

McGough Nature Park

**NATURAL RESOURCES &  
HAZARD ADAPTATION  
ELEMENT**



# NATURAL RESOURCES & HAZARD ADAPTATION

Largo Comprehensive Plan Element

## INTRODUCTION

Natural resources and physical features in the Largo Planning Area provide the basic foundation and framework for land use decisions. Our physical environment is a complex system of air, water, soil, vegetation, climate change, wildlife, and their habitats interacting with the often competing interests of society, economic opportunity, and the built environment. Because all, but 3.5 miles of coastal shoreline, of the City's Planning Service Boundary is shared with developed and redeveloping neighboring cities, the City of Largo's environment is significantly affected by outside influences such as, neighboring land use, transportation, development, and environmental preservation policies. In turn, the City is charged with State and Countywide mandates to preserve and improve the local environment. The quality of life and the health of our city relies on the natural environment for drinking water, food, energy, clean air to breath, protection from hazardous weather, outdoors recreation, and healthy ties to nature. With economic growth, quality of life, and long-term environmental resiliency aspects aside; Conservation (protecting and improving the City's natural resources for the future) is a required element of the comprehensive plan through Florida Statute Chapter 163 as an additional layer of support in the process of meeting the fully sustainable needs for current and future generations.



**“A hundred years after we are gone and forgotten, those who never heard of us will be living with the results of our action”.**

**—Oliver Wendel Holmes**

## KEY THEMES

- Air, Water & Soil Quality
- Fish, Wildlife, Plant Species & Habitats
- Environmentally Sustainable Growth
- Mitigating Flood Hazards
- Emergency Response

## CURRENT CONDITIONS

With city limits stretching from the banks of Tampa Bay to the Gulf of Mexico, the City of Largo's eastern and western coastal boundaries total more than 3.5 miles of shoreline and include more than 4,000 properties located in flood hazard zones. Scientific research shows a rise in local sea level and supports a trend that rising levels will continue, although the amounts and rates of rising is disputed and unknown. As the sea levels change, the number of properties located within a special flood hazard area is expected to increase. As an initiative to minimize the potential impacts and costs associated with the climate and geography, the City began participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1991. The NFIP standards are enforced to reduce the potential for flood damage and thereby help businesses and residents qualify for discounted rates on their flood insurance premiums through the NFIP Community Rating System. Without the discounted rates home ownership would be more cost prohibitive and the affected properties' values would decrease significantly.

The quality and availability of potable water will continue to be one of the City's most important concerns. While the local aquifers that Largo relies on to meet water needs are vulnerable to contamination, the City depends on neighboring jurisdictions to safeguard the water supply as well. Protecting and improving soil conditions, limiting stormwater contamination, and establishing open landscapes is important because of the impact on water recharge areas, as well as its contribution to the visual and physical character of the community. Pollutants in the air, such as the nitrogen compounds found in car exhaust help contribute to surface water algae, and can work their way into the ground water supply, adversely affecting water quality.

Air quality in Largo is affected by sources both outside and inside the City's boundaries. A focus to improve air quality in the region continues to decrease vehicle emissions by reducing traffic congestion and supporting multimodal transportation. City programs and initiatives such as the City's Multimodal Plan and expanding the urban trail network create alternatives to single occupant vehicle trips to reduce emissions, plans such as the City's community streets (complete streets) are in place to help make the multi-modal options more attractive. In addition to vehicle emissions, buildings contribute to air quality issues. The Florida Green Building and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) programs help reduce negative impacts by reducing the amount of power needed to operate buildings and using more sustainable materials than traditional construction.

Maintenance of environmentally sensitive features are not only important for the ecosystem, but contributes to the attractiveness of the community, recreation, tourism, and the prevention of severe developmental or environmental problems that may be difficult and costly to correct. Pinellas County is home to endangered and threatened fish and wildlife, and the West Indian Manatee's habitat is designated as critical. The City's coastlines are almost fully developed for residential use, recreation open space, and two nature preserves that include dense areas of environmentally critical mangroves and protected species.



## REFERENCE MAPS

**Map 2:** Largo Planning Area

**Map 3:** Activity Centers and Special Corridors

**Map 4:** Multimodal Corridors

**Map 7:** Roadway Level of Service and Jurisdiction

**Map 8:** PSTA

**Map 11:** Existing Urban Trails and Park Network

**Map 12:** Proposed Urban Trails and Park Network

**Map 13:** Evacuation Routes, Shelters, and Zones

**Map 14:** Brownfields

**Map 16:** Hydrologic Classification Groups – Soils

**Map 17:** Surface Water and Wetlands Land Cover

**Map 18:** Watersheds and Drainage Basins

**Map 19:** Special Flood and Coastal High Hazard Areas

**Map 20:** Well Use Permits, Septic, and Well Locations

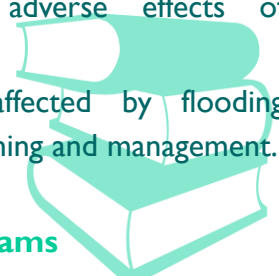
**Map 21:** Reclaimed Water System

## ASSETS AND COLLABORATIONS

Maintaining a healthy environment and reducing energy consumption is essential the health of Largo. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Largo’s ability to confront an environmental situation—pertaining to the numerous lakes and marshy areas – and harness water through the creation of Lake Seminole, enabled the city to grow and develop. Today, Largo is nearly built out at a time that the economy supports the redevelopment of obsolete building sties and infill of the few remaining vacant lands. With increased uncertainty about energy prices, supply and impacts, Largo can compete for new residents and investment by reducing energy consumption and diversifying our energy supply.

Largo today, embraces environmental stewardship by way of the Largo Environmental Action Plan (LEAP). LEAP will enable Largo to serve as a role model for green government by integrating sustainability standards, resiliency and environmental goals and models into our strategic planning and daily operations. LEAP focuses on greater internal collaboration and stakeholder engagement to develop more impactful actions across our organization. Derived from the mission, vision, values, Strategic Plan, and this Comprehensive Plan of the City of Largo, the Natural Resources Element aims to serve the community, manage air, energy, soil, wildlife, water resources and climate change through a number of efforts including, but not limited to:

- Support and implement policies and programs to reduce Largo’s carbon footprint;
- Protect the quality of Largo’s water;
- Protect and preserve the availability and quality of soil as a resource;
- Protect wildlife and plant species listed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission;
- Promote environmentally sustainable growth and minimize the adverse effects of development; and
- Reduce the risks affected by flooding through property planning and management.



### A. Initiatives and Programs

- 2018 Largo Environmental Action Plan (LEAP)
- City of Largo Brownfield Redevelopment Program
- City of Largo Comprehensive Development Code (CDC)
- City of Largo Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

- City of Largo Multimodal Plan
- City of Largo Strategic Plan
- Clearwater-Largo Road Community Redevelopment District Plan
- Community Rating System (CRS)
- Floodplain Management Plan (Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy)
- Florida Green Building Program
- Forward Pinellas (MPO) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Special Area Plan for the Largo Mall Activity Center
- University of Florida Food Institute and Agricultural Sciences Program (UF/IFAS)
- West Bay Drive Community Redevelopment District Plan

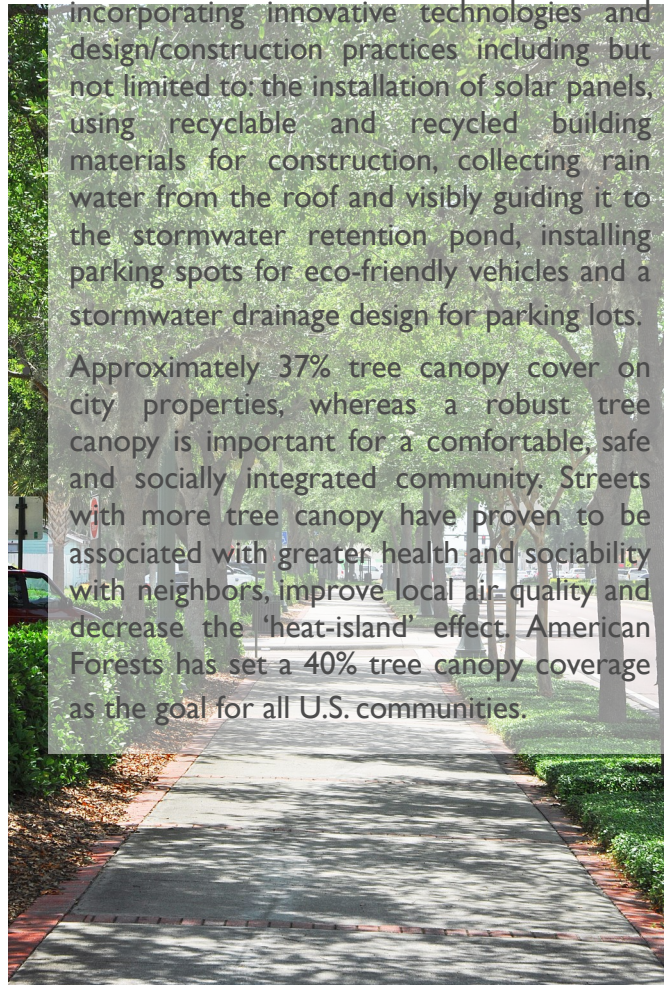
## B. People and Organizations

- Florida Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
- Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
- Forward Pinellas
- Pinellas County Extension
- Pinellas County Mitigation Strategy Working Group
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
- Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) - ONE BAY Resilient Communities
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)

## C. Places and Infrastructure

By way of this Natural Resources Element it is important that the goals, objectives and policies provide places and infrastructure for people now and for the future. The City continues to put into action the objectives of this element through assets such as but not limited to:

- McGough Community Garden, provides a catalyst for neighborhood and community development in addition to conserving resources. Community gardens have the potential to collect organic waste items and turn them into compost material for on site use. This could be managed with public/private partnerships at current community garden sites and would reduce the cost of disposal for the City.
- Largo Community Center, an approximately 30,000 square foot, LEED certified building



incorporating innovative technologies and design/construction practices including but not limited to: the installation of solar panels, using recyclable and recycled building materials for construction, collecting rain water from the roof and visibly guiding it to the stormwater retention pond, installing parking spots for eco-friendly vehicles and a stormwater drainage design for parking lots.

Approximately 37% tree canopy cover on city properties, whereas a robust tree canopy is important for a comfortable, safe and socially integrated community. Streets with more tree canopy have proven to be associated with greater health and sociability with neighbors, improve local air quality and decrease the 'heat-island' effect. American Forests has set a 40% tree canopy coverage as the goal for all U.S. communities.

- Largo Central Park Nature Preserve, a 31-acre nature park virtually surrounded by water. The park is home to hundreds of wildlife species for viewing. Over 130 species of birds, otters, red fox, American alligator, marsh rabbits, wild turkey, and bats all feed or live within the park. A 5-mile kayak/canoe route begins at the park and ends at Park Boulevard.
- Largo's street sweepers currently prevent nearly 5,000 pounds of nutrients annually from entering our waterways.

## OPPORTUNITIES

The Natural Resources Element encompasses multiple strategies that may help preserve and improve the environment for current and future generations. Over the next phase of plan implementation, the community and city government will use Forwarding Our Future 2040 to focus on common goals that will support a sustainable environment in order to meet the current needs, standards and objectives. Largo has the opportunity to continue improving its environmental performance by leveraging environmentally compatible land use designations, effective (multi-agency collaboratives) multimodal transportation improvement plans with development regulations and initiatives.

Opportunities may be found through:

- Continuing to implement the Community Streets program to provide safe and efficient multimodal routes along constrained right of ways that cannot be expanded to accommodate additional automobiles to reduce congestion and emissions;
- Continuing to protect wetlands from development, mangroves' ability to repopulate, endangered species habitats, and environmentally sensitive areas through the CDC;

- Mixing compatible land uses and increasing density to reduce emissions by eliminating dependency on or duration of single purpose and single occupant vehicle trips through making walking and bicycling more convenient and attractive options;
- Collaborating with State and Regional agencies to better integrate transportation options through and about the city by foot, bike, transit, and personal automobile;
- Encouraging sustainable development practices;
- Ensuring resiliency to climate change and natural disasters;
- Limiting development density in Coastal High Hazard Areas;
- Providing flexibility in development review to support and establish sustainable development patterns; and
- Collaborating with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's ONE BAY Resilient Communities to better coordinate the development of hazard mitigation/risk reduction policies, strategies and best practices that are regionally relevant and consistent across jurisdictional boundaries.



City of Largo

**FORWARDINGOUR**

Comprehensive  
Plan

**FUTURE**







# SOLUTIONS:

**GOAL I:** To be a sustainable, livable, and resilient City that is a leader in conserving, protecting and enhancing natural resources and their associated systems.

**OBJECTIVE I.1:** Support and implement policies and programs that reduce the City's **carbon footprint** and protect or improve air quality.



**Strategies:**

- ◆ Monitor the Pinellas County Conformity Determination Annual Report for the Forward Pinellas (MPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to ensure air quality standards are being met; and
- ◆ Realizing that air quality and the effects of transportation and land use decisions do not end at the City's boundaries, collaborate with other governmental entities and organizations to develop and implement best management practices to lessen the negative effects of human activity.

**POLICIES**

**It shall be the policy of the City to:**

I.1.1: Advance transportation and land-use choices that reduce auto dependency, fossil fuel use, and

the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by:

- ◆ Providing diverse, efficient and equitable choices of transportation options;
- ◆ Promoting programs that encourage transit use, ride sharing, and employer based strategies;
- ◆ Establishing a network of community streets that promote multimodal transportation;
- ◆ Promoting mixed land use development;
- ◆ Creating activity centers and mixed-use corridors;
- ◆ Increasing residential density near activity and employment centers; and
- ◆ Promoting infrastructure supporting alternative fuels and zero emission vehicles.

I.1.2: Collaborate with entities such as the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA), Forward Pinellas, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), and Pinellas County to develop a safe and efficient transportation network that reduces the need for automobiles.

I.1.3: Encourage the use of clean alternative energy sources and technologies to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and conserve energy.

I.1.4: Continue to offer energy conservation and efficiency information to residents and businesses to reduce energy use.

I.1.5: Encourage greener, more efficient sustainable and climate resilient construction practices and building standards, such as the **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design**



**(LEED) and Florida Green Building**, for public and private buildings as well as city-funded housing projects.



**1.1.6:** Strengthen the local economy by promoting green industries and green-collar work training programs in order to: create resiliency; reduce reliance on fossil-fuel-based economies; advance the use of sustainable materials, technologies and services; and encourage local jobs in sustainable businesses which offer a living wage.

**1.1.7:** Collaborate with Forward Pinellas and Pinellas County to comply with all state and national **ambient air standards** and support state and federal agencies in monitoring and enforcing air quality.



**1.1.8:** Prohibit open air burning of rubbish.

**1.1.9:** Protect, preserve, and expand Largo's tree canopy by:

- ◆ Planting street trees on the 6,000 vacant tree sites along City roads;
- ◆ Encouraging citizen led tree planting programs for private land; and
- ◆ Improving public tree management through the development of a complete inventory and a management and pruning plan.

**1.1.10:** Support programs which encourage and support composting, community garden networks, and local food production through increased collaboration with Pinellas County Extension and the **University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Program (UF/IFAS)**.

  
 Limits set by the EPA per the Clean Air Act, as amended, for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment.

**OBJECTIVE 1.2:** Protect the quality of our water to ensure the availability of this resource for present and future generations.

**Strategies:**

- ◆ Continue public awareness programs to educate residents on what they can do to help improve water quality;
- ◆ Coordinate with regional efforts on the continuous data collection to help predict and track the impacts of sea-level rise on groundwater levels and drainage infrastructure; and
- ◆ Continue to develop and implement plans that address improving water quality and monitor progress.

## POLICIES

It shall be the policy of the City to:

- 1.2.1: Protect water quality and promote conservation by supporting the policies contained within the Potable Water/Water Conservation, Sanitary Sewer, and Stormwater Subelements.
- 1.2.2: Prevent contamination of surface and groundwater resources by identifying and eliminating the use of septic systems within the City's Planning Service Area (PSA) through the extension of the City's Sanitary Sewer System.
- 1.2.3: Continue to support water quality monitoring by local, state, and federal agencies that will help identify and formulate plans to address point and non-point source pollution.
- 1.2.4: Collaborate with local, regional, state and federal partner agencies to understand the potential impacts of sea-level rise and climate change on the region's water resources.

**OBJECTIVE 1.3:** Protect and preserve the availability and quality of soil as a resource for its ability to sustain healthy plant, animal and human life.

### Strategies:

- ◆ Use native plant species as ground cover to prevent soil erosion; and
- ◆ In coordination with other local agencies, promote proper disposal of hazardous waste in order to reduce illegal dumping and soil contamination.

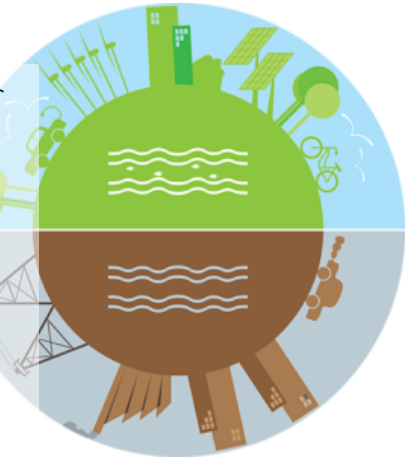
## POLICIES

It shall be the policy of the City to:

- 1.3.1: Require developments in areas suspected to possess severe soil limitations and/or hazardous contaminants to provide additional documentation supporting the development capability of the site: conduct an environmental assignment; and mitigate.
- 1.3.2: Promote the **Brownfield Redevelopment Program** to eradicate perceived environmental contamination in the soil and encourage the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield properties in Largo.



Today, the City has several designated brownfield sites and continues to work with private land owners who have identified conditions that make redevelopment of properties difficult. Photo Credit Saint Paul Port Authority.



- 1.3.3: Limit the adverse impacts of development on soils by integrating on-site landscaping and buffering areas with drainage facilities.
- 1.3.4: Minimize soil erosion through application of appropriate conservation practices such as:
  - ◆ Planting vegetation as ground cover;

- ◆ Applying mulches;
- ◆ Matting the soil; and
- ◆ Terracing.

1.3.5: Prevent soil contamination through the appropriate use, storage and disposal of toxic substances.

1.3.6: Promote the use of native and naturalized plant species in order to cultivate regionally appropriate soil conditions.

**OBJECTIVE 1.4:** Protect wildlife and plant species listed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and conserve the habitats upon which they depend in order to maintain balanced ecosystems.

**Strategies:**

- ◆ *Properly manage the City’s nature preserves and parks and protect the wildlife that lives there; and*
- ◆ *Promote natural corridors for species to migrate through and across the City.*

**POLICIES**

**It shall be the policy of the City to:**

1.4.1: Cooperate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to ensure protection of species and habitats of fish and wildlife that meet criteria to be listed as federally endangered, federally threatened, state threatened, or Species of Special Concern.

1.4.2: Ensure protection of native wildlife and plant species through the enforcement of regulations and proper management of the City’s natural preserves and parks.

1.4.3: Prohibit mangrove removal and require compliance with state and local pruning procedures.

1.4.4: Ensure the stability and sustainability of estuarine environments by monitoring their freshwater sources.

1.4.5: Promote a climate resilient landscape by using native species corridors in connection with local municipalities.

**OBJECTIVE 1.5:** Support environmentally sustainable growth and minimize the adverse effects of development on the natural environment and associated systems through enforcement of Forwarding Our Future 2040 and the Comprehensive Development Code.

**Strategies:**

- ◆ *Maintain qualified, knowledgeable, multi-disciplinary staff who act as both advocates for and stewards of the city’s natural resources; and*
- ◆ *Amend Forwarding Our Future 2040 and Comprehensive Development Code, as needed, to respond to changing statutes or priorities.*

**POLICIES**

**It shall be the policy of the City to:**

1.5.1: Protect environmentally sensitive areas by:

- ◆ Restricting development to passive recreational uses that are compatible with the natural surroundings;
- ◆ Designating the property with the Preservation (P) future land use category; and
- ◆ Utilization of the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) process.

1.5.2: Ensure that any areas eligible for environmental protection in Pinellas County will remain protected upon annexation in the City.

1.5.3: Ensure the protection of wetlands by applying the following policies:

- ◆ Prohibit development which encroaches upon wetlands, except in cases of overriding public interest, or where it would result in a loss of all reasonable use of the property;
- ◆ Prohibit development to cause a net loss of wetland acreage or function;
- ◆ Require developers, through the development process, to conduct field determinations for the actual wetland boundaries when the mapped delineation is inconclusive; create and maintain minimum width vegetative buffers along the perimeter; and establish conservation easements to protect these resources; and
- ◆ If needed, require developers of land containing or adjacent to wetlands to complete a comprehensive wetland analysis which identifies the type, value, function, size, condition, location, and mitigation strategies.

1.5.4: Avoid development or require mitigation, where appropriate, in areas containing native vegetative communities, terrestrial, marine, estuarine and aquatic habitats, and wildlife species.

1.5.5: Require removal of all invasive exotic vegetation as a condition of a development order or development permit.

1.5.6: Continue to pursue the source reductions, reuse, recycling and recovery methods of the solid waste collections system, consistent with the Solid Waste Subelement.

**GOAL 2:** Reduce the risk of damage and loss of people, property, and the natural environment due to flooding resulting from high-tide events, storm surge, flash floods, stormwater runoff, and other impacts related to sea level rise and climate change through proper planning and management.

**OBJECTIVE 2.1:** (Re)development within the City's Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) shall be managed to reduce risk and loss.

**Strategies:**

- ◆ Take steps to reduce density within the CHHA; and
- ◆ Thoroughly evaluate all CHHA development proposals to ensure compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations.

**POLICIES**

**It shall be the policy of the City to:**

2.1.1: The Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) shall be defined as the area below the elevation of the Category I storm surge line as established by the most recent Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH)

computerized storm surge model.

2.1.2: In an effort to reduce risk and loss within the CHHA, the City will evaluate applications for (re) development and future land use designation amendments for compliance with Forwarding Our Future 2040, other appropriate plans, the City's National Flood Insurance Policy (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), and Floodplain Management Plan.

In addition, the following balancing criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

- A. Access to Emergency Shelter Space and Evacuation Routes – The uses associated with the requested amendment will have access to adequate emergency shelter space as well as evacuation routes with adequate capacities and evacuation clearance times.
- B. Utilization of Existing and Planned Infrastructure – The requested amendment will result in the utilization of existing infrastructure, as opposed to requiring the expenditure of public funds for the construction of new, unplanned infrastructure with the potential to be damaged by coastal storms.
- C. Utilization of Existing Disturbed Areas – The requested amendment will result in the utilization of existing disturbed areas as opposed to natural areas that buffer existing development from coastal storms.
- D. Maintenance of Scenic Qualities and Improvement of Public Access to Water – The requested amendment will result in the maintenance of scenic qualities, and the improvement of public access, to the Gulf of Mexico, inland waterways, and Tampa Bay.

E. Water Dependent Use – The requested amendment is for uses which are water dependent.

F. Part of Community Redevelopment Plan – The requested amendment is included in a Community Redevelopment Plan, as defined by Florida Statutes for a designated redevelopment area.

G. Overall Reduction of Density or Intensity – The requested amendment would result in an increase in density or intensity on a single parcel, in concert with corollary amendments which result in the overall reduction of development density or intensity in the surrounding CHHA.

H. Clustering of Uses – The requested amendment within the CHHA provides for the clustering of uses on a portion of the site outside the CHHA.

I. Integral Part of Comprehensive Planning Process – The requested amendment has been initiated by the City as an integral part of its comprehensive planning process, consistent with the comprehensive plan.

2.1.3: The flood-resistant construction requirements contained in the Florida Building Code and applicable floodplain management regulations relating to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), or more stringent controls, shall continue to be applied to (re)development within the CHHA.

2.1.4: Limit residential development, including mobile home/ manufactured home development, and siting of new/expansion of critical care facilities in the CHHA

2.1.5: Limit public expenditures that subsidize development permitted in the CHHA, except for the restoration or enhancement of natural resources.

2.1.6: Utilize the City’s Comprehensive Plan, CDC, and other appropriate techniques to reduce unsafe conditions and inappropriate uses and limit redevelopment in areas of repeated damage caused by natural events.

2.1.7: Nothing contained within these policies should be construed as superseding or otherwise modifying the local plan amendment requirements of Section 163.3178(8), Florida Statutes.

**OBJECTIVE 2.2:** Apply sea level rise and hazard **mitigation** and adaptation strategies to protect people and property, ensure community resiliency, and reduce flood insurance claims.



The effort to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.

**Strategies:**

- ◆ *Develop recommendations for a citywide resiliency program designed to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change and integrate recommendations into City plans and programs;*
- ◆ *When possible, combine mitigation and adaptation strategies to increase results and make cost effective decisions for the long term; and*

- ◆ *Annually monitor the number of points received through the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.*

**POLICIES**

**It shall be the policy of the City to:**

2.2.1: Continue participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to achieve flood insurance premium discounts for City residents.

2.2.1: Continue to review inventories of repetitive loss properties provided by FEMA and continue to work with state officials to improve the process of reducing vulnerability and loss for listed properties, which may include acquisition and removal.

2.2.3: The City will continue to enforce building code and continue revising the Comprehensive Development Code (CDC) requirements to ensure non-compliant structures are brought into compliance with FEMA flood elevation or flood proofed standards.

2.2.4.: Identify threats to current and future infrastructure related to extreme weather, sea-level rise, natural hazards and catastrophes and minimize damage through design and retrofit, which may include elevating, hardening, or relocating.





- 2.2.5: Ensure that adaptation and mitigation strategies for extreme weather events and sea level rise are incorporated into other City plans, regulations, projects and programs.
- 2.2.6: Designate areas that are at increased risk of flooding due to, or exacerbated by, sea level rise over the next 50 years, and work to make these areas more resilient by discouraging density increases and using adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- 2.2.7: Seek out community input from vulnerable and historically disadvantaged groups in order to ensure equitable access to resources, reduce health disparities, and increase community resiliency.
- 2.2.8: Engage stakeholders, municipalities, regional, state, and federal partners, academia, and practitioners in exchanging information, best practices and policy solutions regarding local climate change impacts, mitigation, and adaptation strategies.

**OBJECTIVE 2.3:** Ensure all steps are taken to prepare and respond to emergencies.

**Strategies:**

- ◆ *Communicate and collaboratively plan with other local, regional, state and federal agencies on emergency preparedness and disaster management strategies; and*

- ◆ *Annually assess the City's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to ensure proper response to natural disasters.*

**POLICIES**

**It shall be the policy of the City to:**

- 2.3.1: Continue participating with Pinellas County and surrounding municipalities in the updating, adopting, and implementation of the Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS), contained within the Pinellas County Emergency Management Plan, Resolution No. 06-136 and ensure consistency with City plans.
- 2.3.2: Actively participate in hurricane evacuation planning with Pinellas County and other local, regional, and state organizations in order to improve existing evacuation routes and shelter spaces as depicted on Map 13: Evacuation Routes, Shelters, and Zones.
- 2.3.3: Prepare for and quickly respond to extreme weather, hazards, and catastrophes by creating, implementing and communicating contingency plans with smart and connected infrastructure and technologies.
- 2.3.4: Establish temporary restrictions in the LMS for the issuance of building permits for reconstruction and repair work that is not immediately necessary for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare during periods following a disaster.