

Make the Hillsborough River:

- Cleaner
- Safer
- More Attractive



Hillsborough River
Interlocal Planning Board &
Technical Advisory Council

Hillsborough River

General Issues

- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- Construction Standards
- Shoreline Treatment
- Wildlife Habitats
- Manatee Protection
- Public Accessibility
- Recreational Opportunities
- Public Safety

Green Swamp
PASCO POLK
HILLSBOROUGH *CODES*
COMP PLANS *TEMPLE TERRACE*
TAMPA *LAW ENFORCEMENT*

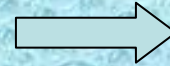
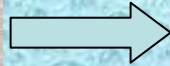
SWFWMD *FDEP* *EPCHC* *USACE* *FDOH* *FF&WCC*
HR BASIN BOARD *HRIPB & TAC* *TPA* *HCCPC*




The Hillsborough River is a unique natural resource in many ways. The River's management poses many challenges. It is a shared resource that is managed by a number of regulatory and non-regulatory agencies at the state and local levels. Water in the River comes from several counties and flows through two cities. It is impacted by urban, suburban and rural activities. The River is used for a number of purposes that are important to the people in the region and the wildlife that inhabit the area.

Water Quality & Quantity

Having good water quality is important to the environment in general. Pollutants conveyed to the River by stormwater has been an on-going problem for the River. The water quality in the Hillsborough River is especially important as it is a primary potable public water supply source. The River's water quality has improved over the past 15 years and strides continue to be made in finding ways to make it even better. New technology that is designed to remove pollutants carried by stormwater that goes into the River is being installed or is proposed. Still, non-point source pollution such as pesticides, herbicides, oil-related substances and other chemicals still make its way into the River as does solid particulates such as trash and debris.



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Water Quantity in the River is variable. Water levels in the river are primarily dependent on natural forces, precipitation, and man's ability to artificially manipulate where and

water in the River is stored and when the flow can be controlled by operation of structures such as the City of Tampa dam and the Tampa By-Pass Canal. A minimum flow is necessary for the River's sustainability. Competing interests for River water includes uses by man as a potable supply for consumption and household uses, commercial uses and agriculture. Water conservation is a key factor in assuring the River's future sustainability as a significant water supply and ecological resource.



Natural Shorelines and Restoration



Much of the Hillsborough River shoreline is hardened with seawalls. Natural, vegetated sloped shores help cleanse stormwater run-off, slow erosion, disperses wave action created by passing craft and provides wildlife habitat to aquatic animals and birds.

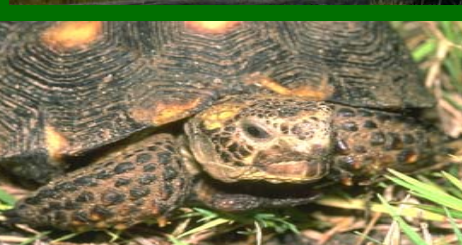
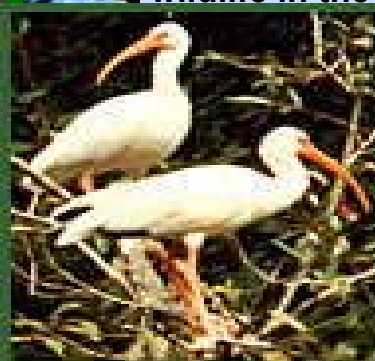


Wildlife Awareness/Protection



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The Hillsborough River provides natural habitat to a wide variety of wildlife species that are dependent on the river for food, drinking water and a place to live. Urban encroachment and recreational uses on and along the river can result in disturbing wildlife in the river corridor.



Manatee Awareness/Protection

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Saving Manatees Is Slow-Going



glasses to reduce surface glare and to allow better through-water visibility. When a manatee surfaces to breathe, only the tip of its snout is visible.

- Obey posted speed and manatee caution signs. Manatees move slowly and can rarely evade approaching boats.
- Avoid or travel very slowly across shallow grass beds, where manatees feed and rest. Seagrasses are an important food source for these vegetarians.
- Stow trash and properly discard monofilament fishing line. Manatees may swallow or become trapped in lines and other plastic debris that litter our waterways.
- Obey state and federal laws that make it illegal to harass, capture, hunt, or kill a manatee. Convictions can result in imprisonment and fines of up to \$20,000.

•To report manatee deaths, call the Florida Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-352-2257.



Manatees

are in the Hillsborough River downstream of the City of Tampa dam year-round. They use the river as a warm water refuge during cold winter months, depend on freshwater inflows from upstream and Sulphur Springs and frequently use the relatively quiet Hanna Swirl area as a birthing area/nursery.

The well-being of Hillsborough River manatees extends beyond controlling motorized craft. Deterioration of water quality, the decline of freshwater inflows, construction of water-related structures and the removal of vegetation along shorelines all contribute to a declining quality of the environment necessary to sustain manatees in the wild.




A Cleaner River



Over the past 17 years over 100 tons of trash and debris has been picked up in and along the Hillsborough River.



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Annual Hillsborough River Clean Ups



First Aid for the River
Putting Words Into Action,
Celebrating Community,
Honoring Nature



Public Access to the River



State Canoe Trail



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Providing public access on and along the Hillsborough River is important. It helps to maintain public awareness about the river, its many uses, and management issues.



Greenways & Trails



Public Safety on the River

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**Hillsborough River's
Maritime Guardians**



Providing the public a safe environment in which to enjoy recreational pursuits on the Hillsborough River is a multi-jurisdictional challenge. The River is patrolled by a number of agencies, all of which can uphold general marine craft operational rules and local ordinances governing activities on and along the River. A formal law enforcement mutual aid agreement exists between Hillsborough County and the Cities of Tampa and Temple Terrace. Balancing the desires for competing activities on the River with environmental concerns is also a consideration that must be taken into account.

Things to keep doing:



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- **Promote Water Conservation at All Times**
- **Support Construction Standards for Water-Related Structures**
- **Promote Stormwater Treatment Improvements**
- **Support Enforcement of Existing Pollution Prevention Ordinances**
- **Preserve Natural River Shorelines & Promote Restoration**
- **Promote Periodic River – Storm Gutter/Drains Clean Ups & Exotic Plant Removal**
- **Advocate Use of Non-Criminal Offenders to Clean River Areas**
- **Continue to Provide Public Access to the Hillsborough River**
- **Advocate for an Adequate Law Enforcement Presence on River**
- **Promote State Canoe Trail Launch Facility Installation/Maintenance**
- **Support Recreational Greenways & Trail Development Nearby to River**
- **Promote Public Awareness of River's Wildlife Attributes**
- **Continue Public Education of River's Regional significance as important economic and natural resource**
- **Identify the Hillsborough River at All Public Bridge Crossings**