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A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

RIVER NEWS

Serving Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County

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Temple Terrace River Enhancement Project Recognized

The City of Temple Terrace's Hillsborough River Enhancement Project was recognized by an Award of Merit at the Planning Commission's 2004 Community Design Award Program held in April. The awards program showcases projects throughout the county and municipalities that incorporate high standards that contribute to the enhancement of the community through project design.

The Hillsborough River Enhancement Project in Temple Terrace is a subtle example of how a storm water treatment project can evolve and be elevated to a multi-functional community asset. The project includes a state-of-the-art continuous deflection and separation unit (CDS) which initially cleanses storm water of solid particulate debris and some greases and oils. In the next step the storm water is released into a

holding pond where it is allowed to settle and further filtrate. The pond is surrounded by a spacious park that is developed around the pond. Wildlife, particularly wading birds and small mammals can be observed using the pond as a source for food and water. The City installed benches along this new waterfront park and added a paved, lighted sidewalk along the perimeter of the pond.

In addition to the benefits of the storm water treatment systems that purify water directed to the Hillsborough River, the residents of Temple Terrace have gained additional open green space and the opportunity to observe wildlife activities within their midst thanks to innovative design planning.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District was also recognized as part of the project team at the awards program for its contribution to this wonderful community asset.

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TAC Meetings Summary

The TAC met on April 20th at the Tampa Union Train Station.. Among discussion/reports at the meeting were:

- : A report by a citizen regarding an unauthorized superfund site clean up along the Hillsborough River and sanitary sewer/storm water facility failures resulting in spills into the river.

- Review and support of 2 Tampa Port Authority minor work permit applications for projects located on the Hillsborough River.

- A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.

- An update report on review of the Cypress Creek Town Center development in Pasco County by regulatory agencies.

- An update on production of an educational brochure for community youth, focused on the effects of pollution on the river.

- A report on the recognition awarded to the project submitted by the River Board/TAC for consideration to the Planning Commission's Annual Community Awards Program.

The TAC meeting on May 18th at the Tampa Union Train Station will feature the following issues:

- A follow-up report on sanitary sewer/storm water facility failures resulting in spills into the river.

- An update on marine contractor licensing in Hillsborough County.

- Review of Tampa Port Authority minor work permits.

- An update on proposed Total Maximum Daily Loadings for Hillsborough River segments.

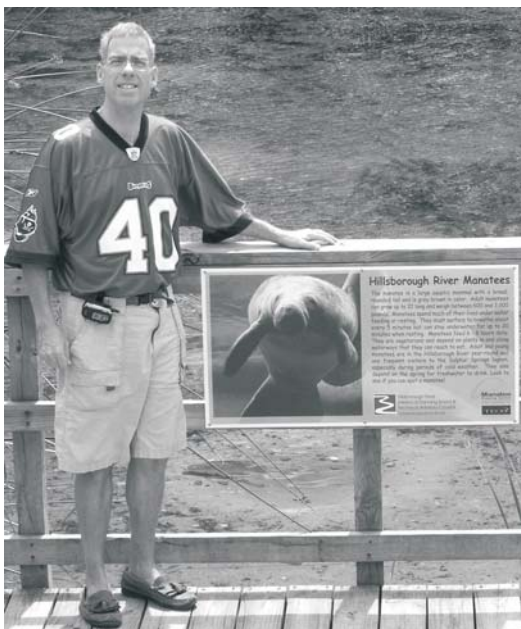
- A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.

- Discussion on River Board/TAC Public Communication/Outreach Projects, including final production of an educational brochure.

- Other issues that may be brought before the TAC by the public.

All 2004 TAC meeting will be held in the 2nd floor conference room of the Tampa Union Train Station, 601 N. Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, unless otherwise noticed. Meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. To review River Board and TAC agendas visit our website at www.hillsboroughriver.org and click on *Agendas* under the River Board/TAC logo or contact staff at 273-3774, extension 323.

Manatee Sign Posted at Sulphur Springs Pool



A sign depicting manatees that frequent the Sulphur Springs Pool lagoon area and the Hillsborough River was posted at the lagoon observation deck of the pool facility in March 2004. The sign provides details about manatees and promotes public awareness about this special, endangered Florida species that use the Hillsborough River and Sulphur Springs lagoon. The sign was produced by TECO as a courtesy to the River Board & TAC.

River Reservoir Levels Struggle

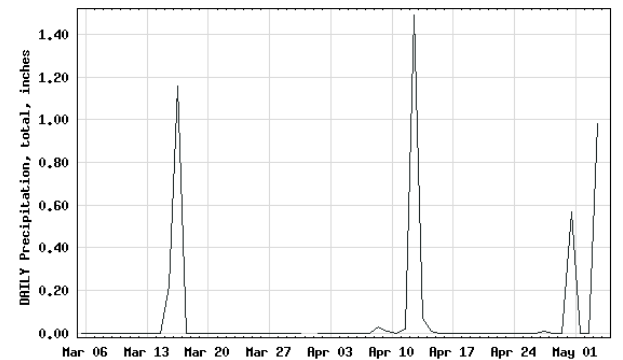
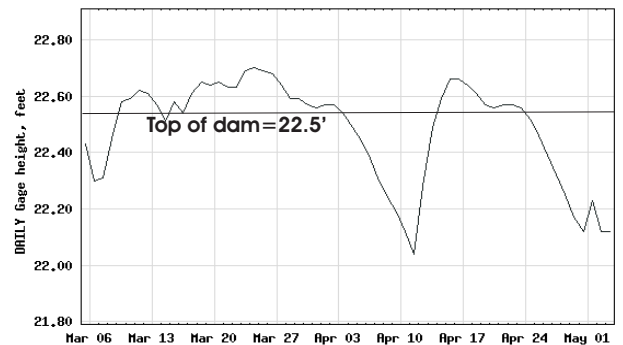
Rainfall in the area over the past couple of months has been spotty, causing a decrease in Hillsborough River flows and a slight lowering of river reservoir levels. Rising temperatures triggers greater use of water from irrigation purposes and drier weather conditions promote greater surface water evaporation from the river.

The infrequent rains that we've been fortunate to have over the past couple of months have helped tremendously in maintaining a reasonable water level in the river. April, one of the driest months historically in our area, has proved to be wetter in 2004 than in recent years. That is a very good thing!

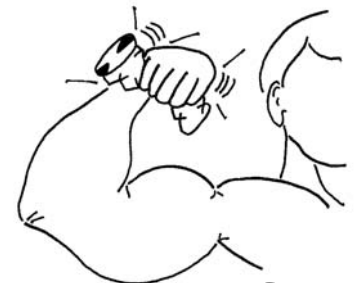
To help the river continue to maintain a relatively normal level, remember to conserve water. It is always important to conserve, but is especially important now that we are in a historically drier period of the year. **KNOW YOUR DAY!**

USGS

USGS 02304500 HILLSBOROUGH RIVER NEAR TAMPA FL



GET IN SHAPE!



**HELP CRUSH
LITTERING!**



A Sign of the Times; Homelessness on the Hillsborough

Over the years the *River News* has endeavored to bring its readers interesting, real news pertaining to the Hillsborough River. For the most part that news has been good. But a recent excursion on and about the river was punctuated by repeated sights of an expanded homeless population squatting on public lands, out of sight from most of us, yet in our neighborhoods and right under our noses.

There are many issues that involve the Hillsborough River that one might expect to encounter. However, homelessness isn't necessarily one that comes to mind right away. It is a social condition that does create concern and has impacts on the Hillsborough and other waterways throughout the country. It is a problem not often seen but is here, right now.

The homeless. Transients. Street people. Bums. Drunks. Druggies. Prostitutes. People. People down on their luck; way down. Existing wherever they can. Parks. Doorways. Trash bins. Under bridges. Along the river. Wherever people will let them be.

As the Hillsborough River winds its way through Hillsborough County, Temple Terrace and Tampa there are over 20 bridges that cross the waterway. Spans in the more remote areas of the county, north of Temple Terrace, don't appear to have homeless populations squeezing in under the overpassing roadways that gracefully arch over the river. These locations are too remote to inhabit, even for those having survival training. But closer into town, mainly from 56th Street south, there is often someone calling the underside of a bridge home.

It is difficult to know exactly how many homeless people actually live along the Hillsborough at any given time. That elusive head-count is kind of like trying to tally the number of fish in the river. It doesn't really matter but we do know that they are there.

These modern-day nomads tend to congregate where there is protection from the elements, where it is relatively secluded and somewhat safe. Bridges offer these primary elements of sanctuary, especially wide expanses found under interstates. Parks seem to rank second in preference as temporary housing for those

that drift in and out of our communities, not having all the shelter or protection needed that one can derive from a nice solid concrete bridge.

There, under bridges, small havens exist where the neglected and outcast have sought solace away from society, sobriety, life. Mattresses, cardboard, clothing, bottles, heap upon each other defining a person's identity, at least for the time being. It's a dirty existence. Damp, hot, cold and illegal.

From time to time the authorities do make an effort to remove these temporary lodgings from along the river and other places in our communities. Signs have gone up warning squatters that they and their belongings are subject to removal, if caught, for their safety and the betterment of the community.

Having temporary neighbors isn't a pleasant thing, especially if they aren't subject to the same behavioral niceties that most of us expect in our neighborhoods. They can be loud and dirty. No bathrooms so guess what goes on in and along the river beyond bathing. They attract pests and can make people afraid. Just in appearance some are quite intimidating. Some are dangerous. So on those grounds it is right to monitor their behavior and remove them. It is, after all, not safe



or sanitary for them or the rest of us.

But what a deal. Just imagine...a tax-free, riverfront home located wherever you would want to locate with all the new friends you could possibly want to meet, or live right next to. To be able to move at a moments notice. On a whim. Or on a tip that a police sweep is coming. Not to worry about whatever those passing above on the roadway worry about. Taxes, grocery shopping, the in-laws. Living from pay check to pay check. Wondering if you could be the next person setting up housekeeping in their own homeless hide-away under a bridge, along a river.

**YOUR River Board wants
to hear from YOU! Call the
River Hotline at 272-5940**



RIVER NEWS

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US POSTAGE

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Change Service Requested

We better start picking all this stuff up....you know what Mom says...
"You better not be dropping anything and leaving it on the ground
Unless you're Mother Earth!"

