

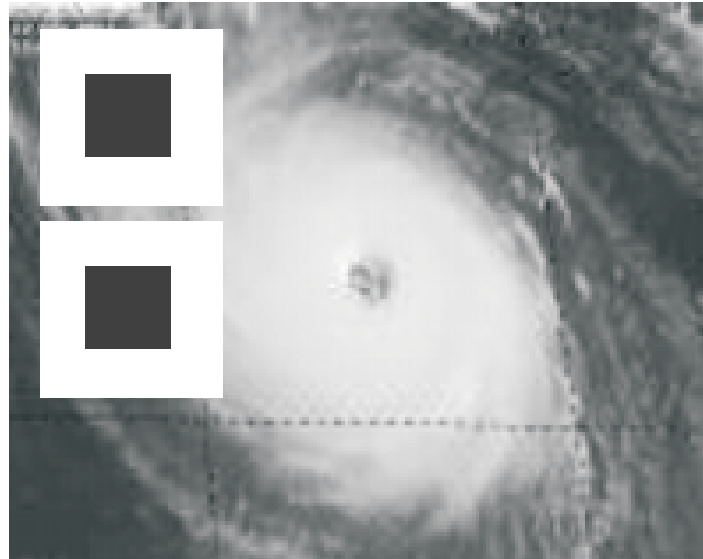
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A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

RIVER NEWS

Serving Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County

*Charlie
Frances
Ivan
Jeanne*



Busy Hurricane Season Keeps River Flowing

Four hurricanes moving through the Hillsborough River area in late summer brought wind damage and plenty of rain that boosted the river's flow and resulted in unwanted flooding in some places. Hurricane Charlie swept into Florida in mid- August, focusing most of its destructive forces to the south of the Tampa area but produced 3-5 inches of rainfall in the area. Hurricane Frances followed a couple of weeks later and brought 2-4 inches of rain to the area. Hurricane Ivan turned out to be the least of our worries as that storm skirted the Florida peninsula, sparing the area most of that hurricane's destructive forces. The Hillsborough River area of the state received less than a half inch of precipitation as a result of Ivan moving through the gulf. Within another week and a half hurricane Jeanne marched across the state bringing yet another round of strong winds and around 2 inches of rainfall.

These four storm events, an unprecedented number of hurricanes to strike Florida during a hurricane season, resulted in limited flooding in the upper Hillsborough River basin and isolated flooding in urbanized areas. Flood conditions on the Hillsborough River were minimized thanks to the Southwest Florida Water Management's operation of the Tampa By-Pass Canal which diverted billions of gallons of water into McKay Bay via this structure.

Tributaries to the Hillsborough River flowed at record rates during much of late August and early September. Flow rates between 2000 - 6000 cubic feet per second were recorded during this historic stormy period.

Now that autumn is here, the threat of hurricanes should diminish and the river return to its banks with more normal flows. As we move through fall and winter months drier weather conditions should prevail.

A consolidated city-county agency serving the cities of Tampa, Plant City, Temple Terrace and unincorporated Hillsborough County

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TAC Meetings Summary

The Technical Advisory Council met on October 19th at the Tampa Union Train Station. Among discussion/reports at the meeting were:

- : A briefing on a new 16" water line being installed under the river in the vicinity of the 40th Street bridge
- A presentation/discussion regarding management of high water conditions in the Hillsborough River
- Review of one Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Application.
- A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.
- An update on a marine contractor specialty licensing program
- A review of upcoming river-related events

The TAC is scheduled to meet on November 16th at the Tampa Union Train Station. **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.



State Manatee Winter Season is designated as November 15 - March 31

Manatees, in greater numbers, should be heading towards warmer waters, including inland waterways like the Hillsborough River, when temperatures start to drop significantly. This means craft on waterways should be alert to the possibility that these slow-moving marine mammals could be in the vicinity.

Manatees are ALWAYS in the Hillsborough River, YEAR-ROUND in small numbers. Young manatees have been observed in the Hillsborough River frequently with adults. Manatees are known to use much of the Hillsborough River and especially like that portion in the Sulphur Springs area. That means manatees must travel from the bay all the way up the river to the springs area. Sometimes they will travel as far upstream as possible, to the City of Tampa dam. That is a 10-mile swim from the mouth of the river.

To report an injured, dead, harassed or orphaned manatee, call: 1-888-404-FWCC.

Manatee protection is SLOW going!

Fall-Winter River Festivities

The weather should be turning cooler and we can get out along the river for various events. The following dates are important to remember for the up-coming months.

City of Tampa:

Mayor's 18th Annual Hillsborough River & Waterways Cleanup

Saturday, November 20, 2004,
Lowry Park, 8:00 a.m.

2nd Annual Rollin' On The River Festival

Saturday, November 20, 2004
11:00am until 2:00pm at the riverfront portion of Lowry Park. The Festival is held immediately after the river clean-up. Festival features live music, environmental education booths, food and fun activities for all ages.

City of Temple Terrace

Riverfest 2004

Saturday, October 16, 2004
4th annual Riverfest
Riverhills Park
9:00 a.m.

29th Temple Terrace Community Arts Festival

Saturday/Sunday, November 13 - 14, 2004
Riverhills Park
9:00 a.m.

Hundreds of artists who focus in both fine art and contemporary crafts.

Winter Wonderland & Lighted Boat Parade

Saturday, December 11, 2004
Riverhills Park
For more information call 989-7180





District Considers Sulphur Spring Minimum Flow and Tampa Water Use Permit Renewal

Over the next few months, the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District is expected to be making decisions on two important issues that directly relate to the Hillsborough River. One of the issues is the establishment of a minimum flow for Sulphur Springs and the other is the renewal of the City of Tampa water use permit.

A Draft Report on The Determination of Minimum Flows for Sulphur Springs, Tampa, FL, prepared by District staff, details the scientific rationale supporting recommended minimum flows for Sulphur Spring for the future. The recommendations found in the report support three primary management goals. Those goals include: 1) minimize incursion of brackish water from the lower river into the upper spring run, 2) maintain low salinity habitats in the lower river, 3) maintain a thermal refuge for manatees in the lower river during cold winter periods.

Extensive water quality data review and modeling detailed in the draft report leads to the conclusion that variable rates of flow can sustain the ecological integrity of the spring run and lower river. A flow of 18 cubic feet/second (cfs), or 13-10 cfs during low tide periods, is proposed to generally protect the spring run from saltwater intrusion. These flow rates will also maintain limited areas of lower salinity in the lower river. During cold periods in the winter a flow rate from the spring of 18cfs should provide thermal refuge to manatees that happen to be in the area. An independent peer review panel is looking over the proposals and will also make recommendations regarding these minimum flow proposals.

Concurrently, the District will be considering a renewal of the City of Tampa Water Use Permit. The application proposes the permit have a 20-year life. The application would maintain the existing Annual Average Quantity of 82-million gallons per day(gpd). There would be no Peak Quantity. The existing 104-million gpd Maximum Daily

Quantity is proposed to be increased to 120-million gpd. This increase would be reflected in high-flow period diversions where a minimum flow of 35cfs flow at the base of the City of Tampa dam would have to be met prior to the additional withdrawals for ASR or diversion to Tampa Bay Water are allowed. These stipulations should help to decrease the number of low-flow/no-flow days in the lower river.

Other proposals made in the permit application include maintaining a minimum flow of 10cfs downstream of the dam and the release of additional water from the reservoir when possible. In relation to Sulphur Springs, the City proposes to maintain the current withdrawal amounts of an Annual Average Quantity 5-million gpd and a Maximum Daily Quantity of 20-million gpd. These permitted withdrawal quantities would be based on reservoir levels. The Tampa By-Pass Canal is identified in the application as the primary augmentation source for the reservoir. Eight Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells (ASR) were added to the permit application with maximum daily quantity of 10-million gpd.

The application also states that as a condition to the permit the City will be required to abide by terms of any modified minimum flows and levels established for the lower Hillsborough River, Sulphur Spring or the Tampa



By Pass Canal. As is standard with any permit issued by the District, the permit is subject to review and/or revision if it is found to be resulting in adverse impacts to the water resource.

The schedules for presentation and review of these two proposals were impacted by recent hurricane activity in the area. For information regarding the status of these review processes and/or to obtain copies of the documents being reviewed, contact the Southwest Florida Water Management District at 228-9858.

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



RIVER NEWS

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