

PLANPinellas – Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan Update

Comments/Questions and Responses

As of October 29, 2021

Questions submitted during September 21, 2021 Webinar

1) Are there efforts to resolve current equity disparities built into each section? (B. Hovind)

RESPONSE: Yes. A key factor of the update is to improve choice and access for all residents. Issues surrounding equity are built into the language of the goals, objectives and policies across the document. This intention is outlined in PLANPinellas' [Vision](https://plan.pinellas.gov/vision/) (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/vision/>) chapter, which serves as the introduction to the comprehensive plan, discussing the underlying themes of the plan.

2) Will there be any policy updates addressing density and intensity increases in the Coastal High Hazard Area? (A. Delgado)

RESPONSE: PLANPinellas prohibits increases in density and intensity within the Coastal High Hazard Area. The County continues to gather information through updates to data, vulnerability assessments, the County's flood mitigation action plan, and through the County's Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan (SRAP), and findings and recommendations can further inform policy and regulatory revisions.

3) Would it be possible to replace all acronyms with the full spelled out term? I haven't been able to find the glossary. Where is it? (M. Donnerstein)

RESPONSE: A glossary is provided in the [Category Descriptions & Rules](https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/PLANPinellas_FLUM_CR.pdf) (https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/PLANPinellas_FLUM_CR.pdf) section (associated with the Future Land Use Chapter) of PLANPinellas.

4) Where is Art and Culture in the Plan? (C. Mickett)

RESPONSE: Issues relating to art and culture are addressed in both the [Recreation, Open Space and Culture](https://plan.pinellas.gov/recreation-open-space-and-culture/) (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/recreation-open-space-and-culture/>) and [Economic Prosperity](https://plan.pinellas.gov/economic-prosperity/) (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/economic-prosperity/>) chapters of PLANPinellas.

5) Where are public libraries in the plan? (K. Kelly)

RESPONSE: Libraries in Pinellas County are not part of a unified system and are not overseen by the County directly, therefore, PLANPinellas does not directly set policy for libraries. However, PLANPinellas does recognize libraries as a community resource and partner, especially as it relates to the continued training and education in our community, as addressed in the [Lifelong Learning](https://plan.pinellas.gov/lifelong-learning/) (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/lifelong-learning/>) chapter.

- 6) **Resolving disparity takes proactive actions. Certainly the county plan is a framework for corrective actions – such as traffic routes, housing quality, public transit, etc... (B. Hovind)**

RESPONSE: As mentioned in Response #1, addressing equity is a key intention of PLANPinellas. This is addressed in our goals, objectives and policies throughout the document and is emphasized each chapter including emphasis on choice and access for transportation and housing.

- 7) **Rebecca just mentioned focusing growth in activity centers. Which goals, objectives, policies work to accomplish this? (M.Donnerstein)**

RESPONSE: Please see Objectives and Policies in the [Future Land Use](https://plan.pinellas.gov/future-land-use/) (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/future-land-use/>) chapter, including: Objective 2.2 and associated policies; Objective 5.1 and associated policies; and in the [Economic Prosperity](https://plan.pinellas.gov/economic-prosperity/) (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/economic-prosperity/>) chapter EP 1.3.1.

Other Housing (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/housing-options/>) and Transportation (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/transportation/>) policies support this but do not necessarily call out activity centers (e.g.; HOU Policy 1.1.1 and TRA Objective 2.1).

- 8) **When I attended a Visioning Workshop at the Clearwater Countryside Library, it seemed to me that were there people from organizations and did not accurately represent the community. I don't think that ordinary regular citizens were able to participate due to lack of outreach. Is there data collected during public outreach and input seem very skewed to special interest groups and organizations, not individual residents. Basically, the public did not really participate, that data should have been collected from every person who participated as to what groups and organizations they belong to, and how did they receive notification. (L. Lindsay)**

RESPONSE: The basis of PLANPinellas policies is directed by the vision as communicated through our Guiding Principles. The initial drafting of these principles started with the review of results of citizen surveys and a series of documents/resources that included public input processes. The County hosted a series of open houses, library events and presentations across the county to share and vet the principles with the public. To maximize the opportunity for involvement, a website fully focused on the vision – around the Guiding Principles - was created and the opportunity to comment online was provided. Significantly more people chose to communicate through this online resource, with over 3,000 views of the site.

We now continue to reach out to the community to review and provide comments on the draft policies. The County has reached out through a press release (and was shared on Bay News 9; in the Tampa Bay Business Journal; in St. Pete Catalyst; the Gabber online weekly newspaper; and on patch.com) and through many social media platforms. Neighborhood Associations across the county were directly informed about this effort. Flyers were distributed at libraries and community centers. Our municipal partners were notified directly.

We have also launched the PLANPinellas website with the opportunity for public comments to be captured.

Questions submitted during September 22, 2021 Webinar

9) Due to Global Warming, what is Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan going to do in regards to creating a mechanism for raising funds and purchasing of land in order to ensure functional ecosystem services that we all depend on? There seems to be continued development on ecologically sensitive land and coastal high hazard areas. I hear a lot of ignorant people say that we do not need any more greenspace but they have not looked at the projected population growth for 2060. (L. Lindsay)

RESPONSE: The Plan addresses land acquisition as a tool that can be used to address natural resource protection and provides criteria to consider when determining if acquisition is appropriate. Funding for acquisition is not addressed in the comprehensive plan but would be part of other County programs, such as Penny for Pinellas.

10) Why is it that developers are allowed to continue to build in high flood risk and coastal high hazard areas. Insurance is getting unaffordable, people are getting dropped from their homeowners insurance. (L. Lindsay)

RESPONSE: PLANPinellas prohibits increases in density and intensity within the Coastal High Hazard Area. The County continues to gather information through updates to data, vulnerability assessments, the County's flood mitigation action plan, and through the County's Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan (SRAP), and findings and recommendations can further inform policy and regulatory revisions.

11) It would seem that placing low income housing in areas of low income residents, as was stated, just maintains the historical wrongs of our historical housing discrimination and zoning. It would seem spreading low income housing throughout the county would be more equitable. How does the plan address this? (B. Hovind)

RESPONSE: It is the intention of PLANPinellas to 'promote mixed-income communities with a variety of housing types' (see HOU Strategy 1.3.1.2) and support housing options for our current and future residents. The Plan calls out our effort to participate in a Countywide Housing Strategy with our municipal partners to address affordable housing options across the county (see HOU Policy 1.1.3).

12) Would it be possible to post these recordings of session 1 and session 2 on Pinellas co. YouTube channel? (M. Donnerstein)

RESPONSE: The recordings have been posted online at: <https://plan.pinellas.gov/events/>.

13) How does Pinellas' Plan coordinate with other counties in greater Tampa Bay? (C. Mickett)

RESPONSE: PLANPinellas' [GOVERNANCE](https://plan.pinellas.gov/governance/) chapter (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/governance/>) addresses intergovernmental and interagency coordination. It emphasizes the need to coordinate with key regional agencies or as part of regional programs (e.g.: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council; Forward Pinellas; Tampa Bay, Reginal Transit Authority; Tampa Bay Estuary Program; Southwest Florida Water Management District) that promote coordination across municipal and county lines.

14) I missed the beginning of the meeting, will there be a recording online? (M. Parker)

RESPONSE: The recordings have been posted online at: <https://plan.pinellas.gov/events/>.

15) I find that municipalities Planning and Zoning Board and Commissioners continue to ignore their own Comprehensive Plans. This a huge problem. (L. Lindsay)

RESPONSE: Noted.

16) How can members of the public get updates/get involved in the County's work on resiliency and sustainability? (M. Donnerstein)

RESPONSE: You can sign up for Sustainability and Resiliency updates here: <https://www.pinellascounty.org/sustainability/updates.htm>

You can also join the County's Program for Public Information, a step-by-step coordinated approach to flood hazard outreach.

[Learn more.](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/ppi.htm) (<http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/ppi.htm>)

Questions/Comments submitted through PLANPinellas Website

17) NRC Although Manatee and Sea Turtle nesting are mentioned re: conservation protection actions for nesting and survival, there is no mention of any shorebird nesting habitat restoration/protection although Pinellas County hosts all five of the most imperiled species as noted by FWC in the state. Who in the county is actually writing these plan directives? Is it possible to speak with them to consider adding shorebird nesting as an important plan imperative? (L. Margeson; 8/19/21)

RESPONSE: NRC Strategy 3.2.3.5 has been added to address this concern (https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/PLANPinellas_NRC_strikethrough-underline-October-2021_A.pdf).

18) It is great to see a long term plan! I have two areas of great concern and hope action will be taken:
Brooker Creek Watershed

- * Update the May 2010 in depth study on BC watershed and alternatives
- * Monitor the development practices of Pasco County and the impact on BC Watershed

Pasco County continued development and the impact on Pinellas in the following areas:

- * Traffic
- * Watershed
- * Wildlife migration (feral hogs)

Thank you! (B. Thatcher; 9/22/21)

RESPONSE: Thank you for your comment. Watershed management is addressed in the [Surface Water Management](https://plan.pinellas.gov/surface-water-management/) chapter (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/surface-water-management/>) of PLANPinellas, and Brooker Creek protection is discussed in the associated [Supplemental](https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/SWM_Supplemental_06_21_A.pdf) section of this chapter (https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/SWM_Supplemental_06_21_A.pdf).

19) Questions:

- 1. I've been unable to find the proposed Future Land Use Map in the document posted at plan.pinellas.gov. Can you tell me where it is?**
- 2. The current comprehensive plan provides a detailed description of each land use category, including purpose, use characteristics, and standards/location characteristics. Where can I find this information in the draft plan posted at plan.pinellas.gov?**

Please disregard my question posed yesterday concerning my inability to find detailed descriptions of each land use category. I've found them. (M. Donnerstein; 9/28/21)

- 3. Florida law requires denial of a development proposal or comprehensive plan amendment that is inconsistent with any OBJECTIVE or POLICY in the applicable comprehensive plan. Does Florida law also require denial of a development proposal or comprehensive plan amendment that is inconsistent with any STRATEGY in the applicable comprehensive plan?**

(M. Donnerstein; 9/27/21)

RESPONSE:

1. The PLANPinellas update to the Comprehensive Plan does not propose any amendments to the Future Land Use Map.

The [Future Land Use supplemental](https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/FutureLandUse_Supplemental_07_21_A.pdf) section (https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/FutureLandUse_Supplemental_07_21_A.pdf) includes the Future Land Use Map (Please note that this is a large file and it may take a bit of time to load. Due to the scale of the map, it may be difficult to identify categories at the map's full extent. The categories will become more clear when zoomed in.)

You can also access Future Land Use information on the County's GIS system: <https://pinellas-egis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InformationLookup/index.html?appid=d28c337acb184a3986bade031bcdb627>.

2. As you found, the [Category Descriptions & Rules](https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/PLANPinellas_FLUM_CR.pdf) (https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/PLANPinellas_FLUM_CR.pdf) section (associated with the Future Land Use Chapter) of PLANPinellas is available for review.
3. Strategies in the comprehensive plan are actions the County should pursue to carry out the policy with the intent to achieve the defined objective and goal. How these strategies are carried out may be dependent upon other factors, such as resource and funding availability.

Development proposals do have to be consistent with the goals, objectives, policies and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan and the implementing regulations. It should be noted, however, that the strategies across the many chapters of the Plan are not exhaustive of potential actions that the County can pursue to meet policy intent and provide guidance and direction.

20) Questions:

1. If I remember the presentation in Session 1 correctly, Mr. Johnson talked about the draft plan directing development toward mixed-use corridors and possibly toward activity centers. I took his comment to mean that the draft plan will ENCOURAGE development in mixed-use corridors and activity centers while DISCOURAGING traditional suburban subdivisions? Is my understanding correct? Is there a provision in the draft plan that provides bears on this redirection of development?

RESPONSE: The County supports a wide mix and variety of housing including traditional suburban housing. The intent is to add variety and increase choices for current and future residents. PLANPinellas encourages new growth to focus in activity centers and mixed-use corridors, with (re)development patterns that focus on more urban criteria, such as proximity of different uses (e.g., housing close to employment), vertical development, walkability, etc.

Policies relating to activity centers include Objectives and Policies in the [Future Land Use](https://plan.pinellas.gov/future-land-use/) (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/future-land-use/>) chapter, including: Objective 2.2 and associated policies; Objective 5.1 and associated policies; and in the [Economic Prosperity](https://plan.pinellas.gov/economic-prosperity/) (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/economic-prosperity/>) chapter EP 1.3.1.

Other Housing (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/housing-options/>) and Transportation (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/transportation/>) policies support this but do not necessarily call out activity centers (e.g.; HOU Policy 1.1.1 and TRA Objective 2.1).

2. In Session 2 Ms. Foster mentioned amending the current draft plan to incorporate provisions in the Resiliency and Sustainability Action Plan currently under development. When do you envision beginning and ending this amendment process? What procedural steps will be involved?

(M. Donnerstein; 9/27/21)

RESPONSE:

Pinellas County is currently developing its first comprehensive Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan (SRAP), which will set the foundation for all of the County's sustainability and resiliency policies and initiatives. The process will set measurable, achievable goals and steps toward a more sustainable and resilient Pinellas.

In addition to environmental considerations, the plan will also prioritize the economic and social case for environmental stewardship, community resiliency, hazard mitigation, and climate change adaptation, including cost savings and economic opportunity.

The Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan (SRAP) is scheduled for completion in March 2022.

The latest information regarding the County's Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan (SRAP) can be accessed online at: <https://www.pinellascounty.org/sustainability/default.htm>.

Please note that on September 28th the County launched a Sustainability and Resiliency public survey, which will remain open through October 26th. The survey can be accessed at sustainability.pinellas.gov/survey.

21)

1. I have reviewed the plan as written. My first question is why are there no goals? You have policies and strategies in each section but no specific goals for the county to reach by 2045. Perhaps I am wrong in assuming that this is a strategic plan, giving direction for the county. In any event, if there are no goals--how will you determine if the plan is successful or not?

Also, I would like to see a comparison between the last PLAN and this one, detailing what was dropped and what was added. I assume that such a document has been prepared--and should be available to the public.

My third concern is the lack of specific goals to reduce the inequity in the county. We are all very much aware of differences in income and housing by race and single parenting. Yet, I see no steps to be taken to reduce the inequities that currently exist. The PLAN does refer to equity--which, it seems, will just maintain the incredible discrepancies we currently have.

Thank you in advance for all of your hard work.

2. A clarification: : I do realize that the PLAN does have goals. What I am not seeing is measurable goals to determine whether we are successful or not. For example, for the Natural Resource Section, the goal is "Be a leader in environmental Stewardship, etc. " This is not measurable other than to say we are or we are not---but there is not basis to gauge us on. I would hope that the goals be reconsidered in measurable terms.

Thank you again....
(B. Hovind; 10/4/21)

RESPONSE:

As noted in the clarification above, PLANPinellas does contain a series of goals related to each of the associated chapter topics (e.g., Future Land Use; Housing; Transportation, etc.). Equitable outcomes is a key intent and component of PLANPinellas.

A policy comparison table that identifies where PLANPinellas (comprehensive plan update) addresses the existing 2008 Comprehensive Plan (2008 Plan) policies is available on the main page of the PLANPinellas website: <https://plan.pinellas.gov/>.

Additionally, a series of metrics that will assist the County in tracking the success of associated policies are in the process of being created. As these measures will relate back to specific policies, they will be finalized after the Comprehensive Plan update has been adopted, to ensure the policies are in place. When available, these metrics will be shared on the PLANPinellas website.

22) Hi. I wanted to ask questions regarding the revision to the comprehensive plan regarding transportation and housing.

1. My guess is the current plan is updated, but not fully rewritten, so I'd love an overview of the progress of this evolving plan with comparison to last year's plan and this revision. I know that may be too great a task to ask for, but my focus is narrowed to transportation & housing issues, so perhaps this is possible?

2. I found a section 5 title **Public Transportation & Demand Management** in the current plan that I found woefully outdated, and my question is will this be updated once the **Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan** is updated in May of 2022? Many demographics have changed in the past few years.

Other questions are:

3. **TRA Policy 1.1.3 States Provide viable transportation options to meet the needs of all. I would ask how is viable defined?**
4. **TRA Strategy 1.1.3.1 Collaborates with Forward Pinellas, PSTA, & Community Partners to identify, diverse transportation needs....address transportation inequality, address needs of transportation disadvantaged communities. How is this implemented?**
5. **TRA Strategy 1.1.4.3 references 1st and last mile solutions, but I would ask how is this coordinated with PSTA & Forward Pinellas?**
6. I looked for mixed use - actually mixed income level integration, and the closest I found is **TRA Goal 2 Establish Multimodal Transportation. And TRA Strategy 2.11.2: Encourage & maintain areas of vertically integrated mixed-use. - I am guessing this will be mixed income properties?**

Also, references to the **FLUM - Future Land Use Map:**

7. **TRA Policy 2.1.2 Coordinates decisions on FLUM amendments with mobility needs. How are these needs assessed?**
8. **Housing meshes with transportation. They are intertwined for most people, so a few housing questions area: Under Housing in the draft plan pages 37, 39 of 140 pages there are references to mixed income neighborhoods, so I wonder if consideration to spreading out public or subsidized housing will be given, instead of the more typical grouping of public or subsidized housing in one location- a low income area bay from other higher income neighborhoods? It would be a sign of progress and innovation to see varying income units interspersed within neighborhoods.**
9. **FLU Policy 3.1.3: Encourage the implementation of Affordable Housing Developments (AHD) as defined in the Land Development Code. How complex is this definition?**
10. **FLU Strategy 3.1.3.1: Maintain preferred location criteria for AHDs to support mixed-income neighborhood development, transit access, proximity to.....(lists education, employment & such). How is this coordinated?**
11. **FLU Objective 4.3: on page 39, Support the development of new housing in proximity to existing employment centers. How is this implemented? I didn't see transit addressed in any of the strategies listed under this objective. Is transit viewed as a vital part of housing concerns?**
12. **I'm not a planner, but as a resident I am interested in this plan, and I appreciate the opportunity to ask questions. How long will this submission of comments last? Is there a final set date to make comments?**

Thanks for your time & attention!

(Kathy Smith; 10/7/21)

RESPONSE:

1. The plan has been updated and extensively re-written. Please review the [Transportation Supplemental](#) for additional narrative material.
2. Please see page 22 of the [Transportation Supplemental](#) for an update of the information in the “current” Comprehensive Plan section 5.
3. “Viable” in this context can be defined as “travelers can safely and efficiently access destinations regardless of origin or mode.”
4. PLANPinellas’ [GOVERNANCE](#) chapter (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/governance/>) addresses intergovernmental and interagency coordination. Pinellas County is represented on the Forward Pinellas and PSTA Boards and advisory committees, and coordination on both broad and specific issues occurs through these forums. The development of community plans, such as the [Linking Lealman Action Plan](#), created with community, municipal and agency partners is one way we can address these needs.
5. PLANPinellas’ [GOVERNANCE](#) chapter (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/governance/>) addresses intergovernmental and interagency coordination. Pinellas County is represented on the Forward Pinellas and PSTA Boards and advisory committees, and coordination occurs through these forums.
6. Land use and transportation are integrated and overlapping issues. The [Future Land Use Chapter](#) specifically addresses mixed-income integration in FLU Goal 3 (Range of Housing) “Promote mixed-income communities that provide a range of housing types and costs to meet the needs of our residents.”
7. Transportation needs are primarily assessed through traffic impact studies, an evaluation of existing multimodal facilities, and consistency reviews with the Countywide and Comprehensive Plan through the FLUM amendment process. See pages 8-11 in the [Transportation Supplemental](#).
8. It is the intention of PLANPinellas to ‘promote mixed-income communities with a variety of housing types’ (see HOU Strategy 1.3.1.2) and support housing options for our current and future residents. The Plan calls out our effort to participate in a Countywide Housing Strategy with our municipal partners to address affordable housing options across the county (see HOU Policy 1.1.3).
9. The Land Development Code currently references other documents that are aligned with State and Federal programs.
10. The Land Development Code will establish criteria that will guide project development and site planning.

11. Please see FLU Goal 5 in the [Future Land Use Chapter](#): “Advance land use and development patterns that support mobility for all users and provide sustainable transportation infrastructure” and associated objectives policies and strategies.

Also, see pages 8-11 in the [Transportation Supplemental](#). The Countywide Plan promotes higher density residential, office, and retail development concentrated within easy walking distance (1/4 to 1/2 mile) of transit stops. Outside of the designated Activity Centers and Multimodal Corridor network, new density bonuses and a new medium density use will encourage greater housing affordability and mixed-use development throughout the County. The Countywide Plan encourages more housing units to be built on less land, and encourages walking, biking and transit use.

12. Comments can be provided online through the website through the ‘Make a Comment’ feature through November 2021. Comments can also be shared as part of the formal public hearing process. The anticipated schedule for public hearings is December 9, 2021 before the Local Planning Agency and the first of two public hearings before the Board of County Commissioners is anticipated to be held in January 2022. Please check the County’s website for meeting dates/agendas at <http://www.pinellascounty.org/agendas.htm>.

23) Overall, the proposed plan is well thought out with a well balanced approach to the many competing elements within a comprehensive plan. A few thoughts follow below. I have attempted to reference the most applicable section/goal/objective/policy/strategy for the offered comment.

1. **FLU Objective 6.5 could be enhanced by the recognition of developing microgrids in appropriate areas of the County.**
2. **FLU Obj 2.6 - great to see the development of urban ag, please consider including enhancing the development of cottage/home industry also (honey producers, small gardens allowed to have roadside stands, etc).**
3. **FLU Strat 6.1.5.1 - good to see the call to limit growth in the CSA. I think we would be better served to eliminate growth in this area. The future costs of dealing with flooding in these areas will overwhelm the near term economic benefit of allowing this development.**
4. **FLU Strat 5.2.2.1 - Our goal should be to improve all transit stops to some baseline (shade/shelter from downpours) rather than qualifying it with "feasible". I do not believe any shelter is not feasible in terms of baseline protections from the elements.**
5. **FLU Policy 6.1.6 - Beginning to evaluate intelligent retreat from the coastline should be a part of our planning and thinking in the next ten years. There are some properties that will need to be abandoned. Lead with some good planning in this decade.**
6. **TRA Strat 1.1.5.1 - I would suggest we explicitly add electric bikes into our multi-modal options. They are unique and highly qualified for use in our climate and density.**
7. **TRA Strat 1.1.5.1 - I would also suggest we focus on developing non auto corridors where non-autos are made an equal priority. Having bikes moved to secondary streets and making those**

much safer makes more sense than adding bike lanes (defined only by a painted line on the road) on major corridors.

8. NRC - Add an additional goal to address light pollution - mitigate existing light pollution and improve future lighting policies - Better for animals and humans - can also be made more energy efficient through this process.
9. NRC Strategy 1.1.1.1 - Great list!
10. NRC Policy 1.1.2 - Good language on energy efficiency but should be expanded to include self-sufficiency via renewable energy. In the underlying strategy, instead of "to consider" we should be firmer, I suggest "utilize".
11. NRC - Living shorelines are referenced in several Obj and Strategies. I believe this concept should be elevated up to a Goal or Objective versus being buried as a tactic to address other ones.
12. NRC Policy 1.3.1 - This needs to go further. Suggest "Develop and implement a strategy to create natural tree canopy in existing urban heat island areas."
13. NRC Strat 1.5.1.3 - Should also incentivize locally produced products to be done in a sustainable way - ie, design, packaging, development, etc.
14. NRC Strat 3.1.1.7 - We should eliminate the application of toxic products from the county. The implications to our bio-diversity are well documented and given our community is covered with and surrounded by water, eliminating these poisons from the County is the appropriate action.
15. CM Obj 1.2 - Please also address the degradation of sea grass areas.
16. CM Goal 2 - Good to see development being directed away from the CSA however suggest Policy 2.1.3 allow no additional dwelling to be added to these areas and Policy 2.1.4, replace "restrict" with "prohibit".
17. SWM Strat 3.2.1.4 - This may already be covered by the present language but I think we should call out with stronger language to not put leaf liter, etc into the SW system (leaf blowers and landscaper actions).
18. ROS Strat 2.1.2.1 - in one sub-bullet, add no so it reads "Promote No and require low waste events at County owned rec facilities and Add a sub-bullet to "Incentivize use of industrial compostable materials and eliminating Styrofoam and single use plastic at all events".
19. ROS - One of the Goals should highlight the need/desire to increase access to these areas to the community via multi-modal and public transit options.
20. ROS Policy 2.2.3 - We do not need this. Our tourism results are doing fine and this is an unnecessary action.

21. PW/WW - The known issue of leaky lateral lines and poor septic system performance needs to be highlighted. I suggest requiring evaluation and incentivized replacement of these items. Could be tied into real estate transactions, just like a roof inspection is required today.

22. SW Policy 1.2.2 - Our country's recycling system is largely broken. Suggest a review of our current approach to single stream recycling and to move to a more effective recycling program.

23. SW Strat 1.2.2.4 - Change the procurement strategy to include prioritizing compostable materials if recycled ones are not available.

(Suncoast Sierra Club, D. Harbeitner; 10/24/21)

RESPONSE:

1. Noted. This issue would be considered when specific alternative energy programs are developed.
2. These issues would be included as part of land development code considerations for urban agriculture.
3. Noted.
4. The County will continue to coordinate with our partners to address transit stop amenities. The term feasible is used to account for unique conditions and available resources.
5. The County continues to gather information through updates to data, vulnerability assessments, the County's flood mitigation action plan, and through the County's Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan (SRAP), and findings and recommendations can further inform policy and regulatory revisions.
6. Currently, on all roadways and trails in Pinellas County's jurisdiction, electric bikes are permitted anywhere non-electric bikes are allowed.
7. Pinellas County supports multimodal infrastructure and PLANPinellas emphasizes the need to balance the needs of all users.
8. The County continues to gather information to further address sustainability issues, including reviews of lighting ordinances.
9. Noted.
10. As noted in NRC Policy 1.1.2 and associated strategies, the County is committed to pursuing sustainable practices for energy efficiency, sustainable design and other initiatives.
11. As you mention PLANPinellas identifies living shorelines as a method to protect surface water resources. While it may not be a specific objective in PLANPinellas, the County continues to look at enhancing it's living shorelines program through the Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan (SRAP) process. The latest information regarding the SRAP can be accessed online at: <https://www.pinellascounty.org/sustainability/default.htm>.

12. This specific issue would be addressed as part of the Urban Forestry master plan, as referenced in NRC Strategy 1.3.1.3.
13. In accordance NRC Policy 1.5.1, the County will coordinate with our municipal and other partners to determine best practices to address localized sustainable programs.
14. The County is committed to vegetation management that encourages the minimal use of herbicides while encouraging the implementation of alternative control(s). The County's approach stresses prevention and suppression to minimize the need to look to herbicidal solutions.
15. Sea grass protection as it relates to surface water and dependent habitat protection is located in the [Natural Resource and Conservation Management chapter](https://plan.pinellas.gov/natural-resource-conservation-and-management/) (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/natural-resource-conservation-and-management/>). See NRC Strategy 3.1.3.2.
16. 'Restrict' allows for unique circumstances that may require infrastructure investment (e.g., evacuation needs).
17. These concerns are part of the County's messaging to citizens and in PLANPinellas is addressed through the noted Everyday Actions in the [Surface Water Management chapter](#).
18. The Strategy addresses the intent to promote low waste events and the County can always consider 'no waste' options and will continue to look at additional sustainable practices.
19. Please see ROS Strategy 2.1.4.1 (<https://plan.pinellas.gov/recreation-open-space-and-culture/>)
20. Noted.
21. The County is currently in the process of drafting departmental policies and an ordinance to reduce infiltration and inflow from private sanitary sewer laterals and private collection systems connected to the County's wastewater collection system. The County will also be developing policies for eliminating, where possible, onsite septic treatment systems.
22. Noted.
23. The County continues to consider additional strategies to support sustainability and resiliency efforts.

Letter(s) Received

24)

1. **Congratulations on the release of your draft Comprehensive Plan. Because of its diversity of habitats and location on migratory routes, Pinellas County is one of the most important in the state for imperiled birds, despite its dense urbanization. This biodiversity adds to the quality of life for Pinellas County's residents and draws visitors internationally to view and enjoy the county's wildlife.**

2. **Protecting Pinellas County’s environment is an investment in the health of the county’s nature-based economy. Audubon is pleased to see the wise inclusion of provisions in the comprehensive plan acknowledging the importance of Pinellas County’s natural resources and providing for their protection. In the same way that provisions are included for the protection of federally threatened marine turtles, we also suggest specific provisions for federally and state threatened shorebirds and seabirds that nest and winter on Pinellas County’s coasts.**

3. **After reviewing the draft Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan, I would like to recommend additions to the Natural Resources Conservation and Management (NRC) chapter to include protections for imperiled coastal waterbird species of Pinellas County. The following language should be added to the “Everyday Actions”:
Give nesting, feeding, and resting birds much needed space! Coastal waterbirds nest, rest, and feed on our beaches and need us to share the shore.**

4. **Under NRC Policy 3.2.3, a fifth NRC strategy should be added to “support coastal waterbird protection and monitoring by” the following:**
 - **Coordinating with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Audubon Florida, and other agencies to determine appropriate measures for protecting imperiled coastal waterbird species;**
 - **Partnering with volunteer groups, research organizations, and enforcement agencies;**
 - **Supporting public education and stewardship efforts focusing on coastal waterbird protections;**
 - **Partnering with coastal municipalities to provide educational resources and signage to reduce the amount of disturbance at nesting sites; and**
 - **Reduce the impact of rental beach chairs on beach-nesting habitat.**

5. **Multiple species of imperiled coastal waterbirds nest, feed, and rest in Pinellas County throughout the year. It is crucial to include language surrounding protections and monitoring efforts in the Comprehensive Plan. Audubon is grateful for the long partnership of Pinellas County on the protection and active management of these species.**

(Audubon Florida, A. DeRose-Wilson; 10/29/21)

RESPONSE:

1. Noted.

2. Please see added NRC Strategy 3.2.3.5., also associated with Comment #17 above. (https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/PLANPinellas_NRC_strikethrough-underline-October-2021_A.pdf).

3. Item will be added.

4. Please see added NRC Strategy 3.2.3.5., also associated with Comment #17 above. (https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/PLANPinellas_NRC_strikethrough-underline-October-2021_A.pdf).

5. Please see added NRC Strategy 3.2.3.5., also associated with Comment #17 above. (https://plan.pinellas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/PLANPinellas_NRC_strikethrough-underline-October-2021_A.pdf).