

Request

On February 16, 2022, Commissioner Myers requested staff and the County Attorney's office bring back a report on updating the 2008 *Greater Palm River Community Plan*.

Summary

The Community and Infrastructure Planning Department and the County Attorney have coordinated with staff from the Planning Commission to identify a process to update the Greater Palm River Community plan, particularly in relation to Progress Village. The original plan did not directly address the identity of the Progress Village Community, while the majority of change in the area has happened near Progress Village. The current plan provides a broad spectrum of strategies but is limited in its scope at the neighborhood level. Revisions to the plan to address the Progress Village neighborhoods could be made through an update to the whole Greater Palm River Community Plan. Staff acknowledges that other communities within the geography of Palm River may also benefit from a more neighborhood focus.

Implementation Progress

The attached Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update provides an overview of the progress made toward implementing the Community Plan. The currently adopted Greater Palm River Community Plan has 121 strategies. Significant implementation actions are currently underway including negotiations for the transfer of water and wastewater infrastructure from the City of Tampa to Hillsborough County and a septic to sewer program that facilitates the connection of 500 homes per year to county sewer. Additionally, an infrastructure strategy to improve safety and comfort for bicyclists and pedestrians near the Palm River Road and 78th street community node identified in the Community Plan is also underway. One strategy in the Plan, regarding the development of an office park at the corner of 78th Street and 36th Avenue cannot be implemented since the site is currently being built out with homes. This strategy must be re-evaluated in the update to the community plan.

Next Steps

The Hillsborough County *Guide for Community Planning* provides a framework through which the County and Planning Commission collaborate to produce and update plans. The Planning Commission is the lead agency for the preparation of new plans and plan updates and the County leads the implementation of the community plans. Each supports the other in their roles by collaborating in both plan making and implementation. If the BOCC requests the Planning Commission update the community plan, it will take approximately two years, following the timeline below.



Attachment: Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update

Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update

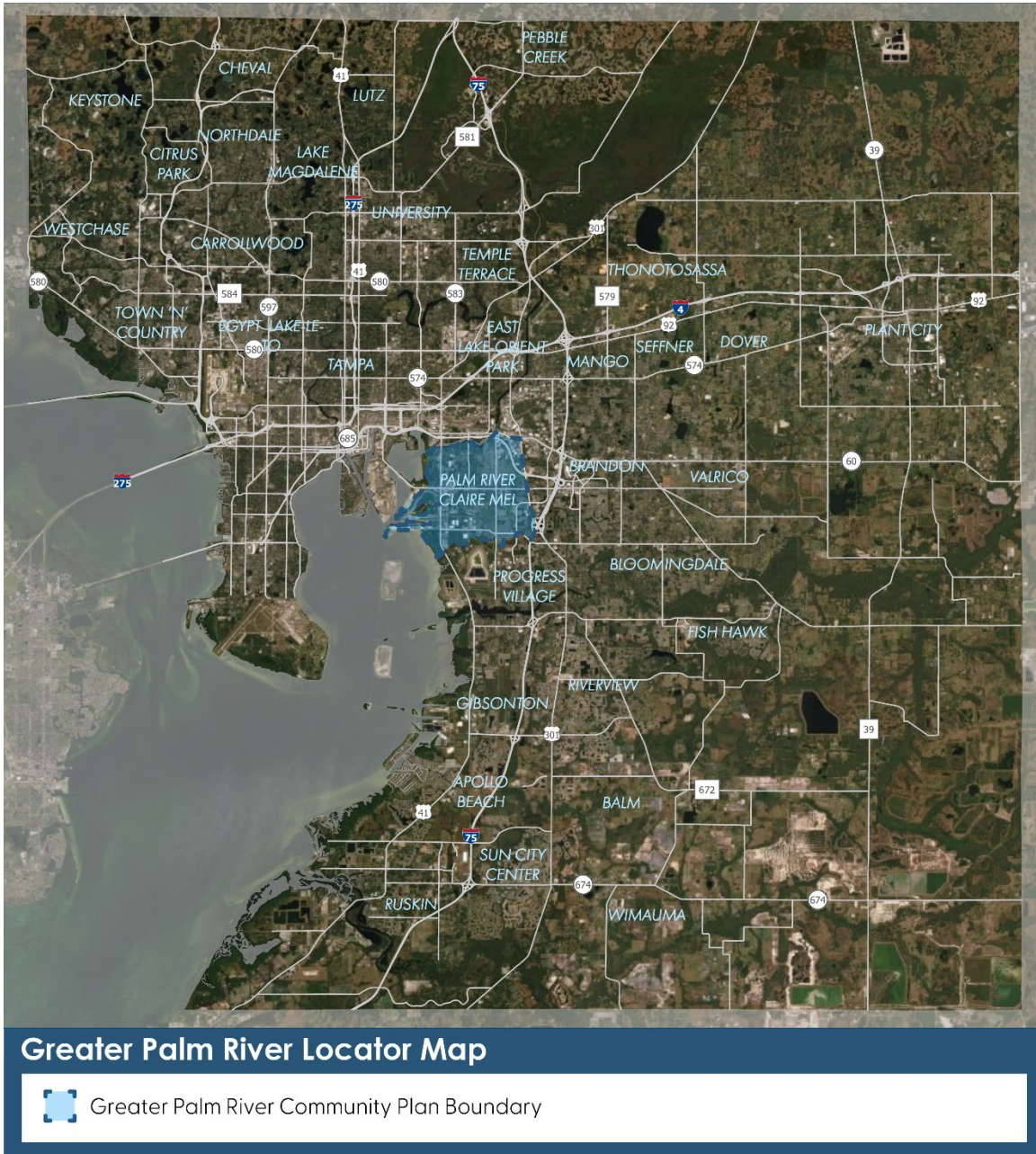
Prepared by:
Community & Infrastructure
Planning Department

Date: August 2022

Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update August 2022

Introduction

This report is an analysis of the implementation status of the Greater Palm River Community Plan. The Greater Palm River area is located between McKay Bay and US 301 as shown below in the location Map.



The Greater Palm River Community Plan is divided into nine goals. The nine goals are presented in order of priority as designated in the Community Plan.

Palm River Community Plan Goals

Priority List

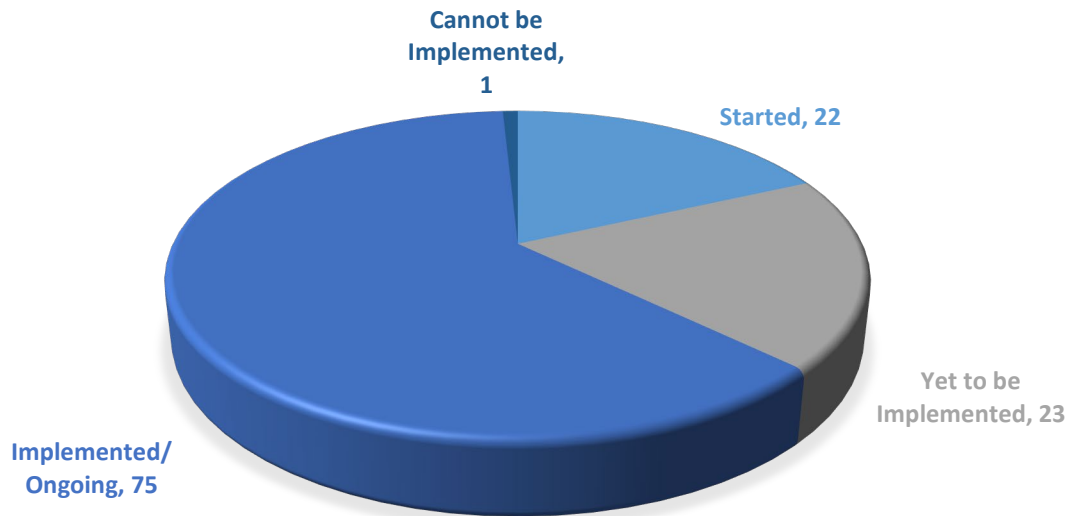


There are a total of 121 strategies that further refine the 9 goals. Their implementation status was determined to fall within one of four categories:

1. Implemented / Ongoing - a strategy that has been started and finished (i.e., codified, such as it is within the Land Development Code, implemented physically, or otherwise) or has started and is continuing and has no specific end date (i.e., a strategy such as educating homeowners on home maintenance).
2. Started - a strategy that has started and either has a clear path forward or the path forward is under discussion and options are being explored on how to implement the strategy.
3. Yet to be implemented – a strategy that has not started, nor have discussions started on how to move this strategy forward.
4. Cannot be Implemented – a strategy that is deemed not implementable due to changes in conditions.

Of the 121 Greater Palm River strategies, 75 strategies have been implemented or are ongoing, 22 strategies have been started, 23 are yet to be implemented, and one cannot be implemented. Figure 1 illustrates the implementation status of all of Palm River's strategies.










Figure 1: Implementation Status of All Strategies



Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update
August 2022

Table 1 shows the implementation status of all strategies in Palm River broken out by goals.

Table 1: Implementation Status by Goal

| Strategies by Goal | Implemented or Ongoing | Started | Yet to be Implemented | Cannot be Implemented | Total Recommendations |
|---|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  Infrastructure & Utilities | 13 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
|  Crime & Public Safety | 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
|  Traffic & Transportation | 13 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 31 |
|  Parks & Recreation | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
|  Planning & Growth | 14 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 28 |
|  Economic Development | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
|  Senior, Social, Health-Medical Services & Schools | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
|  Environment & Natural Resources | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
|  Historic Preservation | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Totals | 75 | 22 | 23 | 1 | 121 |

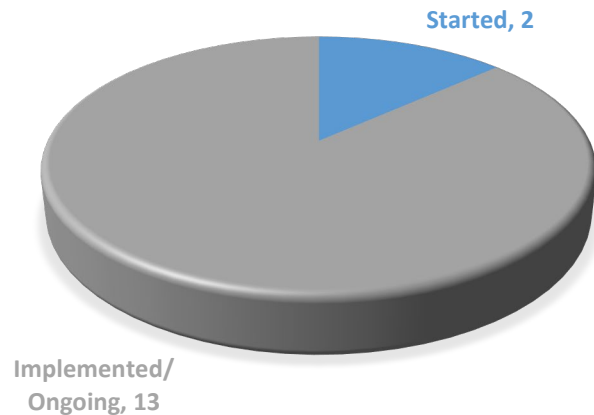
Source: Hillsborough County Community & Infrastructure Planning Department, 2022.

 **Goal 1: Infrastructure & Utilities**

Affordable and dependable water and wastewater services are a basic requirement for economic growth and an improved standard of living in the greater Palm River area. Current and future growth requires urban-level services.

Within this goal there are a total of 15 strategies, all of which are completed or started. Figure 2 illustrates the implementation status of these strategies.

Figure 2: Implementation Status of the Infrastructure & Utilities category



Highlights

The Palm River Community Plan indicated that *water services shall have higher priority over wastewater services and if necessary timed first*. In 2016, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) appropriated \$2.5M in grant funding to construct potable water infrastructure in the Palm River area. In 2019, an expansion project connected the county water system to more 300 households in the North Palm River Area. The area that received this upgrade is north of Causeway Boulevard, east of 54th Street, south of 12th Avenue, and west of 70th Street. The Palm River community still isn't serviced 100% by City of Tampa or Hillsborough County as many residents are still using well water and septic tanks.

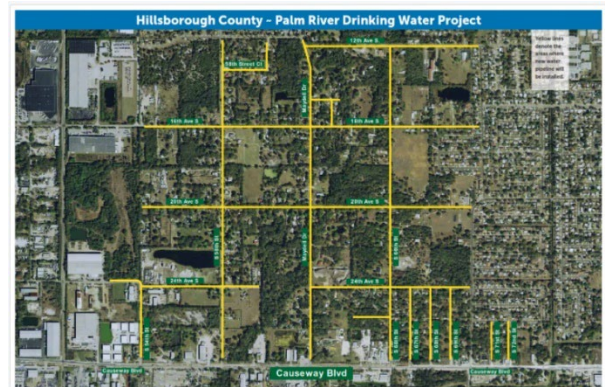
Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update August 2022



NEWS
POSTED October 16, 2019 | 10:03 AM

Expansion Project Connects County Water System to North Palm River Area

More than 300 households just southeast of downtown Tampa have access to clean, safe drinking water and enhanced fire protection because of a recently completed Hillsborough County water service expansion project. Between mid-2017 and mid-2019, Hillsborough County installed more than 5 miles of new pipelines and 90 fire hydrants in the area generally north of Causeway Boulevard, east of 54th Street, south of 12th Avenue, and west of 70th Street.



Hillsborough County installed water pipelines and fire hydrants in this area of north Palm River.

Before this project, the north Palm River area lacked access to a municipal water supply. The community was developed over 50 years ago and homes relied on individual shallow wells.

To help residents connect to the new system, the County acquired a \$2.5 million Florida Department of Environmental Protection grant to cover the cost of plumbing from the meter box to each individual residence - an expense usually paid by the property owner.

One of Palm River's strategies was *For those portions of Palm River which by interlocal agreement is part of the area for which the City of Tampa has responsibility for providing water and wastewater service, and in which the City of Tampa does not provide that service to retail customers as of the January of 2008, the Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) shall be reviewed by appropriate representatives of the County and City of Tampa within one year to the adoption of this community plan for recommendation to Board of County Commissions for master planning of services for the Greater Palm River Area Community Plan boundary area.* Negotiations are currently underway to transfer the ownership of water and wastewater infrastructure from the City of Tampa to Hillsborough County in the Greater Palm River area. With the ongoing implementation of this strategy, several Planning and Growth and Economic Development strategies are more feasible to implement.

Hillsborough County has identified Palm River as an area for a septic to sewer conversion program. This program converts existing septic and low-pressure sewer systems to the County's central collection system. It is a long-term plan that aims to replace all septic and low-pressure systems within the County's Urban Service area. The construction is anticipated to occur in phases, with phase 1 including major pipelines and pump stations and connections to about 500 homes with a budget of about \$8-10M for Palm

Highlighted CIP Projects

Septic and Low-Pressure Sewer System Conversion Initiative

Hillsborough County is launching a program to protect groundwater and improve the quality of the region's natural systems by eliminating septic tanks and low-pressure sewer systems in areas around the bay. Homes and businesses in these areas that currently use septic or low-pressure systems will be converted to the County's central collection system, a program frequently referred to as septic-to-sewer. The County's central system is reliable, sustainable, and environmentally responsible. The septic-to-sewer program is a long-term plan that aims to replace all septic and low-pressure systems within the County's urban service area, starting with conversions in areas of highest vulnerability and environmental impact.

Gibsonton and Palm River Septic-to-Sewer Project

- Construction for both communities is anticipated to be accomplished in phases.
 - Phase 1 will construct all major pipelines and pump stations, along with connections to approximately 500 homes.
 - Future phases will construct additional pipelines and connect about 500 homes per year.
- Estimated Phase 1 budget is \$33 million to \$40 million.
 - Gibsonton Phase 1: \$25 million to \$30 million.
 - Palm River Phase 1: \$8 million to \$10 million.
- The design for the Gibsonton portion is underway and currently is funded by BP Economic Settlement Funds previously approved by the BOCC.
 - The balance of Phase 1 will be funded through the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) and/or grant monies, as applicable.

Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update
August 2022

River area alone, while future phases will construct additional pipelines and connect about 500 homes per year.

Additionally, the Palm River Plan identified that the stormwater facilities are inadequate and developed numerous strategies to correct the issues. The Delaney/ Archie Creek Watershed Management Master Plan includes several potential projects that alleviate flooding in the area. One of these projects is currently underway in Progress Village (on the south end of the Palm River Community) as this area has had numerous flood complaints submitted over the years noting problem areas north and south of Progress Boulevard, along 83rd Street. The proposed stormwater storage and conveyance improvements within Progress Village Community will improve flood protection and provide water quality benefits. An existing 42" reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) crossing at Progress Boulevard to be replaced with 60" RCP, the proposed 60" pipe will continue south ultimately discharging into a proposed 2.7-acre stormwater pond south of Endive Avenue. Flood reduction will be provided through the excavation of a 9.7-acre flood storage area adjacent to North Archie Creek.

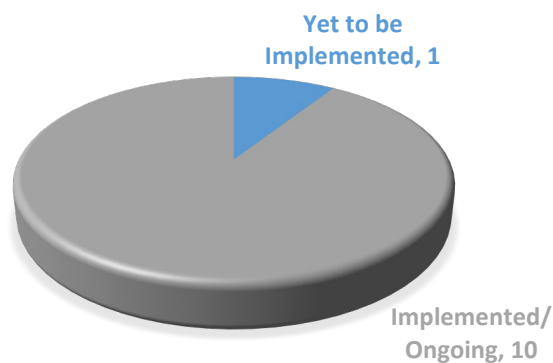


Goal 2: Crime & Public Safety

Create and support a community identity that is a safe place for community activities and events, and fosters a high quality of life.

Within this goal there are a total of 11 strategies, and all but one has been implemented or are ongoing. Figure 3 illustrates the implementation status of these strategies.

Figure 3: Implementation Status of the Crime & Public Safety category



Highlights

The Plan identified a strategy to *develop a citizen liaison process with law enforcement to monitor community issues and concerns*. The Hillsborough County Sheriff has implemented a [“Walk it like I Talk it”](#) program that encourages uniformed patrol deputies to park their vehicles, walk the neighborhoods in their zones and talk to residents. The purpose is to build stronger relationships with the community and the citizens they serve. Additionally, Community Resource Deputies are assigned to specific areas and their primary function is to serve as the liaison between individual communities, the Sheriff’s Office, and governmental agencies. These programs help build community and law enforcement relationships to help enforce laws, reduce crime, and inform citizens.

“WALK IT LIKE I TALK IT”

For Immediate Release : Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office

July 11, 2019 Public Affairs Office | piocommandcenter@hcsco.tampa.fl.us 813-247-8060

Details:

In one month since Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister launched a new community policing program known as “Walk It like I Talk It,” HCSO deputies have spent more than 1,700 hours getting out of their cars and walking neighborhood streets in their districts.

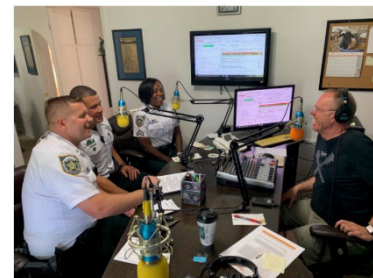
Sheriff Chronister debuted “Walk It like I Talk It” on June 6 with the help of a catchy and creative public service announcement shared across various social media platforms including the HCSO Sheriff YouTube account

The goal of the program is to build stronger relationships with citizens by allowing them to become familiar with the faces and names of the deputies who regularly patrol their communities.

“I strongly believe that our residents feel more comfortable reporting a crime, or any suspicious activity, to a deputy who takes the time to talk to them one-on-one,” said Sheriff Chad Chronister. “Our deputies have truly embraced this new program from day one, and it’s another step forward in building trust between law enforcement and the community we serve.”

Deputies across all five patrol districts have participated in the program, which encourages them to get out of their patrol cars and walk their zones for at least one hour per week. On July 2, three deputies in District IV were invited as guests on WSCQ - Sun City Radio Station (96.3 FM) to discuss “Walk It like I Talk It” after coincidentally meeting a show coordinator during their walk (photo attached).

To date, deputies have logged a total of 1,779 hours of participation through the program.

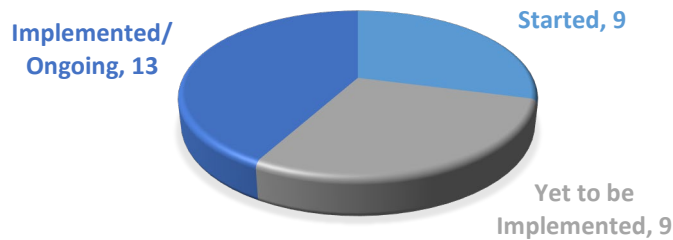


 **Goal 3: Traffic & Transportation**

Ensure a balance for walking, bicycling and transit that serves neighborhoods (i.e., Palm River Road area, Clair Mel and Progress Village), commercial, and industrial uses and that addresses the demands of new growth. Transportation improvements should be provided as new development is approved and as redevelopment occurs.

Within this goal there are a total of 31 strategies. Figure 4 illustrates the implementation status of these strategies.

Figure 4: Implementation Status of the Traffic & Transportation category



Highlights

Palm River’s Plan indicated a strategy for *safe travel paths to schools, parks, and public service sites*. In July 2019, Hillsborough County expanded the crossing guard program to middle schools after the BOCC approved a \$710,000 budget allocation for the 24 middle schools in the unincorporated County. This included safety improvements at 21 of those schools. The middle schools and their associated safety enhancements that were implemented in the Palm River area were:

- Dowdell Magnet: addition of school warning signs,
- Giunta: refurbishment of pavement markings,
- Progress Village: installation of marked crosswalks with rectangular rapid flashing beacons, stop bars, minor sidewalk section replacement for the crossings, and school warning signs.



POSTED July 16, 2019 | 12:45 PM

Crossing Guard Program Expands to Middle Schools

Safety improvements for school crossings are being constructed and installed while school is out of session

When school starts in August, parents and students will notice some major changes at middle schools in Hillsborough County.

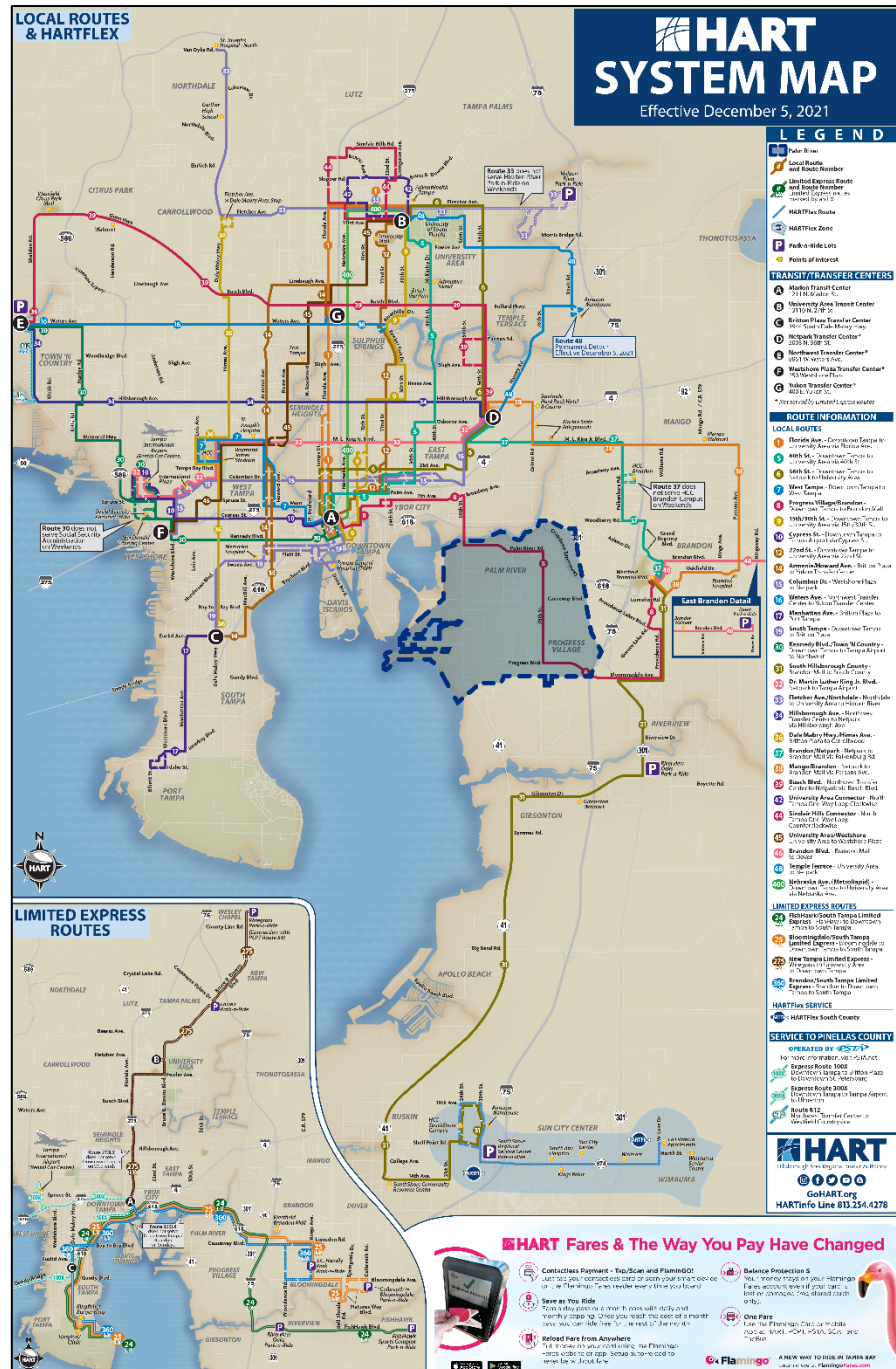
In support of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office’s efforts to provide new crossing guards at middle schools, Hillsborough County is making a wide range of safety improvements designed to make it easier for kids navigating to and from school.

The move comes after the Board of County Commissioners approved \$710,000 to implement an expanded crossing guard program covering the 24 public middle schools in unincorporated Hillsborough County. Working together, the County, the Sheriff’s Office, and the Hillsborough County School District identified the need for more than 140 crossing guards and pedestrian-safety enhancements at 21 of the middle schools to support the program.

The Sheriff’s Office received \$510,000 as start-up funding to begin hiring and training crossing guards for the 2019/2020 school year. The County is using \$200,000 to construct and install additional crosswalks, curb ramps, traffic signs and signals, pavement markings, and flashing beacons needed to support crossing guard operations before school resumes on Aug. 12.

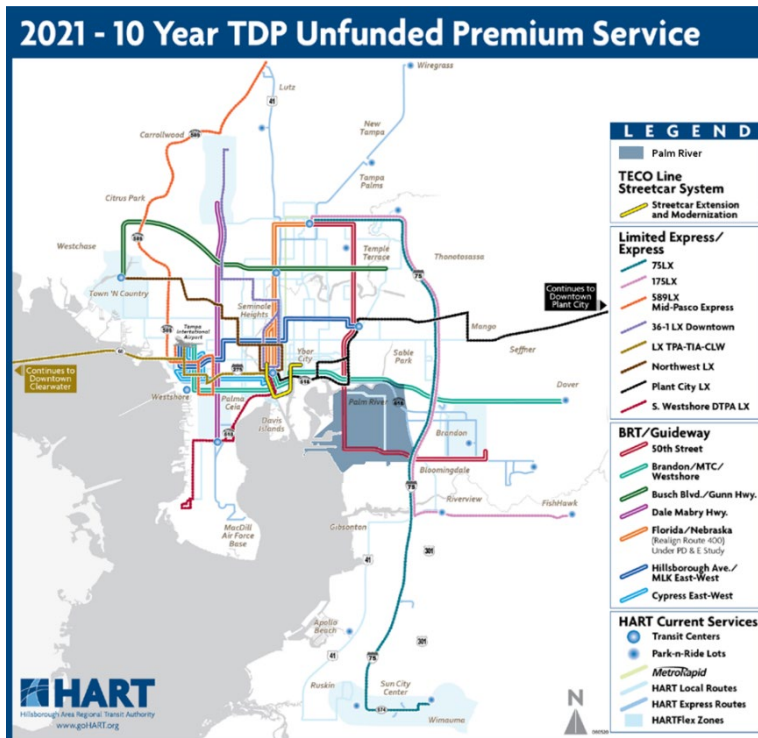
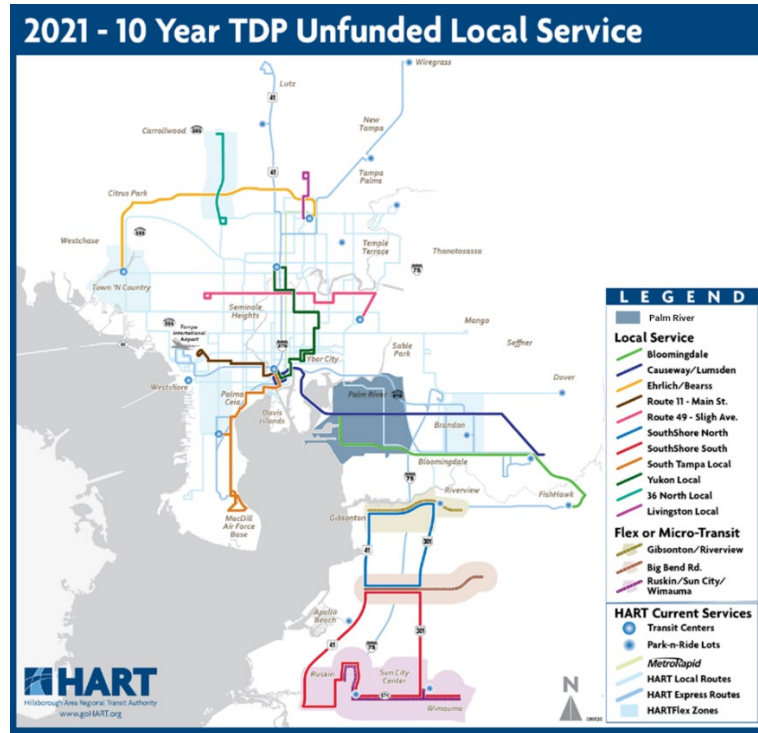
Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update August 2022

The majority of the ‘yet to be implemented’ strategies relate to transit including an express bus service to Downtown Tampa, better and more frequent local bus service, park ‘n ride locations within the Plan area, and more amenities at bus stops. Currently, there is only one HART line that runs through Palm River, Route 8 as show in the graphic to the right, as compared to HART’s 2021 10-Year TDP Unfunded Local and Premium Service which shows two additional local routes and one BRT/Guideline Premium route added to the Palm River area as shown in the graphics below.





Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update August 2022

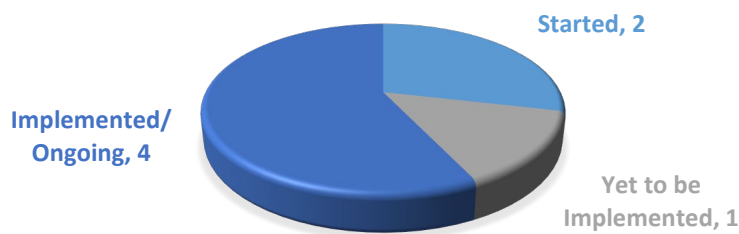


 **Goal 4: Parks & Recreation**

Provide adequate and quality parks and recreation opportunities.

Within this goal there are a total of seven strategies, all but one is implemented, ongoing, or has been started. Figure 5 illustrates the implementation status of these strategies.

Figure 5: Implementation Status of the Park & Recreation category



Highlights

One strategy indicated *intergovernmental cooperation with the City of Tampa is necessary to ensure appropriate access and interface of recreational opportunities.*

Hillsborough County helped the City of Tampa purchase a small park/ preserve on the south shore of the bypass canal just east of McKay Bay. It is three acres and provides access to water and has open areas for visitors to enjoy.



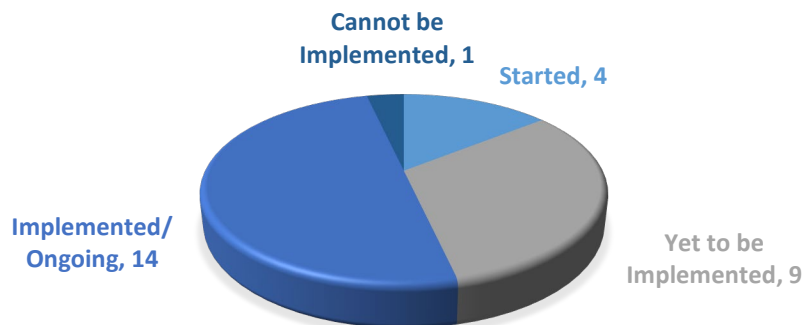
The Palm River community plan states that the adult’s programs at the Progress Village Community Center be enhanced and expanded as the sports and athletics programs are relocated to the Progress Village Sports Complex. The Progress Village Community Center is currently under consideration for renovation and conceptual plans are in development, however there is not adequate staff and funding for the project or programs.

 **Goal 5: Planning & Growth**

To promote and provide for opportunities for compatible well designed public use, residential, and business growth and jobs.

Within this goal there are a total of 28 strategies. Figure 6 illustrates the implementation status of these strategies.




Figure 6: Implementation Status of the Planning & Growth category



Highlights

This Plan indicated strengthening code enforcement efforts and providing home maintenance education to homeowners and homeowner associations. The County has completed several programs to help improve the aesthetics of Palm River. Recent events include:

- April 2016 – Public Works hosted an Adopt-A-Pond tree giveaway to improve Delaney Creek water quality (Natural Resources assisted with homeowner planting);
- April 2019 – Code Enforcement and Rapid Response conducted a Fight the Blight;
- November 2020 – Code Enforcement joint cleanup with Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office and Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful;

POSTED April 25, 2019 | 10:24 AM SHARE   

Hillsborough to Tackle Trash, Illegal Dumping in Palm River, Clair-Mel

Hillsborough County, Fla. (April 25, 2019) - How a community looks can impact how residents feel. Illegal dump sites and code violations can affect health, safety, and property values throughout a neighborhood.

From Friday, April 26, through Friday, May 3, Hillsborough County Code Enforcement will host a Fight the Blight Community Cleanup in Palm River and Clair-Mel. Residents in those areas can take items such as furniture, tires, electronics, and metal from their property to a centrally located disposal site at Tidewater Trail and Windsor Way.

With the help of a Lightning Loader - a large debris-clearing vehicle - the County will dispose of the items for free. In addition, Code Enforcement will clean up several illegal dump sites in the community during the weeklong event.

Items can be brought to the disposal site from 8 AM to 4 PM. The cleanup is open to residents who live within the following boundaries:

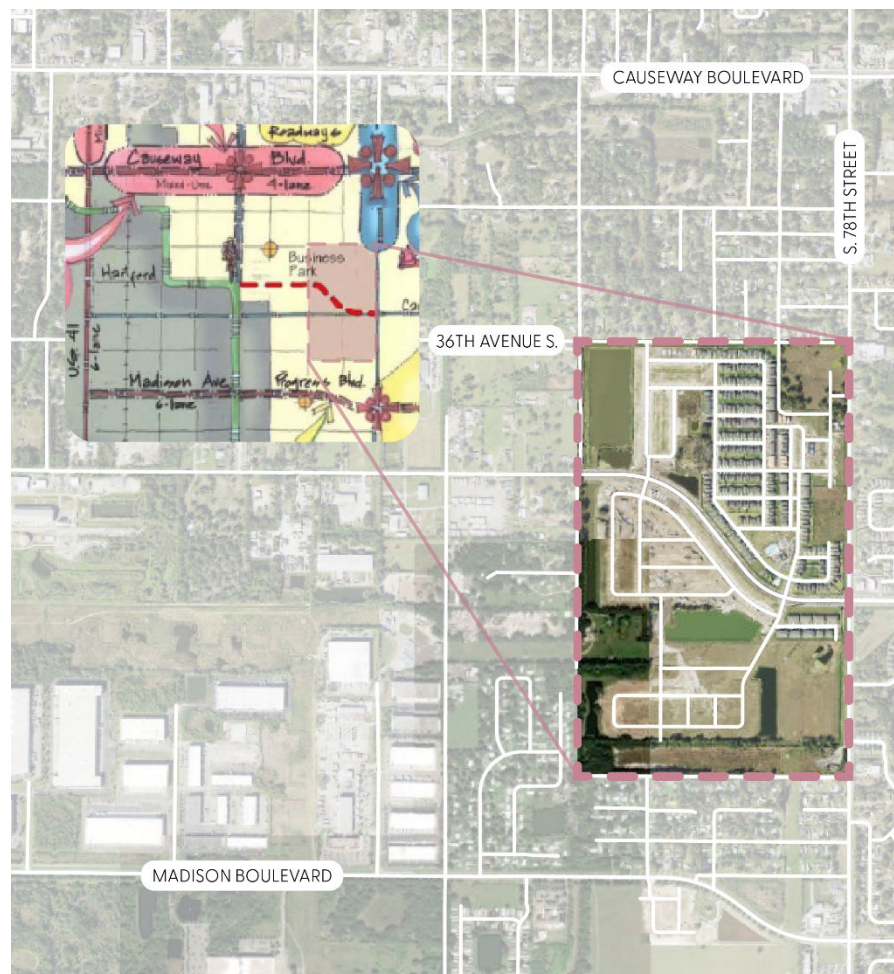
- North: Tampa Bypass Canal
- East: Selmon/86th Street
- South: Causeway Boulevard
- West: CSX railroad tracks

Yard waste, commercial vehicle tires, and hazardous chemicals will not be accepted. For more information, call (813) 352-2473.

Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update August 2022

- March 2021 – Tenant’s Bill of Rights ordinance adopted (Code Enforcement education campaign including webinars, visits to apartment communities, etc.);
- May 2021 – Code Enforcement attended a Town Hall meeting hosted by Commissioner Myers;
- June 2021 – Code Enforcement tour with Rapid Response and Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful to identify chronically littered roadways;
- February 2021 – Litter heat map including parkways within Palm River posted online by Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful.

The Community Plan indicates the Tower Diary site, located at 36th Avenue South and 78th Street South, shall be designated a Business Park which allows for uses under Suburban Mixed-Use 6 (SMU-6). However, the entire site has been or will be developed with single family homes or townhomes eliminating the possibility of implementing the strategy. The other areas identified in the plan for neighborhood or community centers may still be viable candidates for development.



Many strategies encouraged new development and redevelopment that centered around key nodes in Palm River. With the current negotiations that are underway to transfer the ownership of all pipes and infrastructure in the Greater Palm River area from the City of Tampa to Hillsborough County, the remaining Planning and Growth strategies should now be reviewed for implementation.

Greater Palm River Community Plan Implementation Status Update
August 2022

Greater Palm River Community Plan

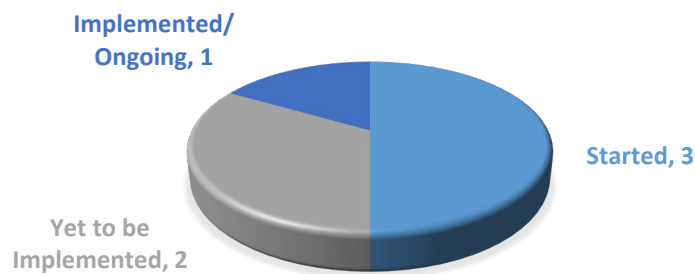


 **Goal 6: Economic Development**

Provide opportunities for business growth and jobs in the Palm River Area.

Within this goal there are a total of six strategies, all but two have been implemented/ ongoing, or have been started. Figure 7 illustrates the implementation status of these strategies.

Figure 7: Implementation Status of the Economic Development category



Highlights

Palm River’s Plan indicated a need to provide incentives to help businesses grow, move to this area, and add jobs. A portion of Palm River was selected as one of four Pilot Project Areas for the Targeted Redevelopment Program which is facilitated by the Economic Development Department. The area selected is from Causeway Boulevard south to Progress Boulevard.

This program was created to assist property owners, business owners, developers, and real estate brokers in bringing underutilized land back into productive use and create jobs. The program addresses renovation of viable existing structures and sites for reuse - or new building or site construction - and builds upon existing office, industrial, manufacturing, and commercial assets located in unincorporated Hillsborough County. The program offers numerous incentives including an expedited site development and construction plan review program; a permit and impact fee

Redevelopment Incentives for Qualified Projects:

- **Expedited Site Development and Construction Plan Review Program** – priority permit and plan review with Hillsborough County Development Services and the Environmental Protection Commission
- **Permit and Impact Fee Grant Program** – reimbursement of up to 50 percent of the total eligible fees paid, up to a maximum of \$50,000
- **Demolition of Distressed Structures Program** – reimbursement of up to 50 percent of total eligible costs associated with demolition made to properties, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project
- **Infrastructure Assistance Program** – reimbursement of up to 50 percent of the total eligible costs associated with site improvements for a rehabilitation, renovation, or new construction project that includes office, manufacturing, and industrial space, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project
- **Contaminated Site Assessment and Remediation Program** – reimbursement of up to 50 percent of the total eligible costs associated with the Remediation Action Plan and clean-up cost, up to a maximum of \$50,000 per project, including up to \$15,000 for a Phase II Site Assessment
- **Building Exterior Improvement Program** – reimbursement of up to 50 percent of total eligible costs associated with fixed capital improvements to the exterior of the property, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project
- **Building Interior Improvement Program** – reimbursement of up to 50 percent of the total eligible costs associated with fixed capital improvements to the interior of the property, up to a maximum of \$80,000 per project
- **Catalyst Project Incentive Program** – reimbursement of up to 10 percent of total eligible costs from a minimum of \$50,000, up to a maximum of \$350,000 per project
- **Small Business Façade Program** – reimbursement of up to 50 percent of total eligible costs from a minimum of \$5,000, up to a maximum of \$50,000



The option to apply for multiple incentives for a single project is allowed subject to increased private match requirements.

grant program; a demolition of distressed structures program; an infrastructure assistance program; a contaminated site assessment and remediation program; a building exterior improvement program; a building interior improvement program; a catalyst project incentive program; and a small business façade program.

As of December 2018, the Franklin Property & Development Group were working on two properties with the Economic Development Department in the Palm River Redevelopment Area. One site is a 10,800 square foot warehouse at 7851 Causeway Boulevard, and is leased to Great Lakes Power. The second site, 5821 Causeway Boulevard, Franklin Property & Development Group is building a warehouse with plans to lease the property. "Without the County's incentives, we would not have proceeded with either of these projects," said David Franklin, the owner of Franklin Property & Development Group. The county's involvement and contribution to revitalization has added an appeal factor to investors and developers especially with their matching grants and expediated permitting process. "It takes projects that really were on the fringe of economic viability and puts them right in the sweet spot," said Jon Berntsen of Envirx Environmental, a Franklin consultant who manages the two Causeway Boulevard projects.

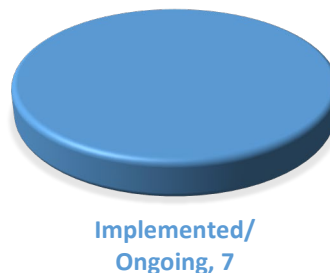
Under the Economic Development section, the Tampa ILA is mentioned again for the purpose of upgrading existing infrastructure (including water and wastewater) to support developing suburban character. In this strategy it was specifically requested that the ILA be reviewed by 2009 to accommodate growth. As mentioned previously under Goal 1, Infrastructure and Utilities, negotiations are currently underway to transfer the ownership of water and wastewater infrastructure in Palm River from the City of Tampa to Hillsborough County. With the ongoing implementation of this strategy, several Economic Development strategies can now be reviewed for implementation, such as *support a mix of residential types developed with new urbanism characteristics at appropriate locations*, can now be more effectively implemented.

 **Goal 7: Senior, Social, Health-Medical Services & Schools**

The community recognizes its need for appropriate community service centers, public and private schools, technical and College education opportunities; and hospital, library, day care, and aging services as growth occurs.

Within this goal there are a total of seven strategies, all of which have been implemented or are ongoing. Figure 8 illustrates the implementation status of these strategies.

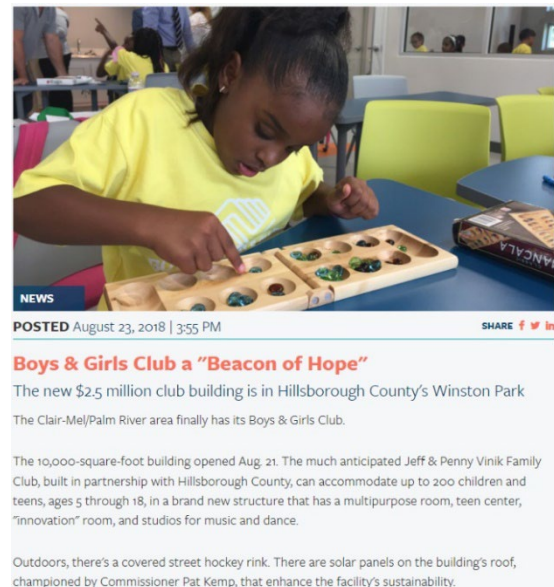
Figure 8: Implementation Status of the Senior, Social, Health-Medical Services & Schools category



Highlights

Every strategy within this category has been implemented or are ongoing. For example, the Plan states that schools be integrated into the neighborhood road network and that co-location practices should be utilized with schools, recreation areas, and other public service sites. The Hillsborough County Interlocal Agreement for School Facilities Planning, Siting and Concurrency implements both strategies on an ongoing basis.

The area of 78th Street South and Palm River Road near Winston Park, Clair Mel Elementary, Dowdell Middle Magnet School, and the Boys & Girls Club co-locates schools, recreation, and after school programs. The Boys & Girls Club in Winston Park opened in August 2018. It is a 10,000 square foot building that can accommodate 200 people from age five through 18. This club is being called a “Beacon of Hope” due to challenges with academic progression, poverty, and juvenile crime.

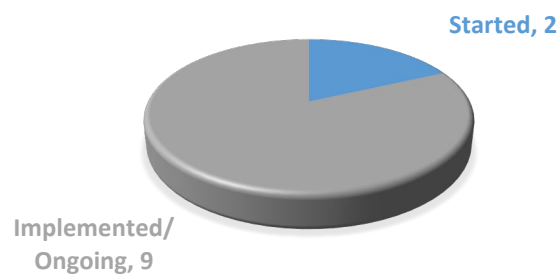


 **Goal 8: Environment & Natural Resources**

Protect and enhance the natural environment and resources of the Palm River area.

Within this goal there are a total of 11 strategies and all of them have been implemented, are ongoing, or have been started. Figure 9 illustrates the implementation status of these strategies.

Figure 9: Implementation Status of the Environment & Natural Resources category



Highlights

The Palm River Community Plan had identified a remnant sill beneath US Highway 41 bridge that should be evaluated for possible removal for its potential to improve water quality. In 2010, King Engineering Associates prepared the Palm River Restoration Feasibility Study and Conceptual Design Report for the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Transportation. This report recommended that the underwater berm be left in its present state as the water quality data that was collected between 2003 and 2007 has indicated that the berm is not showing that its presence is causing Dissolved Oxygen, Nitrogen, or Phosphorus water quality concentrations to alter due to inability/ ability of mixing zones with tidal and/or freshwater influences.



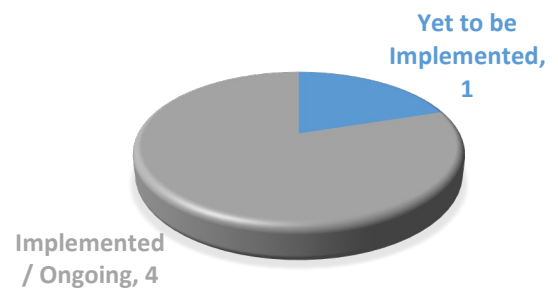
The Plan also indicated a strategy to implement the Hillsborough County Greenways Master Plan within the Palm River area. The latest study from January 2020, shows the South Coast Greenway going through Palm River along Maydell Drive, 36th Avenue South, 66th Street South, and Madison Avenue. However, there have been other suggestions dating back to 1995 and no final alignment has been selected.

 **Goal 9: Historic Preservation**

Recognize and protect Palm River's heritage and historic built environment through the identification, evaluation, and designation of the area's significant historic and archaeological resources. Palm River is home to high archaeological probability areas, individual historic buildings and structures, as well as neighborhoods that may be considered eligible for Landmark designation by Hillsborough County or for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These historic and archaeological resources define the cultural character of Palm River.

Within this goal there are a total of five strategies, and all but one has been implemented or is ongoing. Figure 10 illustrates the implementation status of these strategies.

Figure 10: Implementation Status of the Historic Preservation category



Highlights

Palm River would like county landmark designations for significant archaeological sites, buildings, and structures, and historic and conservations districts. Hillsborough County has two sites in the Palm River Community that are in the Hillsborough County Historic Resources Inventory, the Campoamor Silo and the Villa Maydell site. The Villa Maydell site is located on Maydell Drive just north of Causeway Boulevard and is a listed historic landmark. The Campoamor Silo is a National Register Eligible structure included in the County inventory but is not considered a historic landmark. The County also has a Historic Preservation challenge grant and review committee to promote historic preservation and heritage tourism. There is a Historic Advisory Council which facilitates uniform historical markers throughout the County. Additionally, the Land Development Code contains provisions for matching grants and transfer of development rights for Designated Historic Landmarks and there are ad valorem tax exemptions for historic properties.

The Plan also states that people be educated about the history of Palm River and its neighborhoods through the placement of historic markers, brochures, and partnerships with local schools, museums and historical societies. This strategy has not yet been implemented.

