727) 464-3664  
FAX: (727) 464-4060  
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