

Pinellas County Biological Field Station

Research at the Pinellas County Biological Field Station answers questions that support land management and wildland conservation activities. Although Pinellas County is the most densely populated county in Florida, 8% has been set aside as Preserves and Management Areas. Researchers interested in studying ecology at the urban-wildland interface can use the Station as their base of operation to conduct research in more than 15,000 acres of sensitive areas in west-central Florida.

Environmental Lands Division

Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management's Environmental Lands Division manages four (4) Preserves and 11 Management Areas. These lands are designated wild areas that are managed for the conservation, protection and enhancement of natural and cultural resources while allowing for sustainable passive public recreational uses that are compatible with approved management plans and applicable ordinances and laws.

Pinellas County, Florida

Pinellas County is a 280-square mile peninsula bordering the western side of Tampa Bay. Just north of the "Caribbean biological hotspot," the sub-tropical climate provides for year-round research opportunities and a chance to study many species at the northern extent of their ranges.

In 1972, Pinellas County citizens passed local taxes toward the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands. In 2005, Pinellas County won the "Leadership in Conservation" award from the Trust for Public Land and the National Association of Counties for dedication to leadership, excellence and innovation for county land preservation. Today, the Environmental Lands Division manages many of the lands purchased through both citizen tax initiatives and grants.



Preserves and Management Areas

- 88 miles of estuarine coastline
- 3 miles of freshwater lake coastline
- 1,670 acres of seagrass beds
- More than 2,600 acres of mangrove swamps
- Over 3,800 acres of freshwater forested wetlands
- Over 2,000 acres of pine flatwoods
- More than 30 mangrove and other coastal islands
- 12 miles of public hiking trails



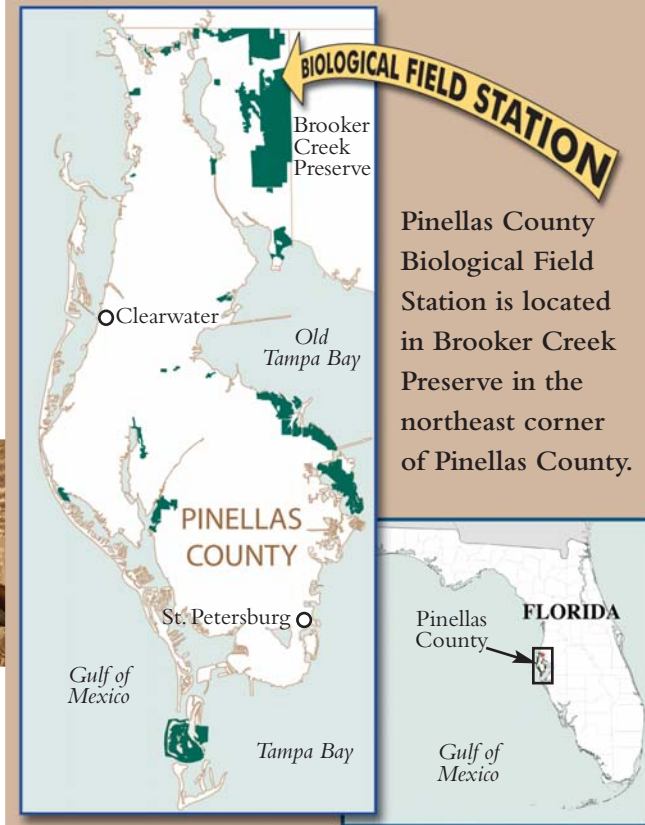
Research partners

- University of Florida
- University of South Florida
- Eckerd College
- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- United States Geological Survey
- Tampa Bay Estuary Program
- Pinellas County Environmental Fund
- Audubon of Florida

Research opportunities

As part of our on-going restoration and land management programs, research opportunities include:

- Species interactions
- Urban-wildland interface gradients
- Prescribed fire
- Hydrological restoration
- Invasive species
- Protected species
- Archeological surveys
- Coastal ecology
- Ecological links



Pinellas County Biological Field Station is located in Brooker Creek Preserve in the northeast corner of Pinellas County.

For additional information, research application and reservation materials, please contact our Research Director at (727) 453-6900
bfs@pinellascounty.org

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Pinellas County Biological Field Station
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www.pinellascounty.org/environment

Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of the document, please contact the Department of Environmental Management at: (727) 464-4761/TDD (727) 464-4106.



PINELLAS COUNTY BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION AT BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE



Research conducted at the Pinellas County Biological Field Station advances the scientific knowledge of our protected wildlands in west-central Florida. Programs through the Station provide instructors, students and environmental professionals the opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge with the scientific community and other agencies.



A Pinellas County Government Program

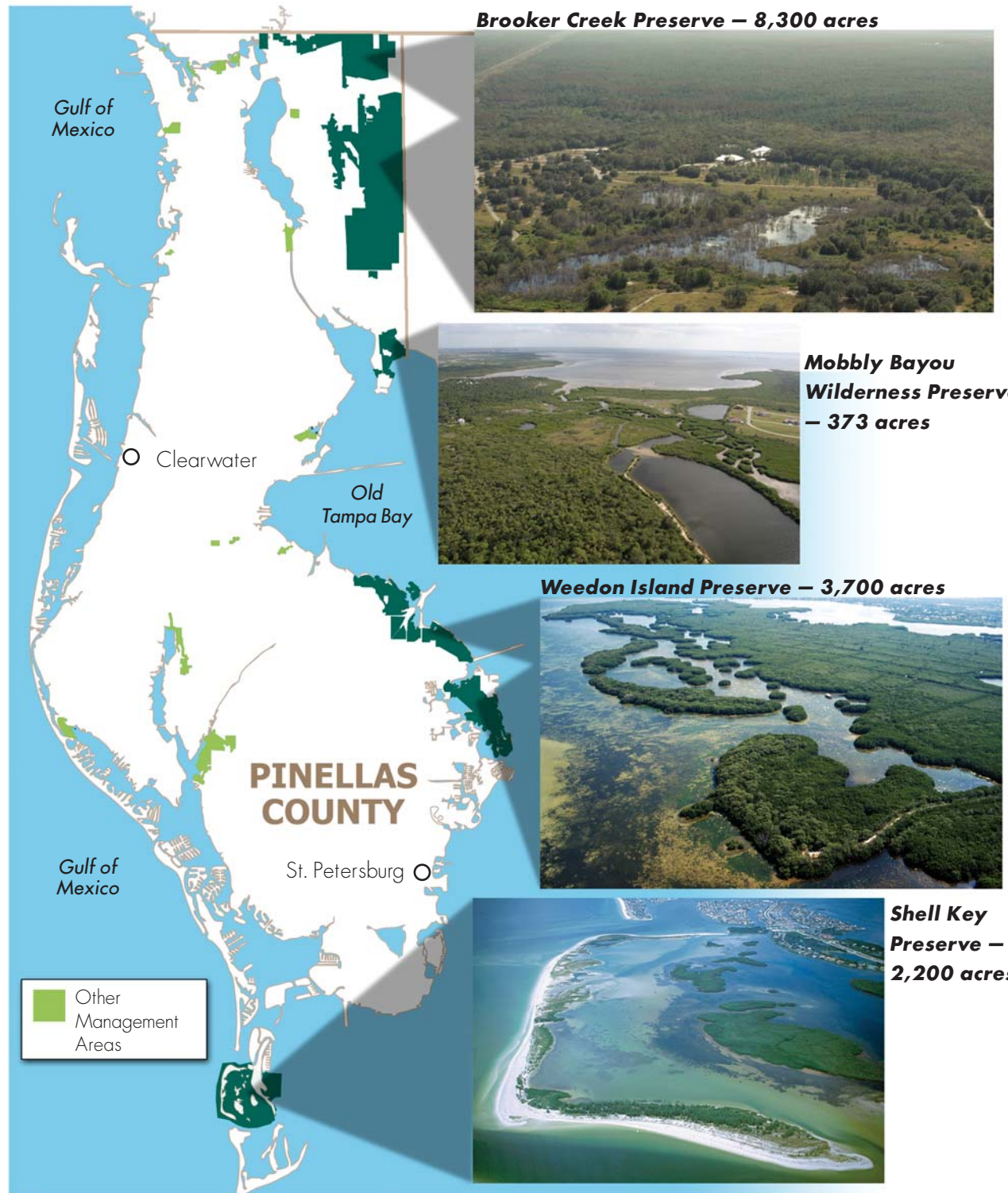
Visitors to the Station

- 🚗 Academic researchers
- 🚗 Graduate students
- 🚗 Field classes
- 🚗 Undergraduate interns
- 🚗 Visiting speakers
- 🚗 Regional authors
- 🚗 Others



Pinellas County Biological Field Station

- 🚗 Lodging (short-term and long-term) by reservation
- 🚗 Access to more than 15,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands
- 🚗 Two state-of-the-art education centers with available classrooms and auditoriums
- 🚗 Access to wet and dry lab space
- 🚗 Meeting and presentation facilities
- 🚗 Internet access
- 🚗 On-site kitchen and living accommodations
- 🚗 Herbarium
- 🚗 Arthropod collection
- 🚗 Research library
- 🚗 Laboratory and field equipment
- 🚗 4x4 15-passenger van



Brooker Creek Preserve – 8,300 acres

Mobbly Bayou Wilderness Preserve – 373 acres

Weedon Island Preserve – 3,700 acres

Shell Key Preserve – 2,200 acres

Brooker Creek Preserve

- 🚗 Dominated by pine flatwoods and forested wetlands
- 🚗 Also includes xeric uplands and freshwater marshes
- 🚗 More than 600 native plant species
- 🚗 Site for on-going fire management and hydrological restoration projects

Mobbly Bayou Wilderness Preserve

- 🚗 Located in Old Tampa Bay
- 🚗 Dominated by estuaries and mangrove swamps
- 🚗 Uplands include scrubby flatwoods and maritime and xeric hammocks
- 🚗 Current and future hydrological restoration

Weedon Island Preserve

- 🚗 Dominated by tidal swamps, mudflats and salterns
- 🚗 Uplands include scrubby/pine flatwoods and maritime and xeric hammocks
- 🚗 Shell middens from Weeden Island Culture
- 🚗 Abundant wildlife including the mangrove cuckoo

Shell Key Preserve

- 🚗 Dominated by a 180-acre coastal barrier island
- 🚗 Includes extensive seagrass beds
- 🚗 Designated an “Important Bird Area” by Audubon of Florida
- 🚗 Provides migration and stop-over habitat for more than 72 species of birds including piping plovers and red knots
- 🚗 Provides nesting habitat for protected shorebirds including American oystercatchers, black skimmers and least terns