

# Partners in Planning

A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

## RIVER NEWS

*Serving Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County*

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- Tampa Neighborhood News



### **Tampa's Mayor's Clean Up Event Recognized for 17 Year Commitment/Public Awareness**

The Planning Commission's 23rd Annual Community Design Awards program recognized the importance and longevity of a river event that has come to define environmental activism in the community. The Tampa Mayor's Annual Hillsborough River & Waterways Clean Up Event was presented with the Outstanding Contribution to the Community award.

The 17-year running annual event was submitted to the awards program by the Hillsborough River TAC in recognition of the city's dedicated efforts in carrying out the clean up. The nomination saluted the city's leadership for supporting the event through funding, coordination and participation. Mayors Freedman, Greco and Iorio were cited for their leadership roles. The Tampa Solid Waste Department and the Parks & Recreation Department were recognized for their

instrumental roles in managing the event over several years and the Mayor's Beautification Committee was also identified as contributing a significant role as the most recent agency charged with coordination of this successful community event.

Of course the big winner over the years, due to the community's tremendous efforts, has been the Hillsborough River. Hundreds of tons of trash and debris have been removed. The river is cleaner and the aesthetic value of the river sustained. River clean up participants have become intimately familiar with the river, the problems that challenge its well-being and the benefits that it affords the surrounding communities. All river clean ups are important and serve to educate the public. They are opportunities for us to bond with nature and each other. It is community. Congratulations everyone!

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## TAC Meeting Summary

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

- : A presentation regarding water quality produced at the City of Tampa Howard F. Curran Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A presentation on the Tampa Riverwalk in the downtown Tampa area.

An update briefing on recent actions in the development approval process for the Cypress Creek Town Center project in Pasco County.

Review of four Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Applications.

A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.

A presentation of a new river video produced by the Planning Commission, *The Hillsborough, River of Dreams*.

A briefing on the Stormwater Environmental Summit held in Temple Terrace.

A reminder of up-coming Hillsborough River related community events.

Future TAC meetings scheduled are on the third Tuesday of each month. All TAC meetings are scheduled to be held at the Tampa Union Train Station second floor meeting room unless otherwise noticed. TAC meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. To review River Board and TAC agendas visit our website at [www.hillsboroughriver.org](http://www.hillsboroughriver.org) and click on *Agendas* under the River Board/TAC logo or contact staff at 273-3774, extension 323.



TAC members shown contemplating information presented at recent meeting.

## New Signs Mark River Crossings



Thanks to the perseverance of River Board member Councilman John Dingfelder of Tampa, and the Tampa Public Works Department, new signs marking roadways crossing the Hillsborough River are being posted throughout the city. The new signs identifying the river began to go up in early April. The signs are a public awareness tool that the River Board and TAC hope will remind

the community of how extensive the river is as it winds through the city. The bridge crossings provide the ideal opportunity to bring a community focus to the Hillsborough River. The Hillsborough River is crossed by bridges in 22 places within Tampa,



Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County. Interstate 275 crosses the river in three places! So the next time you cross a river look for a sign to see if it is the Hillsborough!



## River Maintains Steady Levels

The Hillsborough River reservoir remained at high levels over the past months with the help of some seasonally uncharacteristic rainfall. Around 3-inches of rainfall over the last two months helped to keep inflows into the river at a level that kept the reservoir at a high level. These rains also helped to reduce the need for using river water for irrigation purposes as area vegetation benefitted from the natural rainfall. Calls into the River Hotline reported highwater conditions in the reservoir, especially in areas closest to the dam at Rowlett Park. Some erosion and other water damage was reported. Historic weather patterns and water use during this time of year dictates that the dam be closed, holding back the maximum amount of water possible for future over the next few months which are typically very dry. The good news for property owners along the reservoir is that the river level should start to drop and continue to decline. This trend is always worrisome to water managers and should be of concern to those reliant on the river for water supply.

Water Conservation is always an important consideration but it is especially critical during dry seasons like the area historically experiences now. Remember that the areas around the river are subject to water restrictions. Follow your water usage guidelines. Don't over-water. Know YOUR day! Don't water on days when it rains. Conserving now will help us all and the river!

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



# Community RIVER

## ART

### ART at the POOL

The Hillsborough River has held an allure for artists throughout the years. Urban art depicting the river, places along the river and folks that live along its banks, is all around us if we take the time to notice. The mosaic mural at the Sulphur Springs Pool, shown to the left, depicts the spring's history. It was incorporated as a wall treatment on a building that houses the pool pumps and other equipment.



### ART at the PARK

This vibrant graphic of Sulphur Springs is located in Rowlett Park and is painted on a wall that encloses a racquetball court. This mural highlights the people of the Sulphur Springs area and several well-known landmarks in the community. The mural shows the pool park, looking towards the tower along the river, Nebraska Avenue and the Springs movie theater building. This powerful painting celebrates the vibrancy of the contemporary Sulphur Springs of today. The concept and mural were produced by students living in Sulphur Springs.

### ART on the STREET

This mural faces Nebraska Avenue between Fletcher and Bearss Avenues. It is painted on the end of a building located in a strip commercial center. The mural depicts a heavily vegetated riverfront under a beautiful Florida sky. This mystical depiction places famous minarets from Henry Plant's Hotel in the same field of view as the Sulphur Springs tower. The mural creates a much appreciated oasis in an otherwise bleak concrete landscape.



# RIVER NEWS

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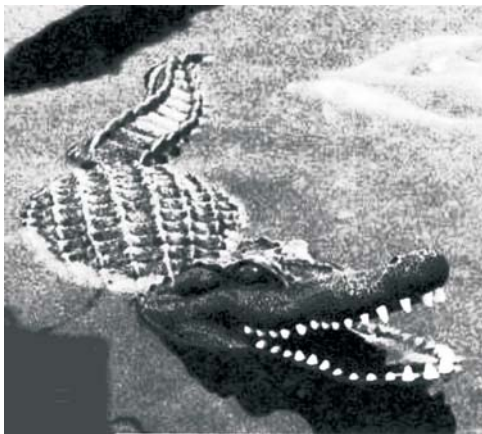
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## **WILDLIFE ADVISORY: TAKE CARE & BE AWARE**



Hikers, golfers, hunters, those that fish and boaters should remember to keep alert for alligators and other Florida wildlife that may be in areas where they enjoy recreational activities, especially during spring months. People should be alert to the possibility of a wildlife encounter anywhere along or in the river, but especially upstream of the City of Tampa dam where the river consists of freshwater and there are more natural areas where wildlife thrive. Remember, **we** are the intruders in many instances. Here are some common sense tips for surviving in the wild.

Wildlife can become aggressive if they have been fed by humans. **NEVER** feed wildlife.

Watch where you step. Wildlife usually reacts in an effort to escape close proximity or with a defensive posture. If you find yourself close to a wild critter, back slowly away. No sudden moves! **NEVER** stick your hand into a hole or wade in water where you cannot see the bottom. What you can't see **CAN** hurt you!

Always be cautious in the wild, respect wildlife and try not to disturb them in their habitats. If you don't, some may come back to bite you!

