

Environmental ~~Vision Statement~~Objective

~~Looking forward into the future, our~~The community is working to achieve harmony between positive development and ~~the nature~~natural; ~~The environmental quality of our air, water and soil has improved.~~; ~~The ensuring that the Bay bay~~ and the supporting water systems are clean and healthy, supporting growing wildlife and recreation. ~~Our within the~~The area of conservation and management of sensitive lands and species habitats ~~is a represent a~~ regional model. ~~An of~~ extensive, interlocking network of environmental resources ~~extends throughout the SouthShore area.~~

~~1. Sustainability Strategies~~—Manage environmental resources and species habitats to maintain, protect and enhance the flora and fauna using an integrated, inclusive approach.

~~1. Strategies~~

- ~~a. Support~~ ~~Incorporate~~ detailed refinement and expansion of the ~~approved~~implementation of the Hillsborough County Greenways Systems Plan map, ~~during Community Plan development, including future natural and recreational corridors~~and recommends further refinement and expansion as new development occurs.
- ~~b. Implement~~ ~~Support~~ the goals, ~~and objectives~~ and recommendations of the Greenways Master Plan, ~~within SouthShore, for new development and redevelopment.~~
- ~~c. Implement guidelines for new development and redevelopment to~~Encourage the ~~identify~~ ~~identification of~~ environmental linkages, and ~~integrate~~ ~~integration of~~ environmental resources (i.e. waterways and greenways) within prospective development plans.
- ~~d. Improve~~ ~~Continue local~~ efforts to control and eradicate invasive non-native plant and animal species on public and private lands ~~through: 1) by better coordination~~ ~~coordination~~ among county, state and regional agencies; ~~2); prioritizing~~ ~~prioritization of target sites for removal efforts,~~; and ~~3) increasing~~ public education ~~on invasive plants.~~
- ~~e. Enhance~~ ~~Support~~ participation ~~in~~ and ~~expand~~ ~~expansion of~~ opportunities ~~for use with~~ of the Hillsborough ~~B~~beautification~~al~~ and ~~Solid~~ ~~solid~~ ~~Waste~~ ~~waste~~ ~~Recycling~~ ~~recycling~~ ~~Program~~ ~~programs.~~
- f. Continue to identify, protect, acquire, and manage open space for the purpose of conservation, preservation, and provision of open space corridors, and park and recreational needs through programs such as the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection (ELAPP) Program.
- g. Coordinate with the land acquisition programs of regional, state, and federal agencies, such as [the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program \(ELAPP\)](#) Program, to encourage the connection of existing publicly owned parcels of land into a greenway system.

- h. Continue to work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (EPC), and other government agencies to insure the atmospheric purity of the air and soil ~~in SouthShore~~.
2. Water Resources Strategies – Properly manage water resources, water quality, water supply and water availability to sustain the community’s desired lifestyle ~~in SouthShore~~.
 - a. ~~Evaluate and Support the implementation of the~~ “Linking Land and Water Management in the Alafia River Watershed” and “Linking Land and Water Management in the Little Manatee River Watershed” reports ~~as endorsed by the Board of County Commissioners~~.
 - ~~b. Investigate septic tank usage as a contributor to groundwater and surface water pollution and develop a program to resolve septic use that contributes to water quality degradation.~~
 - ~~c. Identify and implement a process whereby permits that are issued by other agencies and that affect the County's participation under the National Flood Insurance Program are reviewed. Agencies that may be involved include the County Health Department for septic permits, the State Department of Transportation for roadwork and the Tampa Port Authority for dock, dredging, and rip rap permits.~~
 - ~~d.b.~~ Promote the use of and encourage adherence to the principles of the Florida Friendly Landscapes and the Florida Yards and Neighborhood programs to ensure excessive water usage is not designed into landscape plans.
 - ~~e.c.~~ Continue to work with Tampa Bay Water (TBW), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Environmental Protection Commission (EPC), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and other government agencies ~~to ensure the existence of an adequate potable water supply and to protect watersheds by maintaining water quality standards through comprehensive monitoring education and regulation in SouthShore~~.
 - ~~f. Continue to work with Tampa Bay Water, DEP, EPC, and SWFWMD and other government agencies to regulate and prohibit development that would significantly harm water quality or significantly alter volume or flow in the bay, rivers and natural systems of SouthShore.~~
3. Shoreline Accessibility Strategies - Maintain and/or obtain public accessibility ~~through emerging development~~ along ~~our~~ shorelines. ~~Such accessibility shall be~~ designed in a manner that protects the integrity of the natural system.

- a. ~~Inventory~~ Encourage maintaining an inventory of existing public access points ~~and determine if access~~, both parking and physical, ~~is sufficient to meet demand~~.
 - b. Utilize and enhance, where feasible, existing public access rights-of-ways and easements in shoreline areas.
 - b.c. Improve citizen awareness of public access to shoreline access.
 - e.d. Encourage regional cooperation with adjacent jurisdictions and the State ~~to provide new public shoreline access and enhance existing public access in order to ease overuse of existing facilities~~.
4. Phosphate Mining Strategies – ~~The~~ The community recognizes that mining of phosphate ~~in SouthShore~~ generates significant economic benefits. ~~However, the unregulated mining activity of the past was responsible for degradation of environmental systems. Guidance in the p~~Residents support planning, management and regulation of phosphate mining and land excavation ~~is necessary~~ to preserve and protect natural systems, and ~~within~~ emerging developments ~~in SouthShore~~.
- a. ~~Continue to support the multi agency regulation of phosphate industry mining activities~~.
 - b.a. Encourage a collaborative community planning ~~effort among~~between public and private sectors ~~whenever possible to initiate afor~~ long-term reclamation/redevelopment plans ~~for theof~~ phosphate mining and land excavation property ~~in South East Hillsborough Countyies~~.