

Partners in Planning

A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



RIVER NEWS

Serving Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County

Fall Events Bring Communities to the River

Publications

- RIVER NEWS
- Newsletter
- Permits Report
- Economic & Demographic Summary
- Tampa Neighborhood News



Participants at Riverfest learn about the river.

City of Temple Terrace - Riverfest 2005 Saturday, October 15 10am - 4pm at Riverfront Park

The waterfront in Temple Terrace comes alive with fun activities and displays that highlight the environment and the Hillsborough River during the 4th annual Riverfest. Displays with information about the river, plants and animals, will offer an opportunity to learn more about the river and wildlife that can be found in and along the river corridor. Activities at Riverfest 2005 will include strolling along the boardwalk, canoeing, a canoe race, childrens' fishing, and other river-related demonstrations.

Arts Festival Saturday & Sunday, November 12 -13

The 24th annual Arts Festival in Temple Terrace allows for viewing of the works of hundreds of artists who focus in both fine art and contemporary crafts. The festival is held at Riverhills Park along the beautiful Hillsborough River and is shaded by impressive oaks and cypress trees. Both Riverfest and the Arts Festival are free to the public. For more information call 989-7180.



City of Tampa-

Saturday, November 19, 2005 marks the City of Tampa Mayor's 19th Annual Hillsborough River & Waterway Clean Up and 'Rolling On the River Celebration'. The City of Tampa and the Mayor's Beautification Program organize volunteers to clean the Hillsborough River and its shorelines of debris and non-native invasive plants. Volunteers must check in at Lowry Park near the boat ramp and sign waivers. Volunteers are treated to breakfast prior to the cleanup and lunch following.

For more information call the Mayor's Beautification Program at 813-221-8733 or the City of Tampa Solid Waste Department at 813-348-6507. Get your friends, scout troop, church group or school organization involved in keeping the Hillsborough River clean!



Volunteers off-load trash during 2004 River Clean Up

Happy Halloween!

Inside

TAC Meetings Summary, p. 2

Manatee Season Starts, p. 2

River Levels, p. 2

Retrospect, p. 3



TAC Meetings Summary

The Technical Advisory Council met September 20th at the Tampa Union Train Station. Among discussion/reports at the meetings were:

- : Discussion regarding Tampa Cruis-A-Cade issues.
- Discussion of and support for recommending the City of Tampa dedicate Curtis Hixon Park in downtown Tampa.
- Review and support of four Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Applications.
- Discussion regarding potential health hazards in relation to treated waste water quality as reported in the New York Times.
- A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.
- A presentation/discussion on the newly release *State of the River* Brochure.
- Update on Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful Awards Program Recognition of Stewart Middle Magnet School's Hillsborough River Shoreline Clean Up.
- Reminder of upcoming Hillsborough River Fall 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, 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.

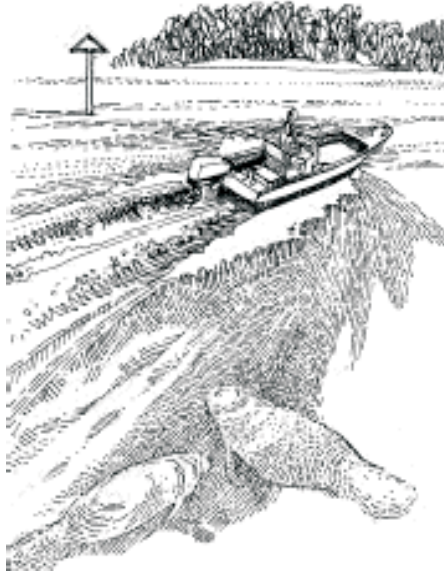
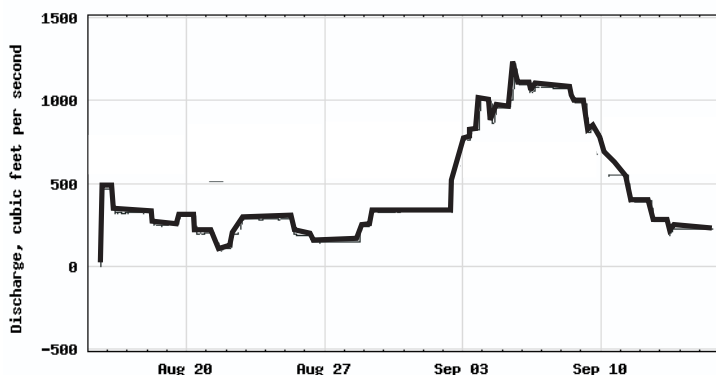
River Maintains Flow - Perks Up Lower River

Rainfall during August and September was fairly typical which kept the river flowing at a healthy pace. During mid-September drier air prevailed and the river responded with a slight lowering of the reservoir level and reduced flow at the dam. Flows downstream from the dam continued at 250+cfs, down from over 1000cfs earlier in the month.

The lower river has shown an improvement with the summer's freshwater flows. Plants and marine life downstream of the dam appear to have benefitted from the freshwater. Life in and along the river appears more abundant.

In the near future, rainfall patterns are expected to return to normal conditions with daily precipitation which will result in some continued flow. As we approach fall, cooler and drier conditions will return for a few months and flows are expected to diminish through the winter months.

USGS 02304500 HILLSBOROUGH RIVER NEAR TAMPA FL



Manatees in River...More to Come with Cooler Weather

Thanks to the Hillsborough County Aquatic Weed & Mosquito Control Department for keeping an eye out for manatees in the river. Manatees in the river over the hot summer months were far and few. The latest fly-over of the river revealed a lone adult manatee near Sligh Avenue.

Manatees are known to be in the Hillsborough River year-round and especially during the cool months of fall and winter. Manatee season begins on November 15th and runs through March. Marine craft operators are urged to be extra cautious when in the river or surrounding bay waters as manatees tend to congregate in these warm water areas.



Manatees are often found frequenting the Hillsborough River between Lowry Park to the dam. They find warm water refuge during the cooler winter months here and Sulphur Spring provides warmth and is a

freshwater source for drinking. Upstream of the spring manatees are known to calve. They keep their young in the river between the spring and the dam until they are able to maneuver safely in the river.

Craft operators are reminded that the Hillsborough River from Lowry Park north to the dam is an Idle Speed/No Wake zone for the protection of craft operators as the river is narrow and winding. This zone also serves to protect the manatees in the river as well.

MANATEE SEASON NOV 15 thru MARCH

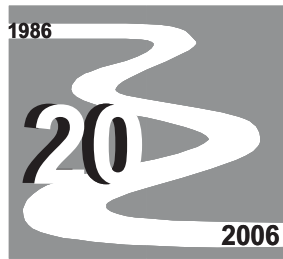
**GO SLOW -
Watch the Waterway
as if their lives depend
on it...they do!**



**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,

during the year leading up to the River Board/TAC's anniversary date in June, each issue of the *River News* will feature an article highlighting the many fine agencies and people that have helped in this endeavor.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has provided the River Board and TAC with steadfast support throughout the nearly 20 years of river management efforts. At the outset of the River Board/TAC's work, the FDEP was crucial in providing data and other information that documented historic and existing conditions in and along the river. With the help of FDEP representatives on the TAC such as Dr. Rick Garrity, Mac Craig, Jemy Hinton and most recently, Brenda Arnold, the TAC has been able to be more informed and aware of the many environmental intricacies that affect the river.

The FDEP is the umbrella organization for many departments that handle a myriad of environmentally-related issues that pertain to the Hillsborough River and several of them have contributed to the River Board/TAC's knowledge about river issues over the years. Among other tasks, the FDEP establishes the technical basis for setting the state's surface and ground water quality standards, and also implement a variety of programs to monitor the quality of those water resources. FDEP's Water Resource Management Division conducts permitting, compliance and enforcement programs for Florida's wastewater facilities, drinking water systems, and a myriad of activities in wetlands and other surface waters. The FDEP also develops the rules and guidance for implementing rules consistently throughout Florida.

In regard to the Hillsborough River, water quality has been a primary issue in relation to the river's management. During the 1990s the FDEP conducted basin-wide reviews and studies focused on river basins through its ecosystem management program. While the River Board/TAC are limited to reviewing and making recommendations within Hillsborough County, the information provided by FDEP's efforts demonstrated changes in the river's water quality were due in part to sources outside the county, impacting the river as it flowed south toward the bay. In the late 1990s the state legislature mandated further extensive water quality studies be conducted on a state-wide basis. This program assessed the Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL) a water body could carry without being deemed impaired. In the case of the Hillsborough River the approach was basin-wide but looked at the river in smaller geographic areas, in sub-basins or segments. A benefit of the TMDL program is that it attempts to identify



the origins of point-source pollutants. Once sources are identified plans can be made to minimize or prevent continued impact to a water body such as the river. In general, many of the

segments of the Hillsborough River were found to exceed state standards for a variety of parameters including high nitrogen levels and coliform bacteria. Another major impact to the river's water quality is a non-point source, storm water. Over the years the FDEP has provided the River Board/TAC with assistance in better understanding how storm water affects the river and alternative methodologies by which to make it less of an impact.

As part of the FDEP's state mandate, this agency conducts reviews and comments on large-scale projects. Most recently, the FDEP provided recommendations regarding the Cypress Creek Town Center in Pasco County. The FDEP staff attempted to lessen the impacts of the project as originally proposed. The River Board/TAC based formulation of their comments which were sent to the state regarding this project on information provided by the FDEP. The River Board/TAC have been provided with presentations, data and reports produced by the FDEP in relation to numerous other projects the agency has been reviewing within the Hillsborough River basin.

Another issue that the River Board/TAC had help with from the FDEP was aquatic and invasive plant control. In the 1980s - 1990s aquatic weeds could often be seen growing in large mats covering the river upstream of the dam. The FDEP staff explained how the plants came to be in the river, how they grew and the approaches available for their safe removal. FDEP staff provided similar insight on controlling invasive shoreline plants.



Water hyacinths were a problem in the river.

The River Board/TAC have been fortunate to have the assistance of the Florida Marine Patrol, an agency of the FDEP, regarding establishment of marine craft zones in the river and manatee protection. The FDEP staff has been able to be of help in understanding the management of phosphate mining operations as they relate to the river's water quality. The Office of Greenways & Trails is also a part of the FDEP and has been instrumental in helping the River Board/TAC to establish trails along the riverfront and in designating portions of the river part of the state canoe trail system.

All in all, the FDEP has provided excellent insight, technical assistance and data on a broad spectrum of river issues that the River Board/TAC have worked on over the past 20 years. Thanks to the FDEP, this effort has been a success.

RIVER NEWS

Editor: Alan Wright

Robert B. Hunter, FAICP - Executive Director/HCCCPC

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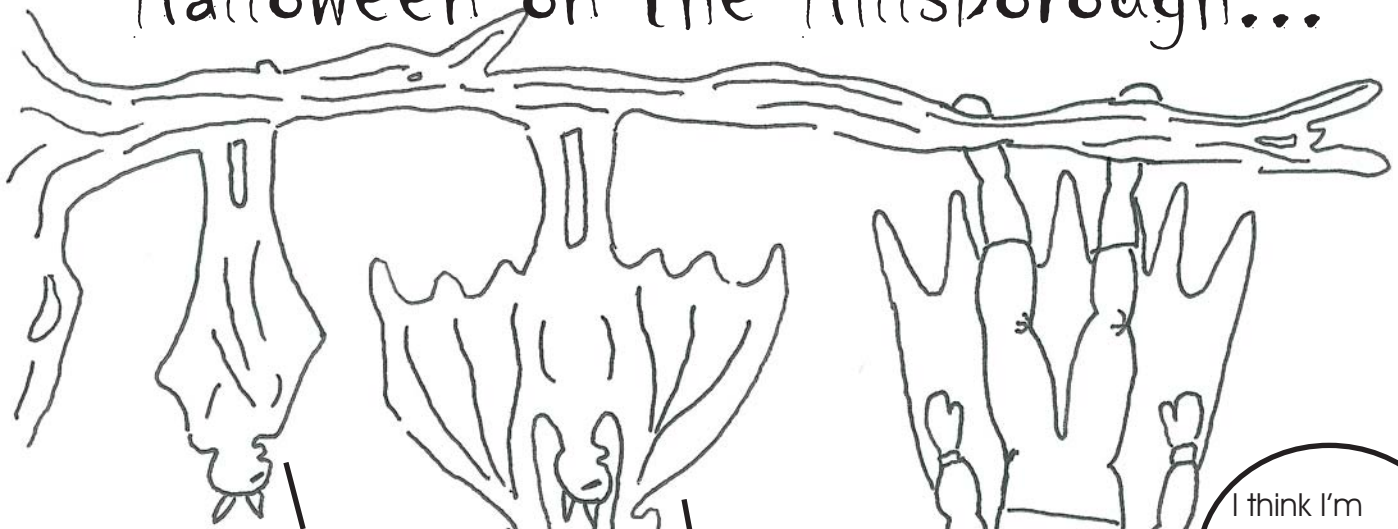
TAMPA, FL
Permit No. 295



Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board
& Technical Advisory Council
601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 18th Floor
PO Box 1110
Tampa, FL 33602 1150

Change Service Requested

Halloween on the Hillsborough...



Who is this guy
and what does
he think he is
doing?

He looks familiar
but I just can't
place the face.

I think I'm
hanging out at
the wrong
party.