

Partners in Planning

A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

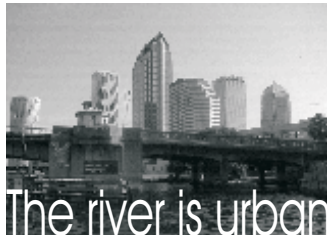
RIVER NEWS

Serving Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County

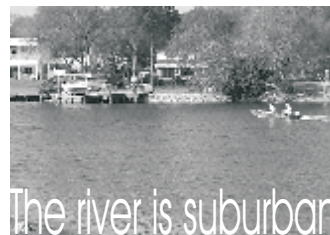
Publications

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

RIVER BOARD/TAC MARK 20-YEARS of ACTIVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT to IMPROVE THE MANY ASPECTS of HILLSBOROUGH RIVER



The river is urban



The river is suburban



The river is rural

On June 6, 2006, the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board & Technical Advisory Council will mark a 20-year effort to improve the Hillsborough River through sound, scientific-based recommendations that coordinate the river's management within Hillsborough County, Temple Terrace and Tampa. On that day in 1986, the River Board & TAC embarked on a river adventure that includes planning, untangling overlapping regulation and codes and hitting snags and rapids in promoting public awareness of the river and its needs.

The River Board & TAC evolved over the years and have been involved in a wide variety of river-related issues. Improving water quality and assuring an adequate water quantity for the river has been a top priority. Assuring public access to the river and providing a safe environment in which to enjoy the river have been important factors in considering the river's future. Protection of natural functions and amenities provided the river, such as natural shorelines and associated wetlands, have been mainstays of the River Board & TAC. Keeping aquatic life safe, particularly manatees, has been promoted by the River Board & TAC. Reaching out to turn the community back to the riverfront has been a long-standing effort supported by the River Board & TAC. The River Board & TAC sponsored the first Hillsborough River clean up events and continue today to educate the public about the impacts litter, debris and other pollutants can have on the river. Most importantly, because of the River Board & TAC's role and activities over the past 20-years, the community has become aware of the fragility of the surrounding environment and importance the Hillsborough River has played environmentally, economically and historically to Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County.

With your continued participation and active support, the Hillsborough River can continue to serve the surrounding communities. The Hillsborough River is many things to many people. Enjoy it!



Inside

- TAC Meetings Summary, p. 2
- Manatee Watch, p. 2
- Water Saving Tips, p. 3



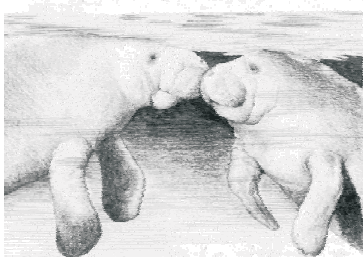
JUNE is American Rivers Month!
Celebrate by exploring a river near you!

TAC Meetings Summary

The TAC met April 18th and May 16th at the Tampa Union Train Station. Among discussion items and reports made at the TAC were:

- A discussion regarding river regulatory issues, focusing on correspondence relating to Alternative Dissolved Oxygen Criteria (ADOC), augmentation, and minimum flow for the lower river. The TAC was briefed on papers regarding water quality issues, particularly endocrine disruptors, as they relate to the proposed use of treated waste water for the lower river's augmentation and the potential environmental and public health impacts that could result.
- A review and support for two Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Application projects located on the Hillsborough River.
- An update on a meeting with the City of Tampa legal staff regarding the city's consideration of legal action pertaining to ownership/use of the Tampa Cruis-A-Cade site in downtown Tampa. The TAC forwarded a recommendation to the River Board supporting the Board sending a letter to the city in support of determining its legal standing regarding the city's ability to activate the reverter clause in the deed that transferred the property to the Cruis-A-Cade Club and to move forward as appropriate.
- Continued discussion regarding water-related structures' environmental and aesthetic impacts on the river. The TAC is to review Tempe Terrace City Code at the May TAC meeting to evaluate that jurisdiction's approach to structure permitting oversight.
- A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels. The TAC discussed the need to institute and enforce more stringent water use restrictions in April/May as the effects of the recent dry conditions are apparent from the data collected on river water flow and reservoir levels. More frequent rainfall events are expected by mid-June. 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.

MANATEE AWARENESS IS A LIFE-TIME COMMITMENT



**Keep watch -
Manatees are in
the Hillsborough
River year-
round!**

Promote Safe Boating - Do YOUR Part to see that Manatees are in the river for generations to come.



Flow at Dam a No-Show at State of the River 06

On April 10, 2006 the 4th Annual State of the River event was held at Rowlett Park in Tampa. The event is sponsored by the River Roundtable, a coalition of concerned citizens, elected officials and agency representatives who are trying to help shape the river's future primarily in the City of Tampa. This annual event entails a site visit to points of interest along the river by Tampa's mayor, other elected officials, agency representatives and interested community participants. The event highlights issues pertaining to the river and focuses on specific pertinent issues affecting the river. This year's event was held at Rowlett Park in Tampa with the city's dam as a backdrop for the event.

This year's event was to bring a focus on the several processes underway that involves downstream flow into the lower river. As part of the event a demonstration was planned to show the city's dam in action, opening the gates to release limited amounts of water from the reservoir into the lower river. The demonstration was halted by city officials citing water shortage concerns in relation to the proposed limited release of reservoir water.

Tampa's Mayor Iorio gave an overview of the city's perspective of water issues as they relate to the region. The mayor expressed the need to better utilize treated wastewater produced at the Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant through re-use of the treated water for secondary uses and as a possible source for augmentation of the lower Hillsborough River. Spokespersons for the River Roundtable reinforced the need for some dedicated freshwater inflow to the lower river during the year. Such an infusion of freshwater to the lower river has been scientifically shown to be beneficial to the

lower river's health and vitality.



Photo at left shows the river overflowing at the dam during the rainy season in 2005.

**CONSERVE WATER NOW
KNOW YOUR DAY
LIMIT OUTDOOR WATERING**





Murals Liven Up Tampa's Landscape

They may appear whimsical but two recently completed murals go a long way to brighten up the otherwise dull and monotonous landscape in a north Tampa neighborhood. Two murals, located at 14244 N. Nebraska Avenue, liven up the surroundings with bright colors and bold design. The larger of the two murals provides a backdrop to parking spaces along Nebraska Avenue. This stylized mural depicts what could be the upper portion of the river at the Hillsborough River State Park where rapids can be enjoyed. You can almost hear the roar of the river's water as it rushes over the limestone outcroppings as it heads downstream into the parking lot. Lush green plants abound in this painting.

The second mural faces south and greets patrons of the Community Thrift Store located in the building. This mural brightly depicts the downtown Tampa landscape from an Ybor City perspective. Tampa landmarks and historic features intermingle through this interesting urban mural.

A new mural, located in Rowlett Park, is under development on the east wall of the racquetball courts in the park located along Rowlett Park Drive. This mural joins the award-winning mural at the same site on the west wall that depicts Sulphur Springs images. Be sure to check out the progress of this new mural as you pass by this park site.



Dry Season Reappears Making Water Conservation Critical NOW!

If you hadn't noticed by now, the lack of rainfall over the past few months has had an effect on the environment. It is especially important to make a concerted effort to save water in every way possible. Although the lack of rainfall is not a surprise, it does remind us that we share the environment with other living plants and creatures that require water too, not to mention the thousands of fellow residents that live in the area.

Late spring and early summer are typically dry. March and April are historically the driest months of the year, hopefully leading into mid-June when more frequent rainfall patterns emerge and help to replenish dry conditions in the river and on land. In the mean time, there are steps that we can take to save what water resources we have until the weather pattern changes and rain starts to be a part of our daily life once again.

The following are some general water-saving suggestions that are ways to lower your water consumption and lower your water bill!

WATER USE TIPS:

- Reduce the number of days you water your yard to once weekly. Follow the same schedule for potted plants.
- Water your lawn in the early morning to minimize evaporation.
- If it rains on your day to water, skip that day.
- Install water-efficient sprinklers and a rain sensor switch to override your system when it rains. Check timing device setting regularly. Make sure you are watering your plants and not the street or other paved areas.
- Put a shutoff nozzle on your hose to control the flow of water so you only use what you need. Remember to turn the water off at the spigot to prevent leaks.
- Monitor the length of time you water. Be sure to turn off water at the spigot. Left unattended, a garden hose can waste as much as 600 gallons of water in just an hour!
- Keep showers under five minutes and installing low-flow showerheads to save water. The older the showerhead, the more water it uses.
- Run all automatic household devices that use water, like dishwashers, only when fully loaded. Set clothes washers to the appropriate water level for the size of load you are washing.
- Be WATER WISE and save money while protecting the environment.



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



RIVER NEWS

Editor: Alan Wright

Robert B. Hunter, FAICP - Executive Director/HCCCPC

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE

PAID

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

Mr. River Contemplates the River Board/TAC Marking 20 Years of Community Involvement.....



Has it only been
20 years?
Somedays it
seems more like
120!

Thanks to all who
help and support
the efforts to
make the river a
better place!

MRiver!