

Recreation & Open Space Element Data Guideline Document

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Introduction

The purpose of the Recreation & Open Space Element as set forth in Section 163.3177(6)(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.), is to plan for a comprehensive system of public and private recreation sites and facilities. Public and private recreation sites and facilities may include natural reserves, parks and playgrounds, parkways, beaches and public access to them, open spaces, waterways, and other recreation facilities. Although Section 163.3177, F.S., lists the Recreation & Open Space Element as a required element within comprehensive plans, the data and analysis requirements have been deleted from Chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code. This data guideline provides information about collecting recreation data and how to analyze it.

Finding Recreation & Open Space Data

There are many places to find data on recreation and open spaces within Pinellas County. Each municipality should have an existing inventory of its parks, playgrounds, open spaces, beach access parks, boat ramps, and similar facilities. In addition to municipal facilities, municipalities may add county-owned or private facilities to its data inventory. The following is a partial list of recreation and open space data sources:

Municipal & County Data Sources

Belleair

Recreation Department Brochure. Town of Belleair, Fall 2006.

This brochure lists the recreation facilities available in Belleair.

Clearwater

The City of Clearwater Parks and Recreation System Master Plan, April 2002.

This report provides an inventory of existing recreational facilities and a capital improvement plan for future recreation facilities. The inventory, maps, and projects will be helpful in producing the necessary data and analysis for the Recreation Element and the Capital Improvements Element. This report also identifies intergovernmental coordination initiatives to implement the plan.

Largo

Largo Parks Map.

List of parks and recreation facilities and their locations in the City of Largo.

Oldsmar

Recreation Master Plan, City of Oldsmar, December 2000.

This report addresses all existing recreation areas within and adjacent to the City of Oldsmar. The inventory and maps will be helpful to obtain data for the Recreation Element, intergovernmental coordination and conservation efforts, and capital improvement projects for recreation.

Pinellas County

Lessons Learned After a Decade of Urban Watershed Management, by Andrew P. Squires and Donald D. Moores, Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, 1996. (Poster Abstract of report produced in 2005.)

This report discusses watershed programs in Pinellas County.

Pinellas County Recreation, Open Space and Culture System Master Plan, September 2005.

This report provides an inventory of existing parks, open spaces, and cultural facilities and a capital projects and implementation schedule.

Maps of the Pinellas Trail.

These maps provide detailed location and amenity inventory of the Pinellas Trail jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction.

Pinellas County Parks & Recreation – A Natural Attraction Brochure, 2006.

This brochure provides a map, location of recreation areas, and the amenities within each recreation area.

Pinellas County Greenways and Trails Brochure, 2002.

This brochure includes a map and description of Pinellas County beach parks, boat ramp parks, Pinellas County parks and preserves, bicycle/walking/skate trails, and municipal green space parks and preserves.

Pinellas County Boat Ramps map, August 2006. Pinellas County Planning Department.

This map locates public and private access boat ramps.

Marinas in Pinellas County map, May 2006. Pinellas County Planning Department.

This map locates marinas.

Pinellas County Marina Facilities Summary, 2005. Pinellas County Planning Department.

The summary contains a comparison of the number of Pinellas County marina boat slips in 1996 to the number of slips in 2005. This comparison includes totals for commercial public access marinas, private membership marinas, hotel/resort marinas, and government-owned facilities.

Pinellas County Marina Inventory as of June 2006. Pinellas County Planning Department.

This inventory contains commercial public access marinas, private membership marinas, hotel/resort marinas, and government-owned facilities by location and jurisdiction with inventory of amenities at each marina.

Inventory of Boat Ramps by Municipality as of July 2006. Pinellas County Planning Department.

This inventory contains a list of municipal boat ramps and private boat ramps by jurisdiction.

Annual Report 2000, Environmental Lands Division, Department of Environmental Management, Pinellas County.

Contains a list and map of preserves and management areas.

Annual Report 2001, Environmental Lands Division, Department of Environmental Management, Pinellas County.

Contains a list and map of environmental lands. 2000 report has more detail.

2002 Annual Report, Department of Environmental Management, Pinellas County.

Contains a list of programs in water resources management, pollution prevention, and air quality.

Beach Access Guide, Pinellas County, Departments of Public Works and Coastal Management, and the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

This guide contains a list of beach access points and available parking, organized by municipality.

State & Regional Data Sources

Florida Sea Grant Program

A Recreational Boating Characterization for Tampa and Sarasota Bays, by Charles Sidman, Timothy Fik, and Bill Sargent, Florida Sea Grant Program, August 2004.

This report addresses boating patterns, identifies problems and potential solutions, and may be of use to municipalities with docks, boat ramps, marina, and shorelines in boating areas. The maps may be useful in addressing shoreline use conflicts.

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)

Florida Forever Work Plan. Annual Update 2005. Southwest Florida Water Management District.

This report discusses projects approved for Florida Forever grant dollars in Pinellas County. These projects may be related to recreation inventory or intergovernmental coordination efforts.

University of South Florida

List of all water bodies in Pinellas County and links to further information on each. Includes links to a summary of land use and land cover in each watershed.

<http://www.pinellas.wateratlas.usf.edu/navigator/waterbodylist2.asp>

Department of Environmental Protection

Coastal Construction Control Line county map for Pinellas County.

<http://bcs.dep.state.fl.us/100ystrm/s-west.pdf>

Strategic Beach Management Plan: Southwest Gulf Coast Region

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/publications/pdf/sw-gulf.pdf>

The ‘Pinellas County Recreation & Open Space Inventory’ table below contains information about Pinellas County recreation and open space facilities located in both incorporated and unincorporated portions of the county.

Table 1. Pinellas County Recreation & Open Space Inventory

Jurisdiction/ Location	Recreation Facility or Open Space	Type	Size	Amenities
Pinellas County/ Belleair Bluffs	Belleair Boat ramp	Boat ramp park	5 acres	Boat ramp
Pinellas County/ Clearwater	Allen’s Creek	Resource based	35 acres	Open space preserve
Pinellas County/ Clearwater	Long Branch	Resource based	23 acres	Open space preserve
Pinellas County/ Clearwater	Sand Key Park	Beach park	95 acres	Shelter, picnic areas playgrounds
Pinellas County/ Indian Rocks Beach	Indian Rocks Beach Access	Beach park	2 acres	Beach facilities
Pinellas County/ Indian Shores	Tiki Gardens – Indian Shores Beach Access	Beach park	10 acres	Beach facilities
Pinellas County/ Indian Shores	Park Boulevard Boat ramp	Boat ramp park	6.5 acres	Boat ramp
Pinellas County/ Largo	Eagle Lake Park (under development)	Green space park	160 acres	Picnic areas, paths, shelter, playground
Pinellas County/ Largo	John S. Taylor Park	Green space park	156.5 acres	Paths, boat ramp, gardens, softball field, playground
Pinellas County/ Largo	Chester Ochs 4-H Educational Center	Neighbor- hood park	9.6 acres	Paths
Pinellas County/ Madeira Beach	Madeira Beach Access	Beach park	1.5 acres	Beach facilities
Pinellas County/ Oldsmar	Mobbly Bayou Wilderness Preserve	Resource based	300 acres	Fishing, canoe/kayak
Pinellas County/ Redington Shores	Redington Shores Beach Access	Beach park	3.5 acres	Beach facilities
Pinellas County/ St. Petersburg	Sawgrass Lake Park	Green space park	390 acres	Environmental education, paths
Pinellas County/ St. Petersburg	Joe’s Creek Greenway	Neighbor- hood park	200 acres	Paths
Pinellas County/ St. Petersburg	Weedon Island Preserve	Resource based	1,013 acres	Fishing, picnic areas, canoe/kayak, historic site, paths
Pinellas County/ St. Petersburg	Joe’s Creek	Resource based	200 acres	Open space preserve
Pinellas County/ St. Pete Beach	St. Pete Beach Access	Beach park	5.5 acres	Beach facilities
Pinellas County/ Safety Harbor	Philippe Park	Green space park	122 acres	Boat ramp, archeological site, playground
Pinellas County/ Safety Harbor & Clearwater	Alligator Lake	Resource based	95 acres	Open space preserve
Pinellas County/ Seminole	Lake Seminole Park	Green space park	250 acres	Picnic shelters, boat ramp, playground

Jurisdiction/ Location	Recreation Facility or Open Space	Type	Size	Amenities
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Lake Seminole Equestrian Park	Special use park	38.5 acres	Riding trails
Pinellas County/ Seminole	Boca Ciega Millenium Park	Green space park	184.6 acres	Canoe/kayak, fishing, playground, paths, picnic areas, shelters
Pinellas County/ Tarpon Springs	Fred Howard Park	Beach park	155 acres	Gardens, paths, shelters, fishing playgrounds, softball fields
Pinellas County/ Tarpon Springs	A.L. Anderson Park	Green space park	129 acres	Boat dock, paths, playground
Pinellas County/ Tarpon Springs	Anclote Islands	Resource based	100 acres	Open space preserve
Pinellas County/ Tarpon Springs	Mariner's Point	Resource based	65 acres	Open space preserve
Pinellas County/ Treasure Island	Treasure Island Beach Access	Beach park	1 acre	Beach facilities
Pinellas & Hillsborough counties	Friendship Trail Bridge	Trail	2.5 miles	Multipurpose trail
Pinellas County/ Multijurisdictional	Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail	Trail	34 miles (existing) 47 miles (future)	Multipurpose trail
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated Crystal Beach	Live Oak Park	Neighbor- hood park	2 acres	Picnic areas
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	AIRCO Golf Course	Golf course	150 acres	Golf
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Ridgecrest Park	Green space park	23 acres	Picnic areas, playground, fishing, softball fields
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Dansville Pond Park (under development)	Neighbor- hood park	11 acres 7 of which are the pond	Picnic areas, playgrounds
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Walsingham Park	Green space park	354 acres	Picnic areas, playground, shelter, boat launch
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Walsingham Equestrian Park	Special use park	49 acres	Riding trails
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Pinewood Cultural Park including: Cooperative Extension Services, Florida Botanical Gardens, Gulf Coast Museum of Art, & Heritage Village	Multiple uses	148.9 acres total	Picnic areas, paths, historic site, education center, art museum
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Travatine Island	Resource based	80 acres	Open space preserve
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Cow Branch / South Bay	Resource based	95 acres	Open space preserve
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated Tierra Verde	Fort De Soto Park	Beach park	1,136 acres	Boat launch, fishing, camping, swimming, 4.2 mile trail
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated Tierra Verde	Shell Key Preserve	Resource based	1,800 acres	Boating, camping, beach access

Jurisdiction/ Location	Recreation Facility or Open Space	Type	Size	Amenities
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Lake Seminole Bypass	Resource based	160 acres	Open space preserve, linear park
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	War Veterans' Memorial Park	Green space park	122 acres	Memorial site, picnic shelters, paths, boat ramp, playground, trail
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated Lealman	Lealman Park	Neighborhood park	2 acres	Picnic areas, shelters, playground
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Lake Tarpon Northeast	Resource based	42 acres	Open space preserve
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated	Brooker Creek Preserve	Resource based	8,800 acres total – 7,787 acres (Pinellas County) 1,615 acres (SWFWMD)	Picnic areas, education center, paths, equestrian trails (12 miles)
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated Palm Harbor	Wall Springs Park	Green space park	195 acres	Paths, picnic areas
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated Palm Harbor	John Chesnut Sr. Park	Green space park	255 acres	Paths, boat ramp, shelter, playground, fishing
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated Palm Harbor	Pop Stansall Park	Neighborhood park	10 acres	Canoe/kayak, fishing, picnic areas, playgrounds, shelters
Pinellas County/ Unincorporated Ozona	Ozona	Resource based	8 acres	Open space preserve

Sources: www.pinellascounty.org/boating
[www.pinellascourt.org/park/PDF/ Park_Brochure.pdf](http://www.pinellascourt.org/park/PDF/Park_Brochure.pdf)
www.pinellascounty.org/trailgd/PDF/locator.pdf
www.pinellascounty.org/park/PDF/master_plan.pdf;
www.pinellascounty.org/environment/pagesHTML/envlands/el1000.html;

Collecting Recreation and Open Space Data

Using the table template provided below, select from Table 1 above all of the Pinellas County recreation facilities and open spaces within the limits of your jurisdiction. If there are recreation facilities and open spaces within your jurisdiction that are not included in Table 1, add them to the table. You should also consider regional facilities that are close to your jurisdiction. Facilities that are nearby very likely serve the people that live in your jurisdiction, and may contribute to the available recreation and open space for your community. Florida state facilities in Pinellas County include Egmont Key, Caladesi Island, Honeymoon Island, and the Skyway Fishing Pier.

Jurisdiction/ Location	Recreation Facility or Open Space	Type	Size	Amenities
Total Acres =				

Analyzing the Recreation & Open Space Data

- 1) Calculate the total number of recreation and open space acres in your table. Include municipal acreage and any other areas that have been annexed since the adoption of your comprehensive plan.

Total Acres = _____

- 2) Calculate the number of existing recreation acres per 1,000 persons in your jurisdiction. Include any population changes resulting from annexations since the adoption of your comprehensive plan. This is your existing level of service.

Acres / 1,000 Persons = _____

- 3) Compare your existing level of service to the adopted level of service in your comprehensive plan. Then answer the following questions:

- Is there enough existing recreation and open space acreage to meet or exceed your adopted level of service? That is, does the existing level of service meet or exceed the adopted level of service?
- Are the facilities adequate to meet the needs of present and future residents? Are the facilities in good condition?
- If there are deficiencies, what should be done to address them? Examples include construction of new facilities; provision of additional open space; provision of age-appropriate activities to meet the needs of a younger or older population.
- If new facilities are scheduled for construction, provide a schedule and cost estimate for them. You do not need to include repair, maintenance, or replacement costs, only costs for new facilities or expansions of existing facilities.

- Does the adopted level of service need to be modified to match the existing level of service? If you have less land than the level of service requires, do you want to reduce the level of service to match the available land? If you have more land than the level of service requires, do you want to ensure that this amount of land is available for future populations? Adopting a higher level of service ensures that there will be no future reduction without an amendment to the plan.
 - If your level of service is based on activities or facilities, rather than acreage, consider whether the level of service should be modified to address acres of land and not facilities. The state criteria do not require any specific approach.
 - If your jurisdiction will grow, how much land will be needed in recreation facilities and open space to meet the growth forecast at the adopted level of service? To determine the amount of land needed, multiply the population (in thousands) by the level of service standard and compare that number to the actual amount of available land.
- 4) After answering questions 1, 2 and 3, provide a brief narrative explaining the analysis and conclusions from the analysis.