

# 11 *Level of Service Analysis*

## **THE PROVISION OF RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE**

The following discussion is an analysis for the County's Level of Service for Recreation and Open Space for all County residents.

### ***Existing Level of Service***

A ratio method is used to calculate the existing level of service for Recreation and Open Space as follows:

Level of Service (LOS) =  
Number of Acres Available \* (permanent + seasonal countywide population)/1000

**Table 16** calculates the existing level of service for the Year 2007 and projects the level of service through the Year 2030. Pinellas County has chosen to include both developed parkland and its system of environmental lands in its level of service calculations. The County is unique in its commitment to make its wild lands available to the public, both through interpretation and sensitive controlled access consistent with management plan directives, in hopes of promoting environmental stewardship through environmental education and resource appreciation. The value of these lands goes well beyond the benefits of recreation and direct hands-on activities, even to those who do not visit them, nor plan to do so in the future. Research shows that existence value, the derived satisfaction from simply knowing that a resource exists, and bequest value, the knowledge that a resource is protected for the enjoyment of future generations, are important valuation factors (Loomis and Walsh, 1997). Regional parks and environmental lands also provide significant sources of open space and ample opportunities to enjoy distant vistas and expansive view sheds, the values of which are difficult to overstate in a mature, highly developed county. Park and environmental land acreages are summarized in **Table 17**.

### ***Adopted Level of Service***

The County's adopted level of service standard is 14.0 acres of parks and environmental lands, in combination, available for every 1,000 residents (permanent and seasonal). This means that the County is committed to maintaining, at a minimum, this amount of combined park and environmental land acreage.

Each municipality in the County also maintains an adopted level of service standard for recreation, including standards for the provision of facility-based recreation. Historically Pinellas County focused on the provision of regional resource-based, passive parks and preserve lands in the County, while the individual municipal governments have focused more on the provision of community and activity-based recreation. In addition to the recreation, park and preserve lands provided by County and municipal governments, there are also State parks and private recreation sites throughout the County, depicted in **Table 18**.

**TABLE 16****PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DEVELOPED PARKLAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAND ACREAGE PER 1000 RESIDENTS**

Year	2005	2010 <sup>1</sup>	2015	2020	2025
Population (Permanent & Seasonal)	1,022,889	1,044,186	1,060,405	1,072,527	1,082,463
Park/Environmental Land Acreage	<b>16,131</b>	<b>16,287</b>	<b>16,287</b>	<b>16,287</b>	<b>16,287</b>
Level of Service <sup>2</sup>	15.77	15.60	15.36	15.19	15.05

Source: Pinellas County Planning Department, 2007

<sup>1</sup> Includes acreage from Eagle Lake Park

<sup>2</sup> Level of Service: (acreage/resident population x 1000) = acres per 1000 residents

**TABLE 17****PINELLAS COUNTY DEVELOPED PARKLAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS**

<b>DEVELOPED PARKLAND</b>	
<b>Resource-Based Regional Parks</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
A.L. Anderson Park	136
Boca Ciega Millennium Park	187
Fort DeSoto Park	1,136
Fred Howard Park	155
John Chesnut., Sr. Park	255
Lake Seminole Park	259
Philippe Park	122
Ridgecrest Park	23
Sand Key Park <sup>1</sup>	95
Sawgrass Lake Park <sup>2</sup>	390
John S. Taylor Park	157
Wall Springs Park	200
Walsingham Park	354
War Veteran's Memorial Park	122
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,591</b>
<b>Multi-Use Trails</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Friendship Trail Bridge <sup>3</sup>	8
Pinellas Trail	342
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>Beach Access Parks</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Indian Rocks Beach Access	2
Madeira Beach Access	2
Redington Shores Beach Access	4
St. Pete Beach Access	6
Tiki Gardens/Indian Shores Beach Access	10
Treasure Island Beach Access	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

**TABLE 17** continued

**PINELLAS COUNTY DEVELOPED PARKLAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS**

<b>DEVELOPED PARKLAND</b>	
<b>Boat Ramp Facilities</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Belleair Boat Ramp	5
Park Boulevard Boat Ramp	7
Sutherland Bayou Boat Ramp	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Pocket Parks</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Crystal Beach	2
Joe's Creek	35
Lealman	2
Och's Property	10
Pop Stansell	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Special Use Lands</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Pinewood Cultural Park <sup>4</sup>	192
Walsingham Equestrian	49
Lake Seminole Equestrian	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS</b>	
	<b>Acreage</b>
Brooker Creek Preserve <sup>5</sup>	4,659
Mobbly Bayou Wilderness Preserve	396
Shell Key Preserve <sup>6</sup>	2,181
Weedon Island Preserve <sup>6</sup>	3,678
Other Environmental Lands <sup>7</sup>	898
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,812</b>
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE ALL CATEGORIES</b>	<b>16,131</b>

Source: Pinellas County Planning Department, 2007.

<sup>1</sup> Includes 5 acres owned by the City of Clearwater

<sup>2</sup> Land Owned by SWFWMD

<sup>3</sup> Includes both the Hillsborough and Pinellas sections of the bridge, all of which is maintained by Pinellas County

<sup>4</sup> Botanical Gardens, 135.4 acres; Cooperative Extension, 9.1 acres; Gulf Coast Museum of Art, 12.6 acres; and Heritage Village, 17.4 acres; Emergency Medical Services, 9.3 acres; and Animal Services, 7.8 acres

<sup>5</sup> Includes 2,862 acres owned by Pinellas County, 1,620 acres owned by SWFWMD and managed by Pinellas County, and 177 acres owned by Progress Energy and managed by Pinellas County. For Level of Service purposes, 3,623 acres purchased by Pinellas County Utilities are excluded.

<sup>6</sup> Includes Submerged Lands

<sup>7</sup> Allen's Creek, 33 acres; Alligator Lake, 61 acres; Anclote Islands, 15 acres; Cow Branch South Bay, 86 acres; Joe's Creek, 369 acres; Lake Seminole By-pass, 97 acres; Lake Tarpon Northeast, 39 acres; Long Branch, 16 acres; Mariners Point, 76 acres; Ozona, 8 acres; Travatine Island, 95 acres

**TABLE 18**

**COUNTYWIDE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE TOTALS**

Source of Recreation and Open Space	Acreage
<b>Federal</b>	180
<b>State of Florida</b>	
State Recreation Sites*	2,002
State Preserve*	177
<b>Southwest Florida Water Management District<sup>1</sup></b>	302
<b>Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners</b>	
Developed Regional Resource-Based Parkland	3,591
Environmental Lands	11,812
Other Developed Recreation Lands	728
<b>24 Municipalities</b>	5,767
<b>Private Recreation Sites</b>	5,318
<b>34 miles of beach area</b>	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,877</b>
29.21 acres per 1000 residents	

Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection Outdoor Recreation Planning Inventory, 2007 and Pinellas County Planning Department, 2007

\*upland acreage only

<sup>1</sup>Includes land not counted in other categories (e.g. Sawgrass Lake Park)



*Canoeing at Taylor Lake Park*



*Camping at Fort DeSoto Park*