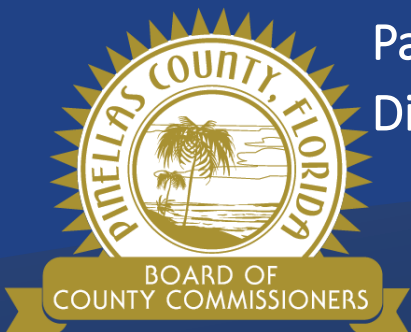


Integrated Vegetation Management Program



Parks and Conservation Resources Department
Paul Cozzie
Director



Our Vision: To Be the Standard for Public Service in America



Integrated Vegetation Management

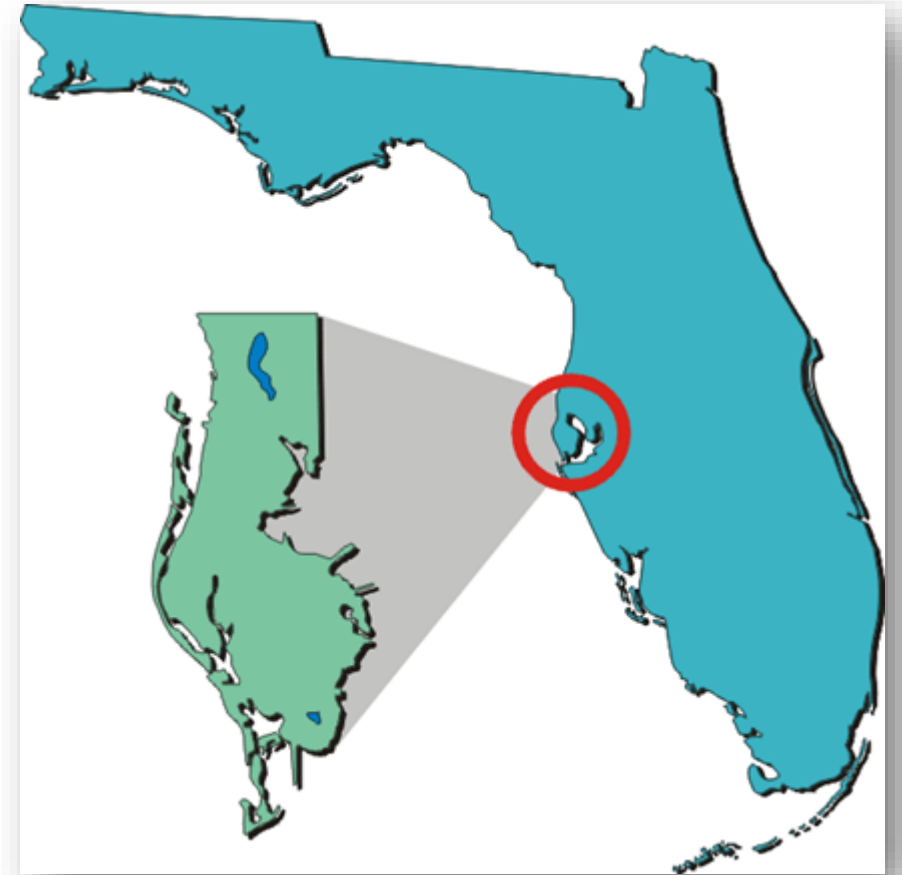
Background

- In the summer of 2018 concerned citizens requested information concerning the vegetation management approach for many local governments, particularly as it relates to use of non-selective systemic herbicides (e.g. glyphosate).
- In response to public concerns, City and County leaders formed an executive committee to take a unified approach to research and advise on the use of glyphosate and nonchemical alternatives



Integrated Vegetation Management

- Effective and Environmentally Sustainable Approach to Managing Unwanted Vegetation
- Focuses on Prevention
- Cost Effective
- Will Gain Efficiency the Longer it is Implemented



Goals of Integrated Vegetation Management

- Provide guidance on the use of chemicals on public lands to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public, employees and the environment.
- Provide education and training to herbicide applicators to ensure that when chemicals are used, best management practices (BMPs) are employed.
- Provide alternatives to use of chemicals to manage vegetation, and determine which alternatives are effective and cost efficient.



IVM Committee Action Items

- Define Levels of Service for each Vegetation Category
- Increased applicator safety training
- Improved public communication regarding vegetation management on public lands
- Increased Education and Coordinated Approach to Vegetation Management
- List Available Resources in a Convenient and Useable Format
- On Going Development and Refinement of this Program
- Communication and Interaction of Local Participants
- Creation of performance measures and metrics to gauge effectiveness

Integrated Vegetation Management

Additional Input was Solicited and Received from Stakeholders, including:

- Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Advisory Board
- Florida Native Plant Society
- International Society of Arborists
- St. Pete Audubon Society
- Clearwater Audubon Society
- Tampa Bay Watch
- St. Pete College/Seminole Campus Beekeepers
- Florida Public Interest Research Group



Next Steps:

- Publish and Distribute IVM Program Manual
- Enlist organizations performing vegetation management on public lands
- Continue to develop programs and classes to orient participating staff on Integrated Vegetation Management practices
- Develop meaningful and measurable performance metrics and goals to promote the reduction of chemical usage on public lands
- Gather data and schedule performance reports to track efforts
- Continue to share innovative techniques and approaches through regularly scheduled meetings of organizational representatives

Comments or Questions?

