

# Barbara Walker



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To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Barbara Walker. I have been a resident of Pinellas County for 50 years. I served on the Audubon Florida Board of Directors for 3 years and am the immediate Past President of the Clearwater Audubon Society. I also serve on the Board for the Friends of Fort DeSoto and am the President of Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue. I am a full-time volunteer for the City of Clearwater, Parks Division. I have expertise in management of bird populations in urban areas.

The Audubon society has five conservation pillars: water, climate, coasts, working lands and bird friendly communities. The mission of the society is to protect birds throughout the Americas for today and tomorrow through sound science, grass roots advocacy and education. Fortunately, I was able to tour the habitat owned by the school board. The land is environmentally valuable as it is adjacent to a county owned conservation property. All land saved, greened, or left undeveloped helps the affects of climate change. Additionally, this is near the coast and can benefit a variety of migratory birds. Saving that property would help Pinellas and Pinellas County Schools move forward with land management plans that support bird friendly communities and could act as a buffer to sea level rise. The property is full of gopher tortoises and songbirds which have shown a steady decline. Ospreys border the property and utilize the area in the fledging stage. The land also provides a prey base for a variety of different birds including large raptors. I would like to see the property conserved for future generations.

Warm regards,  
Barbara Walker

