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A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

RIVER NEWS

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RIVER LEVELS DECLINE WITH LESS RAINFALL; START the YEAR OFF CONSERVING WATER

Following the historic summer hurricane season of 2004, the autumn months of October and November added little to the area's annual rainfall total. Precipitation over the last couple of months amounted to around one-half inch total. This decrease in rainfall has resulted in a marked reduction of flow in the river. Over the last two months the water level in the reservoir remained at optimal levels and there was flow downstream of the City of Tampa dam at an average rate of around 100 cubic feet per second. The flow rate from the upper river to the lower river has begun to decrease and will likely slow even more. Eventually flow from the reservoir will come to a halt as the river experiences this historically drier period.

and plants. During this cooler time of year most plants slow their growth and have a much reduced need for water. Over watering results in plants/grass that is less healthy and often rot from too much moisture. Once a week watering at a reduced amount of water is recommended. It will save water, the cost of watering and time it takes to water. It can make a difference in extending the limited water supplied by the river.

Fortunately, these much drier conditions come with cooler temperatures which means it is the time of year to cut back on irrigating our yards

Although this year we have been blessed with what would seem to be an adequate supply of water for the time being, we have to keep looking to the future and planning for a time when water may be less abundant. Hopefully, that time is a ways off but we should always conserve water whenever possible. Follow watering restrictions; know your day. Do it for the river. Do it for our future. It's a New Year's resolution to keep!

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TAC Meetings Summary

The Technical Advisory Council met on November 16th at the Tampa Union Train Station. Among discussion/reports at the meeting were:

- : A briefing on City of Tampa Sediment Traps Program
- : An update on City of Temple Terrace Broadway Outfall Data/CDS Projects
- A presentation/discussion on development plans for River Tower Park in Sulphur Springs, Tampa.
- Review of two Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Applications
- A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.
- A progress report on Riverside Garden Park Restoration
- A status report on the Blake Trail Extension, Tampa
- A review of upcoming river-related events

The TAC did not meet in December. The January 18, 2005 TAC meeting is at Crystal Springs Preserver in Pasco County. All other 2005 TAC meetings are scheduled to be held at the Tampa Union Train Station second floor meeting room 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.



Commissioner Sharpe Joins River Board

Commissioner Mark Sharpe joins Councilwoman Linda Shattles from the City of Temple Terrace, and Councilman John Dingfelder from the City of Tampa, on the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board. Commissioner Sharpe was elected in November 2004 to represent District 7 which is countywide. Commissioner Sharpe is a Tampa native. Prior to election he served eight years as an officer in the U.S. Navy and is currently in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He also worked as a

development officer for a private school and as a government relation consultant. Commissioner Sharpe also served on the county's Citizens Advisory Committee.



Temple Terrace Reappoints Councilwoman Shattles to River Board

In November, the City of Temple Terrace announced its annual appointments of city council members to other boards and councils, The City reappointed Councilwoman Linda Shattles to the River Board for 2005. Councilwoman Shattles served as River Board Chair in 2004.



Planning Commission Names Commissioner Seth Boots to TAC

The Planning Commission has designated Commissioner Seth Boots as its representative to the Hillsborough River Technical Advisory Council for 2005. Commissioner Boots lives in unincorporated Hillsborough County near the Alafia River. Commissioner Boots replaces Commissioner Terri Cobb who is the 2005 Planning Commission Chair.

RIVER CLEAN UP NEWS

The weather was spectacular for the 18th Annual Mayor's Hillsborough River & Waterway event held in Tampa Saturday November 20. Over 1,000 hearty volunteers met early at Lowry Park for directions, to collect clean up gear and to hear a rousing send-off by Mayor Pam Iorio. Groups from area schools, scout troops, businesses and families all worked together to pick up or pull out over 10 tons of trash. These volunteers got the chance to enjoy the beauty of the day and the river. Special mention should be made to the Mayor's Beautification Committee, the City of Tampa Solid Waste Department and Parks & Recreation Department. Everyone involved contributed to a great day and successful clean up event. Good job!



Mayor Iorio rallies volunteers at Tampa's River & Waterway Clean Up Event.



Volunteers sign up, get site assignments and tools for clean up....and then head to the river.



Sulphur Springs Pool and Park Change Over Time

Sulphur Springs has withstood the test of time, evolving to meet the changing times around it. Located just north of Tampa, early city residents would make the trip to enjoy the cool clean spring waters by walking or going on horseback or wagon. Once streetcars were introduced to Tampa, a trip to the springs became much easier with a trolley line connecting the city to the spring. The spring has always been enjoyed for recreational use. Note the natural shoreline around the original natural spring pool in the turn of the century post card to the right.

The Sulphur Springs area became infused with activity in the 1920s when Josiah Richardson acquired the spring and adjoining properties and developed the first outdoor shopping arcade. He also built the Sulphur Springs water tower to provide water to his commercial ventures.

Sulphur Springs continued through the years as a popular tourist destination and a place to relax for local folk. Photos from the 1980s, shown below, illustrate how the spring pool was encircled by concrete and a sand beach was built along the spring-run that allowed for swimming and wading along the lagoon area.



The modern-day Sulphur Springs pool and park are built around the historic pool structure and features a new traditional pool that is handicap-accessible and has slides, wading areas and other fun attractions. This pool is heated and serves the local neighborhoods and many other visitors throughout the year. The old spring and pool remains a prominent part of the park and a wonderful wall mural depicts the area's history. Drop in and visit this historic site and see this long-time community recreation center in the heart of today's Tampa.



**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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TAMPA, FL
Permit No. 295



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& Technical Advisory Council
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Change Service Requested

Holiday Wishes from Tampa.....

Look, we got a nice holiday card from our friends in Tampa. They say to come on down for a visit as it is cooler there and the river is up!

That's good to hear. The last time they invited us down was during a heat wave and drought! I didn't think we'd get out as more than a puddle!

