# Florida Communities Trust Florida Forever Program

1. PROJECT NAM	1E
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Pasco Palms (Descriptive project name)

2. APPLICANT NAME

Pasco County

(Name of Local Government or Nonprofit Environmental Organization)

If Nonprofit Environmental Organization, also provide the required information requested on Exhibits M and N.

# 3. PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION

Is this a Partnership Application between two or more Local Governments or Nonprofit Environmental Organizations? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_X \_\_\_\_ If yes, provide the name(s) of the Local Government(s) or Nonprofit Environmental Organization(s). Also, provide an application transmittal letter from the partnering agency.

### 4. KEY CONTACT PERSON

**Note:** The key contact is required to be an employee of the Local Government or designated representative of the Nonprofit Environmental Organization. Identify only one key contact person.

Key Contact Name	René	W.	Brown	
	First	Middle Initial	Last	
Title Environ	mental Lands Program Manager			
		Engineering Services/Environmenta		
Mailing Address	4444 Grand Blvd			
City New Po	ort Richey	,	FL Zip Code <u>34652</u>	
Phone Number (72	27) 834-3670	Fax Number	(727) 834-3676	
E-mail Address	rwbrown@pascocountyfl.net		-	
Chief Administrator for	r the Local Government			
Name John J. (	Gallagher	Phone Number	(847) 847-8084	
— Note: If the Applicant's principal office address is a post office box, a delivery address is also required. Delivery Address				
City		, FL 2	Zip Code	
5. PROJECT SITE	LOCATION			
Note: Cite only one Sec	Section tion, Township and Range to indicate w (Township either North or South – Rang	<u>13</u> Township <u>26</u> where all or most of the project acreage is	Range <u>15</u> s located. Include all	
unecconar designations	(TOWNSHIP EILIEL NOLLI OF SOULT - Rang			

#### 6. TOTAL PROJECT ACREAGE

## 7. ACQUISITION TYPE

The Applicant **must** fill out one or more of the following acquisition types, as appropriate.

The use of *condemnation* or the *threat of condemnation* is not considered a Voluntarily-Negotiated Transaction. Parcels acquired under these conditions <u>do not qualify</u> for Acquisition or Reimbursement under the FCT program.

#### PRE-ACQUIRED

The entire Project Site has been Pre-acquired by the Applicant through a Voluntarily-Negotiated Transaction within **24 months** prior to the application deadline.

#### PARTIAL PRE-ACQUIRED

A portion of the Project Site has been Pre-acquired by the Applicant through a Voluntarily-Negotiated Transaction within **24 months** prior to the application deadline.

#### X REIMBURSEMENT ACQUISITION

The entire Project Site or the remaining un-acquired parcel(s) in the Project Site will be acquired by the Applicant through a Voluntarily-Negotiated Transaction and will be reimbursed by FCT after the Acquisition is completed.

#### JOINT ACQUISITION

The entire Project Site or remaining un-acquired parcel(s) will be a Joint Acquisition with both FCT and the Applicant participating in the Acquisition process.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of separate ownerships to be acquired within the Project Site.

**Note**: For a Project Site that consists of **eleven or more ownerships**, the Applicant will be required to act as the lead party responsible for the Acquisition activities.

### 8. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS

Enter an amount on each line and round to the nearest hundred dollars.

a.	Land purchase price (estimated or	\$ <u>800,000</u>			
<ul> <li><b>b.</b> Acquisition costs (estimated or actual)</li> <li>Cost of certified survey(s), appraisal(s), appraisal review(s), title report(s), \$<u>25,000</u></li> <li>title insurance premium(s), environmental audit(s), and</li> <li>Applicant's acquisition agent(s) fees or commission.</li> </ul>					
c.	Total Project Costs [Add a. and b.] \$ <u>825,000</u>				
9.	AWARD AMOUNT AND MATCH	Dollar Amount Percer	ntage of Award		
a.	FCT grant award amount (1)	\$412,500	50% (2 decimal places)		
b.	Match amount (2)	\$412,500	50% (2 decimal places)		
c.	Total Project Costs [Add a. and b.] (Should equal 8.c above)	\$ 825,000	<u>100_</u> %		

(1) The total amount of any Award or combination of Awards applied for by any Local Government(s) or Nonprofit Environmental Organization(s) under any Application(s) or Partnership Application(s) for any project(s) shall not exceed ten percent of the total Florida Forever Funds advertised as available for award in the Notice of Application Period announcing the cycle. In no case shall any Applicant be awarded more than \$10 million during any one cycle.

(2) A 25% minimum Match is required except for Awards to counties with a population of 75,000 or fewer, municipalities with a population of 10,000 or fewer, and qualified Nonprofit Environmental Organizations. Florida Forever Funds cannot be used as Match.

### 10. SOURCE OF MATCH

Check the appropriate response(s) below to indicate eligible source(s) of Match:

 X
 Existing or future cash from the Applicant.

 Value of real property owned by the Applicant in a qualified pre-acquisition.

 Note:
 Include lands within the Project Site that were Pre-acquired within 24 months prior to the application deadline that are to be used as part of the Match.

 Cash or grant from federal, state, regional, county, municipal, or other agency.

 Cash from a private Donation.

 Value of real property donated by the landowner in a documented bargain sale or Donation agreement.

*Note*: If the source of the Match is from a third party, provide documentation indicating source and amount.

### 11. OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

Have you applied for funding or received other grant funding for Acquisition for this project through another federal, state, regional, county, municipal, or other land acquisition program(s) or agency(s)?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_X\_\_\_

If yes, provide the name(s) of the agency(s) or land acquisition program(s) to which you have applied or received funding.

If you have or will receive other grant funds for the Acquisition of the Project Site, please provide a table listing the: Acquisition cost for the Project Site;

Funds the Applicant provided towards the acquisition costs;

Funds from other sources used in the Acquisition; and

The appraised value of the Project Site.

# 12. COMMUNITY PROFILE

Provide the following information for the Local Government where the Project Site is located.

Approximately <u>745</u> square miles.

Population: <u>424,355</u>

**Note:** Use the latest estimate of resident population from the most recent edition of Florida Estimates of Population, as published by the Population Division, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.

If the Project Site is located in the **unincorporated county** – complete the following information (use approximate percentages):

Existing land uses in the County are <u>32</u> percent residential, <u>19</u> percent recreation/open space, <u>1</u> percent industrial, <u>3</u> percent commercial, and <u>45</u> percent agricultural.

If the Project Site is located in an **incorporated municipality** – complete the following information (use approximate percentages):

The municipality is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ percent built out. Existing land uses are \_\_\_\_\_ percent residential land, \_\_\_\_\_ percent recreation/open space, \_\_\_\_\_ percent industrial, \_\_\_\_\_ percent commercial, and \_\_\_\_\_ percent vacant.

# **13.SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Please provide the following supplemental information:

a. The Florida House of Representatives district number that includes the Project Site: 45 & 46

- b. The Florida Senate district number that includes the Project Site: \_\_\_\_1
- c. The Regional Planning Council that includes the Project Site: <u>Tampa Bay</u>

d. The Water Management District that includes the Project Site: <u>Southwest</u>

## **OWNERSHIP AND ACQUISITION PLAN**

List all property owners and parcel tax identification numbers for all parcels. If the project has been Pre-acquired, provide the closing date and a copy of the signed closing statement on Exhibit P.

An Acquisition Plan is required for Project Sites with multiple parcels or owners to identify the priority parcel(s) and the general acquisition order of other parcels to ensure that, in the event that all parcels cannot be acquired, the purposes of the project can be achieved.

List the specific order in which the parcels in the project will be acquired. Acquisition of the Project Site will begin with the priority 1 parcel(s). Parcels may be grouped by priority and more than one parcel may be categorized as priority 1, 2, 3, etc.

The use of *condemnation* or the *threat of condemnation* is not considered a Voluntarily-Negotiated Transaction. Parcels acquired under these conditions <u>do not qualify</u> for Acquisition or Reimbursement under the FCT program.

Requirement: Provide a willing owner letter for all parcels listed below (Exhibit O).

Priority	Owner's Name	Parcel Tax ID Number	Date of Closing
1	Pasco Palms, LLC	13-26-15-0000-00200-0010	
	Owner's Mailing Address		Phone
	PASCO PALMS, INC 6809 NW 48TH LN	GAINESVILLE, FL 32653-3953	352-282-4616
Priority	Owner's Name	Parcel Tax ID Number	Date of Closing
1	Pasco Palms, LLC	24-26-15-0000-00300-0000	
	Owner's Mailing Address		Phone
	PASCO PALMS, INC 6809 NW 48TH LN	352-282-4616	
Priority	Owner's Name	Parcel Tax ID Number	Date of Closing
1	Pasco Palms, LLC	24-26-15-0010-00300-0000	
	Owner's Mailing Address		Phone
	PASCO PALMS, INC 6809 NW 48TH LN GAI	NESVILLE, FL 32653-3953	352-282-4616
 Priority	Owner's Name	Parcel Tax ID Number	Date of Closing
1	Pasco Palms, LLC	18-26-16-0050-0000-00A0	
	Owner's Mailing Address		Phone
	PASCO PALMS, INC 6809 NW 48TH LN GAIN	ESVILLE, FL 32653-3953	352-282-4616

Use additional pages if needed

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Priority	Owner's Name	Parcel Tax ID Number	Date of Closing			
	Owner's Mailing Address		Phone			
Priority	Owner's Name	Parcel Tax ID Number	Date of Closing			
	Owner's Mailing Address		Phone			
Priority	Owner's Name	Parcel Tax ID Number	Date of Closing			
	Owner's Mailing Address		Phone			

Use additional pages if needed

# **PROJECT SUMMARY**

*In the space below*: Provide a discussion of the purposes of the project, existing and future uses, existing and proposed physical improvements, natural and historic resources, and resource protection and enhancement activities. Include the size of any existing or proposed buildings. Indicate if any easements, concessions, or leases exist or are proposed. The project summary is to be no more than **one** page.

The acquisition of the Pasco Palms property will provide protection for 117.66 acres of natural and rapidly disappearing water frontage on the Gulf of Mexico in southwestern Pasco County. The property is adjacent to Eagle Point Park acquired jointly between Florida Communities Trust and Pasco County. Currently under private ownership, Pasco Palms was considered as part of the original acquisition for Eagle Point Park, but the owner was not ready to sell at that time. The County is currently under negotiations to purchase this property. This is an ideal opportunity to acquire one of the last remaining pieces of relatively unspoiled "Old Florida" coastal lands.

The Pasco Palms property features a diversity of habitat types including mangroves, salt marshes, and maritime hammock. These natural communities provide habitat for a diversity of listed species including the Scott's seaside sparrow, roseate spoonbill, and wood storks, which have been documented on the site. Many other bird species use this site including willets, killdeer, white ibis, egrets and herons. An active bald eagle's nest is located on the eastern portion of the property. The endangered giant air plant (*Tillandsia utriculata*) has also been documented on this site.

Due to the proximity of this site to other known nearby historical and archaeological resources along the coast, this site has high archeological potential. An archaeological and historic resources survey will be conducted to determine the resources present and ensure their permanent protection.

If the property is acquired, a management plan will be developed that will address land management, restoration and appropriate public access. Passive recreation compatible with conservation goals will be allowed on the property. Plans include a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile nature trail, a picnic area, educational kiosk, boardwalk and wildlife observation platform. Boundary fencing will be erected to limit use to foot traffic. The property will be accessible to the general public and schools as an educational outdoor classroom for ecological studies.

Residential development borders the eastern side of the property. By preserving Pasco Palms, the nearby communities benefit from enhanced recreational opportunities including hiking, nature study, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, bird watching and picnicking. Pasco Palms also provides an additional 117 acres of buffer from storm surge, and will benefit from stormwater improvements designed to enhance water quality and wildlife habitat through increasing tidal flushing.

These parcels represent some of the last remaining undeveloped land along Pasco County's coastline. Acquisition of Pasco Palms would greatly enhance Eagle Point Park, and is an important second phase of this FCT/Pasco County partnership acquisition.

### **PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Answer the following questions, as applicable to the proposed project. Where requested, provide references to the Local Comprehensive Plan, support documentation or attached Exhibits.

**Note**: Provide a response to each of the following criteria, either yes or no. If the answer to a criterion is checked **no**, move to the next question. If the answer to a criterion is checked **yes**, provide a response as appropriate and limit your response to **no more than**  $\frac{1}{2}$  **page**. Any criterion that is not addressed or is left blank will not be evaluated and no points will be awarded.

### (1) GENERAL CRITERIA SECTION

(a) Pre-acquired project: Has the **entire** Project Site been Pre-acquired by the Applicant within 24 months prior to the application deadline? (10 points)

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_X\_\_\_ If yes, provide a copy of the closing statement on Exhibit P.

(b) Is the Project Site part of a Phased Project that was previously acquired with FCT funds? (5 points)
 YES X\_\_\_\_\_NO \_\_\_\_\_
 If yes, identify the project number of the previously funded FCT project and describe the phased nature of the project.

This project is adjacent to the Eagle Point Park FCT No. 04-014 FF4.

(c) The Applicant is committed to providing: Check yes to only one of the following, if applicable.

(1) Local Government (medium to large):

Counties with a population of more than 75,000, municipalities with a population of more than 10,000.

a. A Match of 40 to 49% of the total Project Costs. (10 points)

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

b. A Match of 50 to 59% of the total Project Costs. (20 points) YES \_\_X\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

c. A Match of 60% or more of the total Project Costs. (25 points)
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

(2) Small Local Government or Nonprofit Environmental Organization: Counties with a population of 75,000 or less, municipalities with a population of 10,000 or less.

a. A Match of 10 to 19% of the total Project Costs. (10 points) YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

b. A Match of 20 to 29% of the total Project Costs. (20 points) YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

c. A Match of 30% or more of the total Project Costs. (25 points)
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

(d) Is this the Applicant's first Application to FCT or has the Applicant submitted previous Application(s) none of which were funded or if funded, no parcels were ever acquired? (5 points)

Note:	In the case	of a	Partnership	Application,	refer to the	Application	Instruction	Guide
YES _		NO	X					

(e) Will the project provide an alternative to the fee simple acquisition of land through the acquisition of conservation easement(s)? (5 points)

YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_X\_

If **yes**, locate the proposed area to be acquired in less than fee on Exhibit D, discuss the type and purpose of the conservation easement, and provide a letter from the owner expressing his willingness to sell a conservation easement over the parcel.

### (2) OUTDOOR RECREATION, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES SECTION

This section identifies whether Acquisition of the Project Site furthers the provision of Outdoor Recreation facilities and open space and the preservation of natural and cultural resources. All proposed recreation facilities are required to be designed with as minimal disturbance as possible to natural resources on the Project Site.

#### (a) Outdoor Recreation and Open Space

1. Will the project provide Outdoor Recreation area or open space adjacent to existing publicly-owned upland area, such as an existing park, museum, school, library, or public affordable housing complex? (5 points)

YES X\_\_\_\_ NO

If **yes**, identify adjacent existing publicly-owned upland area and locate the parcel on Exhibit K or other appropriate exhibit. Discuss how the adjacent parcel will be linked with the Project Site and how the proposed recreation or open space area will enhance the adjacent publicly-owned land.

The Pasco Palms site is adjacent to Eagle Point Park now managed by the Pasco County Parks and Recreation Department, and acquired in partnership with Florida Communities Trust. The proposed project will enhance the adjacent property by providing an additional 117.66 acres for outdoor activities such as bird watching, kayaking, and sports fishing.

2. Will the project include new or enhanced land-based nature, bike, equestrian, or multi-use trail(s) that is at least 1/4 mile in length? (5 points)

YES X NO

If yes, show the proposed trail on the conceptual site plan, Exhibit K.

Pasco Palms includes approximately 22 acres of uplands suitable for a walking/nature trail that will be at least <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile in length.

3. Will the project provide Outdoor Recreation facilities, such as a picnic pavilion, fishing pier, wildlife observation platform, playground, basketball court, volleyball court, etc.?

# Check yes to only one of the following, if applicable:

a. The project includes two or three Outdoor Recreation facilities. (5 points)

YES \_\_\_\_ NO

If yes, describe what facilities will be provided. Show the proposed facilities on the conceptual site plan, Exhibit K.

b. The project includes four or more Outdoor Recreation facilities. (10 points)

YES X NO

If yes, describe what facilities will be provided. Show the proposed facilities on the conceptual site plan, Exhibit K.

The proposed project facilities include a boardwalk, wildlife observation platform, permanent geocache, nature trail and picnic pavilion.

4. Will the project provide access facilities to an existing open water shoreline or beach, such as a fishing pier, observation platform, dock or dune walkover, and be managed for recreation uses? (5 points)

#### YES X\_\_\_\_NO

If **yes**, describe what shoreline access facility will be provided and discuss how it will be managed for recreation use. Show the proposed facility on the conceptual site plan, Exhibit K.

The boardwalk and observation platform will provide access to the shoreline, providing an ideal location for birding, wildlife observation and sunset watching.

5. Will the project further Outdoor Recreation or open space in an Urban Area?

a. Is the Project Site located within an existing Urban Service Area? (5 points)
 YES \_X\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
 If yes, describe the existing Urban Service Area. Provide maps and aerial photographs that support the response.

This project is located in a highly developed part of western Pasco County. It is located immediately adjacent to a retirement community and within half a mile of US 19, the busiest highway in Pasco County and a major thoroughfare for the entire west coast of Florida. Pasco Palms is one of the last remaining pieces of undeveloped land along coastal Pasco County. The project would be accessible to the public and would further outdoor recreation in an urban area.

b. Is the Project Site located within an Urban Service Area and also within ½ mile of a built-up commercial or industrial area? (5 points)

YES X\_\_\_\_NO

If **yes**, describe the land use within ½ mile of the site. Provide maps and aerial photographs that support the response.

Note: To qualify for this criterion, criterion 5.a should be answered yes.

The property is immediately adjacent to high density residential development (RES-9) and within half a mile of US 19 and dense commercial development. Please see map and photos in Exhibit H.

# (b) Connectivity

1. Is the Project Site accessible by an existing sidewalk or will be connected to an adjacent sidewalk? (5 points) **YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO** \_\_**X**\_\_\_

If **yes**, show the location of the existing or proposed sidewalks on Exhibits K and I. Discuss how the sidewalk will connect the Project Site to the surrounding neighborhood.

2. Is the Project Site adjacent to, or does it include, a Recreational Trail that connects to an existing local, regional or statewide land-based Recreational Trail System or the Preferred Routing for the Florida National Scenic Trail? (5 points) **YES X NO** 

If **yes**, identify the local, regional or statewide trail system and discuss how the project will enhance the system. Provide a map of the trail system and identify the location of the Project Site.

Note: A Recreational Trail does not include canoe trails, sidewalks, or bike lanes on the road.

According to the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization, there is a multi-use trail planned along Strauber Memorial Highway adjacent to Pasco Palms. The adopted trail map is included in Exhibit K. Additionally, the Greenways, Trails and Blueways map included in Exhibit K shows the alignment of a proposed trail along this route.

3. Will the project enhance or connect a local, regional or statewide Ecological Corridor? (5 points) **YES X NO** 

If **yes**, identify the local, regional or statewide network of Ecological Corridors and discuss how the project will enhance the network. Provide a map of the Ecological Corridor and identify the location of the Project Site.

This project is located within and will enhance the Coastal Marshes Ecological Planning Unit (EPU), an area identified as high priority for protection in the 2002 report by Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehart, Inc., *Assessment of Measures to Protect Wildlife Habitat in Pasco County*. According to the report, the Coastal Marshes EPU provides substantial wildlife habitat and should be a high priority for protection. Please see map and report excerpt in Exhibit I.

4. Will the project further a locally adopted Ecological Corridor or Recreational Trail System plan? (5 points) **YES X NO Solution** 

If **yes**, provide a copy or a portion of the locally Ecological Corridor or Recreational Trail System plan, including a map of the Ecological Corridor or Recreational Trail System, and identify the location of the Project Site.

The project will further the goals of the Coastal Marshes EPU as outlined in the Glatting Jackson report referenced above.

Specific conservation priorities within this EPU include conserving 95% of the overall land area, protecting water quality, eliminating additional impact to wetlands, and protecting remaining uplands. The Pasco County Board of County Commissioners accepted the Glatting Jackson study in March 2002 and it is the guiding document for the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program (ELAMP). The study also forms the basis for the Conservation Element of the Pasco County Comprehensive Plan, which specifically references the EPUs in the Summary of Conservation Issues, Objective CON 1.5, and Policy CON 1.5.1.

5. Will the project enhance a State Designated Paddling Trail by providing facilities, including a paddling trail sign, canoe/kayak launch, and restrooms? (5 points)

YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_X\_\_\_

If **yes**, include a commitment to provide paddling trail sign, canoe/kayak launch, and restrooms on the Project Site. Provide a map of the State Designated Paddling Trail and identify the location of the Project Site. Provide documentation that the trail has been designated by the Office of Greenways and Trails.

### (c) Educational Opportunities

1. Will the Project Site include an interpretive kiosk or interpretive signs intended to educate visitors about the natural environment or unique history of the area? (5 points)

YES X NO If yes, describe the interpretive educational signs to be provided.

An educational and interpretive kiosk will be constructed and located at the entrance of the property. The interpretive sign will include historical, environmental and other information specific to the site including rare and common bird and plant species, a trail map, description of the habitat types located on the preserve, and the overall importance of coastal conservation.

2. Will the Applicant provide at least 12 environmental or historical education classes or programs per year at the Project Site conducted by trained educator(s) or resource professional(s)? (5 points)

YES \_X\_\_\_ NO

If **yes**, identify who will be conducting the classes or programs; describe the classes or programs to be provided, and the frequency of the planned programs.

At least 12 events will be held each year on the property, such as staff and/or expert-led birding hikes, Florida native plant field trips, Audubon Christmas bird counts, coastal clean-ups and school field trips.

3. Will the Project Site include a staffed nature center, museum building, or Neighborhood Recreation Center to provide year round educational classes or programming? (5 points)

YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_X\_\_

*If yes*, describe the proposed facility, the size of the proposed facility, and who will provide the programming. *Note:* The facility should be a minimum of 1,000 square feet and no larger than 15,000 square feet.

#### (d) Natural and Biological Resources

1. Does the land cover on the Project Site consist of predominantly Natural Communities that have not been impacted by human disturbance or alteration? (5 points)

YES \_X\_\_\_ NO \_\_

If **yes**, describe the various Natural Communities on the Project Site, including the quality of the communities, and the approximate acreage of each community. Describe the extent and acreage of the disturbances or alterations on the Project Site.

Note: Predominantly natural equates to approximately 70 percent coverage.

The site includes a diversity of natural communities including: 43.02 acres forested wetlands, 4.58 acres mangrove swamps, 5.80 acres tidal flats, 37.53 acres of saltwater marshes, 8.56 acres of mixed hardwood conifer forest, and 15.60 acres of open water directly connected to the Gulf of Mexico. Please see Exhibit F for a map of the natural communities on the property.

2. Does the Project Site contain a Locally Significant Natural Area as identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory? (5 points)

#### YES \_X\_\_\_

NO

If **yes**, provide a map and letter from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory that the Project Site contains a Locally Significant Natural Area.

Due to the habitat diversity and quality of the natural communities found on the project site, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) has determined that the site contains a Locally Significant Natural Area. The report from FNAI is included in Exhibit F.

3. Does the Project Site contain Habitat recognized as typically suitable for one or more Listed Animal Species? (5 points) **YES X NO Solution** 

If **yes**, describe the Habitat on the Project Site and identify any listed species that may use the site as Habitat. Discuss the present condition of the Habitat, the approximate size of the Habitat in acres and how it will be protected and managed.

The site is extensively used by migratory and wading birds including an observation by the Audubon Society of 92 roseate spoonbills using the property. An active bald eagles nest is documented on the site where a breeding pair has been observed. The Audubon Society has documented the following listed species utilizing the site: reddish egrets, Scott's seaside sparrow, roseate spoonbill, salt marsh snake, Marian's marsh wren, and wood storks. During site evaluation, the Pasco County Environmental Lands Acquisition Selection Committee (ELASC) noted little blue heron, great blue heron, white ibis, bald eagle, willets, least sandpiper and nesting killdeer on the property. This project contains important saltwater marsh habitat for the rare Wilson's plover and black rail. The Maritime hammock community, along with the tidal swamp and associated seagrass areas, have the potential to support other listed and rare species.

4. Does the Project Site contain critical habitat typically suitable for one or more Listed Animal Species and is the site located in a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area, as identified by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission? (5 points)

# YES X\_\_\_\_NO \_\_

If **yes**, provide a map and letter from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that the Project Site contains a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) identified this project site as having important habitat for the Scott's seaside sparrow. Please see Exhibit F, which includes a letter and map from the FWC documenting the site as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

# (e) Vegetative Enhancement

1. Will invasive exotic vegetation be removed from the Project Site? (5 points)

#### YES \_X\_\_\_ NO \_\_

If **yes**, describe the type and extent of the invasive exotic vegetation on the Project Site. Describe what activities are proposed for removal and to keep the site free of invasive exotic vegetation.

Brazilian pepper and small infestation of lead tree is growing along the edge of the property, and will be removed from the project site. Environmental Lands Program staff will routinely monitor the property to promptly treat any regrowth and any other invasive species discovered on the property.

2. Will a significant portion of the upland area on the Project Site be planted with native vegetation? (5 points) **YES \_X\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_** 

If **yes**, discuss the approximate number and types of native plants to be planted. Show the approximate area that will be planted on the conceptual site plan, Exhibit K.

After Brazilian pepper removal, the areas previously infested will be replanted with appropriate native vegetation. Upland native vegetation will be planted where appropriate throughout the site, including at the kiosk and around other public use facilities. Please see the map in Exhibit K.

3. Will a significant portion of the wetland area on the Project Site be planted with native vegetation? (5 points)

#### YES X NO

If yes, discuss the approximate number and types of native wetland vegetation to be planted. Show the approximate area that will be planted with native wetland vegetation on the conceptual site plan, Exhibit K.

Native wetland vegetation will be planted where appropriate throughout the site, including the wetlands near public use areas. Supplemental plantings within the forested wetlands will also occur as appropriate. Please see the map in Exhibit K.

#### Water Quality (f)

1. Will the guality of surface waters or current flooding problems occurring on adjacent land or land in close proximity to the Project Site be improved by the installation of stormwater facilities on the Project Site that provide wildlife Habitat and/or open space in a park-like setting? (5 points)

#### YES \_X\_ NO

If yes, discuss the existing water quality or flooding problems. Describe the proposed stormwater facilities and how they will be designed to provide wildlife Habitat and/or open space in a park-like setting. Show the proposed facilities on Exhibit K.

Pasco County's Stormwater Management Division plans to replace the culvert at Sawyers Basin to increase the size to improve tidal flushing. This will improve water quality and thereby improve wildlife habitat. All improvements will be made in an aesthetically pleasing manner given the public use planned for the property, and will be designed to enhance habitat for wildlife. Depending on funds available, the culvert size may allow for passage via canoe or kayak. Please see map in Exhibit K and photos in Exhibit L.

2. Will acquiring the Project Site protect an adjacent Outstanding Florida Water, as designated by the Department of Environmental Protection? (5 points)

#### YES NO X

If yes, provide a map or other documentation showing that the boundary of the Project Site is located adjacent to an Outstanding Florida Water.

3. Will acquiring the Project Site protect adjacent Class I Waters, as identified by the Department of Environmental Protection, or is the Project Site in a locally designated wellfield protection zone? (5 points)

#### YES NO X

If yes, provide a map or other documentation showing that the boundary of the Project Site is located adjacent to a Class I Water or in a wellfield protection zone.

# (g) Historic Resources

1. Does the Project Site contain, or is the Project Site within 1/4 mile of, a site listed in the Florida Master Site File maintained by the Division of Historical Resources? (5 points) NO

YES X

If yes, identify the resource, show its location in relationship to the Project Site, and provide the Master Site File number.

The Division of Historical Resources (DHR) reported that there are nine archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project site. Several are within ¼ mile of the project. The report from DHR is included in Exhibit Q.

2. Will acquiring the Project Site protect a resource that is listed in the Florida Master Site File and also recognized by a local historic board or the Division of Historical Resources as being historically significant at the local, regional or state level? (5 points)

#### YES X NO

If ves, identify the resource, its location on the Project Site and document its historical significance. Identify which governmental agency, board or expert in the field identified the resource as being significant.

The archaeological sites identified in the vicinity of the project site are considered locally significant by the Pasco County Historical Preservation Committee. Please see the letter in Exhibit Q.

3. Will acquiring the Project Site protect a resource that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service? (5 points)

#### (3) COMMUNITY PLANNING SECTION

#### (a) Comprehensive Plan Implementation

For each of the following criteria that are furthered by the Local Comprehensive Plan, cite no more than five (5) relevant objectives or policies in each response.

If the response to a criterion is **no**, move to the next question. If the response to a criterion is **yes**, cite the objective or policy number and paraphrase the plan directive, provide a brief discussion of how acquiring the site will further the cited objective or policy, and include a copy of the objective or policy in Exhibit A. If a criterion addresses specific resources or facilities, they must be present on the Project Site in order for points to be awarded.

If the Project Site is located entirely in one Local Government jurisdiction, the Local Comprehensive Plan of the jurisdiction within which the Project Site is located shall be evaluated for scoring purposes. If the Project Site is located in two or more jurisdictions, the Local Comprehensive Plan of either jurisdiction shall be compared for compatibility and evaluated for scoring purposes. If either jurisdiction's Local Comprehensive Plan is furthered then points will be awarded.

1. Will the project provide acreage or outdoor recreational facilities necessary to maintain or improve adopted levels of service standards established in the comprehensive plan for recreation or open space? (5 points)

# YES \_X\_\_\_ NO \_\_

Numeric citation and summary of objectives or policies:

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT (Chapter 5)

Objective 1.1 Achieve and maintain the level of service standards for recreation and open space to meet the demands of the existing and future population of Pasco County.

- 1.1.3 Resolve, subject to the availability of appropriate revenues, future deficiencies in recreational facilities.
- 1.1.4 Continue to implement the adopted level of service standards for parks, recreation, and open space. Recreation standards include 0.5 acres per 1,000 persons for community parks.
- 1.1.5 Strive to implement the 2010 level of service standards for recreation and open space. Service standards include a 25,000 population per park for community parks.

Objective 1.10 Increase utilization of public lands within conservation areas for appropriate recreation and open space activities.

1.10.1 Encourage the use of publicly owned land within conservation areas for passive recreational opportunities, where appropriate, in settings designed to manage the natural resources on such lands.

Summary of how the project furthers the objectives or policies:

Pasco County has 869 picnic tables, 48 picnic shelters, and 93.6 miles of trails. The project will add one picnic shelter, three picnic tables, and at least <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile of nature trails, furthering the service standards, and providing recreational opportunities for a growing population. There is particular demand for recreational amenities in coastal areas of Pasco County.

2. Will the project further comprehensive plan directives that ensure Acquisition of natural areas or open space through public Acquisition? (5 points)

YES X\_\_\_\_ NO

Numeric citation and summary of objectives or policies:

#### **CONSERVATION ELEMENT (Chapter 3)**

Objective 1.1 Protect natural Communities including uplands and wetlands, connect natural linkages, conserve viable populations of native plants and animals, protect habitat for listed species, protect water resources and wetland systems, protect unique natural resources, enhance resource-based recreational opportunities, and expand environmental education opportunities.

1.4.1 a b c ELAMP was designed to: Protect natural communities including uplands and wetlands, connect natural linkages, conserve viable populations of native plants and animals, protect habitat for listed species, protect water resources and wetland systems, protect unique natural resources, enhance resource-based recreational opportunities, and expand environmental education opportunities. Provide opportunities for both existing residents and future generations to enjoy these lands for resource-based recreation and educational uses. Maximize the effectiveness of local tax dollars by using them to match funds available from federal, state, municipal, private non-profit, and Water Management District land acquisition funding sources.

Objective 1.5 To identify, protect, and conserve the natural resources with particular ecological significance within areas identified as Ecological Planning Units (EPU's) in the 2002 Habitat Study "Assessment of Measures to Protect Wildlife Habitat in Pasco County" and depicted in Map 3-3 Ecological Planning Units.

1.5.1 Pasco County shall evaluate opportunities to purchase lands or conservation easements within ecological planning units under the County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program.

Objective 1.4 Seek to permanently protect environmentally sensitive lands through the County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program (ELAMP).

### Summary of how the project furthers the objectives or policies:

The project furthers Pasco County's goal of acquisition and protection of environmentally sensitive lands through the ELAMP. The project also furthers the goal of protecting ecologically valuable land located in a designated Ecological Planning Unit. Through acquisition, the project protects natural uplands and wetlands, conserves populations of native plants and animals, and protects listed species habitat.

3. Will the project further comprehensive plan directives to provide new or enhanced public access to existing water bodies or saltwater beaches? (5 points)

### YES X\_\_\_\_NO

Numeric citation and summary of objectives or policies:

# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT (Chapter 5)

- Objective 1.5 Provide public access to all existing and future saltwater and freshwater beaches and shores.
- 1.9.2 Continue to identify and evaluate, for acquisition, lands adjacent to bays, rivers, and the Gulf of Mexico for use as public areas suitable for open space.

#### Summary of how the project furthers the objectives or policies:

With public access to shorelines increasingly limited, protection of Pasco Palms furthers the goal to protect land and provide new passive recreational opportunities on land adjacent to the Gulf. Hiking, picnicking, and nature study are among the recreational opportunities that will be provided.

4. Will the project further comprehensive plan directives that provide for creating new or enhanced Greenways, Ecological Corridors or Recreational Trail Systems? (5 points)

### YES X NO

Numeric citation and summary of objectives or policies:

#### **RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT (Chapter 5)**

Objective 1.6 Provide public access and connectivity for all existing and future trails, public parks, and recreational facilities through the year 2025.

- 1.6.6 Pasco County recognizes that trails, greenways, and blueways, are a component of the overall parks and recreation system of Pasco County. The planning and development of parks will consider the opportunity for connectivity to the overall trail/greenway/blueway system within Pasco County and the adjacent counties.
- 1.6.7 By 2010, Pasco County shall prepare a trails/blueways master plan in coordination with the Parks and Recreation Department, the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and a citizen's trails/blueways master plan committee The MPO's 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) trails component shall be used as an interim master plan for trails/blueways until such time as the trails/blueways master plan is complete. The MPO's 2025 LRTP trail network shall be used as the interim guiding reference for connectivity and access.
- 1.6.8 By 2010, Pasco County shall prepare a greenways master plan in coordination with Parks and Recreation Department and the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program.

Summary of how the project furthers the objectives or policies:

Pasco County has recently begun a Greenways, Blueways and Trails Master Plan with in-kind assistance from the National Park Service. All lands acquired by or on the priority list of the Environmental Lands Acquisition and

Management Program will be incorporated into the Greenways Master Plan. The Pasco County Board of County Commissioners supports this effort and has appointed 13 members to the Greenways, Blueways and Trails Advisory Committee.

The project provides for passive recreational opportunities that are compatible with conservation goals. Pedestrian trails will be low-impact and will be designed with minimal use of impervious surfaces (except where necessary for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act). The trail length will total at least <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of a mile and the trails will feature interpretive signage and an associated trail brochure.

The map in Exhibit K depicts the proposed alignment by the Greenways, Trails and Blueways Committee for a trail on or adjacent to the project. There are also plans for a blueway for canoes and kayaks along the waterways in this area.

5. Will the project further comprehensive plan directives that ensure the preservation of Natural Communities or Listed Animal Species Habitat? (5 points)

### YES X\_\_\_\_ NO

Numeric citation and summary of objectives or policies: CONSERVATION ELEMENT (Chapter 3)

Objective 1.1 Protect natural communities including uplands and wetlands, connect natural linkages, conserve viable populations of native plants and animals, protect habitat for listed species, protect water resources and wetland systems, protect unique natural resources, enhance resource-based recreational opportunities, and expand environmental education opportunities.

- 1.1.1a,b Implement a regional strategy for the protection of environmentally sensitive lands that includes the following techniques: Regulations that protect listed species, Critical Linkages and wetlands; Acquisition through ELAMP and resource based recreational opportunities and educational programs.
- 1.4.1a Continue to purchase environmentally sensitive lands through ELAMP which is designed to: Protect natural communities including uplands and wetlands, connect natural linkages, conserve viable populations of native plants and animals, protect water resources and wetland systems, protect unique natural resources, enhance resource-based recreational opportunities, and expand environmental education opportunities.

Objective 1.4 Seek to permanently protect environmentally sensitive lands through the County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program (ELAMP).

Objective 1.5 To identify, protect, and conserve the natural resources with particular ecological significance within areas identified as Ecological Planning Units (EPU's) in the 2002 Habitat Study "Assessment of Measures to Protect Wildlife Habitat in Pasco County" and depicted in Map 3-3 Ecological Planning Units.

1.5.1 Pasco County shall evaluate opportunities to purchase lands or conservation easements within ecological planning units under the County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program.

1.5.5 Pasco County shall require the evaluation and management and/or mitigation of impact to animals listed as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern within ecological planning units in accordance with Policy CON 1.1.2.

#### Summary of how the project furthers the objectives or policies:

Protection of the Pasco Palms property will further the Comprehensive Plan by providing habitat for listed species including reddish egrets, Scott's seaside sparrow, roseate spoonbill, salt marsh snake, Marian's marsh wren, wood storks, giant air plant (*Tillandsia utriculata*), little blue heron, great blue heron, white ibis, and bald eagle. Protection of habitat for these listed species will aid in recovery programs established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and other agencies. Protection of the property will provide a diversity of natural habitats for a variety of wildlife including many listed species.

Will the project further comprehensive plan directives that provide for coordination between the Local Government 6. and other federal, state and local agencies or Nonprofit Environmental Organizations in managing natural areas or open space or furthering the completion of the Florida National Scenic Trail? (5 points) NO

# YES X

Numeric citation and summary of objectives or policies:

# CONSERVATION ELEMENT (Chapter 3)

Objective 1.2 To identify and protect corridors or linkages that maintain a contiguous network of wildlife habitat between existing public lands as identified in the 2002 Habitat Study "Assessment of Measures to Protect Wildlife Habitat in Pasco County, "as Critical Linkages and depicted in the Critical Linkages map.

Coordinate Critical Linkages planning and implementation activities with the Southwest Florida Water 1.2.8 Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Army Corps of Engineers and adjacent counties and municipalities.

Objective 1.4 Seek to permanently protect environmentally sensitive lands through the County's Environmental Land Acquisition Program (ELAMP).

1.4.5 Continue to work with local, regional, state and federal entities that own land in the county to establish a cohesive plan for the ongoing management of these lands. Best Management Practices shall be used for control of fire, smoke and flooding.

1.4.6 Coordinate with other resource agencies, to evaluate mitigation opportunities that can support and reinforce the County's regional conservation strategy.

### Summary of how the project furthers the objectives or policies:

The site management plan will be developed following listed species management recommendations by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The Audubon Society will be consulted for recommendations on management for migratory and resident bird species, and the Florida Native Plant Society will be consulted for identification and management recommendations for rare plants. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) will be consulted as appropriate for management recommendations.

7. Will the project further comprehensive plan directives that provide for restoring or enhancing degraded natural areas such as restoration of Natural Communities, restoration of natural hydrology or removal of non-native vegetation? (5 points)

# YES X

Numeric citation and summary of objectives or policies:

#### CONSERVATION ELEMENT (Chapter 3)

NO

Objective 1.1 Protect natural communities including uplands and wetlands, connect natural linkages, conserve viable populations of native plants and animals, protect habitat for listed species, protect water resources and wetland systems, protect unique natural resources, enhance resource-based recreational opportunities, and expand environmental education opportunities.

1.4.3 Pasco County shall ensure the protection and proper use of environmentally sensitive lands acquired by the County through ELAMP or dedicated to and accepted by County within a Critical Linkage by developing environmental management plans. These plans should provide at a minimum:

- a. Maintaining hydrological characteristics.
- b. Removal or control of nuisance, exotic, plant and animal species.
- c. Preservation of native vegetation.
- d. Ecological processes, particularly fire, if applicable.
- e. Implementation mechanisms.

Objective 1.8 Prohibit the spread of exotic nuisance plant species and incorporate such programs into the management plans for newly acquired environmentally sensitive lands and development projects.

Coordinate with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the SWFWMD, and the FDEP in 1.8.1 eliminating exotic nuisance plant species.

1.8.6 Develop programs on County-owned or leased lands to eliminate exotic nuisance plant species and incorporate these programs into the management plans for newly acquired, environmentally sensitive lands.

#### Summary of how the project furthers the objectives or policies:

The management plan for Pasco Palms Preserve will include listed species management following guidelines set forth by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The management plan will also include invasive species removal and native plant replacement where appropriate. In particular, efforts will be made to remove Brazilian Pepper and Australian Pine from the Project Site and to carefully monitor the site to control any future infestations. Stormwater improvements will be made to improve tidal flushing and restore natural hydrology.

8 Will the project further comprehensive plan directives that ensure the protection or enhancement of surface water quality by addressing non-point pollution through enhanced stormwater treatment? (5 points) YES \_X\_\_ NO

# Numeric citation and summary of objectives or policies:

COASTAL ELEMENT (Chapter 4)

Objective 1.2 Enhance water quality through application of best management practices.

- Pasco County shall require all activities permitted and monitored by the Florida Department of Environmental 1.2.1 Protection and the Southwest Florida Water Management District as a source of water pollution within the Coastal Planning Area to establish and implement a Stormwater management system that complies with Chapters 62 and 40D-4, Florida Administrative Code.
- 1.2.2 Pasco County may encourage the use of altered, isolated wetlands within the Coastal Planning Area in conjunction with stormwater management plans as a means to limit off-site. Stormwater discharge into coastal waters in accordance with the Pasco County Land Development Code, except for wetlands within Critical Linkages, as shown on Map 3-4: Critical Linkages Map.

CONSERVATION ELEMENT (Chapter 3)

Objective 1.6 Maintain the quality and quantity of ground waters and surface waters.

1.6.2 Pasco County shall protect the 100-year flood plain and other natural areas which have beneficial hydrological characteristics through the Flood Damage Prevention section of the Land Development Code. Such protection shall include, but not be limited to, prohibiting new development which would have adverse impacts upon the 100year flood plain without mitigation, other than for roadways providing access across the 100-year flood plain.

FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT (Chapter 2)

1.2.15 Pasco County shall continue to require water guality and drainage control for all new subdivisions and site plans adjacent to water bodies to prevent unnecessary shoreline disruption and maintain water quality through existing Land Development Code provisions.

### Summary of how the project furthers the objectives or policies:

The replacement and enlargement of the culvert at Sawyers Basin will enhance Stormwater treatment and improve tidal flushing in the area. This will improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. There are ongoing efforts to reduce nonpoint pollution to protect surface waters in coastal areas through stormwater management.

9. Will the project further comprehensive plan directives that ensure the preservation of historical, cultural or archaeological features? (5 points)

**Note**: The site must contain a feature or have a high probability that a feature is present on the site.

#### YES X NO

Numeric citation and summary of objectives or policies:

# FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT (Chapter 2)

1.2.14 Significant historical and archaeological districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects, including but not limited to sites on the Florida Master Site File, shall be protected by implementing the following:

a. After identification of historical and archaeological resources, the County shall place such buildings,

structures, sites, districts and objects on the Pasco County Register of Historical and Archaeological Resources as such Register is established by resolution.

b. For archaeological resources not listed on the Pasco County Register, as part of all site plan evaluations, development shall comply with State law and guidelines for the investigation of archaeological sites and the lawful disposition of all artifacts found.

c. The County shall prevent the destruction or alteration of historic and archaeological resources listed on the Pasco County Register, the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places by cross checking all requests for development, re-modeling or demolition permits against these files. Where such resources are

listed on the Pasco County Register, a certificate of appropriateness shall be required prior to such permit being granted. For resources listed on either the Florida or National lists, the appropriate procedures shall be followed.

#### Summary of how the project furthers the objectives or policies:

The Pasco Palms property is within 1/4 mile of nine archaeological sites listed on the Master Site File and of particular interest to the Pasco County Historical Preservation Committee. Given this close proximity to the property, there is high likelihood of archaeological features occurring on the property. Once the property is in public ownership, a comprehensive archaeological and historical survey will be performed to determine the features on the property and to ensure their permanent protection.

10. Is the Project Site located in an area that has been identified for redevelopment in the comprehensive plan and

has been locally designated as an urban infill, urban redevelopment or downtown revitalization area as defined in Section 163.3164, F.S.? (5 points)

YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_X\_\_\_

Numeric citation and summary of objectives or policies:

Summary of how the project furthers the objectives or policies

### (b) Hazard Mitigation

1. Flood Hazard Area: Is all or a portion of the Project Site located in a coastal high hazard area or a 100- year floodplain? (5 points)

#### YES X\_ NO

If **yes**, provide a map identifying the 100-year flood plain or coastal high hazard area and location of the Project Site on Exhibit J.

A map showing the extent of the 100-year flood plain and coastal high hazard area on the project site is included in Exhibit J.

2. Designated Brownfield Area: Will the project provide recreational opportunities or open space within a state designated brownfield area? (5 points)

YES \_\_\_\_\_NO \_\_X\_\_\_\_ If the Project Site has known contaminants, discuss how the site contamination will be remediated to allow for the provision of open space or Outdoor Recreation activities.

#### (c) Priority Investment Areas

Review each of the following statements and check all that apply to the project. Responses without supporting documentation will not be evaluated and points will not be awarded. Will the Project Site provide new or enhanced Outdoor Recreation or open space within the following areas?

1. Front Porch Community: Is the Project Site located within a designated Front Porch Community? (10 points) YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_X\_\_\_

If yes, provide a map that identifies the boundary of the designated area and the location of the Project Site.

2. Florida Main Street Community: Is the Project Site located within an active Florida Main Street Community? (10 points)

YES \_\_\_\_

If yes, provide a map that identifies the boundary of the designated area and the location of the Project Site.

3. Waterfront Florida Community: Is the Project Site located within a current or previously designated Waterfront Florida Community? (10 points)

YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

NO X

If yes, provide a map that identifies the boundary of the designated area and the location of the Project Site.

4. I	Low-income Community: Is the Project Site located within a designated Low-income Community?	(10 points)
YE	S NOX	
If ye	es, provide a map that identifies the boundary of the designated area and the location of the Projec	t Site.

5. Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern: Is the Project Site located within a designated Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern? (10 points)

YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_X\_\_\_

If yes, provide a map that identifies the boundary of the designated area.

6. Urban Redevelopment: Is the Project Site located within a locally designated Community Redevelopment Area, as defined in Section 163.340? (10 points)

YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_X\_

If yes, provide a map that identifies the boundary of the designated area and the location of the Project Site.

7. Area of Critical State Concern: Is the project site located within a current or previously designated Area of Critical State Concern, pursuant to Section 380.05, F.S.? (10 points)

YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_X\_\_

# (4) PROJECT EXCELLENCE SECTION

Does the proposed project exemplify project excellence based on issues not adequately addressed by the evaluation criteria, such as whether the proposed project exhibits strong community-based support, possesses exemplary characteristics, highlights regional coordination in the protection of natural resources, assists an otherwise disadvantaged community, or voluntarily helps resolve land use conflicts? (Up to 10 points)

#### YES X\_\_\_\_ NO

If **yes**, describe how the project provides for other community needs in a manner that was not adequately evaluated by the criteria established elsewhere in this Application. Include documentation, if needed.

The proposed acquisition would enhance Eagle Point Park, a joint acquisition between Pasco County and Florida Communities Trust. Acquisition of Pasco Palms will provide an opportunity for passive recreation for the general population in a coastal area, and protect wildlife habitat for numerous listed species.

Below is a summary of the objectives to be achieved through this project:

- Prevent continued habitat loss or damage due to pollution or environmental degradation
- Improve water quality of the Gulf of Mexico
- Improve and protect an important coastal migratory nesting and feeding area
- Enhance and protect natural communities which have been identified by state or federal agencies as severely limited, endangered or threatened in Florida including costal wetlands, sea grasses, maritime hammocks and salt marshes
- Contribute to the recovery of a natural community or population
- Eliminate or significantly reduce a source of exotic plant species infestation and seed source
- Contribute to native species diversity in the region
- Provide environmental educational opportunities through activities such as coastal cleanups, bird watching, and fishing
- Enhance a unique and regionally scarce or imperiled community
- Provide an opportunity for passive recreational enjoyment to the community
- Provide an excellent viewing area for a variety of wildlife
- Provide storm surge protection.

These parcels represent some of the last remaining undeveloped properties of Pasco County's coastline. Acquisition of Pasco Palms would greatly enhance Eagle Point Park, and is an important second phase of this FCT/Pasco County partnership acquisition.

There is strong community support for the public acquisition of Pasco Palms. Letters of support from environmental organizations are included in Exhibit R.

### **REQUIRED EXHIBITS**

Each of the following exhibits is required to be submitted with the grant Application. Provide a label and tab for each exhibit and please ensure that all exhibits are legible and of an appropriate scale. If two or more exhibits are consolidated, make sure this is reflected on the exhibit label. If a specific exhibit is not applicable, include an exhibit page with a statement that it is "Not Applicable." Locate the exhibits behind the project evaluation criteria section of the Application.

# Exhibits

A. A copy of each Local Comprehensive Plan objective and policy cited in the grant Application that applies to the Project Site. Please highlight or underline the applicable plan directive being referenced.

B. A copy of all proposed Local Comprehensive Plan amendments cited in the grant Application that apply to the Project Site.

C. A United States Geological Survey 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-minute quadrangle map with the Project Site location clearly delineated.

D. A county property appraiser's tax map delineating the Project Site boundary, access points, names of property owners, parcel tax identification numbers, road names and ownership boundaries using an appropriate scale.

E. An aerial photograph at 1 inch = 2,000 feet or greater detail, with the Project Site boundary clearly delineated.

F. A map that depicts Natural Communities found on the Project Site, utilizing the classification system identified in the Florida Natural Areas Inventory publication "Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida" or other appropriate classification system. Clearly delineate the Project Site boundary and include the approximate acreage of each Natural Community on the Project Site.

G. A map that identifies any existing physical improvements, alterations or disturbances occurring on the Project Site, such as cleared areas, buildings, roads, fences, docks, power lines, billboards, borrow pits, etc. Clearly delineate the Project Site boundary and include the approximate acreage of improvements or disturbed areas.

#### Identify any existing or proposed utility, road, or other easements or rights-of-way on the Project Site.

H. A Future Land Use Map covering the Project Site and surrounding area that shows the location of the Project Site.

I. A map that identifies lands within a three-mile radius of the Project Site that are used for natural resource conservation and Outdoor Recreation, such as parks, preserves, wildlife management areas, Greenways, Recreational Trail Systems, etc. Clearly delineate the location of the Project Site on the map.

J. A map depicting the 100-year floodplain, the coastal high-hazard area or a wellfield protection zone with the Project Site boundary clearly delineated.

K. A conceptual site plan for the project that clearly delineates the Project Site boundary and shows the approximate location of all proposed facilities and improvements on the Project Site.

L. One set of labeled photographs of the Project Site, **to be included in the original Application**, that documents onsite features such as existing structures, disturbed areas, Natural Communities, and historical or archaeological features. Include a legend that identifies the site location and subject matter of each photograph. M. If the Applicant is a Nonprofit Environmental Organization, evidence of status of the organization, including documentation from the Internal Revenue Service that the organization is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization, a copy of the Bylaws, and a copy of the Articles of Incorporation.

N. If the Applicant is a Nonprofit Environmental Organization which anticipates being designated as the management entity, the Nonprofit Environmental Organization shall provide documentation that they have funds on hand, or letters of commitment to provide the funds prior to closing on the Project Site, in an amount equal to ten percent of the Project Cost to be set aside as a management endowment fund for the Project Site.

The Nonprofit Environmental Organization shall provide a guaranty or pledge by a Local Government, the Water Management District, the Florida Division of Forestry, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to act as a backup manager to take over the responsibility for management of the Project Site in the event the Nonprofit Environmental Organization is unable to.

O. Letter from the owner(s) of each parcel(s), as identified in the Application, indicating their willingness to consider an offer.

P. If a Project Site is Pre-acquired, the Applicant shall provide copies of a signed closing statement for each Preacquired parcel. If a closing statement is not available at the time of the application submittal, then a copy of the contract for each of the Pre-acquired parcels shall be provided and a copy of the closing statements shall be provided within 14 days after the application deadline.

Also, provide a statement that condemnation or threat of condemnation was not used to acquire the parcel(s).