



**Hillsborough TPO**  
Transportation  
Planning Organization



# 2050 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION REPORT



**FORWARD  
PINELLAS**



**HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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## **PURPOSE**

Metropolitan and long-range transportation plans must include a discussion of potential environmental mitigation activities, to be developed in consultation with federal, state, and tribal wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies. The Metropolitan/Transportation Planning Organizations in the Tampa Bay Area collaborated to obtain input from organizations and agencies on any concerns and recommendations to ensure our Long-Range Transportation Plans avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to the environment.

## **WHAT ARE METROPOLITAN/TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS?**

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are transportation policymaking organizations that are funded and mandated by the federal government, and run by representatives from local governments and other public sector stakeholders. MPOs plan future transportation projects to improve mobility for all, and prioritize these projects for state and federal funding. They must consider many factors when making planning decisions, including the environment, tourism, safety, security, housing, freight, and the interests of traditionally underserved communities. The focus of MPOs is on policymaking and intergovernmental collaboration: they are not implementing agencies.

## **WHAT ARE LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANS?**

The Long-Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) are a foundational practice of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, serving as the basis for their more short-term Transportation Improvement Programs. LRTPs are adopted every five years, and they identify transportation projects needed for mobility over the next twenty or more years, with consideration for future growth in the region. If a project is not in the LRTP, it cannot receive state and federal funds. As projects advance for funding, they must remain consistent with what is in the LRTP.

## **HOW ARE MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE LRTP IDENTIFIED?**

In a nutshell, identifying transportation projects balances technical, data-driven needs with extensive community outreach. Needs are prioritized to create a fiscally constrained plan. Each county has need of future mobility projects, which will undergo full environmental assessments as funding is identified and the projects advance. The potential mitigation costs will be incorporated into the total project costs.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION**

For highway projects, the Long-Range Transportation Plans are required by the Federal Highway Administration to consider potential *environmental mitigation activities*: ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental impacts {23 CFR 450.324(f)(10)}. This must include a discussion on the types and locations of potential environmental mitigation activities developed in consultation with Federal, State and Tribal wildlife, land management and regulatory agencies. LRTPs must also

be developed in consultation with federal, state, and tribal agencies involved with wildlife, land management, and regulation. These consultations must be performed at a systemwide level to identify where mitigation may be undertaken and what types of mitigation activities may be pursued in areas affected by LRTP projects. The focus is on broader mitigation needs and opportunities that may be available for future projects.

## **Methodology**

The Metropolitan/Transportation Planning Organizations for Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando/Citrus Counties developed a website that housed the resources, maps, and information for agency feedback. An in-person workshop was organized to gain more understanding of any environmental concerns and to offer cross collaboration and clarification.

## **REVIEWING ORGANIZATIONS**

A list of the invited organizations and individuals is provided below:

- Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties
- Cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City, Clearwater, St Petersburg, and Dunedin
- Courtney Campbell Causeway Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory Committee
- Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida Department of State
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Fresh From Florida
- Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority
- Hillsborough Environmental Services
- Hillsborough County Public Works – Stormwater Program
- Kimley Horn Environmental Services
- Manatee County
- Pasco MPO
- Pinellas County Air Quality Division
- Pinellas Ecology
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
- Pinellas Urban Forestry
- Plan Hillsborough
- Port of Tampa
- Seminole Tribe of Florida

- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- Suncoast Sierra Club
- Tampa Bay Sierra Club
- Tampa Bay Conservancy
- Tampa Bay Water Keeper
- Tampa Bay Estuary Program
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority
- Tampa International Airport
- TECO Energy, Inc.
- Urban Land Institute Tampa Bay
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Geological Survey

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

On May 13, 2024, a regional workshop was held to review the map series and discuss potential environmental mitigation strategies to include as part of their 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan updates.

The review and discussion of the LRTP projects were focused system-wide to identify areas where mitigation may be undertaken and what kinds of mitigation strategies, policies and/or programs may be used when these environmental areas are affected by projects in the LRTP. MPO/TPO staff used the questions below to facilitate a dialogue on environmental mitigation in the region. The discussion is summarized below.

*What policies/program/activities does your agency undertake to mitigate development impacts to the environment?*

- Tampa Bay Estuary Program Habitat Master Plan identifies potential mitigation projects
  - <https://tbep.org/>
  - Tampa Bay Nitrogen Consortium hold the line on nitrogen pollution. Relies on Sarasota data
  - It is a high priority to do more regional nitrogen oxide (NOx) monitoring
  - There is a need for monitors at National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) sites.
- MPOs help fund electric buses
  - PSTA Bus Electrification Program is making great strides in transitioning to an electric fleet
    - [News Article on PSTA Bus Electrification](#)
  - Clearwater Transit Center is considering being Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.
  - Buses becoming hybrid or electric as older diesel buses are being replaced.

- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) monitors water quality but also maintains mitigation banks and monitors for air pollution
  - Environmental Protection Commission monitoring programs go to EPA.
  - DEP actually sets the requirements for mitigation banking
  - There is very little area in Hillsborough that developers can now reserve for the development of new mitigation banks.
  - There are opportunities to expand air quality monitors
- There is a need for small changes in surface water flows to create more functional wetlands
  - Recommend FDOT create their own mitigation banks
- DEP air pollution monitors are located all across the Tampa Bay region
  - But there aren't any at NADP sites
  - Pinellas has 7
  - Hillsborough has 14

*Are certain activities more successful than others?*

- Mitigation would be more successful if there were policies/guidance issued to FDOT and those who implement major transportation projects on how to consider mitigating their impacts
- There are many environmentally friendly alternatives to mitigate environmental impacts of transportation projects, but implementers are not familiar with them. There should be more done to consider alternatives to standard practices employed by roadway engineers.
- Implementers should do a better job of considering long-term resiliency when doing cost/benefit analysis.
- It is very important that implementers understand this: avoiding/minimizing wetland impacts saves money in the long run.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is an Environmental Technical Advisory Team participant, reviewer.

*What could be done to better protect wildlife through transportation projects?*

- It was suggested that MPOs/TPOs look to the Dunnellon wildlife underpass, moving animals and people.
- Wildlife crossings maintain and identify green spaces and increase alternative transportation that is welcoming and safe. More connectivity between green spaces should be considered than just what is showing in Florida Wildlife Corridor.
- Implementing agencies should consider roadside vegetation and trees in impacted watersheds.
- It was noted that the Florida Wildlife Corridor does not have sections in our area, so everyone needs to be mindful of means and measures to preserve corridor outside of notable programs and existing corridors.

*What ideas do you have for improving the current process?*

- Suggestion: use rights of way as a tree or wetland mitigation bank for MPO projects
  - Street trees are one example. Pinellas County has a tree planting program but it is difficult

to implement adjacent to new transportation projects. — Our communities are increasing impervious surface with so many transportation projects. Certain trees should be prioritized over others, based on their ecological impact.

- The Palm River community has been identified as an Urban Heat Island. A solution to combat this includes increasing the replanting of trees.
- It was questioned how the MPOs could prioritize or incentivize appropriate environmental mitigation solutions.
  - It was pointed out that the datasets and how they are being used by the implementing agencies is the first question that should be asked. Understanding this will make it easier for environmental agencies to understand how to recommend better alternatives.
  - Urban stormwater treatment and capacity is one of our greatest issues as a region.
  - It was noted that FDOT is a major barrier to improving environmental mitigation: there is no flexibility in their regulatory approach to design
  - St Pete has been talking with DOT to make sure that they are not incentivizing a sub contractor to remove tree where not necessary to move projects along faster
- Gopher tortoise mitigation banks: some have implemented, some are developing them. These mitigation banks are very difficult due to the very nature of the animals that they move around and don't stay within an approved mitigation area.
- It was pointed out that there are no federal funds for fish passage because Florida is not very proactive/adept in securing federal funding for such projects. But this could be a resource.
  - [National Fish Passage Program Funding Guidance](#)
- It was suggested that MPO/TPOs incorporate wildlife and environmental mitigation needs early on in the planning process
  - All opportunities to decrease ROW needs should be considered, as well as seeking guidance on how to impact the environment less.
  - Should also consider incorporating public feedback to help in prioritization of projects.
- There is an opportunity for the MPO/TPOs to set aside funds to cover costs for the increment activities above the state minimum.
  - Often, FDOT will do the minimum but local communities must pay for the extra things. MPO/TPOs should bridge this gap and address equity.
  - The region should consider working on common messages to secure grant funding.

*Are there any untapped opportunities you're aware of?*

- Is there a goal or policy on less impervious surfaces? More shade? If not, this is an opportunity to consider.
  - Encourage alternative transportation projects.
  - Promote long term resiliency
  - Old Tampa Bay suffers greatly from urban stormwater runoff and would benefit from better policies and practices.
- The current regulatory framework boxes our communities in. The region needs to find ways to help FDOT remove barriers (stormwater etc)?

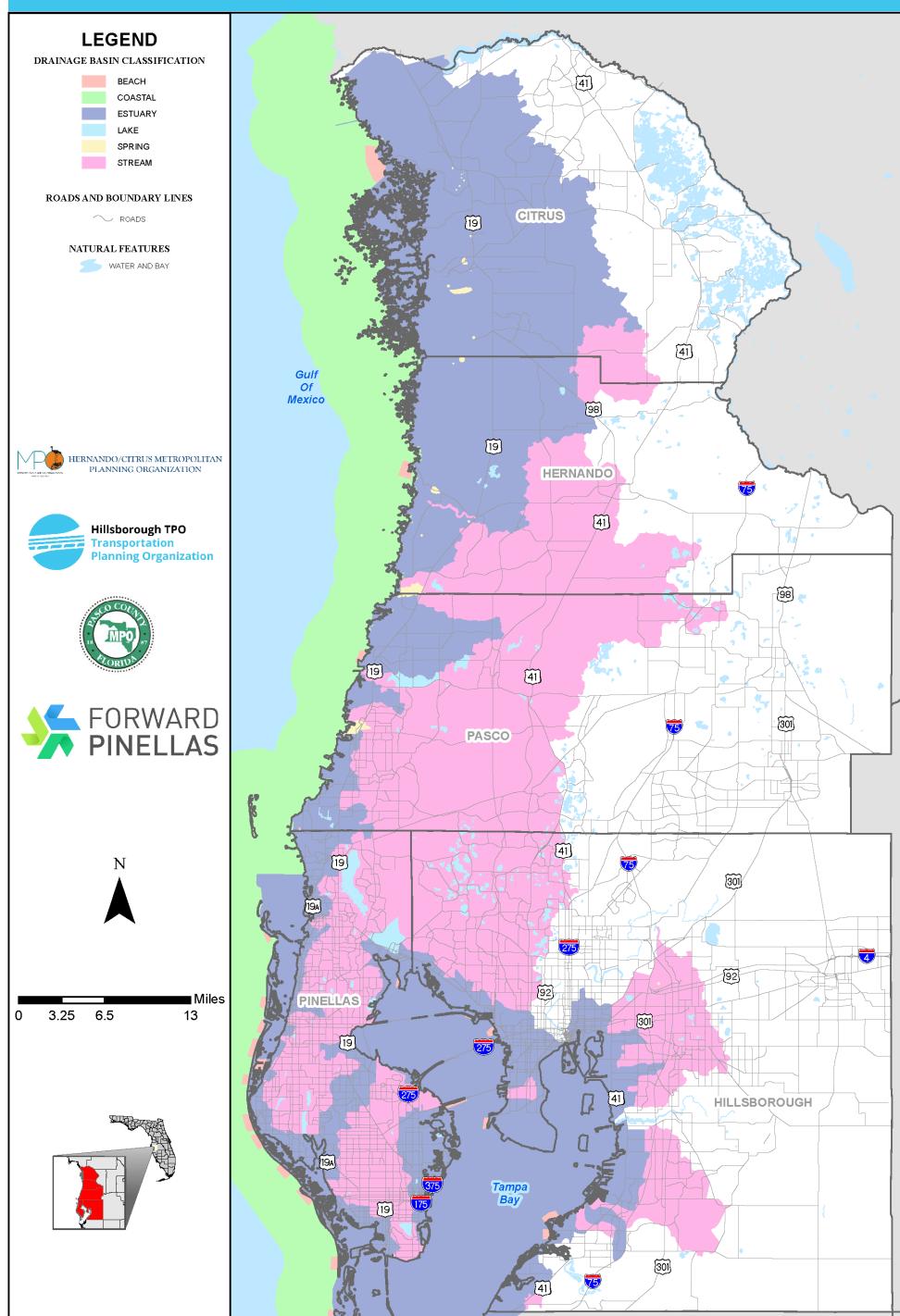
- Contract methods can help. For example, design-build SR 50/I-75 reduced clear zones.
- Work on construction specifications to not incentivize taking out more trees for the sake of expediency of construction.
- Incentivize not doing open burns, especially in urban areas, maybe compost.
- Consider overarching guidelines to make environmental considerations in design manual.
- FDEP regulates burns – this is where the region would need to look to change these regulations.
- Tampa Bay Estuary Habitat Restoration Consortium
  - MPO/TPOs are encouraged to participate in this group when there are decision points on major projects.
- A Listserv of todays participants, including others not in attendance, could help with communication amongst the various disciplines
- FDOT should consider incorporating baffle boxes for future projects in Pasco
- Cost effective and expedient environmental mitigation solutions, like planting trees, often seem to be removed to make transportation projects more cost effective and expedient. . If the right policies are in place, and they are connected to goals of environmental mitigation, then they'll be more effective.

## Maps Reviewed

### West Central Florida Regional Maps

#### WCF REGIONAL DRAINAGE BASIN CLASSIFICATION

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: Hillsborough County TPO, Pinellas MPO, Pasco MPO, and Citrus-Hernando MPO.

WCF = WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

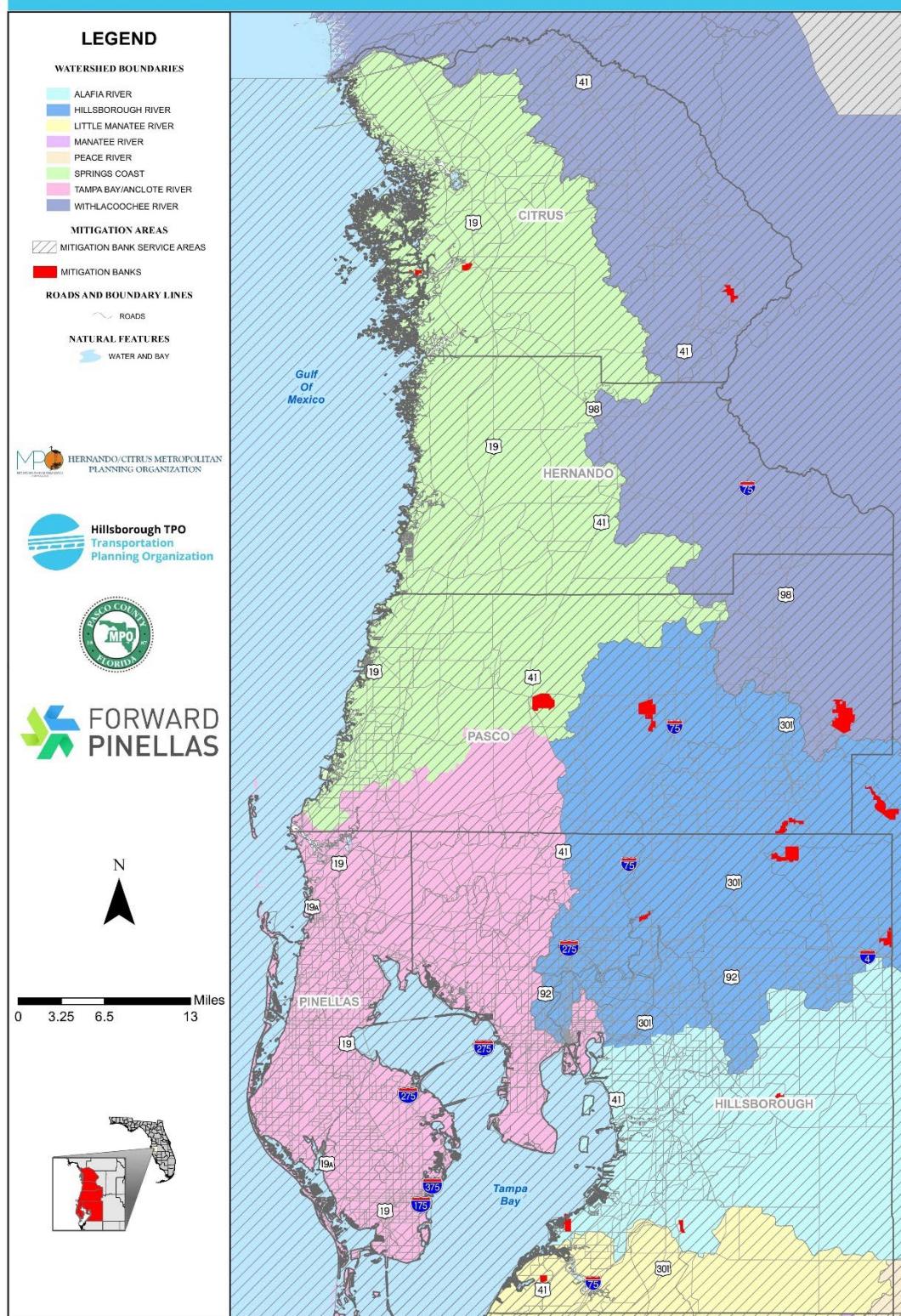
Soils - NRCS = National Resources Conservation Service, Water, Lakes - FDEP, Drainage Basins - All Counties.

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Author: Roger Matthe Updated: May 9, 2024

# WCF REGIONAL MITIGATION BANKS

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



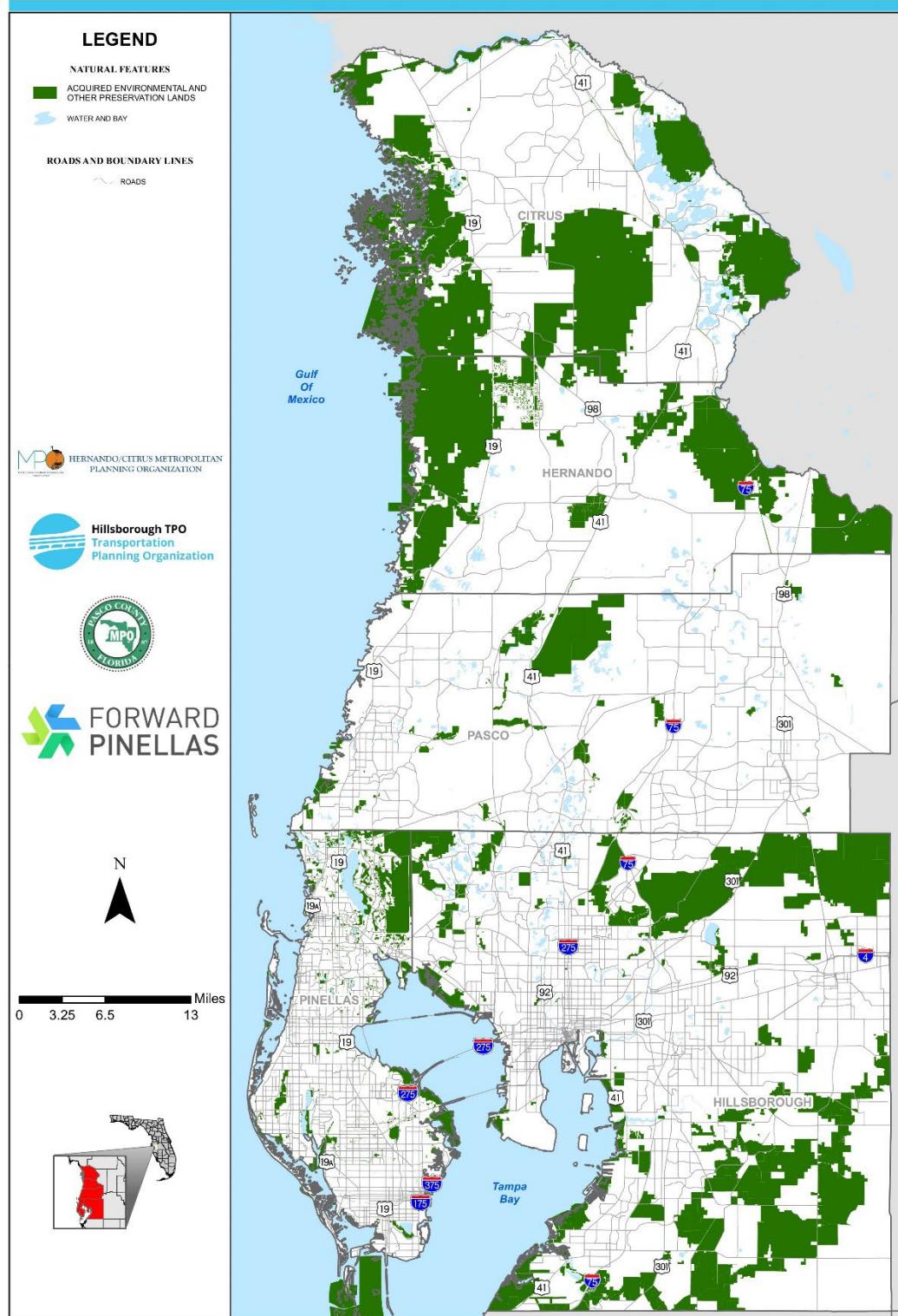
Data Source: Hillsborough County TPO, Pinellas MPO, Pasco MPO, and Citrus-Hernando MPO.  
Soils - NRCS = National Resources Conservation Service, Water, Lakes, Mitigation Banks FDEP, Drainage Basins - All Counties

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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 9, 2024

# WCF REGIONAL NATURAL CONSERVATION AREAS

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



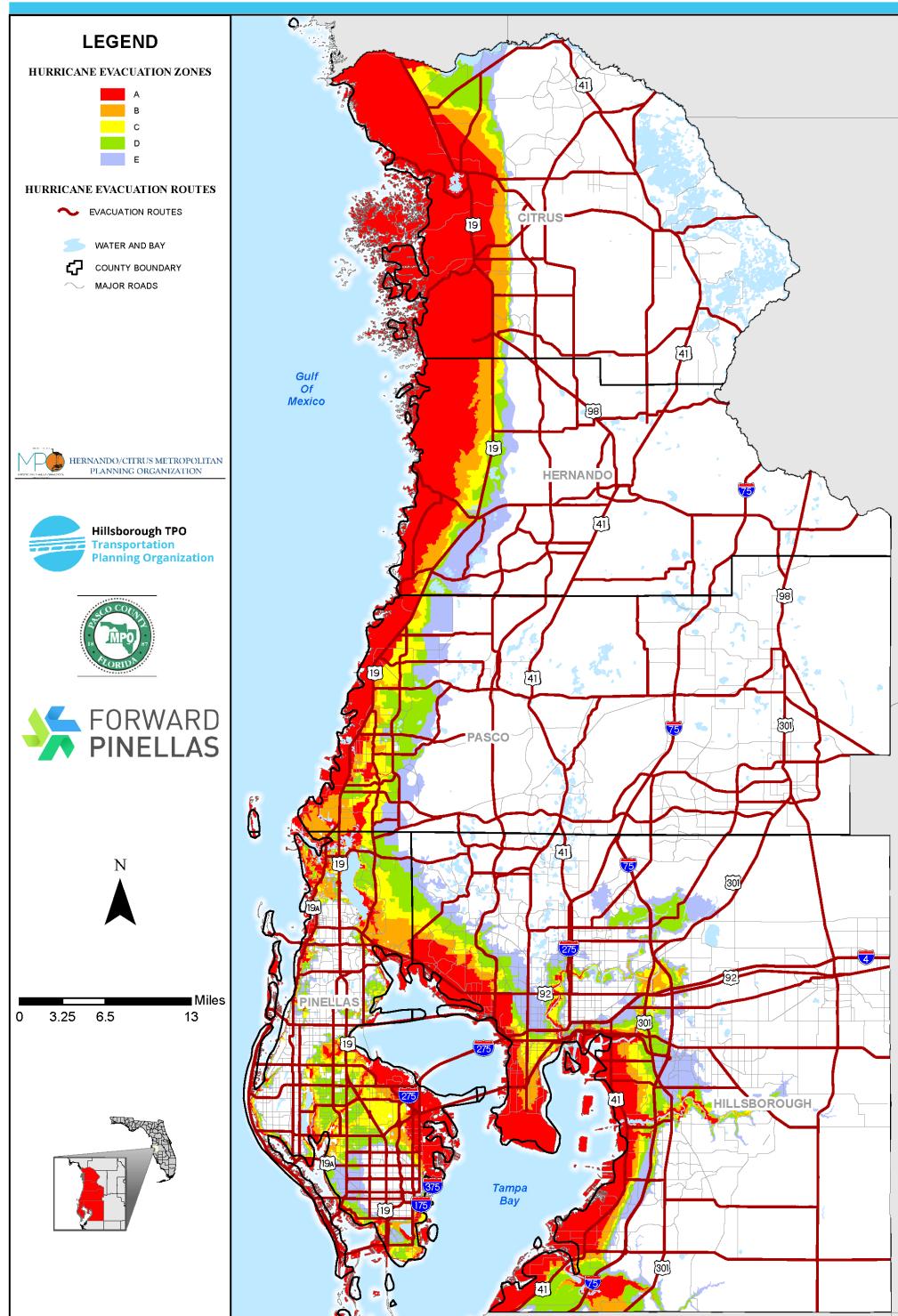
Data Source: Hillsborough County TPO, Pinellas MPO, Pasco MPO, and Citrus-Hernando MPO.  
Soils - NRCS = National Resources Conservation Service, Water, Lakes, Mitigation Banks FDEP, Drainage Basins, Open Spaces and Preserves - All Counties.

WCF = WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 9, 2024

## WCF REGIONAL HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONES

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



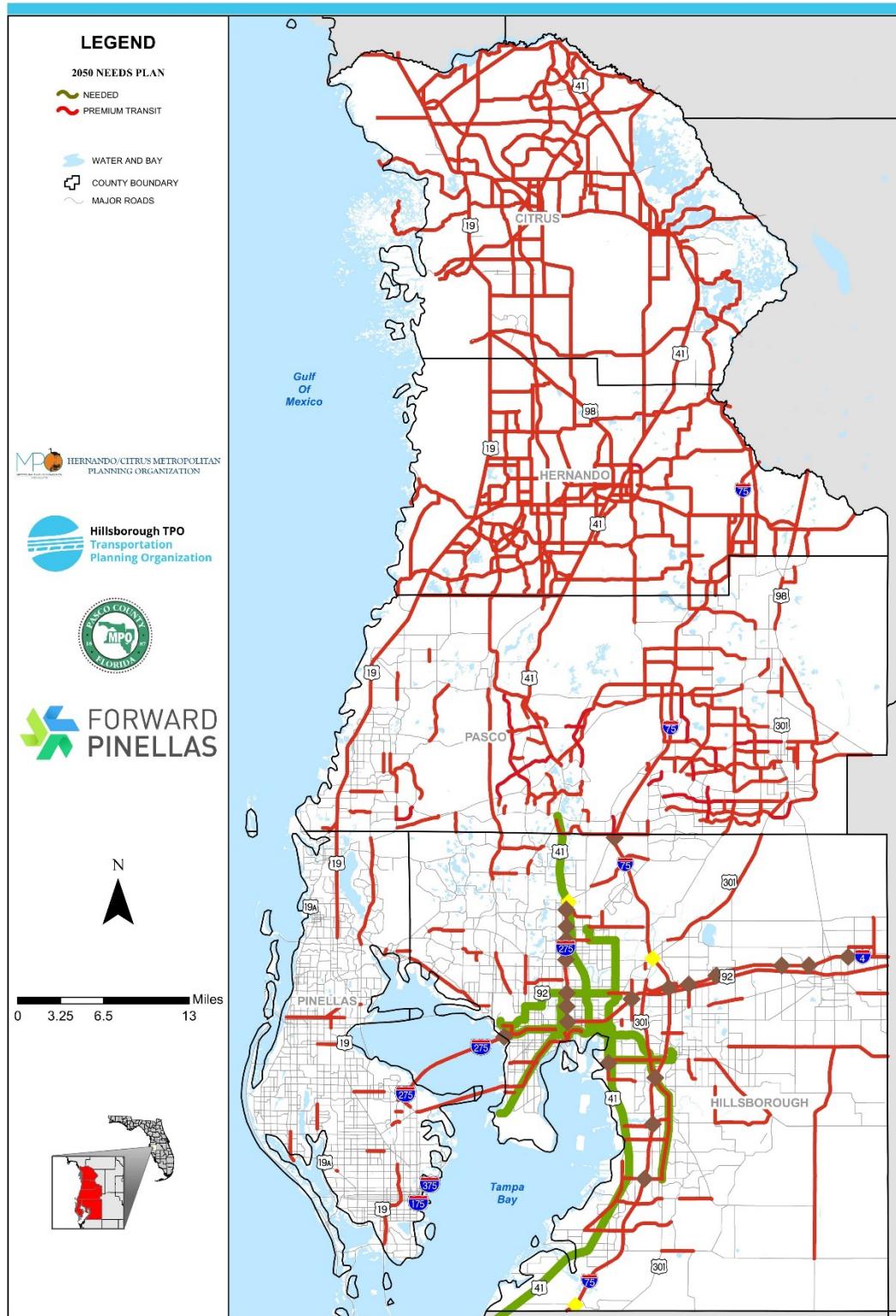
Data Source: Hillsborough County MPO, Pinellas MPO, Pasco MPO, and Citrus-Hernando MPO. Drainage Basins - SWFWMD, Water, Lakes - FDEP

WCF = WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 8, 2024

# WCF REGIONAL NEEDS PLAN

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



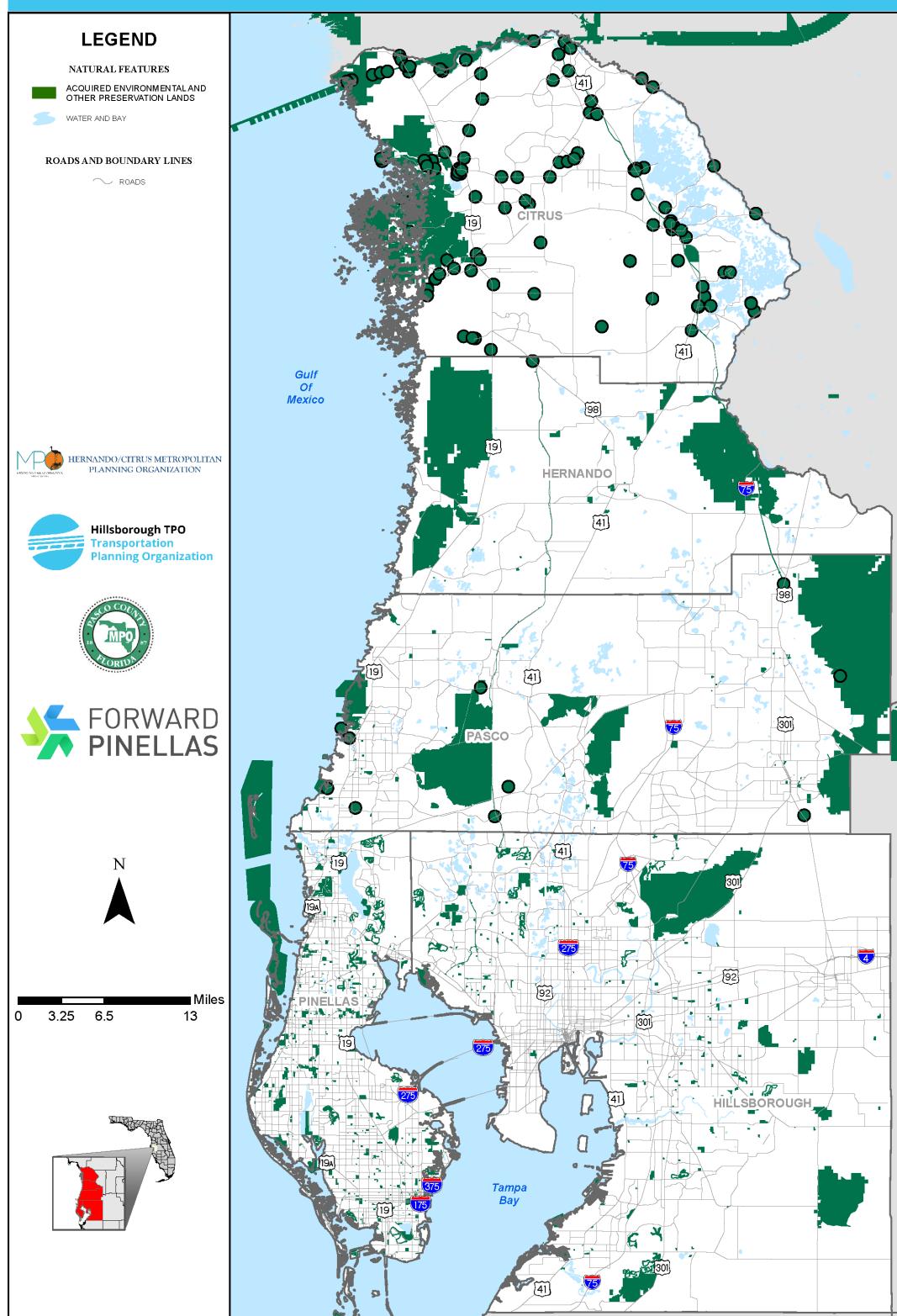
Data Source: Hillsborough County MPO, Pinellas MPO, Pasco MPO, and Citrus-Hernando MPO.  
Soils - NRCS = National Resources Conservation Service, Water, Lakes - FDEP

WCF = WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 8, 2024

# WCF REGIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



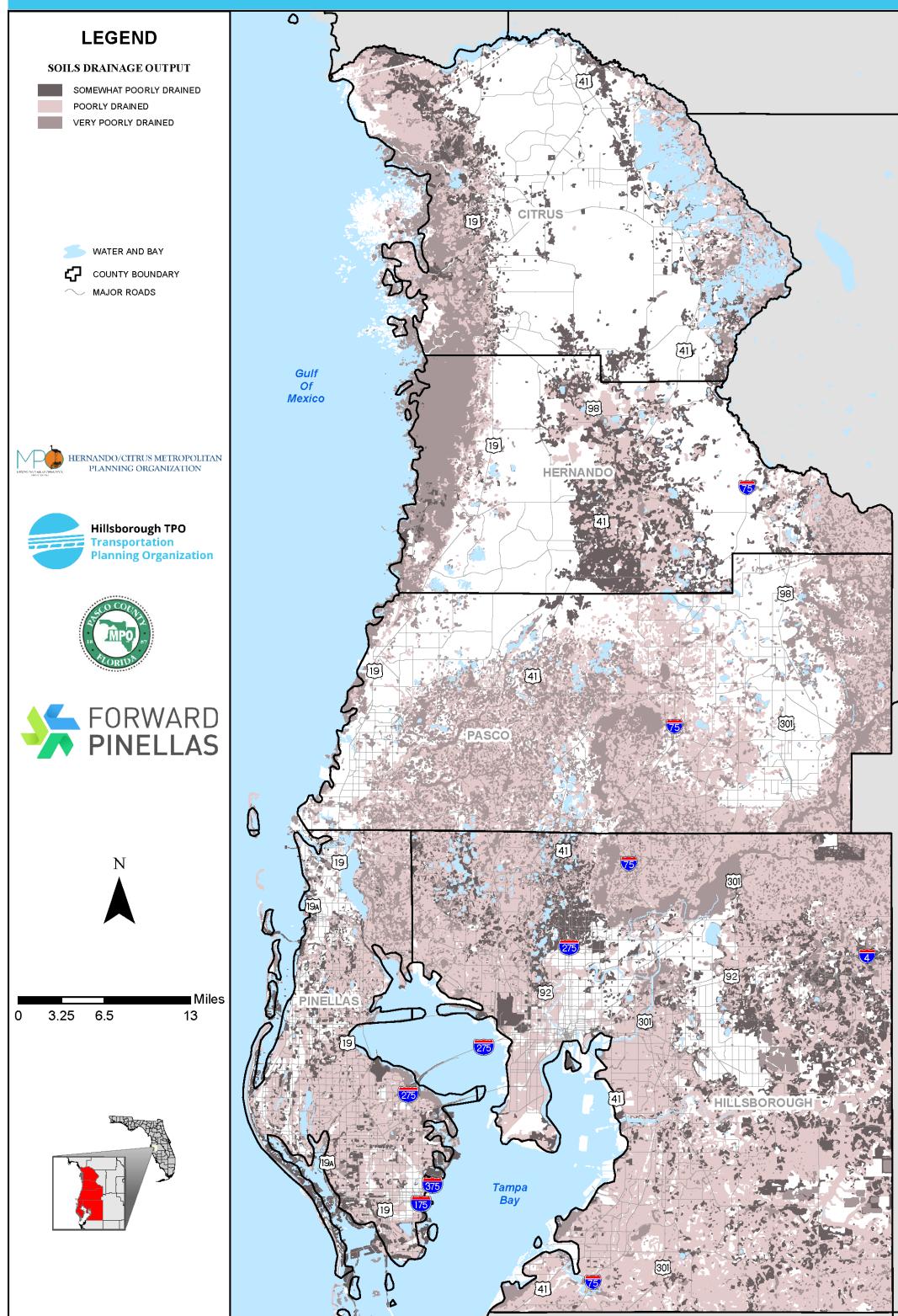
Data Source: Hillsborough County TPO, Pinellas MPO, Pasco MPO, and Citrus-Hernando MPO.  
Soils - NRCS = National Resources Conservation Service, Water, Lakes, Mitigation Banks FDEP, Drainage Basins, Open Spaces and Preserves, Cultural Facilities

WCF = WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 9, 2024

# WCF REGIONAL SOILS CLASSIFICATION

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: Hillsborough County MPO, Pinellas MPO, Pasco MPO, and Citrus-Hernando MPO.  
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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 8, 2024

## County-Specific Maps

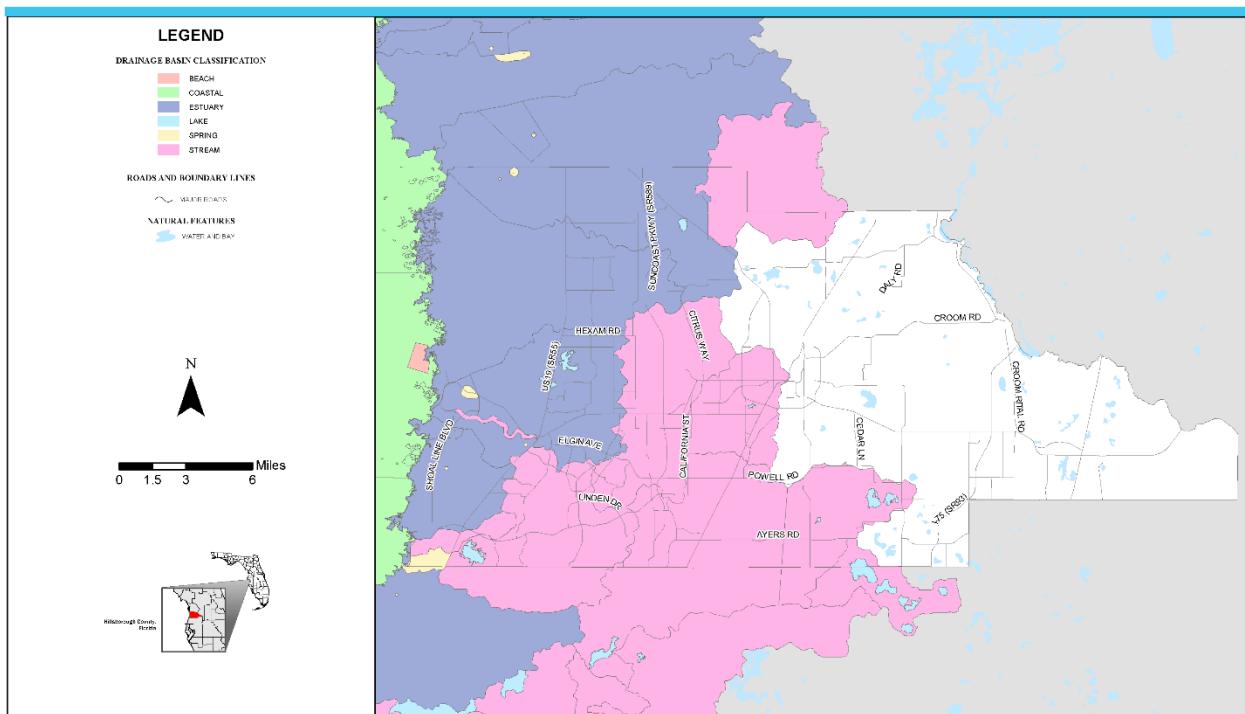
### Hernando County



### HERNANDO COUNTY DRAINAGE BASIN CLASSIFICATION

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024

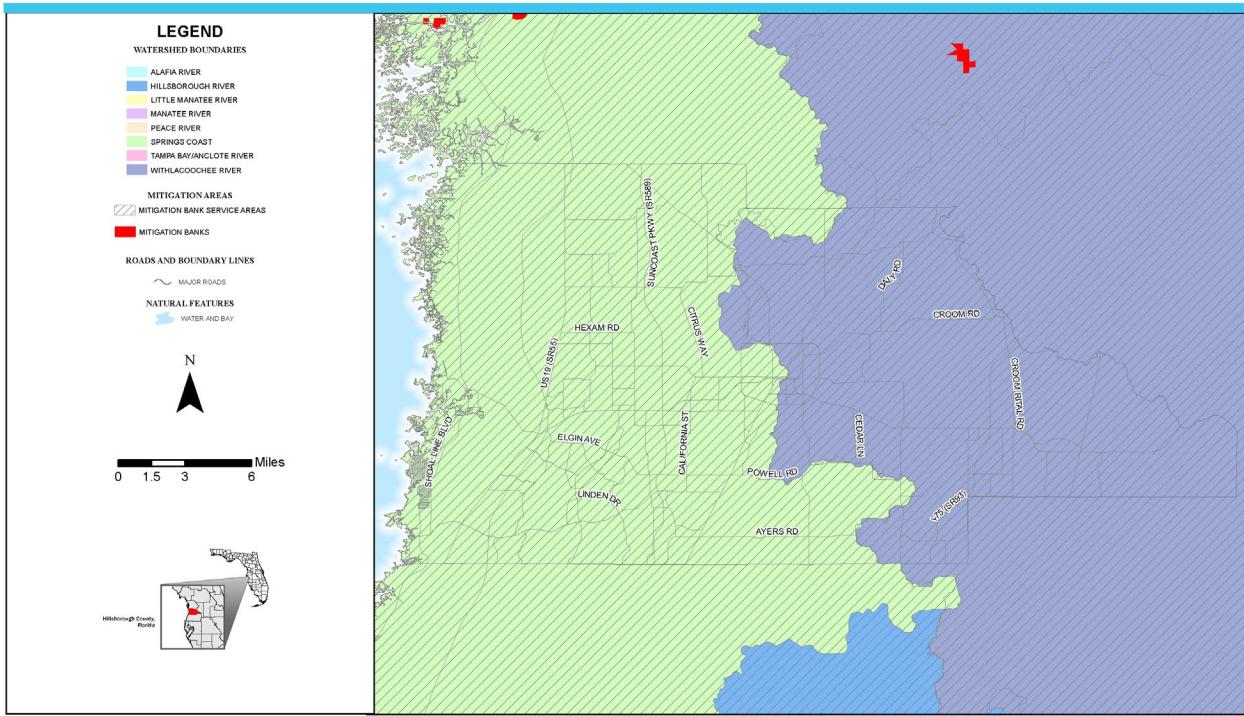
 Hernando Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization



## HERNANDO COUNTY MITIGATION BOUNDARIES

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024

 HERNANDO CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Hernando county Mitigation Service Areas, Watersheds, Mitigation Banks - Florid DEP

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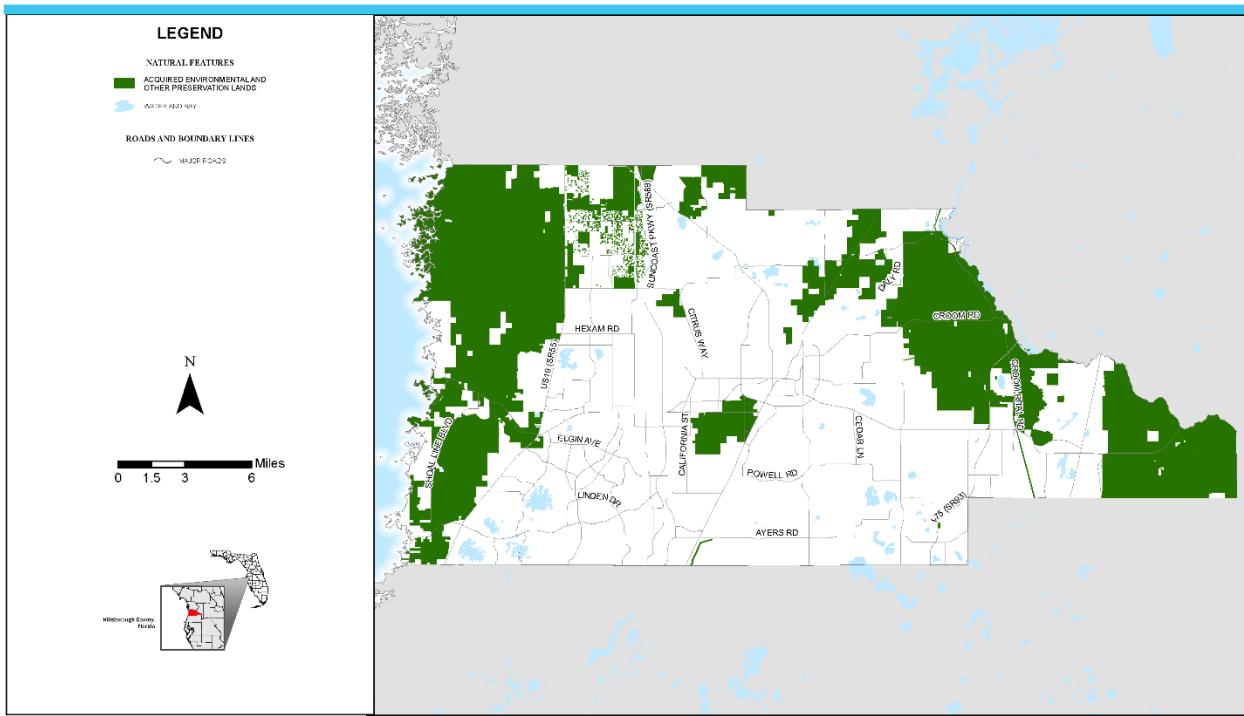
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## HERNANDO COUNTY NATURAL CONSERVATION AREAS

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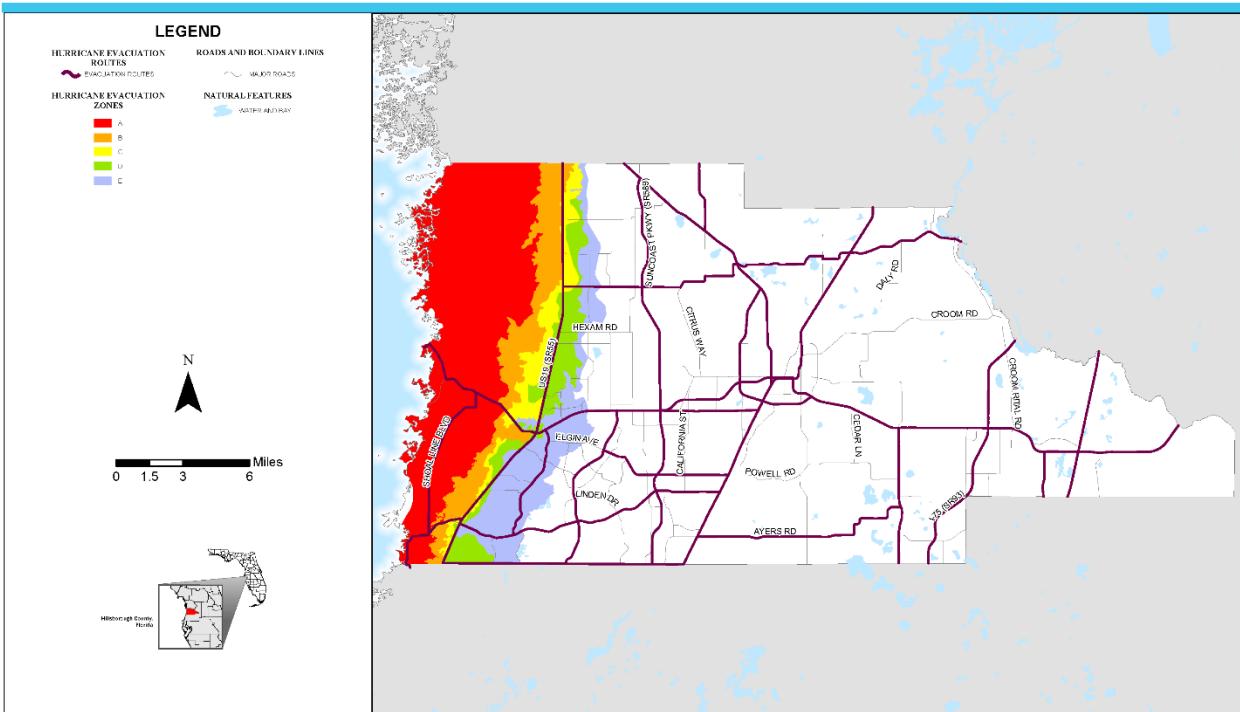
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## HERNANDO COUNTY HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONES

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 HERNANDO-CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Hernando county Hurricane Evacuation Zones and Routes - Hernando County

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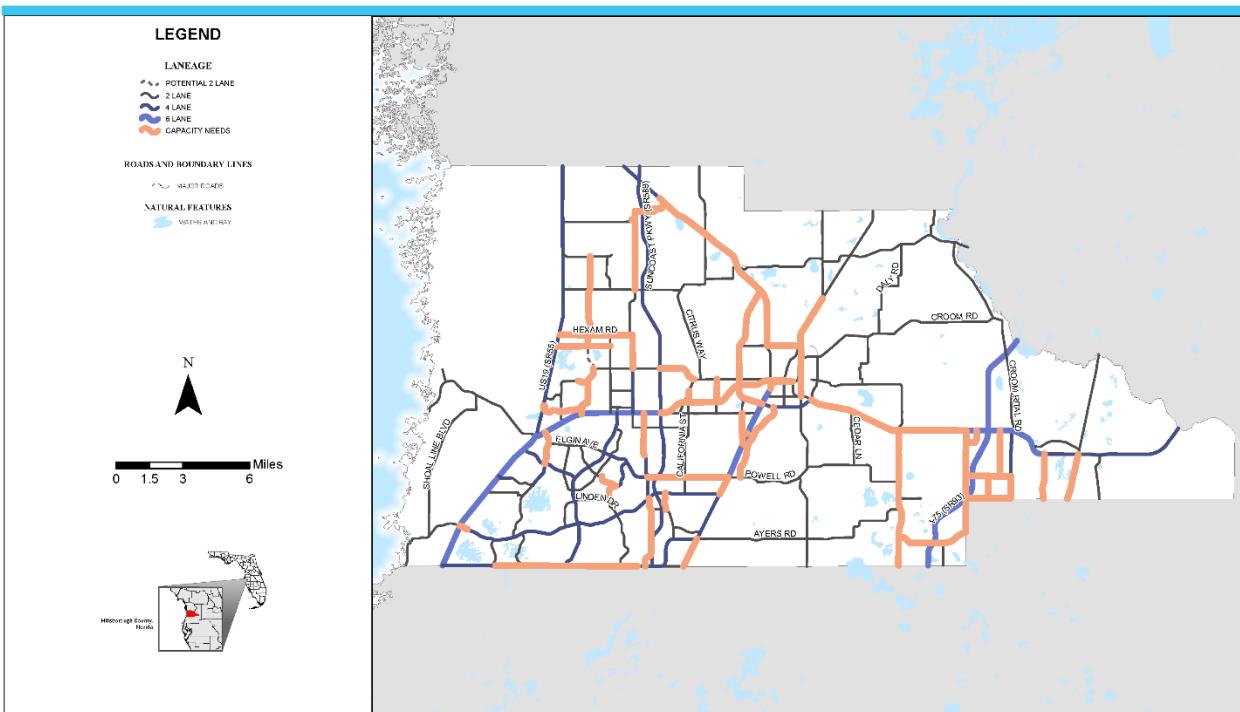
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## HERNANDO COUNTY NEEDS PLAN

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024

 HERNANDO-CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



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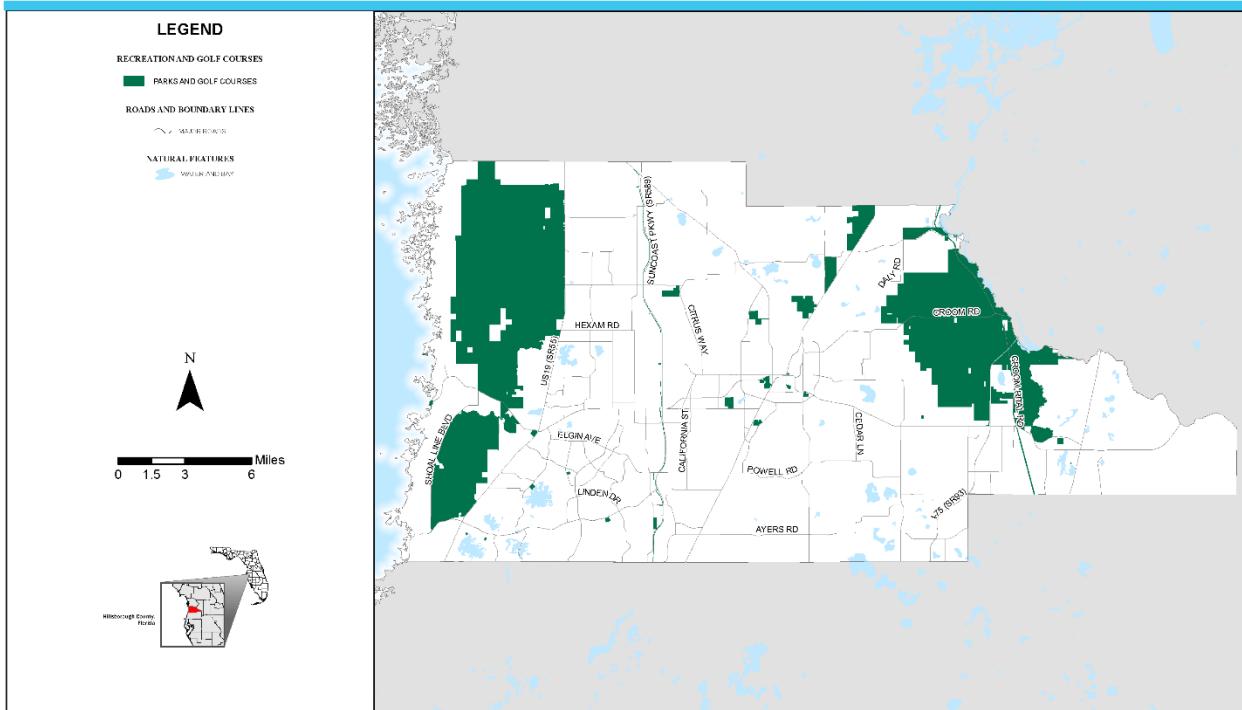
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## HERNANDO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024

 HERNANDO CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Hernando county. Cultural Facilities and Golf Courses - Hernando County.

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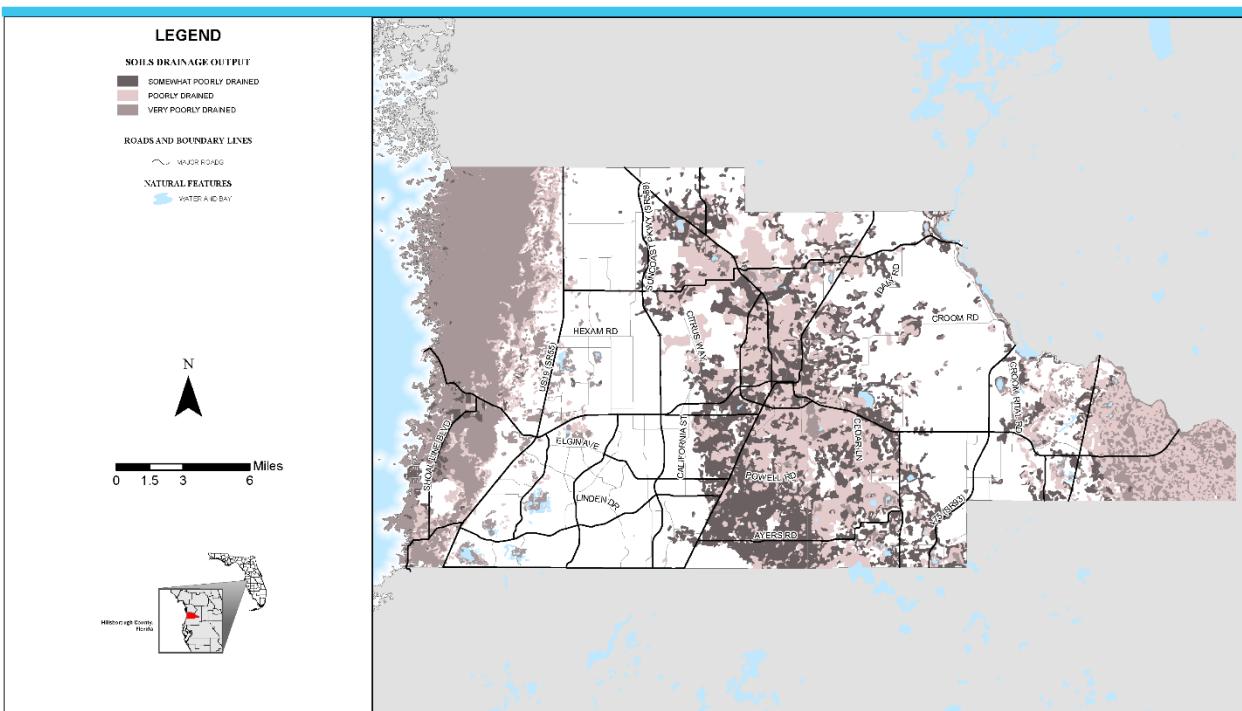
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## HERNANDO COUNTY SOIL CLASSIFICATION

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024

 HERNANDO CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Hernando county. Soil Classification - Hernando County. USDA SSURGO.

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Author: Roger Matthe Updated: May 9, 2024

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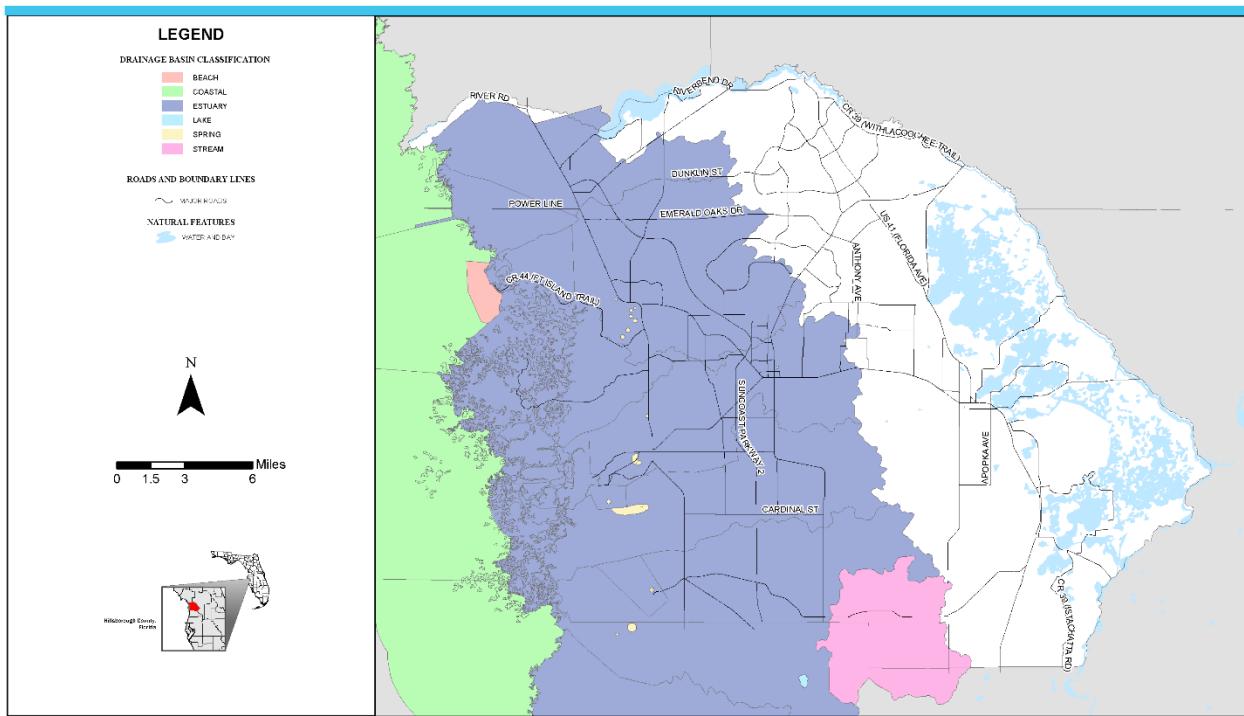
*Citrus County*



## CITRUS COUNTY DRAINAGE BASIN CLASSIFICATION

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024

MPO HERNANDO-CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Citrus county: Drainage Basin Classification - Citrus County.

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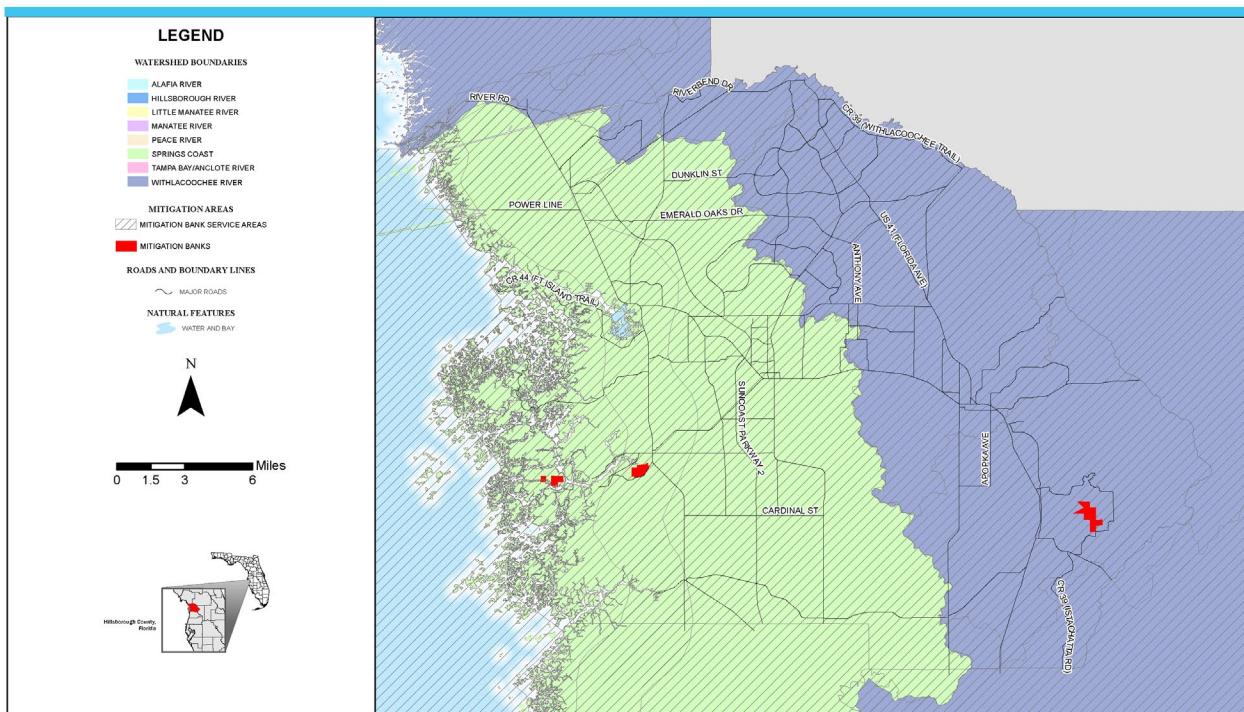
Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 9, 2024

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## CITRUS COUNTY MITIGATION BOUNDARIES

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Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Citrus county: Mitigation Service Areas, Watersheds, Mitigation Banks - Florida DEP.

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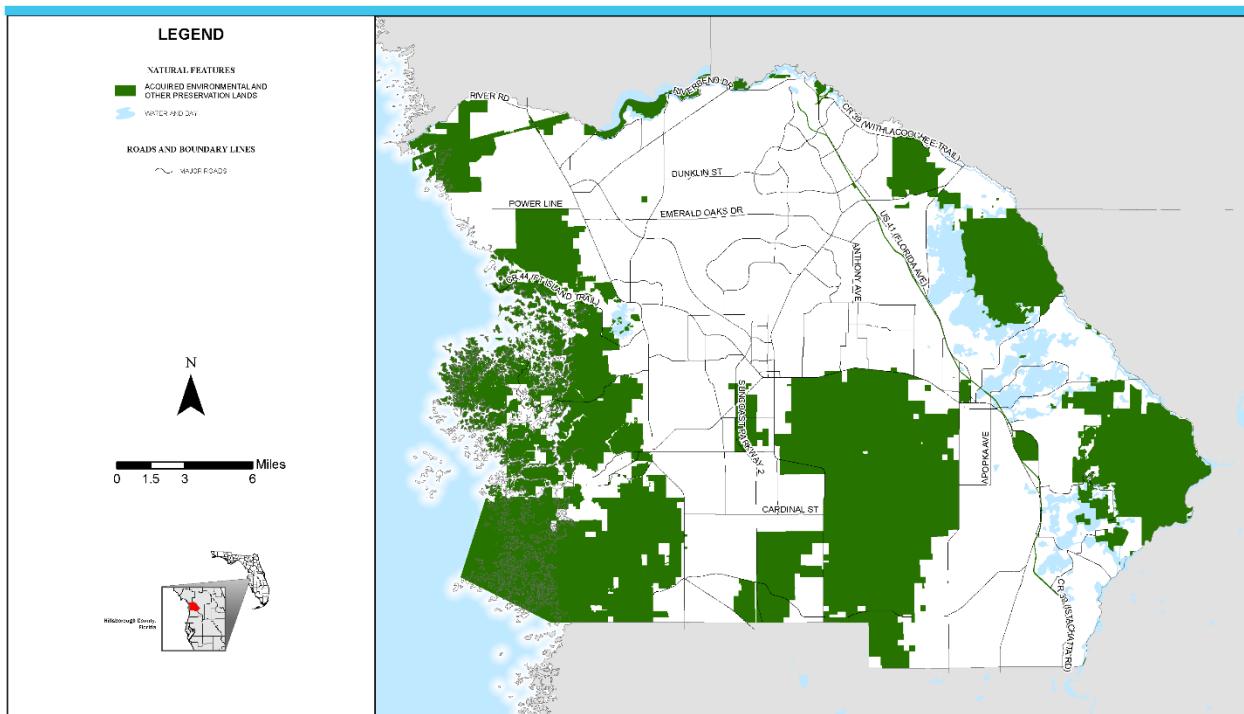
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## CITRUS COUNTY NATURAL CONSERVATION AREAS

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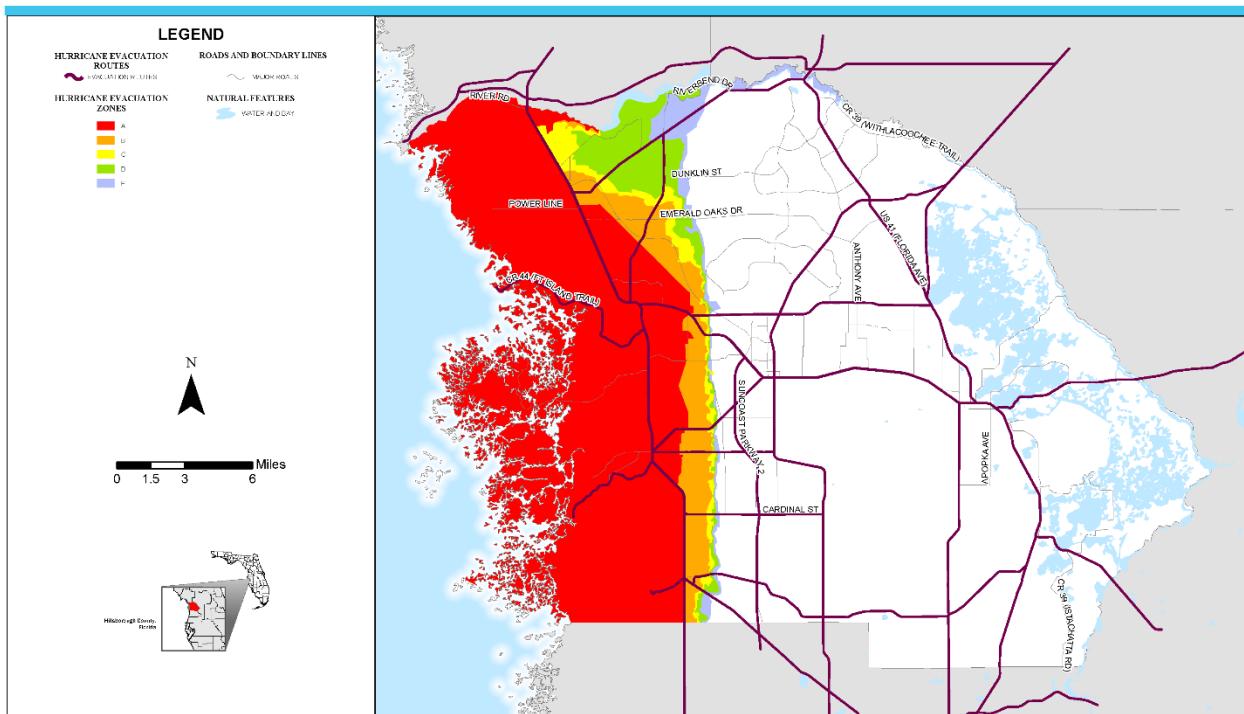
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## CITRUS COUNTY HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONES

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MPO HERNANDO-CITRUS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements, Roads, Water from Citrus county - Hurricane Evacuation Zones and Routes - Citrus County

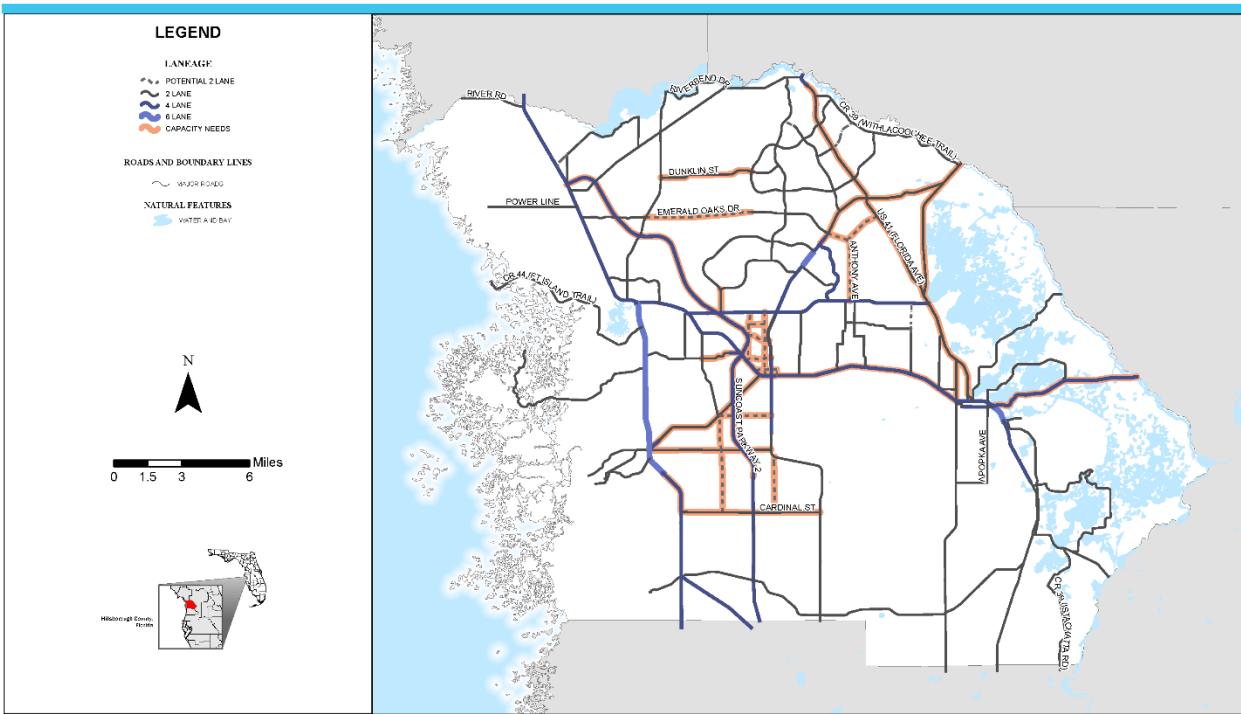
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## CITRUS COUNTY NEEDS PLAN

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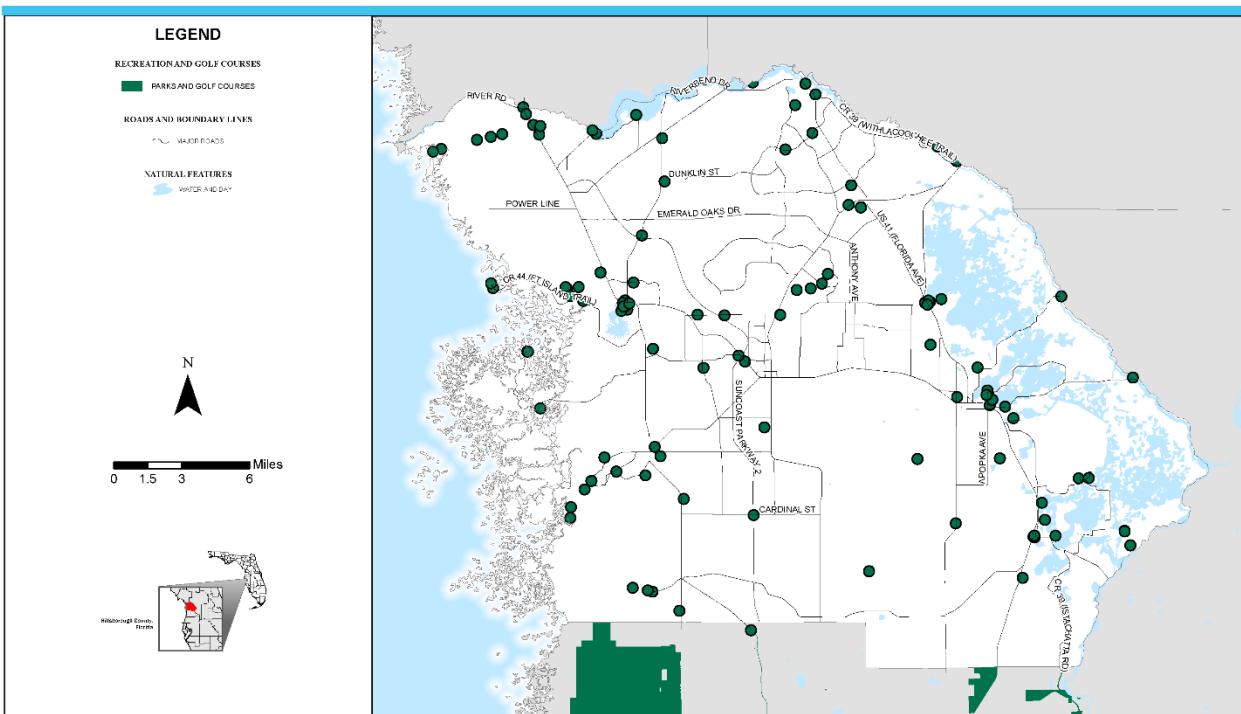
Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Citrus county.

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## CITRUS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

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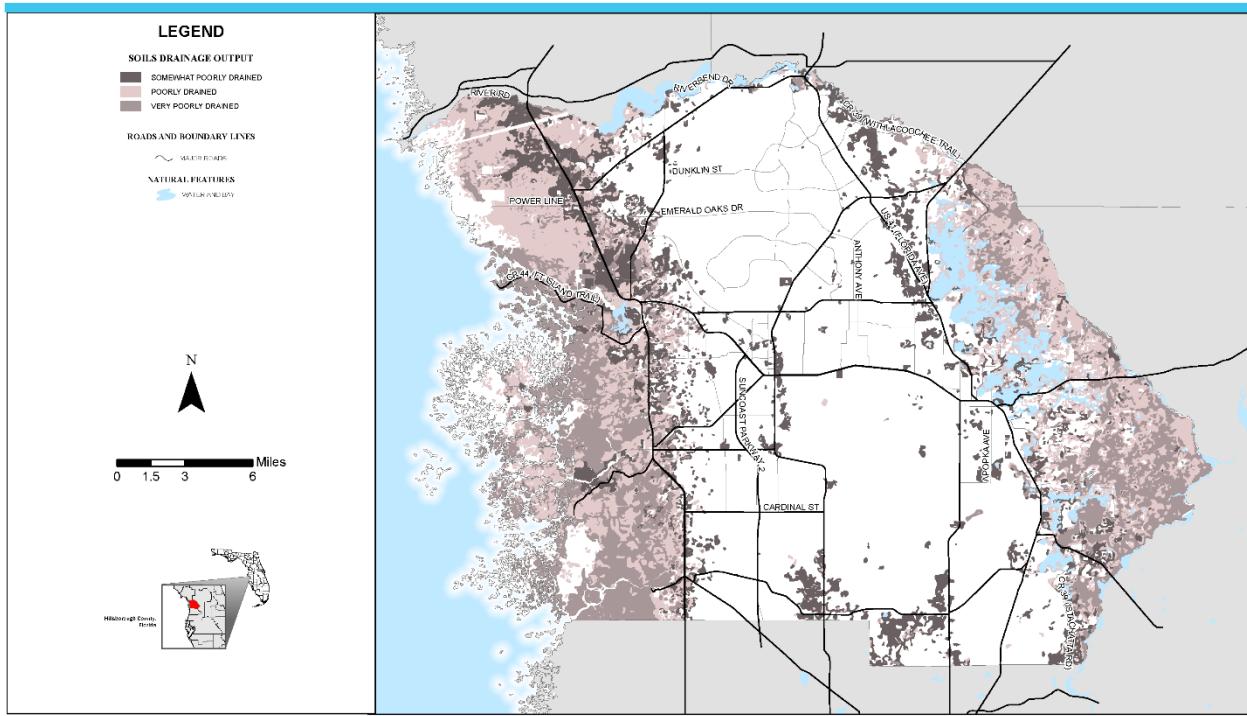
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## CITRUS COUNTY SOIL CLASSIFICATION

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 HERNANDO/CITRUS METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Citrus county. Soil Classification - Citrus County, USDA SSURGO.

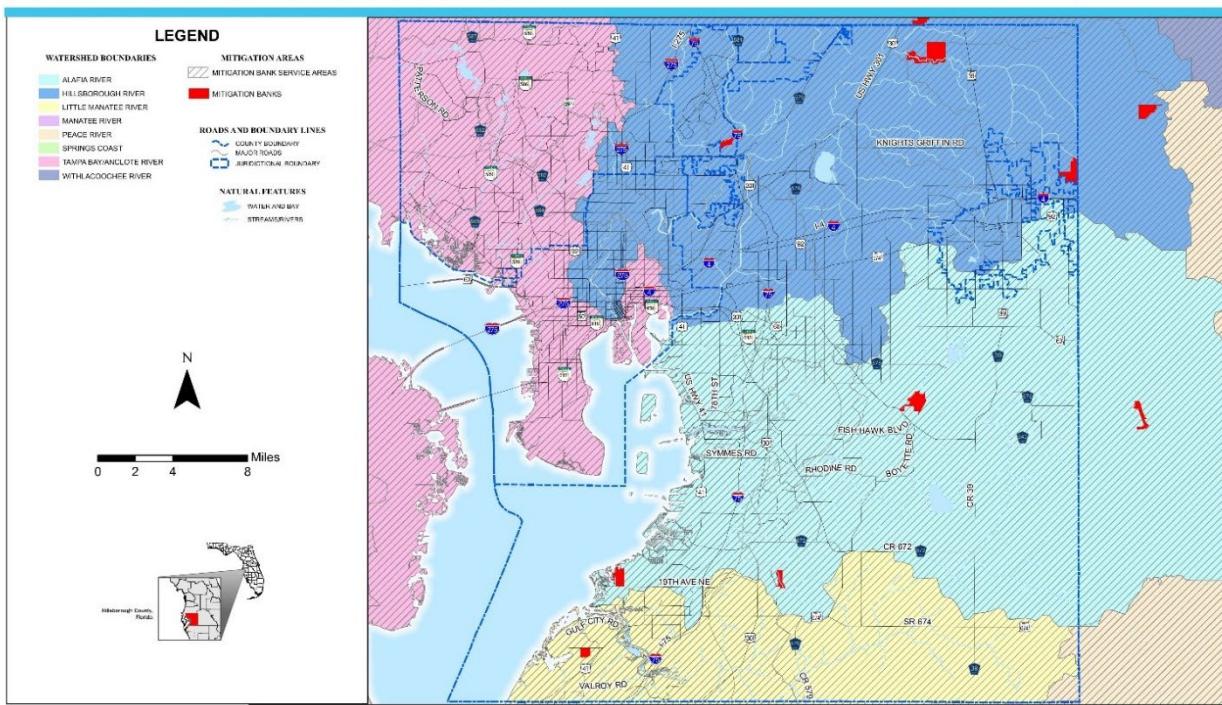
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Author: Roger.Melton.Undated - May 9, 2024

## *Hillsborough County*



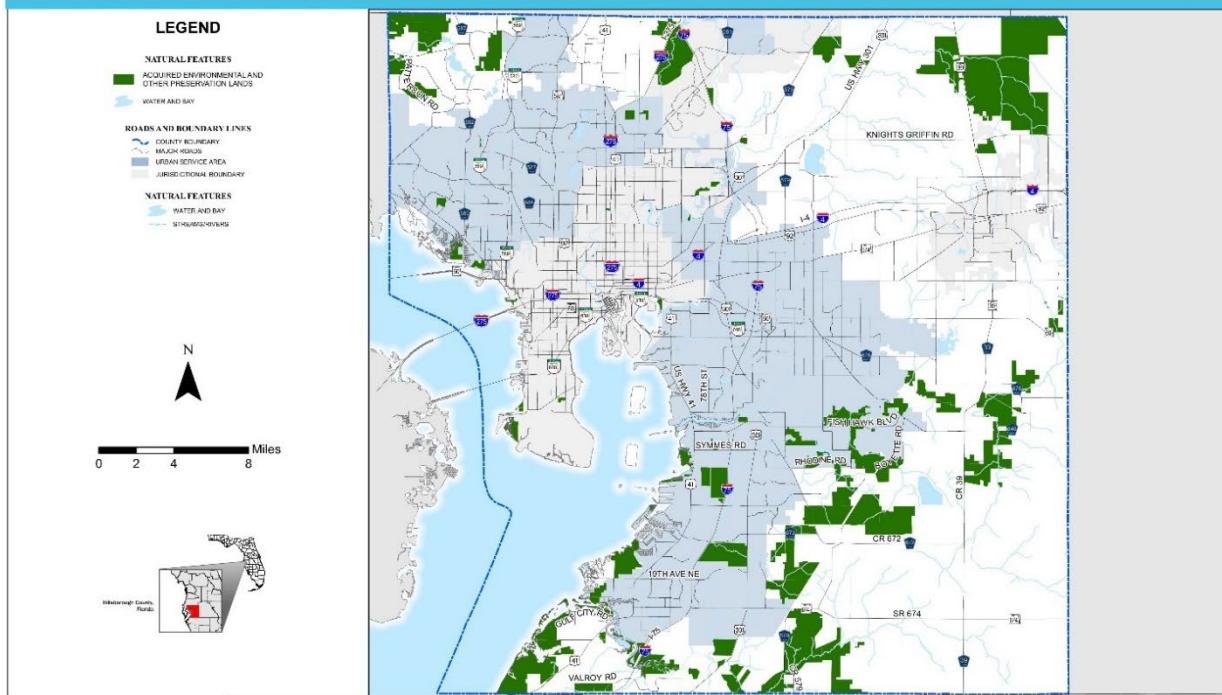
## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY MITIGATION BOUNDARIES

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



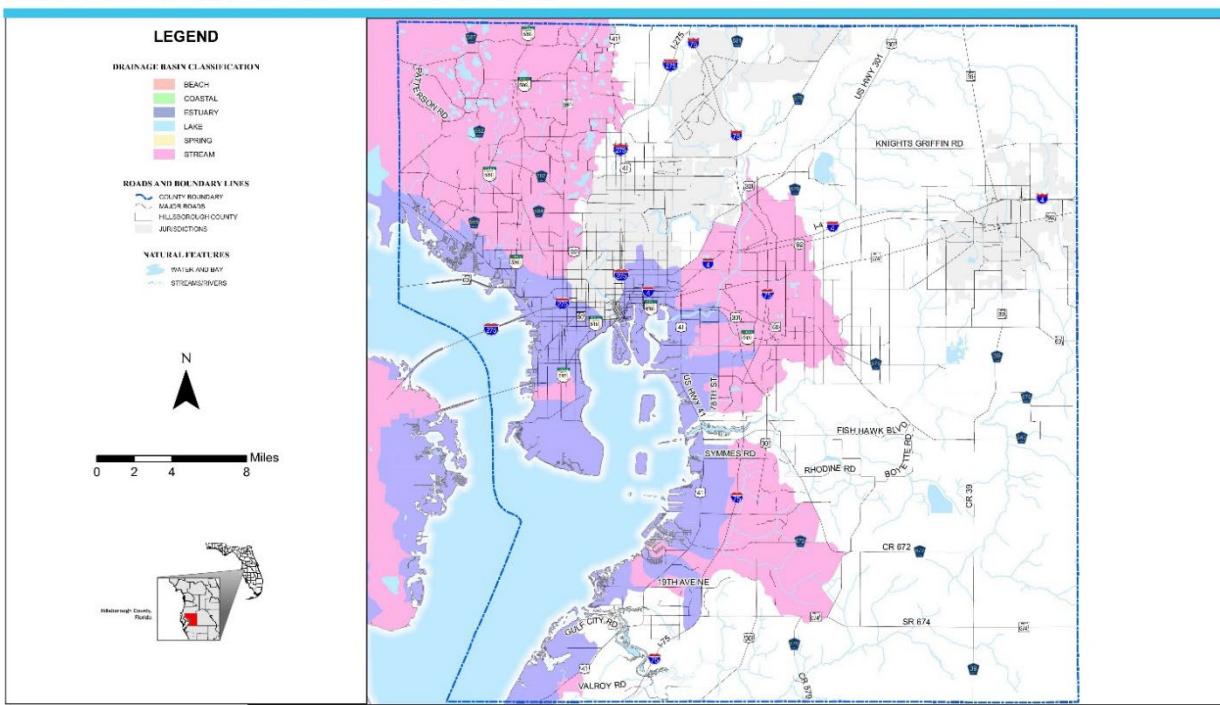
## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NATURAL CONSERVATION AREAS

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY DRAINAGE BASIN CLASSIFICATION

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted TPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission, Drainage Basins.

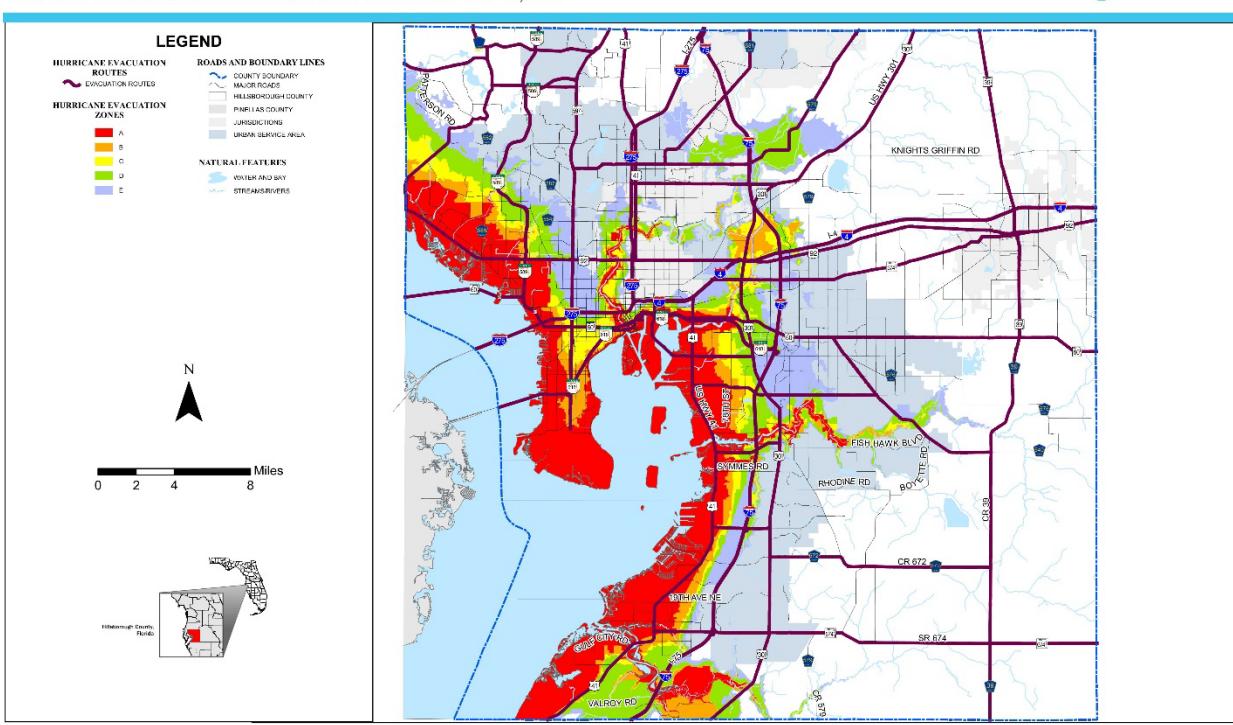
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Author: Roger Matthe Updated: May 9, 2024

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## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONES

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission, Hurricane Evacuation Zones and Routes - Hillsborough County.

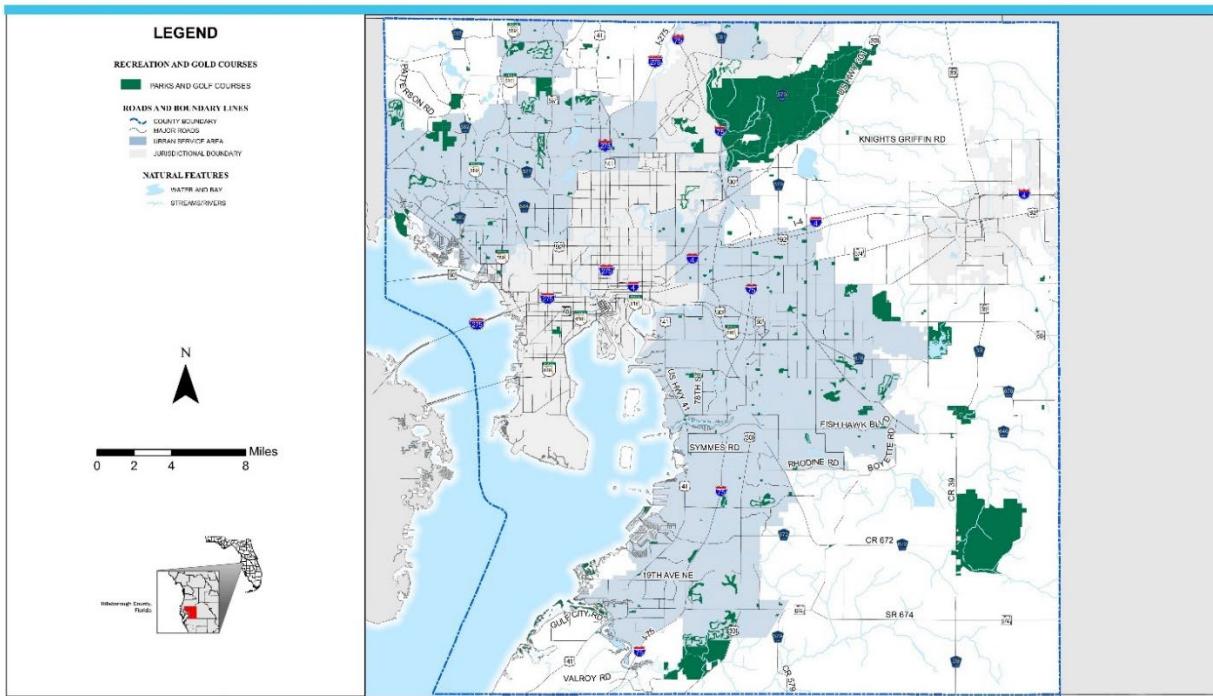
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Author: Roger Matthe Updated: May 9, 2024

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## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted TPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Areas - Hillsborough County.

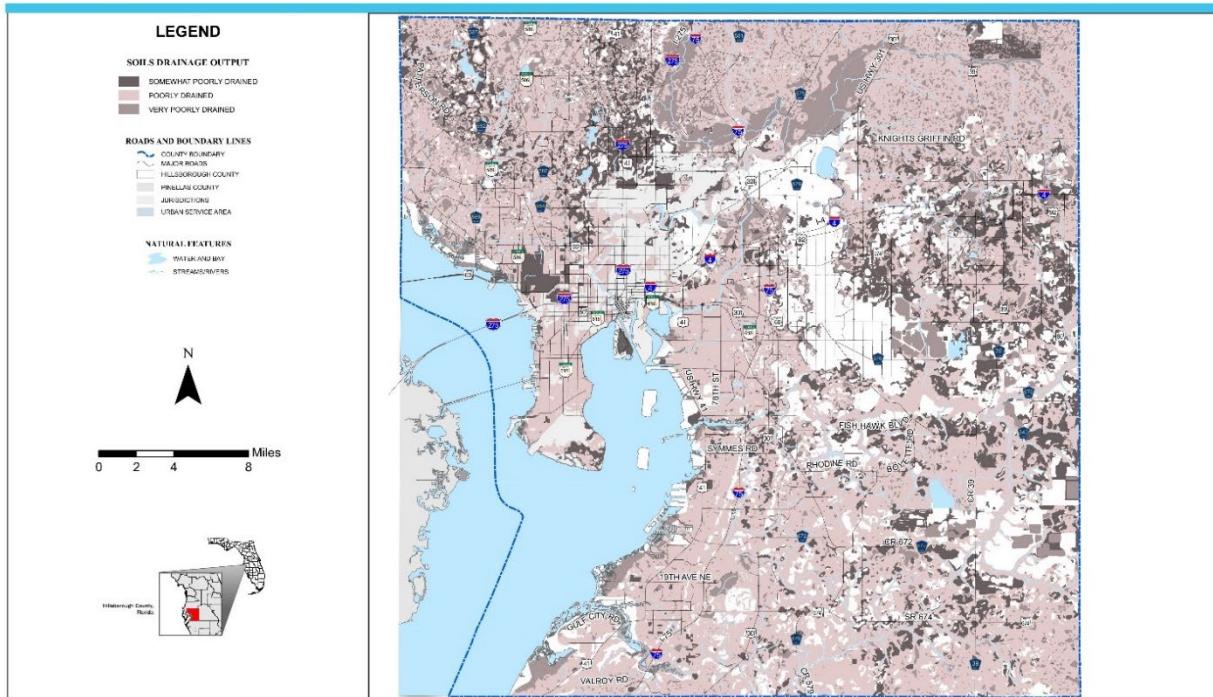
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Author: Roger Matthe Updated May 9, 2024

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## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SOIL CLASSIFICATION

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted TPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission, Soil Classifications - Hillsborough County, USDA SSURGO.

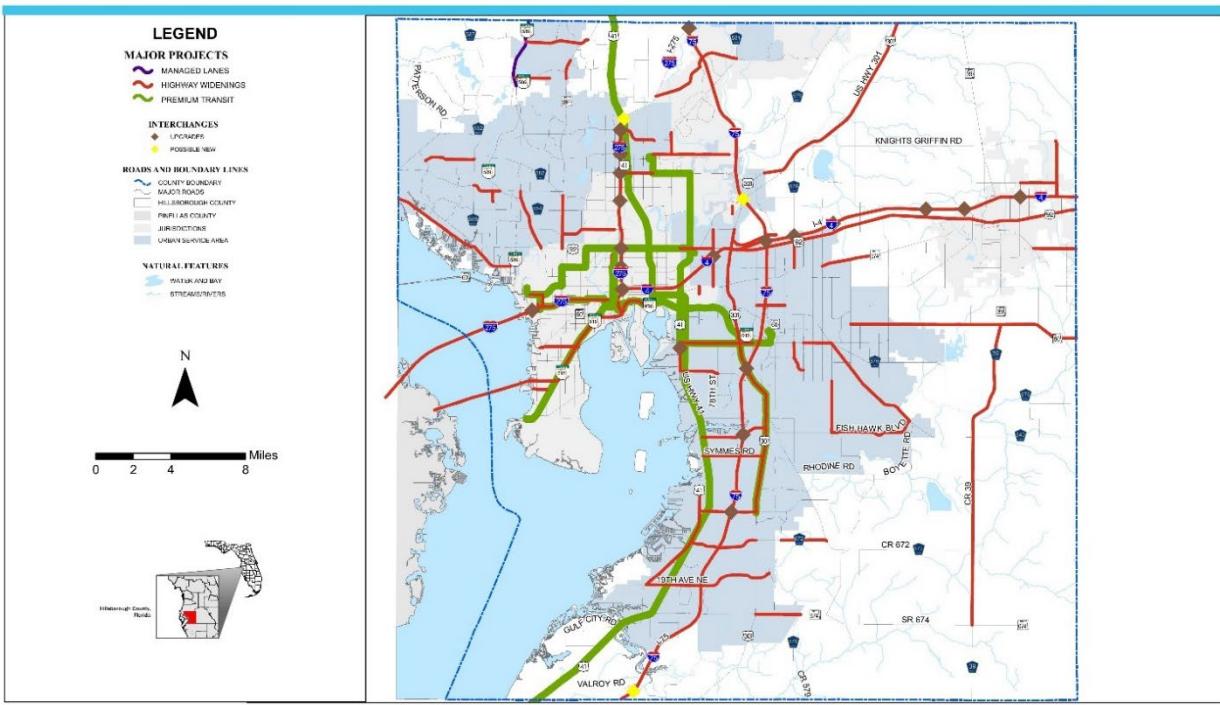
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Author: Roger Matthe Updated May 9, 2024

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## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NEEDS PLAN

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024

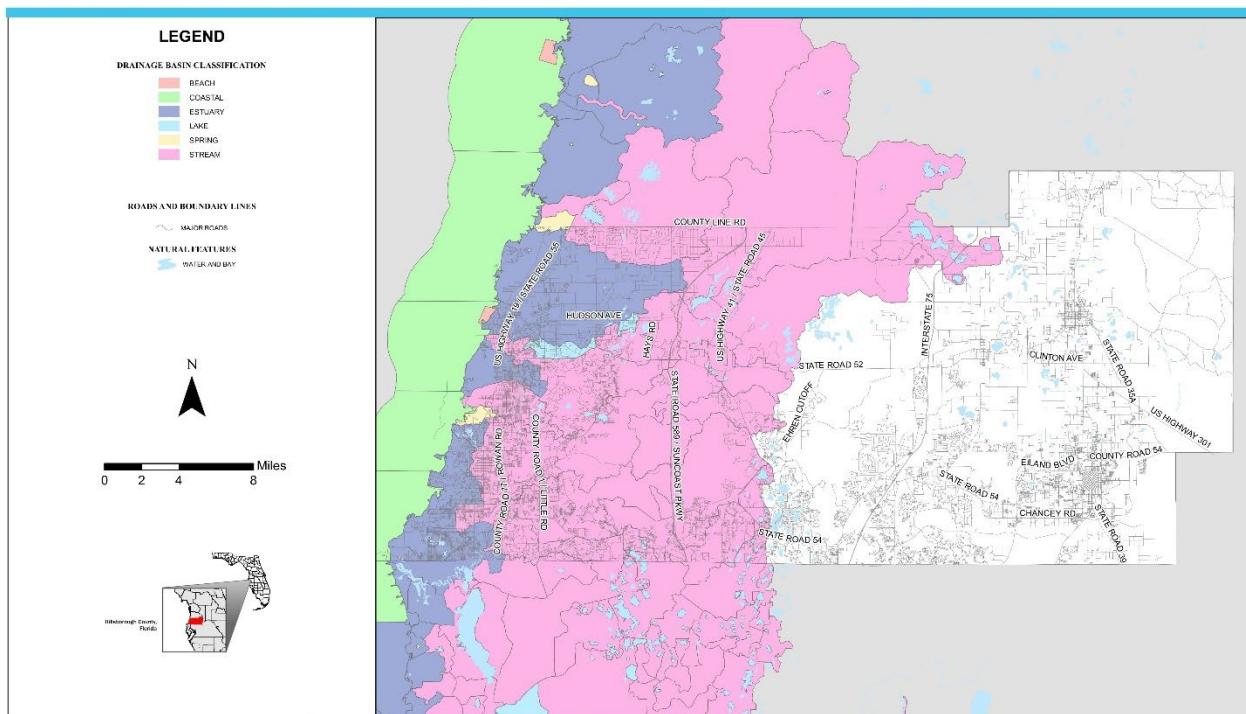


## Pasco County



### PASCO COUNTY DRAINAGE BASIN CLASSIFICATION

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024

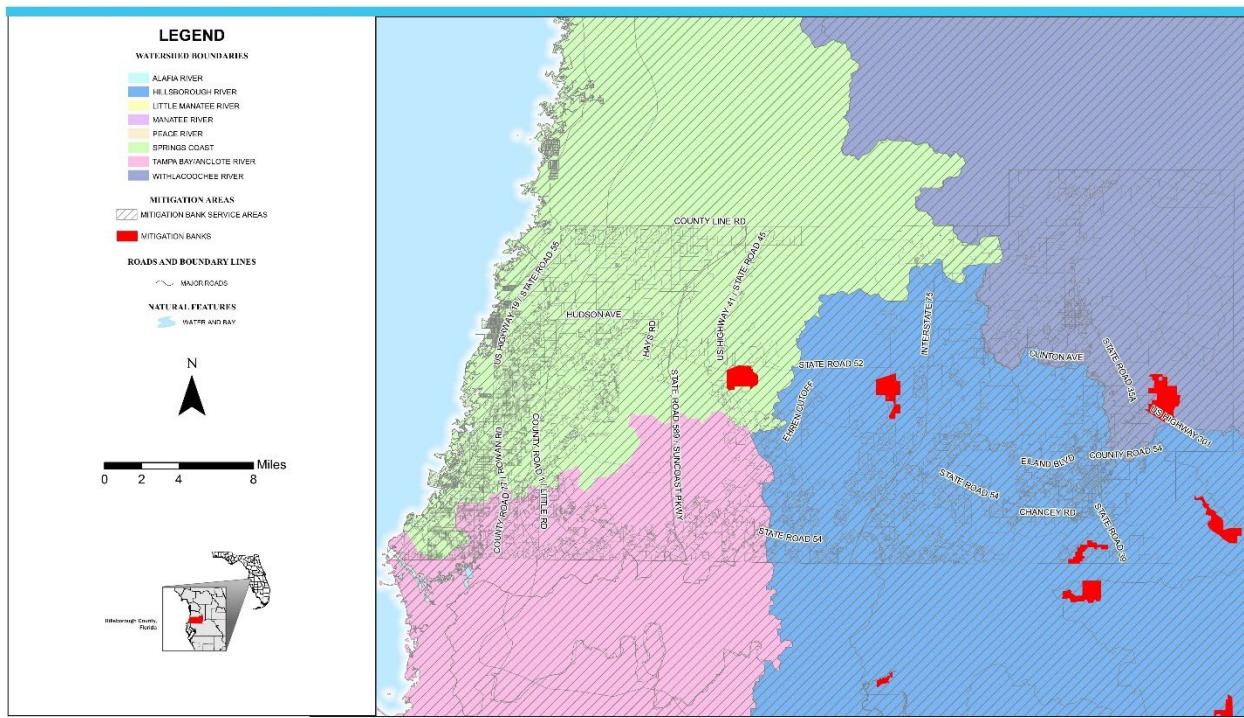


Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Pasco county. Drainage Basin Classification - Pasco County.

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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 9, 2024

## PASCO COUNTY MITIGATION BOUNDARIES

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Pasco county, Mitigation Boundaries - Pasco County, Florida DEP.

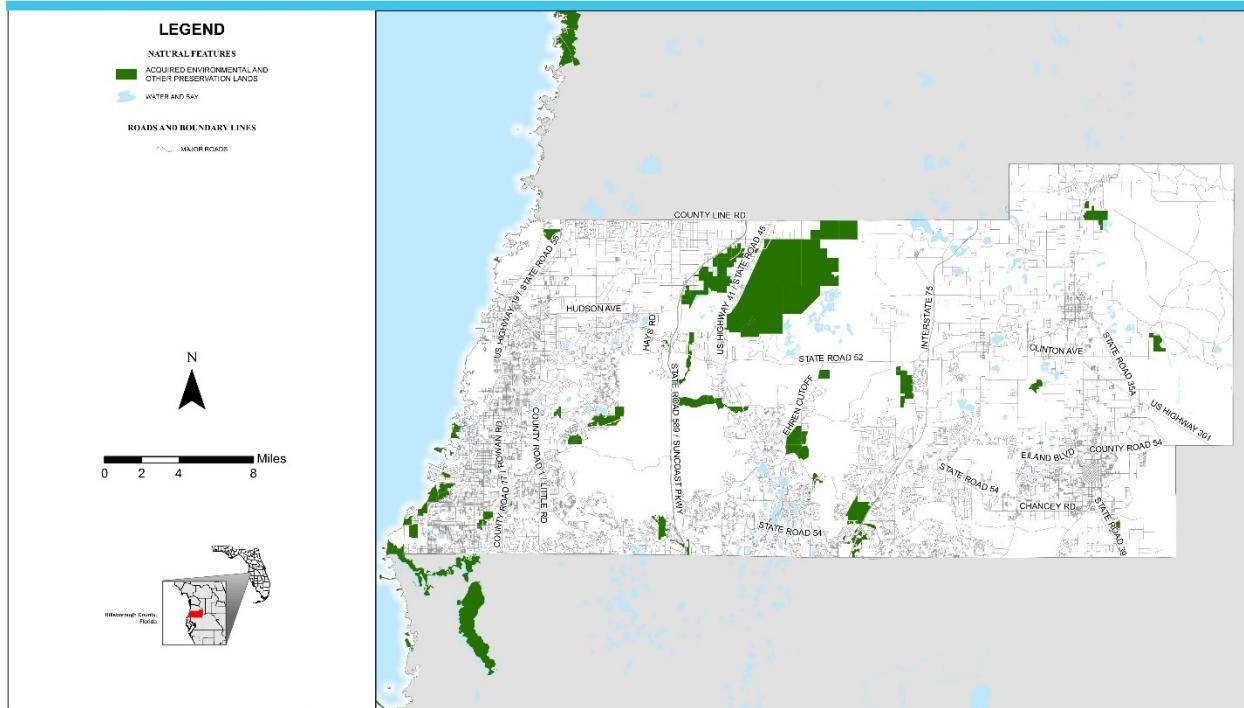
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Author: Roger Matthe Updated: May 9, 2024

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## PASCO COUNTY NATURAL CONSERVATION AREAS

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Pasco county, Open Spaces and Preserves - Pasco County.

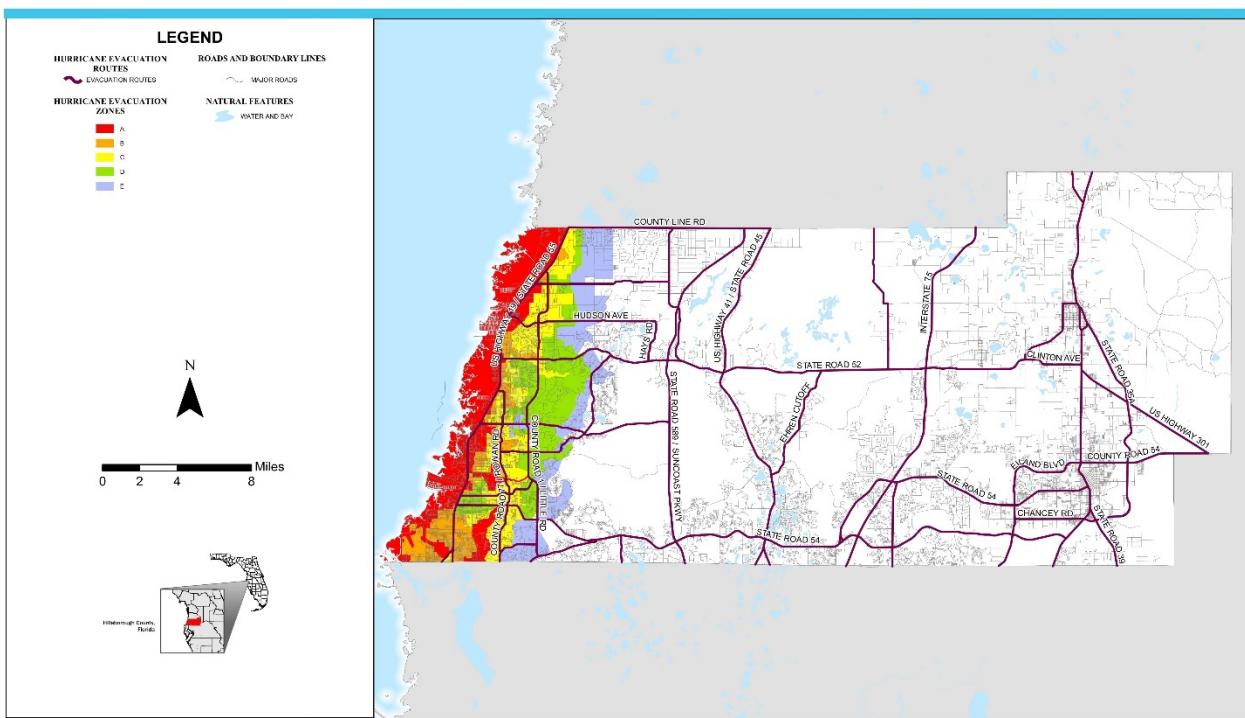
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Author: Roger Matthe Updated: May 9, 2024

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## PASCO COUNTY HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONES

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements, Roads, Water from Pasco county, Hurricane Evacuation Zones and Routes - Pasco County.

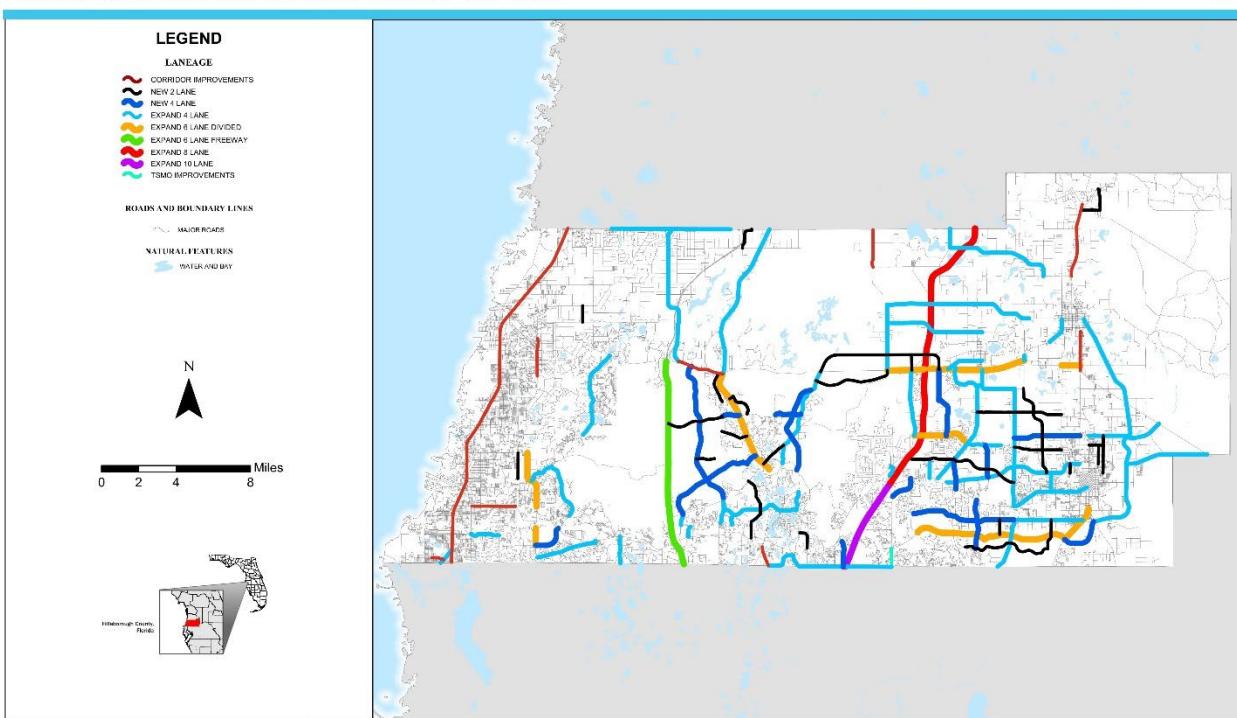
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Author: Roger Mathe Updated: May 9, 2024

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## PASCO COUNTY NEEDS PLAN

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements, Roads, Water from Pasco county.

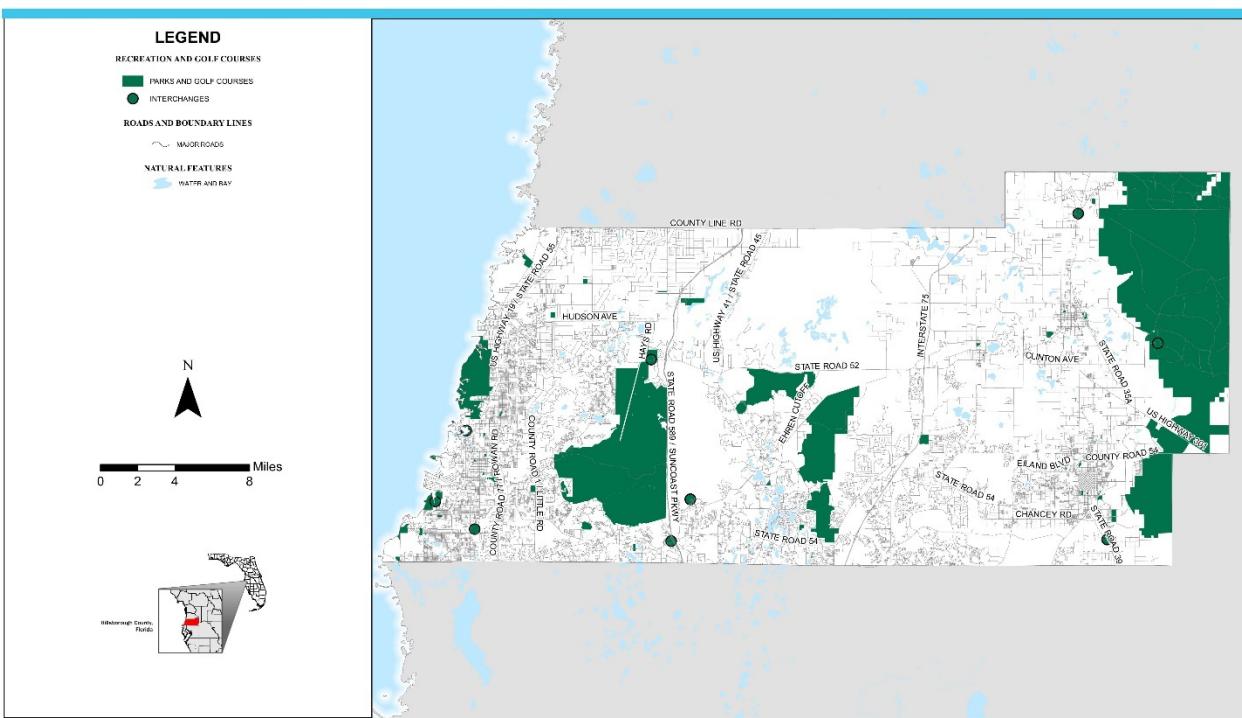
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Author: Roger Mathe Updated: May 9, 2024

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## PASCO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Pasco county. Cultural Facilities and Golf Courses - Pasco County.

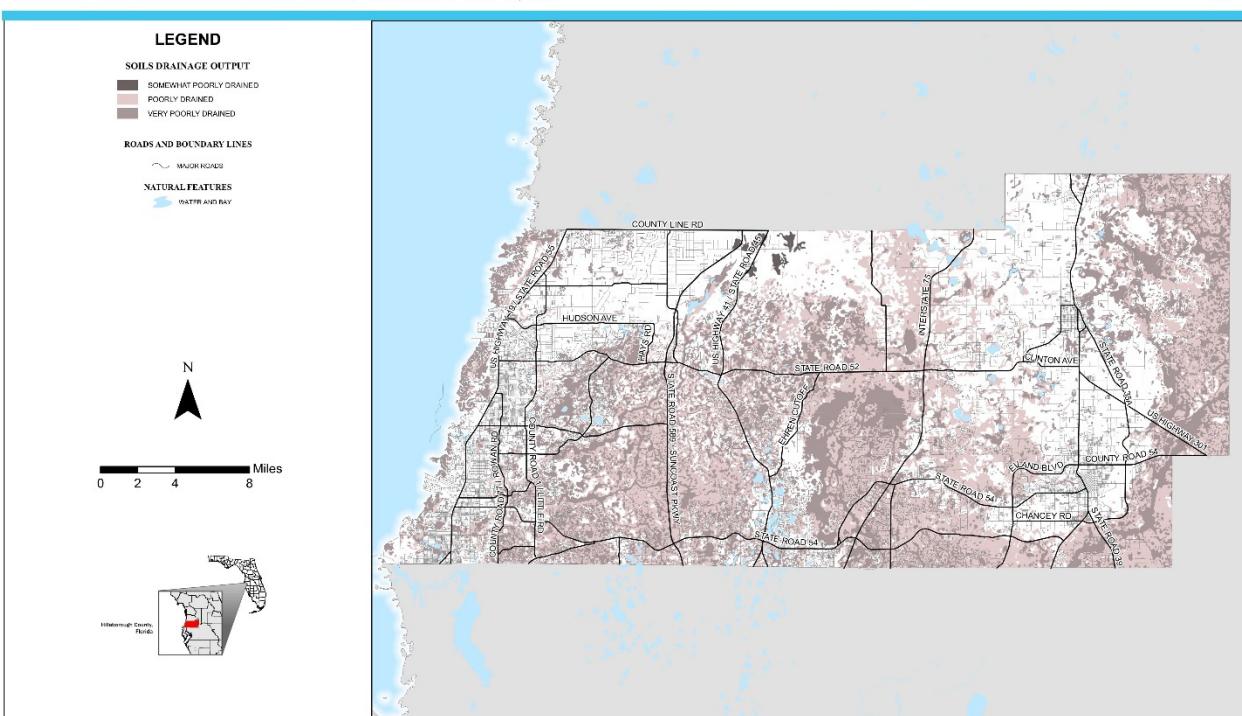
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Author: Roger Matthe Updated: May 9, 2024

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## PASCO COUNTY SOIL CLASSIFICATION

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Pasco county. Soil Classification - Pasco County. USDA SSURGO.

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Author: Roger Matthe Updated: May 9, 2024

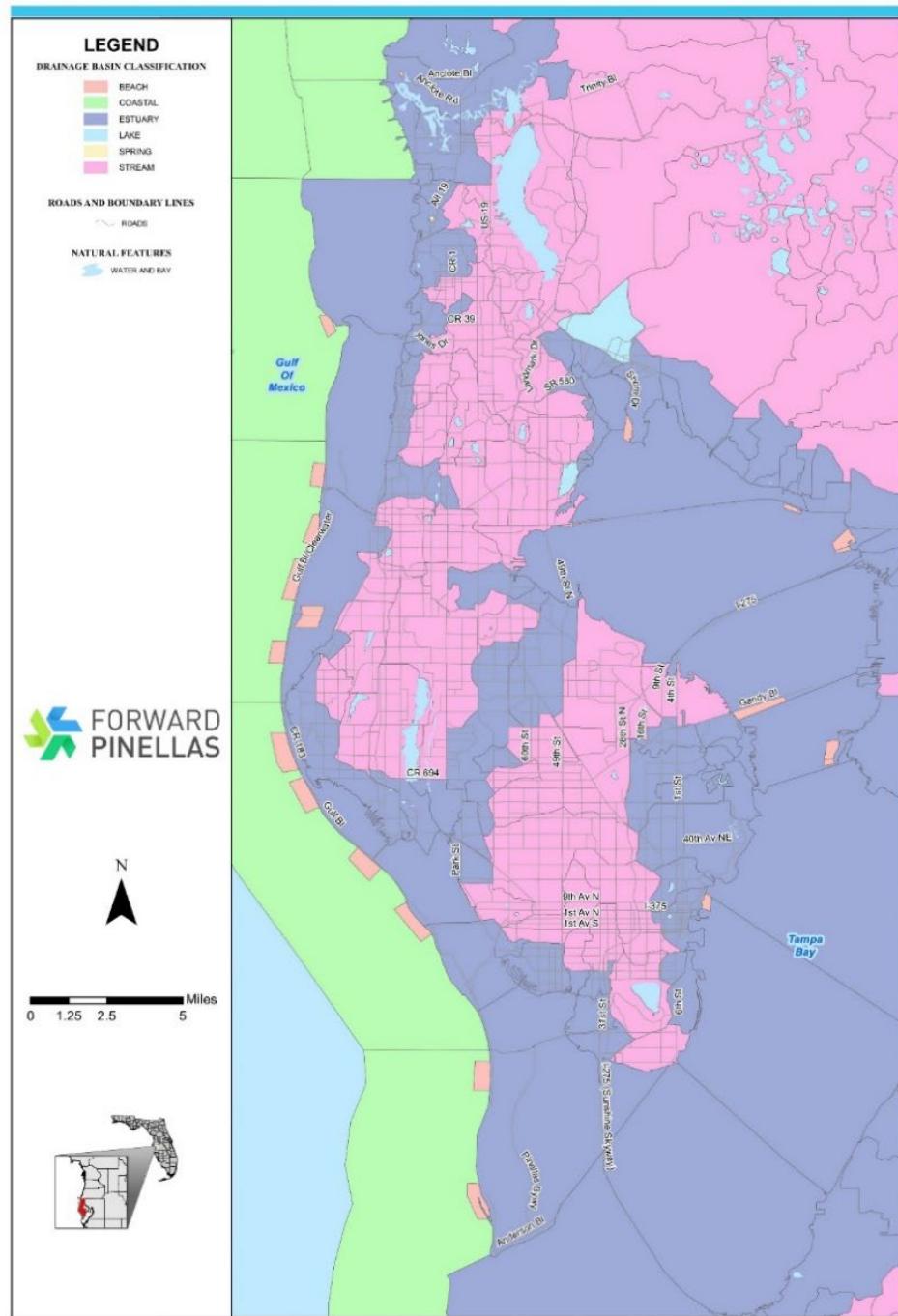
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*Pinellas County*



## PINELLAS DRAINAGE BASIN CLASSIFICATION

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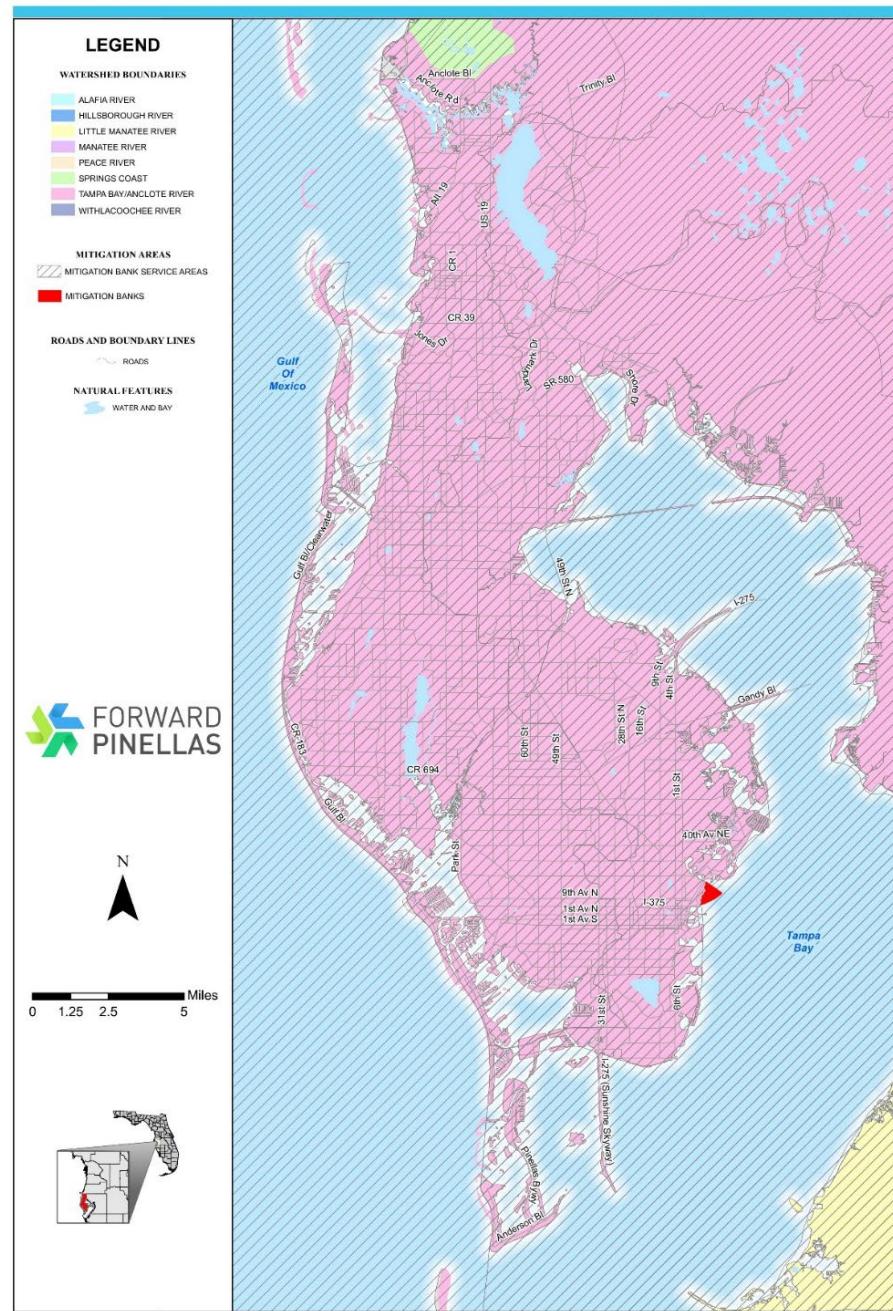


Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Pinellas county. Drainage Basins - Pinellas County.

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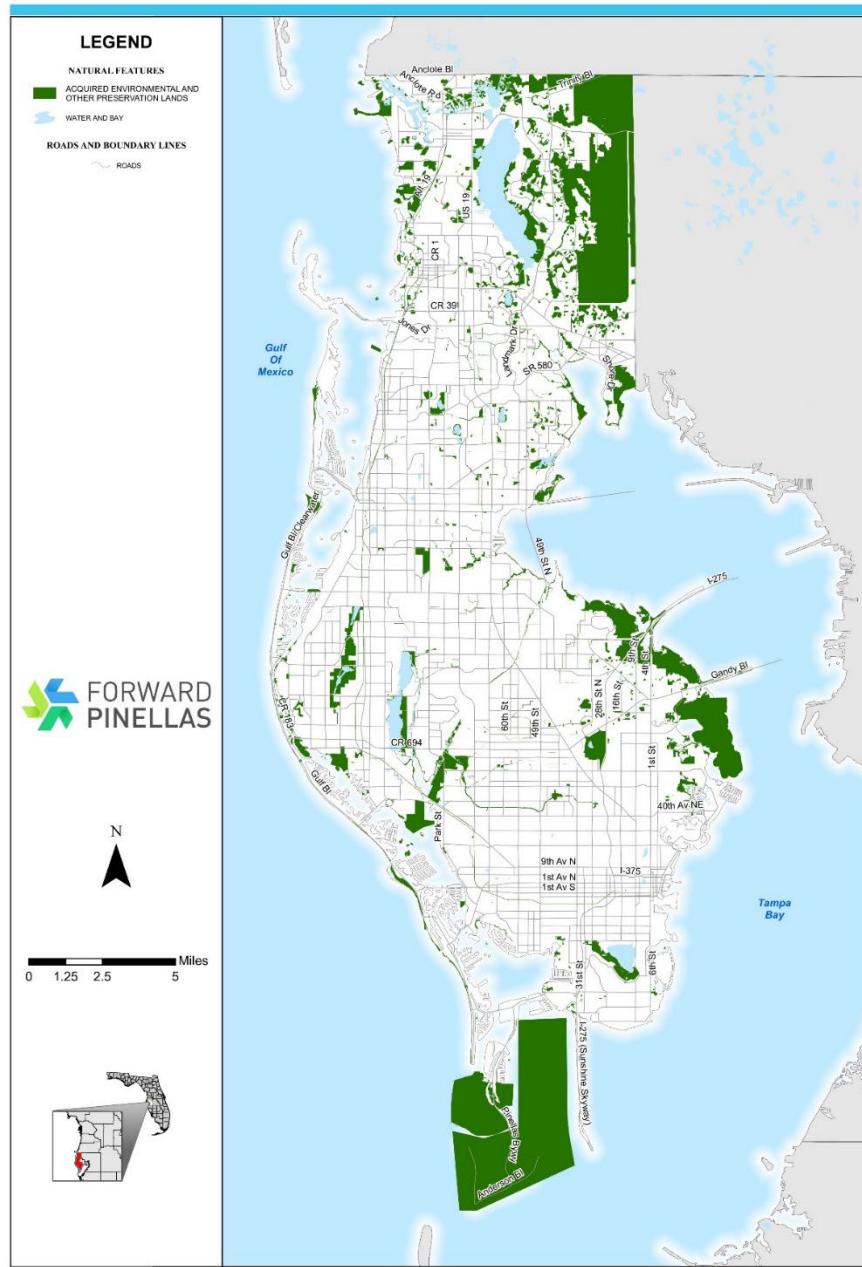
## PINELLAS MITIGATION BOUNDARIES

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



## PINELLAS NATURAL CONSERVATION AREAS

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



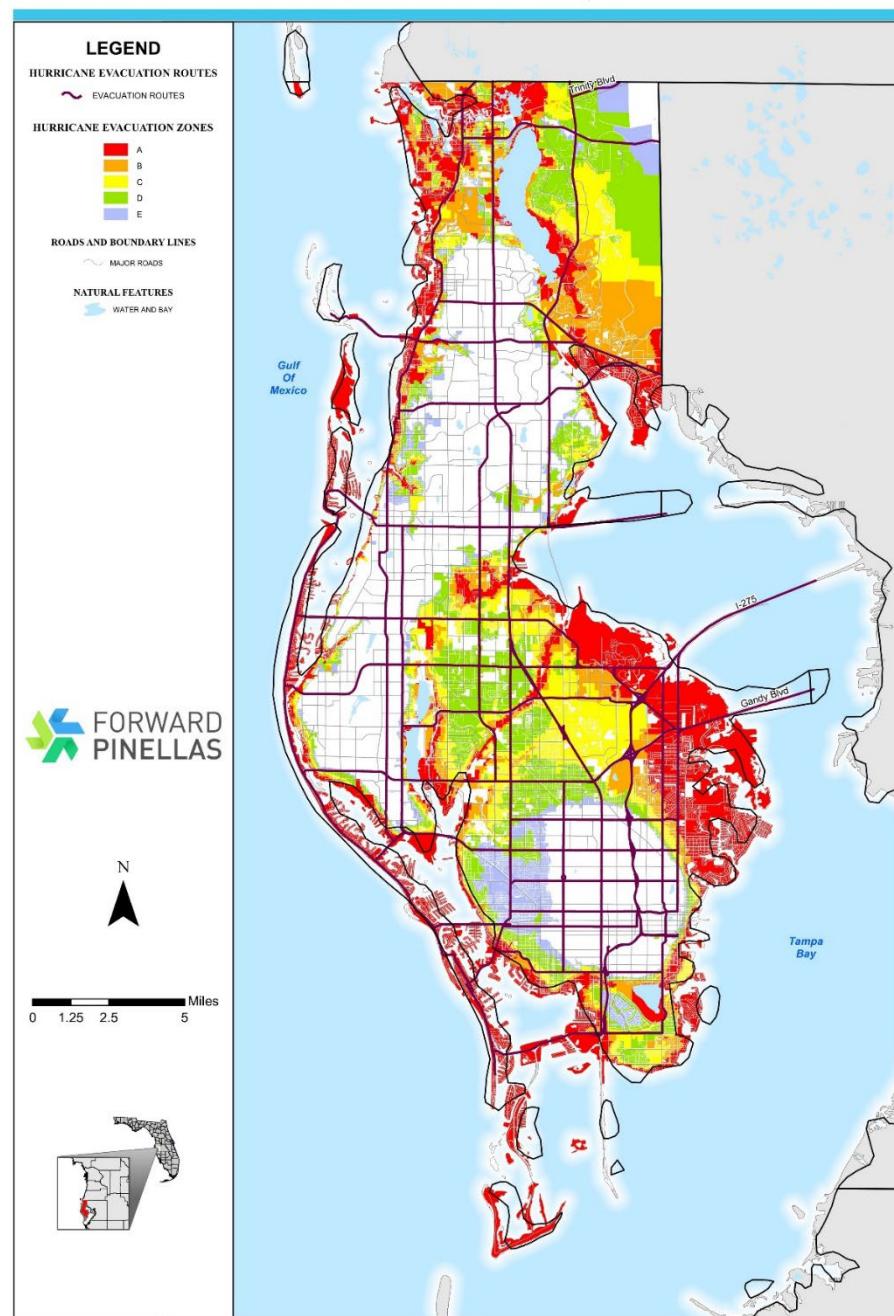
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WCF = WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Author: Roger Mathe Updated: May 9, 2024

## PINELLAS HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONES

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



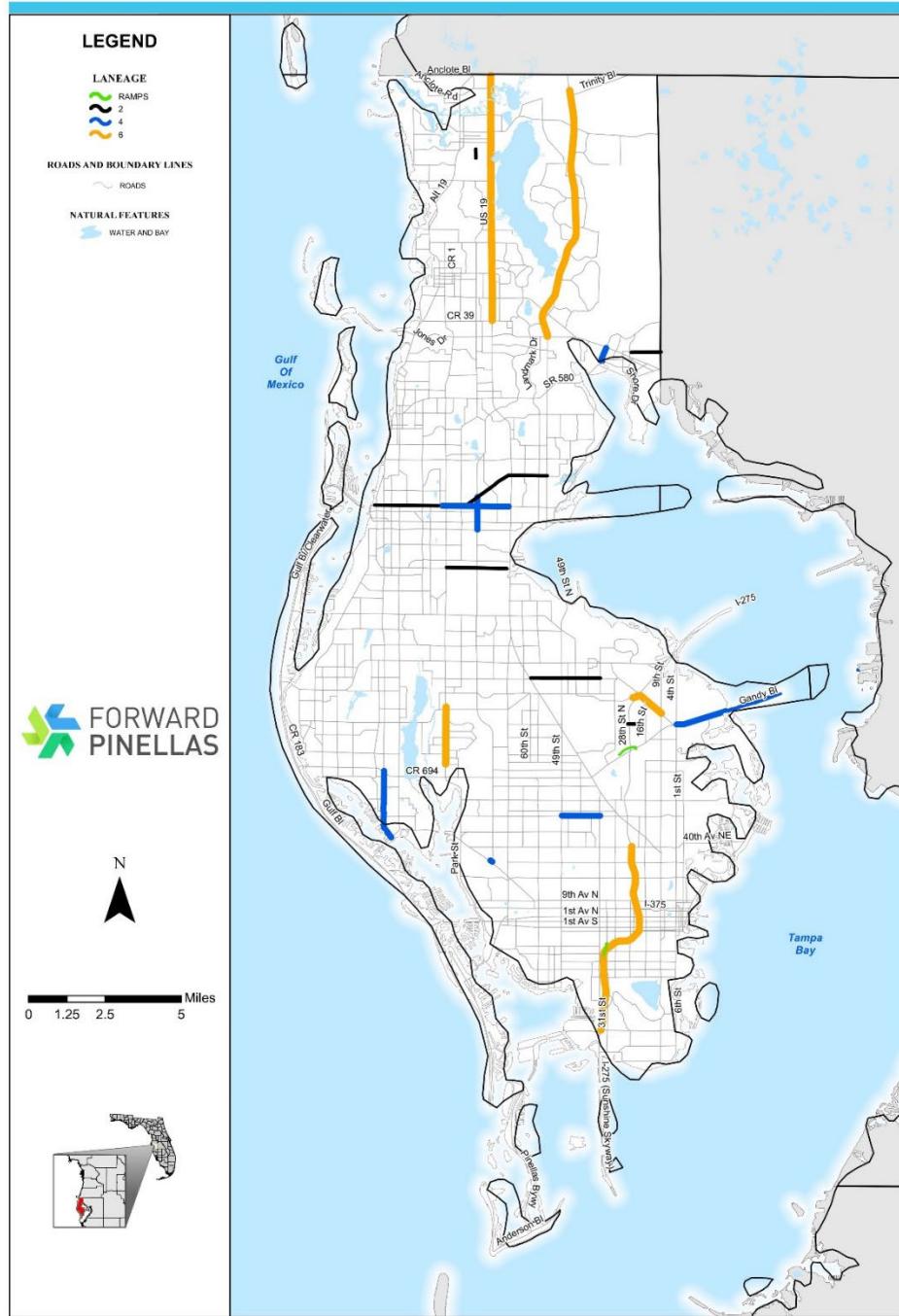
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WCF = WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 8, 2024

## PINELLAS NEEDS PLAN

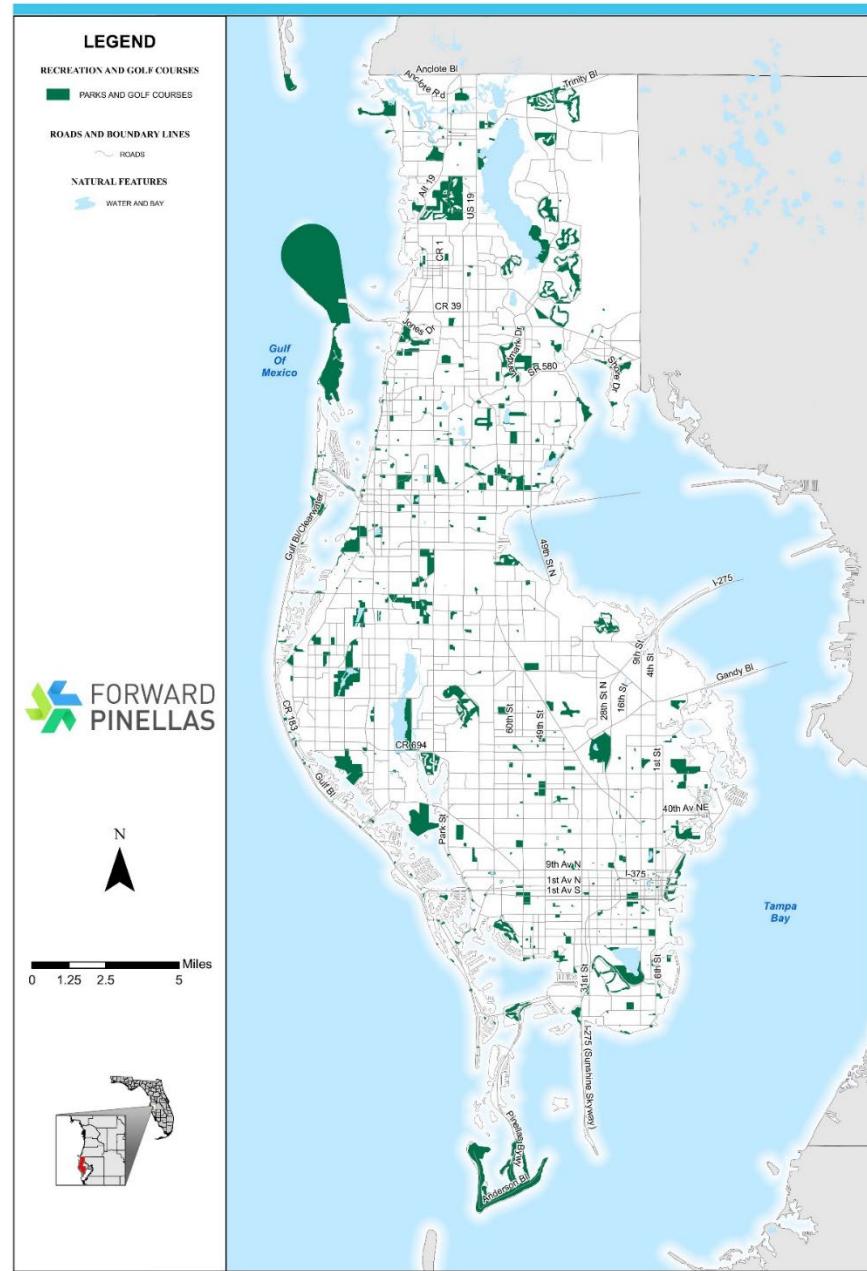
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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 9, 2024

## PINELLAS PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024

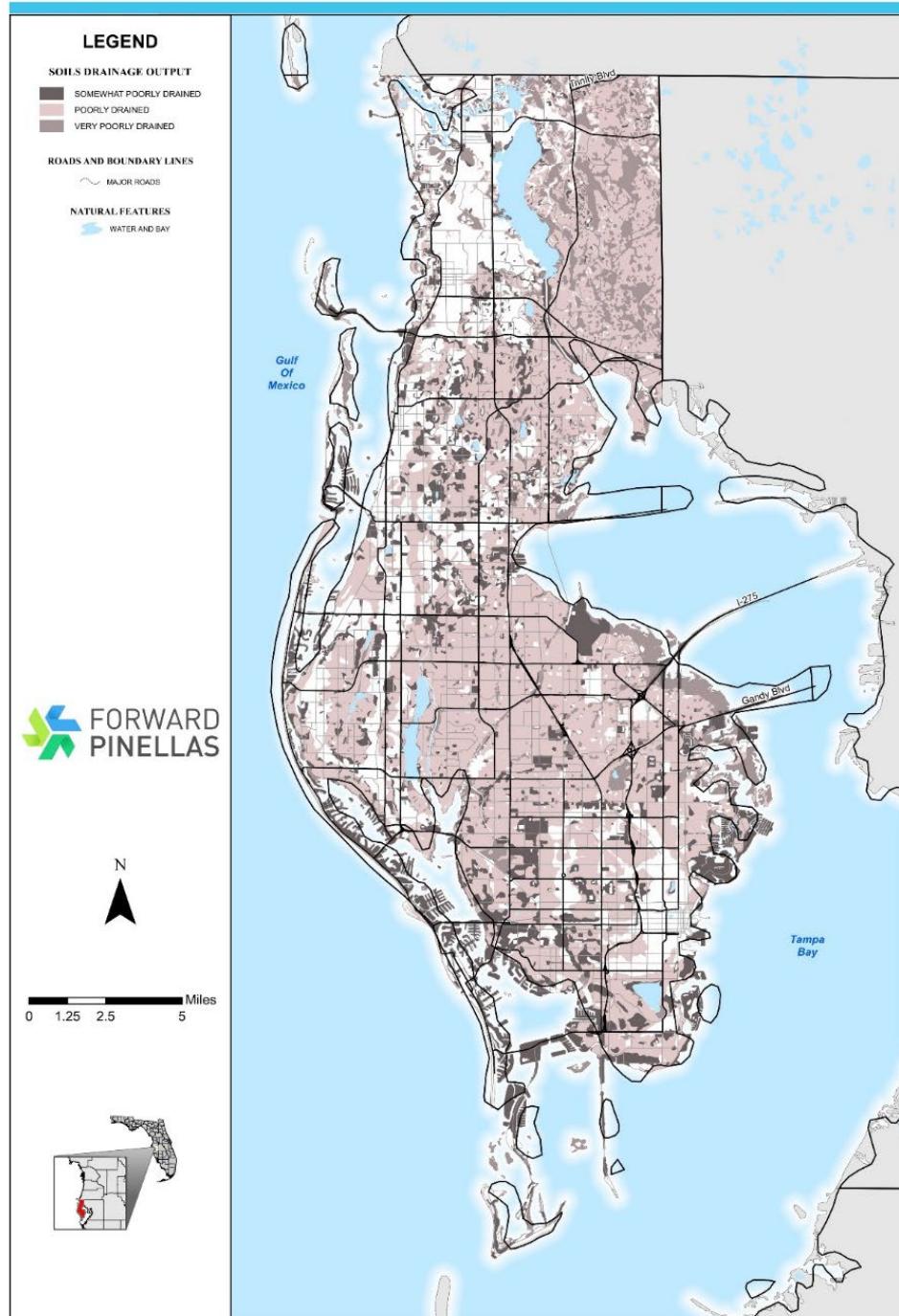


Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Pinellas county Cultural Facilities and Golf Courses - Pinellas County. WCF = WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 9, 2024

## PINELLAS SOIL CLASSIFICATION

2050 LRTP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP MAY 13, 2024



Data Source: See Adopted MPO Long Range Transportation Plan for specific roadway improvements. Roads, Water from Pinellas county. Soil Classification - Pinellas County, USDA SSURGO.

WCF = WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Author: Roger Mathie Updated: May 9, 2024

## **NEXT STEPS**

Workshop participants proposed a wide variety of goals for the future, from increasing air pollution monitoring to improving connectivity between wildlife corridors. Stormwater management and tree coverage were identified as key concerns, with impervious surfaces expanding across the region due to extensive transportation projects.

This workshop was a helpful exercise to engage environmental resource agencies and local governments in exploring the potential impacts that transportation projects can have on the environment. The participants provided general guidance, rather than specific mitigation strategies. Given the discussion and comments received, it would be worthwhile to hold peer exchanges more regularly and allow transportation planners the benefit of sharing experiences and approaches that have successfully been applied to mitigate transportation impacts.

## APPENDIX

### Environmental Coordination Workshop Presentation Slides



## Who We Are and What We Do

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Plan future projects to improve mobility for all
- Prioritize those projects for state and federal funding
- Must consider the environment, tourism, safety, security, housing, freight, traditionally underserved, etc.
- Focus on collaboration: we are not implementing agencies



## Why You are Here Today

- Preliminary review of planned transportation projects
- Consider possible environmental impacts of those projects
  - Not a formal review
  - Raise red flags early
- Discuss broad needs for environmental mitigation in the region
- Opportunity for online feedback

2050

LRTP



## Long Range Transportation Plan

- Adopted every 5 years
- Identifies transportation projects needed for mobility for the next 20+ years
  - Considers future growth in the region
- If a project is not in the Plan, it cannot receive state and federal funds
- As projects advance for funding, it must remain consistent with what is in the Plan

2050

LRTP





## Federal Highway Administration Requirements

### Long Range Plans Must:

- Include a discussion on the types of environmental mitigation activities/strategies and potential areas to implement them.
- Be developed in consultation with federal, state and tribal agencies involved with wildlife, land management and regulation
- Be performed at a systemwide level to identify where mitigation may be undertaken, and what types of mitigation activities may be undertaken in areas affected by LRTP projects
- Focus on broader mitigation needs and opportunities that may be available for future projects

2050

LRTP



## Needs Plan

- Future projects needed for mobility in each county
- Projects will undergo a full environmental assessment as funding is identified and the project advances
- Incorporate potential mitigation costs in the total project costs

2050

LRTP



## Discussion Questions

- What policies/programs/activities does your agency undertake to mitigate development impacts?
- What are the limitations of current activities?
  - Mitigation bank capacity?
  - Limited success?
  - Policy or funding constraints?
- Are certain activities more successful than others?
- What could be done to better protect wildlife through transportation projects?
- What ideas do you have for improving the current process?
- Are there any untapped opportunities that you're aware of?

2050

LRTA



How can we best keep you engaged as these projects move forward and the mitigation strategies are more clearly defined?

2050

LRTA

