

Recommended Actions



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS



DISCUSSION OF ACTIONS RELATED TO IDENTIFIED ISSUES



SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKGROUP

NOTE: the “sunshine” icon ☀ indicates the action is expected to result in a specific amendment to the Comprehensive Plan



the following recommended actions are related to the issues of...

**ENSURING QUALITY COMMUNITIES,
THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCE
AND INFRASTRUCTURE CAPABILITIES
and
PROTECTING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE**

I. How We Use Our Community Redevelopment Authority

ACTION 1 Evaluate whether to change unofficial Board policy by allowing the establishment of Community Redevelopment Authorities (CRAs) in the unincorporated area, and research whether there are alternative approaches that achieve the same objective. *Potential amendments may be required to the Planning to Stay principles and the Future Land Use Element (Issue: Quality Communities)* ☀

ACTION 2 Through the authority granted in the State Community Redevelopment Act (CRA), Pinellas County shall continue to support mixed-use redevelopment within historic downtowns and “non-downtown” districts. Review the Board’s CRA policies to determine whether changes are needed to provide further support for this principle. *Potential amendments may be required to Planning to Stay principles and the Future Land Use Element (Issue: Quality Communities)* ☀

II. Looking at Land Use and Land Development Patterns

ACTION 1 Identify criteria for determining appropriate locations for creating areas of mixed-use where houses, apartments, shops, jobs and civic uses and spaces are integrated into a walkable community. At a minimum, these criteria will consider the existing transportation system and committed improvements to roadways and transit service, other public infrastructure, (existing, planned and committed), existing and planned land uses in the surrounding area, and susceptibility to natural hazards *Potential amendments may be required to Future Land Use Map categories and the Transportation Element* (Issue: Quality Communities) ☀

ACTION 2 Adopt new, or revise existing, *Future Land Use Map categories* that encourage and permit the creation of mixed use communities in appropriate locations. (Issue: Quality Communities) ☀

ACTION 3 Identify techniques and changes to existing regulations that support, where appropriate, the locating of services and urban amenities within walking distance of residential areas. (Issue: Quality Communities)

ACTION 4 Collect information to better understand the impact of mixed-use development on the transportation network and demand for parking. *Determine appropriate changes to the Future Land Use and Transportation Elements* and the Land Development Code based on this information. (Issue: Quality Communities) ☀

ACTION 5 *Reinforce Future Land Use goals, objectives and policies* to better protect the value of industrial land, and discourage land use plan amendments that incrementally diminish the availability of industrial land, and erode the ability to provide high quality jobs and maximum economic gain. (Issues: Quality Communities *and A Competitive Economy*) ☀

III. Participating in, and Responding to Planning Initiatives Underway

ACTION 1 Determine appropriate changes to the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan (e.g., *Future Land Use Element*) and Land Development Code based on recommendations in the Pinellas By Design Plan. (Issue: Quality Communities) ☀

ACTION 2 *Determine appropriate amendments to the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan* and Land Development Code in response to the Pinellas County Strategic Plan (which covers: effective government; health and human services;

transportation and utilities; the environment, open space and recreation and culture; public safety, redevelopment; economic development and housing) upon its adoption by the Board of County Commissioners in 2006. (Issue: relevant to all of the identified issues, including Quality Communities) ☀

ACTION 3 Implement relevant portions of the MPO Trailways Plan Network and the Pinellas Mobility Initiative (PMI) as the transportation backbone for the livable community concepts. (Issue: Quality Communities).

ACTION 4 Pinellas County will coordinate with the cities of Largo, Pinellas Park, and St. Petersburg in implementing the recommendations in the Gateway Study approved by the Board of County Commissioners on July 12, 2005 to position the Gateway Area to achieve maximum countywide benefit. (Issue: Quality Communities)

ACTION 5 Specifically, the County will proactively coordinate with Largo, Pinellas Park, and St. Petersburg to assess the benefits of collaborating on the development of an Area-wide DRI or Sector Plan, designed to bring continuity and cohesion to planning in the Gateway Area, with the intention of achieving maximum economic gain and modeling sustainable planning concepts and designs. (Issue: Quality Communities)

IV. Revitalizing our Neighborhoods and Connecting our Communities

ACTION 1 Identify those commercial and residential corridors in the unincorporated area that are in need of revitalization. Potential corridors include 54th Avenue N. in Lealman, Seminole Boulevard, and 66th Street and 34th Street between Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg. (Issue: Quality Communities)

ACTION 2 Upon their identification, study one of the corridors to develop an approach for improving and revitalizing these underperforming corridors. The study would consider appropriate changes to the land development regulations, land use and zoning changes, access requirements, infrastructure improvements, and other mechanisms that would improve conditions within these corridors. *Supporting amendments may be required to the Transportation Element and the Future Land Use Element.* (Issue: Quality Communities) ☀

ACTION 3 To further the efforts begun in the Lealman Revitalization Plan, prepare a redevelopment plan for the Lealman Community. This plan should consider all areas of the community including residential neighborhoods, industrial areas, and the commercial corridors along 54th Avenue N. and 34th Street. (Issue: Quality Communities)

ACTION 4 Both the redevelopment plan for the Lealman Community and the County's brownfield program will address the needs of the large industrial area located at the headwaters of Joe's Creek and along the CSX Railroad line. *The new Economic Element may address the area specifically.* (Issues: Quality Communities and A Competitive Economy) 🌟

ACTION 5 Consider how to plan for the Alternate US 19 portion of the County's "Coastal Corridor;" stretching north from Gulf Boulevard. This includes consideration of how land use and transit planning can be coordinated to create or highlight destinations and venues, so that tourists can easily go from one community to another, experiencing the uniqueness of each but being readily connected to all. The corridor will likely be reflected in the Future Land Use Element (Issues: Quality Communities, Mobility and A Competitive Economy) 🌟

ACTION 6 The County's mature urban landscape means opportunities for new parks and greenspaces are limited. But this same urban condition is also the reason for developing new objectives and policies reinforcing the value of connectivity between neighborhoods and workplaces, on safe and attractive gathering places for children, neighbors and friends, on functional and attractive design, and open vistas and open spaces as a way to escape physically and visually from the clamor of the urban environment. New future land use, recreation, and natural resource-oriented objectives and polices are expected (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints) 🌟

V. Where We Live – Housing For All

ACTION 1 Consider encouraging or requiring that a certain percentage of tax increment revenues collected in a community redevelopment area be used to provide affordable housing within the area. (Issue: Quality Communities)

ACTION 2 Evaluate the County's program to encourage construction of affordable housing projects to determine if changes are necessary to improve the effectiveness of the program as a way to provide affordable housing in unincorporated areas. (Issue: Quality Communities)

ACTION 3 Meet with representatives of businesses located in Pinellas County to gauge the need for and interest in establishing company programs that assist lower income employees in purchasing homes or helping to cover first and last months' rent. (Issue: Quality Communities)

ACTION 4 Support additional housing in appropriate locations in proximity to existing and planned employment centers and commercial centers. When higher densities are appropriate and can be achieved while meeting comprehensive planning requirements, ensure that a certain proportion of these units supports the community

housing goals and objectives adopted by the County. Amendments to the Housing and Future Land Use Elements are likely. (Issue: Quality Communities) 🌟

ACTION 5 Expand existing objectives and policies in the Housing Element so as to dissuade or prohibit uniform concentrations of low income housing; instead, promote, both in public and private development, the integration of housing types and sizes serving different income levels. (Issue: Quality Communities) 🌟

ACTION 6 Determine appropriate changes to the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan (e.g., Future Land Use and Housing Elements) and land development regulations needed to implement the recommendations of the Pinellas County Affordable Housing Task Force and subsequent Board direction. (Issue: Quality Communities) 🌟

ACTION 7 Consider whether to pursue any of the ideas listed in the Quality Urban Communities section of this Report that are not included in the recommendations of the Pinellas County Affordable Housing Task Force. (Issue: Quality Communities)

ACTION 8 Policy 1.5.18 of the Housing Element states that Pinellas County shall support decisions and actions that encourage mobile home/manufactured housing communities where they provide a viable option for low and moderate income households in the County. In those situations where Board action would facilitate the displacement of mobile home residents, a relocation policy should be established in the Comprehensive Plan that responds to the housing needs of displaced residents. Amendments to the Housing Element are expected. (Issue: Quality Communities) 🌟

ACTION 9 Consider relevant recommendations from the October 2005 Workforce Housing Think Tank in the development of amendments to the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan. (Issue: Quality Communities) 🌟

VI. Positioning County Regulations and Processes to Achieve our Quality Community Goals

ACTION 1 Evaluate and address the “re-tooling” of day-to-day processes, protocols and procedures needed to become a model for sustainable development, environmental and historic protection, and livable communities, including implementing the development review processes necessary to achieve the same through incremental private sector development. Amendments are likely to the Future Land Use Element, at a minimum. (Issue: Quality Communities) 🌟

ACTION 2 Revise the Land Development Code by translating key comprehensive plan and strategic plan goals, objectives and policies into specific regulations, actions and incentives for use by both staff and the development community so that each land development project contributes to meeting long-range County goals. (Issue: Quality Communities)

ACTION 3 Incorporate code enforcement policies into the Comprehensive Plan, ensuring support and direction for the County's code enforcement program and for community revitalization efforts. Amendments to the Future Land Use and/or Housing Element are likely. (Issue: Quality Communities) 🌟

ACTION 4 Incorporate community-level (e.g., Lealman, Palm Harbor, etc.) and area-specific (e.g., Gateway Area) goals, objectives and policies into the Future Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan. (Issues: Quality Communities *and* A Competitive Economy) 🌟

ACTION 5 Conduct a thorough assessment of the Pinellas County Land Development Code to identify changes necessary to respond to the needs and requirements of infill development and redevelopment, as Pinellas County matures as an urban area. (Issue: Quality Communities)



the following recommended actions are related to the issue of...

MOBILITY

I. Roadway Projects

ACTION 1 Ensure road improvements are sensitive to the needs of local residents in terms of historic and community preservation. Amendments to the Transportation Element may be required (Issue- Mobility) ☀

ACTION 2 Continue efforts to implement the planned 118th Avenue Expressway and complete the construction of facilities that will relieve travel demand on parallel State roads serving higher volume and regional traffic. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 3 Continue efforts to designate the planned 118th Avenue Expressway as a Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) facility. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 4 Pursue federal and state grant funds and Congressional appropriations to secure monies necessary to implement major transportation improvements identified in the Transportation Element and the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan such as US Highway 19, Ulmerton Road and the County Road 296/Roosevelt Boulevard Connector. (Issue - Mobility)

ACTION 5 Recognizing the importance of addressing traffic congestion and increasing mobility on the State road system as well as the County's, the County has allocated local funds to State road improvements to facilities such Ulmerton Road and US Highway 19. The County needs to determine whether and to what extent to commit local funding to future improvements on State roads. Amendments to the Capital Improvements Element and the Transportation Element might be required. (Issue- Mobility) ☀

II. Land Use and Transportation Planning

ACTION 1 Continue to expand the County's trail and sidewalk networks through the application of the Concurrency Management System and Transportation Impact Fee Ordinance where developers can implement these projects to meet the requirements of these regulations. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 2 Amend the Land Development Code to require development projects to design their projects to accommodate bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 3 Develop policies for inclusion in the Transportation Element and the Future Land Use Element supporting livable community land development codes. (Issue- Mobility) ☀

ACTION 4 Develop livable community land development codes and identify areas deemed appropriate for the introduction of livable community design standards. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 5 The US Highway 19 corridor north of SR 580 will be studied to identify any potential actions that may need to be taken to preserve the vitality of this important economic corridor in north Pinellas County. Amendments to the Transportation Element and addressing the corridor in the new Economic Element might be required (Issue: Quality Communities *and* Mobility *and* A Competitive Economy) ☀

ACTION 6 Continue to implement recommendations of the MPO's McMullen Booth Road Corridor Strategy Plan Report and to explore additional options designed to increase mobility in the corridor. (Issue: Mobility)

ACTION 7 Coordinate the Comprehensive Plan with plans for the provision of transit service; amend the Comprehensive Plan (e.g., the Future Land Use, Transportation and/or Housing Elements) to ensure an adequate linkage between the concentration of jobs, services, and housing with improved and expanded public transit services and facilities. ☀

III. Public Transportation and Demand Management

ACTION 1 Coordinate with PSTA and the MPO on the development and enhancement of inter-county commuter service to and from Manatee, Pasco and Hillsborough Counties. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 2 Continue to work with the MPO and PSTA in support of transit initiatives designed to increase ridership. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 3 Continue to work with the MPO and PSTA to better serve people commuting to their job sites. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 4 Coordinate with Bay Area Commuter Services to establish a ride-sharing program for Pinellas County employees. (Issue- Mobility)

IV. Operations and Maintenance

ACTION 1 With the increasing cost of roadway maintenance, decisions need to be made to secure sufficient revenue to adequately fund the County's maintenance needs for roadways and bridges. Amendments may be required to the Capital Improvements Element (Issue- Mobility) 🌟

ACTION 2 Re-visit and evaluate collector and local roads under County jurisdiction to determine whether it is appropriate for the County to continue maintaining them. Amendments may be required, following this analysis, to the Transportation Element. (Issue- Mobility) 🌟

V. Concurrency Management and Level of Service

ACTION 1 Work with the MPO and other local governments to develop the database necessary to establish a level of service standard and performance indicators for the County's transportation network as it pertains to bicycle and pedestrian travel. If a level of service is established, amendments would potentially be required to the Transportation, Recreation and/or Capital Improvements Elements (Issue- Mobility) 🌟

ACTION 2 Continue efforts to coordinate the implementation of long term concurrency management on US Highway 19 with the Cities of Largo, Clearwater, Dunedin and Tarpon Springs through the US Highway 19 Concurrency Review Committee. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 3 Amend the Transportation Element to replace the level of service (LOS) standard on constrained and backlogged roads from LOS F to "maintain." (Issue- Mobility) 🌟

ACTION 4 Cooperate with other local governments within the County and with countywide agencies to develop a common approach and standardized methodology for implementing concurrency management systems. Amendments to the concurrency management system would result. (Issue- Mobility) 🌟

VI. Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel

ACTION 1 Develop a priority list for the installation of bicycle lanes on County roads. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 2 Work with the MPO's Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) and Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC), FDOT's Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST) and the School Transportation Safety Committee (STSC) to identify locations where crosswalk improvements are needed to allow bicyclists and pedestrians to safely cross major roadways to reach their destinations. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 3 Continue to implement sidewalks and bicycle lanes, where feasible, through road construction or resurfacing projects. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 4 Continue the construction of sidewalks and trails and the installation of landscape materials, with an emphasis on creating shade canopy (where possible) for pedestrians, through the application of, including amendments to, the Capital Improvements Element. (Issue- Mobility)

VII. Transportation Safety

ACTION 1 Monitor locations on the County's major road network with a high frequency of accidents involving motorists, bicyclists and/or pedestrians to identify any design or operational improvements necessary to alleviate hazardous conditions. Assign a priority implementation of accident reduction improvements through the CIP development process. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 2 Cooperate with local law enforcement agencies, educational facilities, emergency service providers and transportation provider agencies for a multi-disciplinary approach to traffic safety. (Issue- Mobility)

VIII. Intelligent Transportation Systems

ACTION 1 Secure funding necessary to continue implementation of advanced traffic management system (ATMS) and intelligent transportation system (ITS) improvements. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 2 Continue cooperative efforts between state and local transportation operating agencies for a unified approach to traffic management. (Issue – Mobility)

IX. St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport

ACTION 1 Continue efforts to expand the operational capacity and economic growth of the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport consistent with the Airport Master Plan and the Transportation Element. (Issue- Mobility)

ACTION 2 Pursue Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) designation. (Issue – Mobility)



the following recommended actions are related to the issues of...

MATCHING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH NATURAL RESOURCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRAINTS

I. Meeting the Recreation and Open Space Needs of a Mature Urban County

ACTION 1 Consistent with the Master Plan for Recreation, Open Space and Cultural Systems, amend the Comprehensive Plan to incorporate new objectives and policy commitments that expand the definition and range of recreational activities supported by the County, emphasizing vitality and events in the existing park system, creative funding and facility partnerships to meet traditional active recreation needs, while ensuring the protection of existing natural areas. The scope and title of the Recreation and Open Space Element will be broadened, and new goals, objectives and policies will be included, to address these priorities. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 2 The vision of the Recreation, Open Space and Culture System Master Plan will need to be translated into new, tangible and implementable goals, objectives and policies, and the existing Recreation and Open Space Element will broaden into a Recreation, Open Space *and* Culture Element. Amendments will also be required to the Future Land Use, Transportation, and Natural Resources Elements. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints) 🌟

ACTION 3 Better marketing of the County's recreational and cultural amenities will bring greater attention to Pinellas County as a community where people will *plan to stay*. With this in mind, development of an Economic Element will include objectives that

provide direction and purpose to the marketing effort. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* A Competitive Economy)

ACTION 4 Evaluate the level of service standards for recreation and open space, based on the findings and results of the Master Plan for Recreation, Open Space and Cultural Systems, to determine what, if any, amendments to the recreation-oriented goals, objectives and policies might be needed to address new active recreation initiatives, and recreation and leisure trends. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

II. Protecting the Fundamental Purpose of our Natural Resources and Natural Attractions

ACTION 1 Emphasis will continue to be placed on protecting and interpreting the natural attractions offered in the County – which means protection of those natural attractions will remain a priority in the goals, objectives and policies of the Plan, and the concept of sustainability will be better incorporated into our planning and development review programs. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 2 Additional objectives and policies are planned to direct the systematic identification, analysis, and protection of critical habitats in the existing park system. Protecting the value of the park system for residents and tourists is important, but their value to wildlife, including migratory birds, is equally as important. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 3 The Recreation and Open Space Element, at a minimum, will be amended to require this analysis of critical habitats and new or amended objectives will fully ensure the commitment to protecting, enhancing and managing the parks for their habitat value and purpose of the regional park system. The goal will be a balanced management approach where the parks are lively hubs of activity for tourists and residents, but in a manner that does not negatively impact the critical and irreplaceable ecosystems found in the regional park system. In this regard, the Plan will require development of management plans as the means to balance the human and natural interaction. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 4 Continue to acquire contributory lands that fill in the gaps in a functional recreational or natural system; support this effort through existing and new Future Land Use, Natural Resource and Recreation/Open Space objectives, policies and actions that recognize the importance and value of such action in a mature urban county.

(Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) ☀

III. Strengthening and Protecting our Connections to the Water

ACTION 1 The Coastal Management Element and the Recreation and Open Space Element (and potentially the Future Land Use Element) will be amended to include stronger objectives and policies, giving the County better ability to prevent the conversion of water-dependent land uses (primarily boat ramps and marinas) and to include strategies for encouraging and sustaining the water-dependent uses which are integral to the County's economy. A new Principle may also be required to provide the foundation and purpose for the required new objectives and policies. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) ☀

ACTION 2 Incorporate recommendations (e.g., funding options, waterfront protection, land use and policy considerations, etc.) from the Boating Access Task Force into the Comprehensive Plan by specific amendments, at a minimum, to the Future Land Use and Coastal Management Elements. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Intergovernmental Coordination *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) ☀

ACTION 3 The commitment to beach renourishment, beach stabilization and beach protection will remain important for the protection of coastal property, for habitat value, and for the contribution to the character and economy of Pinellas County; additional objectives and policies may be considered in the Future Land Use and Coastal Management Elements, and the new Economic Element, to reinforce the value and diversity of the Pinellas County waterfront. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) ☀

ACTION 4 A continued commitment to restoring the Tampa Bay Estuary, as well as an additional focused commitment to Gulf waters and Boca Ciega Bay, will be considered, with corresponding amendments to the Surface Water Management, Coastal Management and Natural Resource Elements. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Intergovernmental Coordination *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) ☀

IV. Recognizing the Importance of our Culture and Heritage

ACTION 1 The County's greater emphasis on promotion of, and support for, the County's cultural system, attractions and opportunities, newly institutionalized in the Recreation, Open Space and Culture System Master Plan, will result in new goals, objectives and policies providing recognition, direction and support to cultural, historic and archaeological protection, interpretation and appreciation. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) ☀

ACTION 2 The historic, cultural and archaeological components of the Comprehensive Plan (currently addressed primarily in the Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources Element) will be merged into the Recreation and Open Space Element (requiring a new/expanded title of the Element), expanding, strengthening and focusing the objectives and policies for each component, and recognizing that each component contributes to the County's overall quality of life. The existing is will require (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) ☀

V. Ensuring A High Quality, Sustainable Potable Water Supply

ACTION 1 The County will continue to be a leader in conservation and alternative technologies that reduce dependence on potable supplies. For this reason, and because planning for water supply and reclaimed water/wastewater is interrelated, the Comprehensive Plan will be amended by combining the Potable Water Supply and Sanitary Sewer Elements into one Potable Water and Wastewater Element. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints) ☀

ACTION 2 Implement the results of the County's Strategic Planning initiative related to water supply planning and management. Additional objectives and policies may be required. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints) ☀

ACTION 3 Continue to discuss at the regional level, the cost of water associated with the existing water supply partnership, and its impact not only on the citizens of the County but also on the local economy and the ability to attract and retain light industrial/high tech employers. Also, bring attention to the fact that the existing Tampa Bay Water partnership does not include the wholesale customers who have historically relied on Pinellas County Utilities, and for whom the County has planned and developed facilities and capacity. Some of these wholesale customers are considering the development of more local sources due to the rising cost of Tampa Bay Water – meaning the major investment by the County in its potable water system may end up

over-built and increasingly expensive for its remaining customers. Policies, coordination and action are required to address these issues. Corresponding amendments may be required to existing water supply objectives and policies. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Intergovernmental Coordination) ☀

ACTION 4 Address, through new and directed policies, coordination, dialogue and action, the need for equity in water service for unincorporated water customers served by a municipal water system, particularly in the case of unincorporated residents and businesses who do not have access to water supply lines adequate to support fire hydrants. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Quality Communities *and* Intergovernmental Coordination) ☀

VI. Protecting the Public – Public Safety and Public Investment

ACTION 1 The County will continue to coordinate the Local Mitigation Strategy program with other governments, and will ensure it is current and can be effectively implemented. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints)

ACTION 2 The Pinellas County Emergency Management Department will coordinate with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Florida Department of Community Affairs (Division of Emergency Management), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct an evacuation behavioral study that will focus on review and analysis of evacuation decision-making, shelter demand and management, sheltering for special needs populations, evacuation transportation analyses, public information dissemination and public education campaigns. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints)

ACTION 3 Pinellas County staff will revise the “*Post-Disaster Redevelopment Guide For Pinellas County*”. The Guide establishes guidelines for actions to be taken following natural disasters for immediate recovery, short-range restoration and long-range reconstruction. Issues to be addressed include a temporary building moratorium, redevelopment of public facilities and infrastructure, redevelopment of private property and businesses, disaster assistance and funding, and economic recovery measures. Staff will present the Guide to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners for approval. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints)

ACTION 4 Apply the experiences from the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons through new, or amended, objectives, policies, regulations and actions that consider:

- ensuring that redevelopment planning does not ignore the vulnerability of our coastal location.
- ensuring that the complexities of the County's evacuation and shelter populations, including the needs of the aged and the transportation disadvantaged, the reality of language barriers, and the allegiance of pet owners to their animals are assessed (through, at a minimum, participation in the regional study planned in coordination with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council) and the results applied through implementable objectives, policies, programs and focused public outreach.
- consideration of incorporation of the Local Mitigation Strategy into the Comprehensive Plan, including the Capital Improvements Element (requiring dialogue with the municipalities regarding consideration of the same).
- consideration and discussion of funding options for creating disaster resistant communities, including consideration of future infrastructure sales tax dollars for project implementation.
- better integration of roadway planning, transportation concurrency and evacuation planning in regard to the timing of, and priority given to, funding certain roadway improvements, and evaluating the impact of development decisions on evacuation and shelter requirements.
- consideration of a Public Safety Element of the Comprehensive Plan. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Intergovernmental Coordination) ☀

ACTION 5 Consider the recommendations from the September 2005 Regional Hurricane Forum sponsored by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council in the amendments to the Coastal Management Element. Amendments are likely to the Coastal Management Element, and potentially the Future Land Use Element. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints) ☀

VII. Conscientious Development and Redevelopment Policies

ACTION 1 Reevaluate current policies that prohibit Future Land Use Map amendments that increase density above 5 units per acre in the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) and the 100-year floodplain. The County may want to consider some limited flexibility in application of these restrictions based on site-specific circumstances, as long as the overall objective of directing population concentrations out of the CHHA is not compromised. Depending on the findings, amendments may be required to the Future Land Use Element, the Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources Element and/or the Coastal Management Element. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints) ☀


ACTION 2 Revisit the Land Development Code specific to the CHHA and the 100-year floodplain to limit redevelopment in areas of repeated damage from natural disasters. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints)

ACTION 3 Review the existing development review process, recognizing that in a mature, built-up County, a comprehensive approach as well as flexibility is required in order to ensure quality development; devising a livable communities code that considers all aspects of a development, including concurrency management requirements, and seeks out opportunities to “give and take,” resulting in a net overall environmental, physical, and/or design improvement with each project is required. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Intergovernmental Coordination *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage)

ACTION 4 Enhance and expand the utilization of development agreements as a means of better controlling development, formalizing incentives and providing assurance to the developer, providing flexibility and achieving County goals through the development process. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage *and* Quality Communities)

ACTION 5 Coordinate with regulatory and permitting agencies on the need for flexibility in the application of regulations, and the need to develop more relevant regulations or regulatory approaches (particularly in regard to stormwater management regulations), that acknowledge the urban condition of the County, including the lack of vacant land. Regulations should support and encourage redevelopment projects that result in a net environmental benefit. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage *and* Quality Communities)

VIII. Sustainability and Innovation in County Operations

ACTION 1 Complete the assessment of stormwater responsibilities and determine if there are opportunities for more efficient arrangements of responsibilities and funding, leading to more effective stormwater management; this will result in likely amendments to the Surface Water Management Element and the Capital Improvements Element. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Intergovernmental Coordination) 

ACTION 2 Consider how best to address long-term stormwater maintenance issues, including erosion control, in a manner that supports redevelopment requirements, represents quality environmental design and supports regulatory (e.g., NPDES, TMDL, etc.) directives.

ACTION 3 Expand the focus of the County's recycling program, including policies designed to increase recycling by commercial and industrial businesses, (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 4 Consider the exploration of agreements with other counties to identify regional solid waste management opportunities that will improve operational efficiencies. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage *and* A Competitive Economy)

ACTION 5 Support and recognize, through an appropriate Solid Waste objective, the County Charter authority and the purpose of solid waste operations and properties to ensure that countywide disposal needs and requirements are not jeopardized by location of future development. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 6 Complete the model interlocal agreement designed to address maintenance and responsibility issues associated with the annexation of roads and drainageways and drainage facilities. (Issues: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints *and* Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage *and* Quality Communities)

ACTION 7 Recognizing the shortage of available land, evaluate the acquisition of, or facilitation of the conversion of under-utilized commercial land to active recreation uses; support this process by amendments to the Future Land Use and/or Recreation and Open Space Element. (Issues: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage *and* Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints) 🌟

ACTION 8 Evaluate and address internal processes that may hinder the ability to acquire land quickly, or to assemble land for beneficial purposes, in today's highly competitive real estate market. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints).

ACTION 9 The Comprehensive Plan will need to be amended to ensure that it provides an adequate foundation, throughout all of its Elements, for the land development regulations, the design requirements, and the public policy commitments required to sustain and enhance the idea of quality communities being dependent on quality recreational, leisure and mobility opportunities. In addition, new objectives and policies will be included to provide the direction for, and to require completion of, a Pinellas County greenways, blueways and trails plan. (Issue: Matching Development with Natural Resource and Development Constraints) 🌟



the following recommended actions are related to the issues of...

PROTECTING AND RESTORING PINELLAS COUNTY'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

I. Turning Environmental Regulations into Environmental Opportunities

ACTION 1 As the County drafts regulations to address redevelopment of the urban environment, it is important to not lose sight of the fact that most opportunities for redevelopment are also opportunities for environmental improvement. And while the County works to encourage, and provide incentives for new development, it is important to not lose sight of new and existing environmental regulations and mandates, including those associated with clean surface water requirements and the implementation of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). Failure to address and meet regulations can result in financial and regulatory consequences. The Surface Water Management Element and the Intergovernmental Coordination Element will be amended to include specific direction and strategies, to be carried out in County actions and projects, through private and public partnerships, in land development regulations and in public education for reducing pollutant loads and for meeting regulatory requirements - with the ultimate goal of improving and sustaining our natural environment. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) ☀

II. Planning Comprehensively and Acting Responsibly For A Sustainable Future

ACTION 1 Become a model of sustainable design and development practices; re-tool County development and development review practices so that each private or public redevelopment project is an opportunity for innovation and environmental

improvement. Sustainable development practices, land development regulations, public-private partnerships and County operations are necessary to ensure that our natural resources and amenities are protected, restored and enhanced for future generations. The Future Land Use, Natural Resources, Coastal Management, and Surface Water Management Elements, at a minimum, will be amended to include new goals, objectives and policies that provide the foundation for this “next wave” of the County’s environmental commitment, with requirements and incentives for low impact stormwater designs, energy efficient design and green building practices, integration of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles, etc. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 2 The County’s mature urban landscape means opportunities for new parks and greenspaces are limited. But this same urban condition is also the reason for a new emphasis on the value of connectivity between neighborhoods and workplaces, on safe and attractive gathering places for children, neighbors and friends, on functional and attractive design, and open vistas and open spaces as a way to escape physically and visually from the clamor of the urban environment. The Comprehensive Plan will need to be amended to ensure that it provides adequate foundation, throughout all of its Elements, for the land development regulations, the design requirements, and the public policy commitments required to sustain and enhance this idea of quality communities as a function of recreational, leisure and mobility opportunities. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 3 Develop an environmentally preferred purchasing policy for the County; develop a County office reuse program and expand recycling efforts among County departments. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage)

III. Greenways, Blueways and Trails

ACTION 1 New objectives and policies in the Natural Resources Element, the Coastal Management Element and the Recreation, Open Space (and Cultural Resources) Element will be included to provide specific direction for, and to require completion of, a Pinellas County greenways, blueways and trails plan. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 2 Coordinate with other governments and agencies in the development of plans for an integrated system greenways, blueways and trails. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage)

IV. Appreciating and Protecting Our Natural, Cultural and Recreational Amenities

ACTION 1 The goals, objectives and policies in both the Natural Resources Element and the Recreation, Open Space and Culture Element will be revised to reinforce the County's role in environmental protection, including emphasis on the importance of providing public access to the County's wildest places, 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. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 2 Consistent with the findings in the Recreation, Open Space and Culture System Master Plan, the County needs to better capitalize on its connections to the water. In particular, with recent conversions of water-dependent uses (e.g., marinas) to condominiums, public access to the water is increasingly threatened. Amendments will be considered to the Coastal Management Element and the Future Land Use Element to address the idea of "no net loss" of boat slips and other methods of waterfront protection. Loss of public beach access is equally threatened by conversion of tourist accommodations to residential condominiums. Incentives and strategies aimed at protecting or encouraging transient accommodations, including addressing economic viability and financial feasibility are required. The new Economic Element will need to include objectives and policies that recognize the value of boating and beach access to the local economy and quality of life, and therefore, direct the development of strategies for sustaining, and ensuring public access to, these industries and amenities. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 3 The County's greater emphasis on promotion of, and support for, the County's cultural system, attractions and opportunities, newly institutionalized in the Recreation, Open Space and Culture System Master Plan, will result in new goals, objectives and policies providing recognition, direction and support to the Board's cultural, historic and archaeological protection, interpretation and appreciation programs and activities. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 4 Support the efforts of a citizen task force established by the Board of County Commissioners to take a countywide assessment of historic preservation issues and initiatives. Based on the task force efforts, determine what actions, including amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, may be required to adequately protect historic resources in Pinellas County, and to inform Pinellas County residents, businesses and local leaders of the role of historic resources in enriching the character and quality of communities throughout Pinellas County. (Issue: Quality Communities) 🌟

ACTION 5 Consider developing a "green" map for visitors, identifying things like clean marinas, hotels participating in programs to reduce waste and conserve energy, and travel destinations with natural or cultural interest. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage)

ACTION 6 Develop specific objectives and policies for expanding, promoting and enhancing the clean marina program. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 7 Develop goals, objectives, policies and definitions specific to County preserves and managed environmental lands, including specific measures to ensure protection from conversion to other uses, and explicit recognition of the need to protect their cultural and natural value. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 8 Consider the development of specific measures, including a new objective, regulations and incentives, to protect and restore the tree canopy, where feasible, in Pinellas County. (Issue: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Heritage) 🌟

ACTION 9 Update the 1994 countywide inventory of historic and archaeological resources, and concomitantly update the geographic information system (GIS) in order to have an accurate database for making preservation decisions, including in association with redevelopment planning.



the issue of...

the following recommended actions are related to

REMAINING COMPETITIVE IN THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

ACTION 1 Develop and adopt an Economic Element as part of the County's Comprehensive Plan. The new Element will allow for a more thorough consideration of economic development and tourism programs in the County's overall comprehensive planning program. The Element will also provide a mechanism for implementation of the adopted Planning to Stay Principles, applicable strategies from the Pinellas By Design Plan and the County's Strategic Plan that is under development, and other relevant planning initiatives. (Issue: A Competitive Economy) ☀

ACTION 2 In support of the County's Vision 2010, to strengthen Pinellas County's tourism industry, complete the initiative to plan, design, and install streetscape improvements on Gulf Boulevard and augment its role as a pedestrian-friendly transportation corridor on the barrier islands. (Issue: A Competitive Economy)



issue of...

the following recommended actions are related to the

FUNDING THE PLAN

I. Another Penny for your Thoughts

ACTION 1 Prepare a referendum proposal to continue the *Penny for Pinellas* infrastructure sales tax for a third decade to produce a reliable source of income for continued implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. (Issue: Funding the Plan)

II. Stretching our Dollars

ACTION 1 Investigate if there are other funding sources and strategies for the operation and maintenance of built and proposed capital improvements. Amend the Capital Improvements Element accordingly. (Issue: Funding the Plan) ☀

ACTION 2 Continue to refine County processes for promoting public/private partnerships, sponsorships, grants, etc., to help defray the costs of providing or operating services and facilities (Issue: Funding the Plan)

III. Enhancing and Maintaining our Infrastructure

ACTION 1 Complete the evaluation of the current stormwater management funding system and determine what funding changes might be necessary to better position the County to meet new surface water management challenges, including consideration of a stormwater utility. Amend the Surface Water Management Element as necessary (Issue: Funding the Plan) ☀

ACTION 2 Amend the Capital Improvements Element to ensure funding for the long-term requirements to maintain and upgrade the Pinellas County utility system so as to protect the environment and ensure reliability of utility services. (Issue: Funding the Plan) 🌟

IV. Enhancing and Maintaining our World-Class Recreation and Open Space System

ACTION 1 Continue, and enhance where necessary, the funding commitment (which created the existing recreation and open space system), in order to achieve the long term vision in the Master Plan for the Recreation, Open Space and Culture System; amend the Comprehensive Plan accordingly. (Issue: Funding the Plan) 🌟

ACTION 2 Investigate and identify specific funding strategies and opportunities for implementing the Cultural System Master Plan; amend the Capital Improvements Element accordingly. (Issue: Funding the Plan) 🌟

ACTION 3 Determine the best financial strategy(ies), and associated criteria for their use, to support/protect public access to water-dependent land uses (e.g., boat ramps, marinas, boat yards), including land acquisition, partnerships, tax incentives, etc. Amend, at a minimum, the Capital Improvements and Coastal Management Elements. (Issue: Funding the Plan) 🌟

V. New Initiatives Impact the Organization

ACTION 1 Assess the needs, and consider how to fund the staffing and organizational requirements to implement the plans designed to make us a leader in, and a model for sustainable, quality, strategic and comprehensive planning. (Issue: Funding the Plan)

ACTION 2 Amend the Capital Improvements Element to commit funding for the major projects and initiatives identified in the EAR, and the subsequent update to the Comprehensive Plan, consistent with the need to achieve and maintain adopted level of service standards, and to enhance quality of life and the desirability of the County as a place for continued economic investment. (Issue: Funding the Plan) 🌟

ACTION 3 Evaluate issues of equity, potential benefits and the potential cumulative long-term impacts on the County's fiscal health of taxing strategies that defer, re-direct, or abate property taxes. (Issue: Funding the Plan)

ACTION 4 Considering that the new growth management legislation has placed greater emphasis on the financial feasibility of the Comprehensive Plan, undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the County’s funding needs, funding options and funding sources (e.g., impact fees, gas tax, the penny, etc.) in order to ensure that realistic funding issues are addressed in association with current redevelopment discussions and plans. Amend the Capital Improvements Element accordingly. (Issue: Funding the Plan) 🌟

VI. Funding Our Long Range Economic Plans

ACTION 1 Acquire, assemble and “bank” land for current and future needs. Consider addressing the concept in objective/policies in the Economic Element. (Issue: Funding the Plan) 🌟

ACTION 2 Amend the Capital Improvements Element, as appropriate, to ensure sufficient capital funding for implementing economic development programs and initiatives. (Issue: A Competitive Economy) 🌟

VII. Relating Affordable Housing Discussions to our Fiscal Decisions

ACTION 1 Determine how the County can best assist in addressing the need for affordable, or community housing; amend the Housing Element and the Capital Improvements Element to establish explicit strategies and commitments, including those resulting from the Pinellas County Affordable Housing Task Force. (Issues: Quality Communities *and* Funding the Plan) 🌟



the following recommended actions are related to the issue of...

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

ACTION Almost all aspects of planning for the future require intergovernmental and interagency coordination. Therefore, conclude the various planning initiatives underway that are exploring County and municipal roles, relationships and responsibilities, translating findings into actions. Some specific areas for immediate consideration include: concurrency management and transportation, determining how to manage the requirements and impacts of redevelopment, addressing the provision of housing for all income levels, arriving at common ground on annexation, protection of water-dependent uses in our peninsular county, and addressing the funding needs and coordinating on the funding opportunities to efficiently meet future needs and achieve long term goals. Amendments to the Intergovernmental Coordination Element, as well as the other Elements of the Plan are anticipated. (Issues: Intergovernmental Coordination and each of the other issues) ☀



the following **ADDITIONAL** actions are recommended...

ACTION 1 Following completion of the Strategic Planning Process, consider the development and adoption of a *Vision for Pinellas County* into the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan. ☀

ACTION 2 Address the new growth management requirements promulgated in the 2005 legislative session, through required amendments, consistent with required timelines and deadlines. ☀



Specific Recommendations From
THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKGROUP
For New And/Or Modified Objectives And Policies

WATER SUPPLY AND SANITARY SEWER ELEMENTS

- Regarding Water Supply Policy 1.4.3. promoting the “use of native and drought tolerant plants through continued public education and enforcement of development regulations” it is suggested that in addition to public education, the County could be a role model by setting a goal for having a percentage of large County facilities (e.g., playgrounds) have native and drought-tolerant landscaping - something like:

"By [some date], Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners' urban/constructed facilities [above a certain size?] shall have 80% of their irrigated landscaped area in native or drought-tolerant landscaping". ☀

(Note that Policy 1.3.3. of the Recreation and Open Space Element currently says Pinellas County shall develop park areas utilizing a minimum of 80 percent native shrubs and trees).

- Also, it was suggested that we elaborate upon Policy 2.1.12. of the Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources (NHCR) Element (where the County is supporting SWFWMD in identifying recharge areas). The workgroup suggested a new policy(ies) requiring us to produce a map of groundwater recharge areas throughout Pinellas County, then requiring follow up with some action to restrict direct or indirect release of pollutants into all these areas, not just the identified wellfield protection areas. For example:

“Pinellas County shall, in conjunction with appropriate agencies, prepare a map that identifies high groundwater recharge areas, including areas outside of the current wellhead protection zone.” ☀

“Pinellas County shall regulate the direct or indirect release of pollutants into all areas identified as high groundwater recharge areas.” ☀

“Pinellas County shall maintain a program of intergovernmental and interagency coordination and cooperation in order to protect, preserve, and enhance high groundwater recharge areas.” ☀

(note: it will need to be clear exactly what recharge areas are being discussed.)

- Related to Objective 1.8. of the Sanitary Sewer Element, it was suggested that language be included to strengthen the commitment to long-term maintenance of the sewer system - something like:

“Pinellas County Utilities shall continue to conduct self-audits of its wastewater operations and will address and implement pertinent results of these audits as necessary.” ☀

- It was suggested that the Sanitary Sewer Element include additional policies supporting more conservation-oriented education (like the “Utilitalk” newsletter) rather than regulation, to encourage reduction in size of lawns, etc. - something like:

“Pinellas County shall continue to develop, encourage and participate in education efforts directed at reducing the size of lawns.” ☀

- A new objective regarding the maintenance of County-owned retention/detention ponds was suggested – something like:

“Pinellas County shall continue to review, upgrade and manage the optimization of its retention/detention ponds.” ☀

- Based on the need to reduce the impact on surface water quality, an additional policy was recommended to promote removal of septic tanks within Pinellas County’s sanitary sewer service areas and encourage their removal within the municipal service areas. ☀

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

- Regarding Objective 1.3., it was suggested the Surface Water Management Element have an educational objective regarding the relationship between the impact of backyard improvements (e.g., decks, patios, etc.), on the increase in impervious surface area, and the resultant impact on the surface water management system. ☀
- Relating to Policy 1.7.2., which states *the County shall cooperate in the development of management plans for Tampa Bay and the aquatic preserves located in Pinellas County*, the workgroup suggests the County have an aquatic preserve management plan as well as a policy to encourage FDEP to develop management plans for spoil islands. ☀
- Concerning Policy 1.7.7., which states *the County shall continue to support TBEP in its approach to the protection and restoration of Tampa Bay*, the workgroup agreed that there should be additional policies that help support TBEP goals through education and through implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Tampa Bay. ☀

- Include policy language regarding committing to applicable federal, state or local standards (with an understanding however that the County is still evaluating TMDL-related requirements). ☀
- Relating to Policy 1.3.1., which requires the County to enforce County stormwater regulations on all development except individual single family areas, it was suggested that the Surface Water Management Element include a new policy to allow stormwater treatment banks/mitigation banks as an option for providing treatment for individual single family areas and/or for redevelopment areas where standards cannot otherwise be met. ☀
- The following new policy was recommended: *“Pinellas County should develop land development regulations that implement low impact development concepts, and policies and regulations that reduce the amount of impervious surfaces and the correlated impacts on groundwater and surface water resources.”* ☀

Floodplain Section of the NATURAL, HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

- The workgroup agreed that it’s appropriate to have policies with continuing support for the Adopt-a-Pond program because of their educational and management value – something like:

“Pinellas County shall work with SWFWMD to encourage better regulation of private stormwater treatment areas within the County;” ☀ and

“Pinellas County shall continue to educate homeowners’ associations and other similar groups and associations on appropriate maintenance practices for private stormwater ponds through Adopt-a-Pond and other similar programs.” ☀

- It was suggested the Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources Element have a policy to support protection of trees within the floodplains – something like:

“Special emphasis will be placed on protecting viable native floodplain forests from destruction by excavation activities during development.” ☀

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

- The Environmental Lands Division Administrator of the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, suggested adding this definition of Pinellas County Preserves and Management Areas: *“Pinellas County Preserves and Management Areas are designated wild areas that are managed for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of natural and cultural resources while providing for sustainable*

passive public recreational uses that are compatible with approved management plans and applicable ordinances and laws.” He suggested emphasis should be placed on what the land can support. 🌻

- It was suggested that Policy 1.3.6. be revised (which states: *Pinellas County will evaluate the wildlife and habitat value of each of its parks to determine whether there are critically significant habitat areas within the parks*) to include a completion date for this evaluation, as well as a requirement for a management plan to be put in place once that evaluation is done. 🌻
- It was suggested that a more clear definition of *critically significant habitat areas* was needed. 🌻
- It was suggested that Policy 1.3.1. be amended (which states: *Pinellas County is committed to linking open space areas and creating a network of greenways and greenspaces*), to indicate that such activities contribute to watershed protection. 🌻
- It was also suggested that Florida-Friendly landscape techniques be referenced in Policy 1.5.1. – something like:

Pinellas County shall continue to provide educational materials at existing and future County parks which support ~~native vegetative communities and wildlife~~ Florida-Friendly landscaping techniques. 🌻

- The workgroup suggested adding “consistent with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program” to Objective 1.8. – something like:

By December 1998 (a new date), the County shall have established a process for identifying and prioritizing coastal properties within the County for acquisition, consistent with the State’s land acquisition program and consistent with Tampa Bay Estuary Program goals. 🌻

- The workgroup agreed that the County should provide more access to active recreation through partnerships, especially with the School Board, and that Objective 1.7. and Policy 1.7.5., (which state that *Pinellas County shall support the development and improvement of recreational opportunities when accomplished in coordination with public and private organizations*), can be modified to better reflect this partnership. 🌻
- The workgroup agreed that a policy requiring that the County evaluate the environmental benefit or potential of properties as they become available for purchase, or before they are surplus, should be added to the Recreation and Open Space Element. 🌻
- The County should refer to both the Culture, Education and Leisure Department and the Department of Environmental Management when addressing education in Objective 1.5 – something like:

Pinellas County, in coordination with its Culture, Education and Leisure Department and the Department of Environmental Management, shall continue to develop educational programs and materials concerning the conservation, protection and restoration of natural, historic and cultural resources. 🌻

Natural Systems And Living Resources Section of the NATURAL, HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

- The workgroup suggested ensuring that Policy 3.1.15. is consistent with Policy 1.3.3. of the Recreation and Open Space Element by editing it to say:

~~By December of 1998,~~ Pinellas County shall continue to utilize environmentally beneficial landscape principles, incorporating low maintenance design and use of native vegetation, at all County properties. 🌻

- Relating to Objective 3.2., the workgroup suggested adding a new policy regarding inventorying ecosystems and developing ecological management plans for existing parks versus just having a policy for inventorying ecosystems and developing management plans for new parks. 🌻
- Regarding Policy 3.2.1., which discusses adopting development regulations to protect threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, the workgroup suggested including additional language about protecting ecosystems, not just individual species. 🌻
- The workgroup requested better defining Policy 3.3.1., especially the phrase “in the public interest.” 🌻
- The workgroup suggested editing Policy 3.3.3. as follows, to further emphasize the most environmentally sound solution:

The County shall continue to encourage enforce alternatives to the hardening and bulkheading of natural coastal shorelines, natural stream courses, and tidal creeks ~~through the enforcement of~~ consistent with land development regulations. 🌻