

Partners in Planning

A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

20th ANNIVERSARY RIVER NEWS

Serving Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County

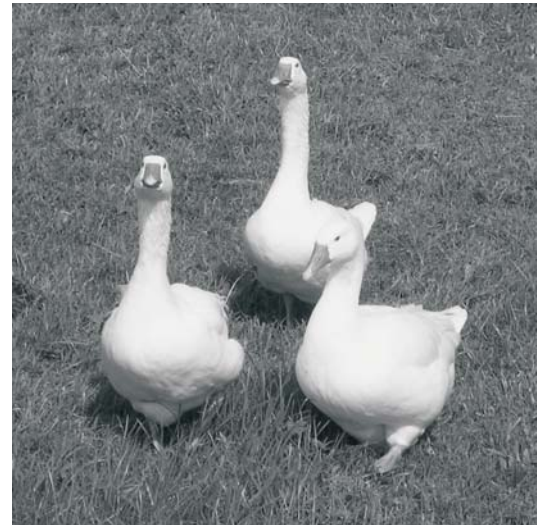
Publications

- RIVER NEWS
- Newsletter
- Permits Report
- Economic & Demographic Summary
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Geese Take a Gander at River Tower Park

Three large white geese have taken up residence at Tampa's River Tower Park and have seemingly made it their mission to make the park space their own. The park space consists of approximately 13.5 acres along the Hillsborough River in Sulphur Springs, so there is plenty of wide-open spaces for these three fine-feathered friends to wander about to get their exercise and to forage for food around the grounds and along the Hillsborough River.

Since these three proud birds arrived on the park site they have taken over patrolling duties, protecting their territory. While they first appear friendly and come waddling towards visitors along the park's perimeter, their welcome doesn't last long as they honk and flap their wings, warning trespassers off the site. This is a sight not many city dwellers would expect to experience in the center of Tampa.



The appearance of these three guardians of the park can be viewed as an omen of wonderful changes that are planned for this park site. They are also an example of nature finding a way to make a come-back in the surrounding urbanized community.

A lesson that we can learn from our geese friends and apply to our efforts to protect the river and improve the community goes as follows:

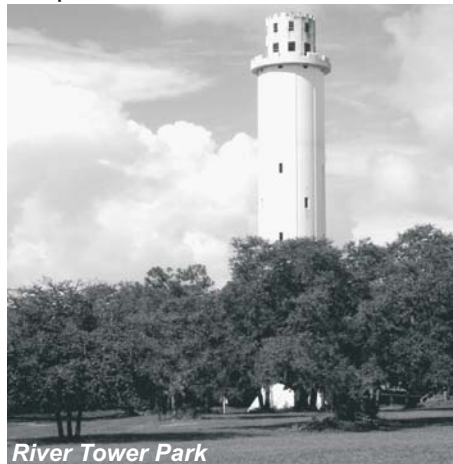
When geese fly each goose flaps its wings creating an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

LESSON: *People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling with the help of one another.*

Let's continue to work together to improve our surroundings, protect the river and each other, and enjoy the natural beauty, be it the river or a goose that we happen to see along the way.

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River Tower Park

TAC Meetings Summary

The Technical Advisory Council met June 21st and July 19th at the Tampa Union Train Station. Among discussion/reports at the meetings were:

: Discussions regarding the use of reclaimed water in proposed future river flow projects.

A presentation/discussion regarding the Platt Street and Columbus Drive bridge studies comparing cost-benefits of repair or replacement of said structures.

Review and support of three Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Applications.

Status reports on recent Hillsborough River levels.

Discussion regarding concerns related to the use of treated wastewater as a source for downstream augmentation/minimum flows in the lower Hillsborough River.

A presentation regarding the Trump Tower development, focusing on public spaces, the Tampa Riverwalk and dock facilities associated with the project.

A presentation on the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Watershed Pledge Program.

A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.

Review of two award nominations submitted by the TAC to Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful Program.

Report on recent manatee sightings/activity in the Hillsborough River.

An update on the status of town home site development plans located along the river in the City of Temple Terrace.

TAC support regarding the City of Tampa Mayor's creation of an Environmental Crime Unit.

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, 601 N. Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, 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 and click on *Agendas* under the River Board/TAC logo or contact staff at 273-3774, extension 323.

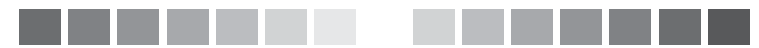
Mayor Creates New Division

In late June, Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio announced a new approach to coordinating city resources directed towards improving the city's image that could also help in thwarting the onslaught of trash and debris that blights the urban landscape. This new division, the Clean City Division, is part of the existing Neighborhood Services. It will bring a variety of city departmental staffs together in a coordinated approach to help keeping the City of Tampa Clean. This division will be working to maintain city streets, median and rights of way, enforce the city's sign ordinance, remove graffiti from city-owned property and pick up litter. Tampa residents can reach the Clean City Division by calling a hotline number that has been set up to receive messages about cleanup needs. That hotline number is 813-931-2133.



Hillsborough Avenue Mural

Yet another vivid mural depicting the waterfront can be viewed in Tampa, heading west on Hillsborough Avenue, west of the river at the intersection with Lee Place. This three-dimensional vista is a welcome oasis from storefronts and parking lots. While you can't dip your toe into the water in this painting to cool off, you can enjoy the beauty and great artistry that went into make this roadside mirage come to life.



River Pushed to Upper Limits

Typical summer weather conditions in the Hillsborough River corridor contributed over 14-inches of rainfall in the area over the past two months, keeping groundwater and river levels at peak capacity. These nearly daily rainfall events have kept the river at a high-stage upstream of the dam and has resulted in millions of gallons of rainwater flowing into the lower river at the dam and from stormwater drains directed to the lower river.

Releases and overflow at the dam have maintained standard operation of the reservoir levels. Flows at the dam have fluctuated, generally ranging from 400cfs - 900cfs, which fall within historic flow patterns over the past 60 years. These flows can also be influenced by operation of the flood gates at the dam.

Predictions for the next few months are for more of the same so keep your wet-weather gear handy and know the river benefits each time the skies open up with rain.



Wet Conditions Raise Health Concerns

Summer weather conditions in the Hillsborough River area raise concerns about mosquito-borne diseases, especially West Nile virus. While it is beneficial to receive more than adequate rainfall, the opportunity and conditions for mosquito populations to increase substantially is much greater.

To minimize being bitten by mosquitos, empty all standing water from yards/gutters, potted plants and flush birdbaths and bromeliads weekly. Stay covered if you venture outdoors. Consider carefully applying a mosquito repellent if you have to go out. Avoid prime mosquito feeding times, especially between dusk and dawn.

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



THE RIVER BOARD & TAC- A 20-YEAR INTROSPECTION



The Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board & Technical Advisory Council have been working on the Hillsborough River's management, within Hillsborough County, Temple Terrace and Tampa, for 20 years.

In recognition of this effort, over the next year, each issue of the *River News* will feature an article highlighting the many fine agencies and people that have helped in this endeavor.

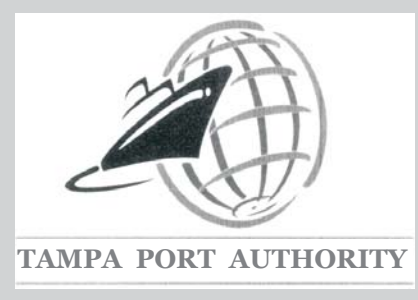
The Tampa Port Authority (TPA) has provided the River Board and TAC with support throughout its 20 years of existence. In the early days, the TPA was instrumental in helping the River Board & TAC understand existing conditions along the river, particularly focusing on shoreline conditions, structure placement and construction techniques. Water quality and public safety were considerations the TPA kept in the forefront as the River Board & TAC formulated the Hillsborough 'River Master Plan' in the late 1980s. This assistance helped to establish standards in the Master Plan and subsequently in the local comprehensive plans that protect the river, its water quality, ensures public safety and protects wildlife in the corridor.

During the 1990s, the TPA staff assisted the River Board & TAC in reviewing construction and placement standards for water-related structures that could be located along the Hillsborough River's shoreline and along other water bodies within the county. This process included input from marine contractors and permit review staff that offered valuable insight as to what would be acceptable in regard to construction standards.

The TPA has been working on another important facet of marine construction along the Hillsborough River. Hillsborough County is the last county in Florida to establish guidelines for marine contractor licensing. The TPA has worked diligently for a number of years with Hillsborough County to establish a county-wide ordinance establishing basic standards for marine contractors and continues to finalize these guidelines. Once in place, the guidelines will apply to any contractors that work in placing water-related structures along the county's waterways.

Other important on-going information the TPA staff brings the River Board and TAC are minor work permit applications for proposed projects along the Hillsborough River. The TPA provides the applications for the River Board & TAC's review and comment. This has allowed the continued monitoring of the number and types of structures that are proposed to be placed in and along the river.

In consideration of proposed structures along the Hillsborough River and other waterways in the county, the TPA takes into account other variables that are specific to each permit application. The Hillsborough River has a wide range of conditions such as width and depth. Part of the TPA's project reviews include



consideration of impacts regarding public safety, navigation, natural shoreline preservation and wildlife impacts, particularly manatees.

Over the years, and most recently with the help from TPA staff Bob Musser and Dave Parche, the River Board and TAC have benefitted from the experience and expertise of the professional staff at the TPA. The TPA's long-standing participation with the River Board & TAC has resulted in a strong relationship that has helped to keep the Hillsborough River corridor safe and to protect the environmental attributes of the river. The River Board & TAC appreciate this special relationship and look forward to working with the TPA into the future. Thanks TPA for helping in this important work!



The following photos depict some typical water-related structures that require permitting along the Hillsborough River.



River rock structures are reviewed by the TPA and must meet a variety of criteria to be permitted. The River Board & TAC review new permit applications along the Hillsborough River.

Seawalls and other shoreline stabilization structures are permitted by the TPA. The hardened shoreline, shown to the right, is one way of protecting a river bank from erosion.



Natural vegetated shorelines like the one shown to the left are encouraged by the TPA. The vegetation serves as wildlife habitat, shades the waterway, cooling the water temperature, and can be a food source for manatees in the area.

RIVER NEWS

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Make Riverfest 2005 Your Fall Event!



Saturday, October 15, 2005

10 a.m. - 4 p.m

Riverhills Park, Temple Terrace

**COME JOIN IN THE FUN &
ENJOY THE RIVER!**

The 4th Annual City of Temple Terrace Riverfest is growing strong! This interactive event orients the community to the beauty of the environment as it focuses on the Hillsborough River. Experience the beauty of the river first-hand with the Canoe Challenge or at a more leisurely pace. Festivities at Riverhills Park include hands-on exhibits, local performers, childrens' fishing, canoe racing and more. For more information call 989-7180.