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RIVER NEWS

Serving Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County

19th Annual Hillsborough River Clean Up Nets 8.5 Tons of Trash, Debris and Litter



Once again, for the 19th time, over a thousand volunteers came out early on a Saturday morning to help clean the Hillsborough River and its shoreline. A far cry from the first few river clean ups that the River Board & Technical Advisory Council coordinated, this event was huge. Educational displays, food, free hand outs and Tampa's Mayor to give a rousing send off to the participants set the tone for a very successful clean up. Every person there learned first hand how pollution diminishes the environment and the community aesthetics. They pulled a variety of items from the river and its banks including a sofa, mattresses, furniture of all kinds, metal objects that belonged to long-gone appliances, bicycles and shopping carts. Numerous shopping carts were pulled to the surface and out of the muck of the river's bottom. This was the big stuff.

Smaller items ranged from styrofoam coolers, cups and floatation devices, glass bottles, wire, and plastics of all shapes and forms. Several monofilament fishing lines were snagged out of low-hanging trees along with fishing lures and hooks still attached. These lines were just waiting to snag some unsuspecting bird or other river corridor wildlife that couldn't escape the plastic-coated line's entanglement.

The overall enormity of what was collected in bulk (8.5 tons) and diversity of pollutants, conclusively demonstrates a need to stay vigilant in keeping the river corridor clean of harmful articles, trash and debris all year. This was only one day. A few hours work to undo countless moments of thoughtless tossing of litter to the ground that makes its way to the river or the deliberate dumping of large items into the river. From what was gathered on just this one day the city would do well in investing in a depollution craft that could tackle this pollution problem all year long. It certainly would help in keeping this problem in check.

As we look forward to the 20th Clean Up event in 2007, lets work to get a more proactive, practical and cost-effective way to keep the river and other waterways clean all year. With a depollution craft active on the river year round, every day could be a successful river clean up day!

A consolidated city-county agency serving the cities of Tampa, Plant City, Temple Terrace and unincorporated Hillsborough County

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Season's Greetings

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Water Conservation Crucial for Environment

The very first thing every one of us does each morning involves the use of water. Brushing your teeth. Taking a shower. Flushing the toilet. Making coffee. Boiling an egg. Running the dishwasher. Starting laundry. But who ever stops to think about how fortunate we are to have that water available for all those uses? Do you?

Most of the potable water used in our area comes from the Hillsborough River which means the more we use the less there is for the river environment. Increased demand for in-home use and for water directed to grass and plantings in our yards has resulted in ever shrinking amounts of water being available for the well-being of the river corridor itself. The growing number of new residents and businesses has strained the area's water supply to



the point that water suppliers are looking to extract even more water during high-flow periods or even during less than high-flow periods.

The fact that the Hillsborough River is starting to be less of a river downstream of the dam and more of a bay inlet, subject to unwelcome tidal influences and little

freshwater inflow to flush out pollutants and impurities, is troublesome. Each of us on an individual basis can help turn this trend around by adhering to water use restrictions and following basic water conservation practices on a daily basis.

Water is a basic necessity for all life including the wildlife that depend on our rivers. It is up to us to see that there is enough freshwater to go around and meet the needs not just for human use but also for other species that inhabit the river corridor. Those of us in the Hillsborough River basin need to do better, make more of an effort, to save not just drop here and there, but to strive to save gallons of water in any way we can. The number of no-flow days at the dam have increased steadily since the early 1970s to the point that there is no-flow conditions for half the year. Is that acceptable?

Water savings realized through aggressive conservation practices should be directed back to the environment, not made available for sale to water suppliers. Conservation is sold to the public as a means to help the environment. Any water saving needs to be directed to the river's well-being, not used as a commodity to meet future water needs.

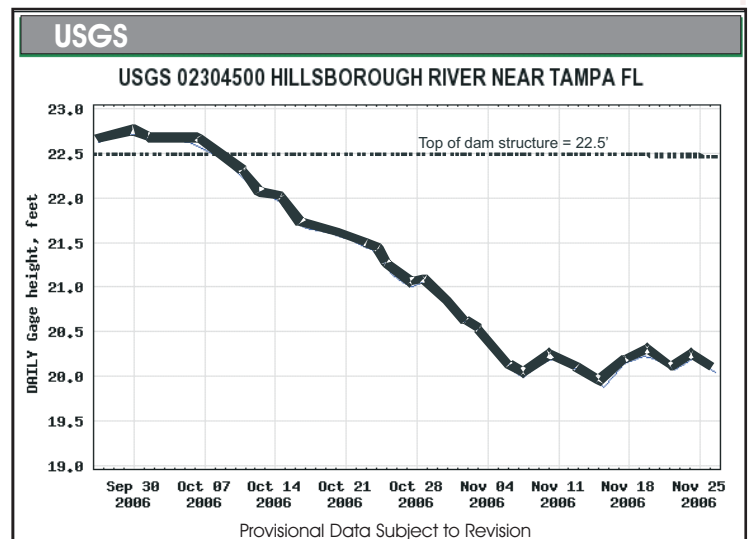
Flow Turns to Trickle and Stops to Lower Hillsborough River



As of mid-November, the Hillsborough River was once again lacking any significant freshwater inflows which resulted in the lowering of river water levels.

The river level upstream of the dam started to decline in mid-September, dropping below the 22.5' depth in the reservoir that would allow for overflow to the lower river. In addition, in-flows to the river from the few springs that feed into the river slowed due to the lack of rain. Rainfall in the area over the past couple of months has been nominal, edging the area to near drought conditions.

In addition to the lack of rain, the demand for water rose over ten percent over last October's water use. This rise in water use also contributed to the river's lower water levels.



The reservoir water level graph above for the months of late-September to mid-November shows the upper river level dropping dramatically. The decline of the water level in the reservoir, diminished inflows into the river, and higher water demands are indicators that water conservation needs to be observed by everyone in the area. Fresh water is one resource we can't afford to run out of, especially now. The next few months are normally dry so there may be a long time before we see the next rains heading our way.



CONSERVE WATER NOW
KNOW YOUR DAY
LIMIT OUTDOOR WATERING

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



FALL RIVER EVENTS RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS of RIVER

Riverfest 2006 was attended by several hundred people on Saturday, October 21, 2006 at the City of Temple Terrace Riverhills Park. Those in attendance were treated to several educational booths that provided interaction or up-close



observation of live animals that can found in the river corridor. In addition, a water ski show held in the river was the highlight of the afternoon. As shown above, a lot of folks just enjoyed being out and about along the river on the boardwalk,



Pops In the Park

On Sunday, October 22, 2006, the Florida Orchestra played to a packed house of around 3,000 people at Sulphur Springs River Tower Park. This was the park's premier public event filled with music and relaxation along the

banks of the Hillsborough River. Those in attendance got to hear a wide selection of classical music, watch the tower light up behind the orchestra and then were treated to a flash-bang ending with fireworks that amazed everyone. It was truly an incredible evening. Thanks to the City of Tampa, and especially the Tampa Parks & Recreation Department, Neighborhood and Community Relations Office, the Tampa Police & Fire Departments for helping to make this event possible. And of course, many thanks to the Florida Orchestra for a wonderful concert!

19th Annual Tampa Mayor's Hillsborough River & Waterway Clean Up

Over a thousand volunteer participants spent their Saturday, November 18th helping to clean up the Hillsborough River and other waterways. According to the Tampa Solid Waste Department 8.5 tons of trash and debris were recovered from the river corridor.



TAC Discuss a Variety of River Issues at November Meeting - Cancels December Meeting

The Technical Advisory Council (TAC) met at the Tampa Union Train Station November 14, 2006. Among discussion items and reports made at the meeting were:

- The TAC was briefed on community concerns expressed at a Tampa Bay Estuary Program Workshop on Proposed Minimum Flow for the lower Hillsborough River.
- An update/discussion regarding Tampa Bay Water's retraction of a river augmentation project as a future water supply project. The TAC was also briefed on a special meeting of Tampa Bay Water (TBW) to consider funding of future water supply projects by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, including the augmentation project. The TAC sent a letter of inquiry to TBW and the District asking for clarification pertaining to the inclusion of an augmentation project in the funding request.
- Review and approval of two Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit applications for projects along the river.
- Review and discussion regarding declining water levels in the river in response to minimal rainfall over the past few months and increased water supply use for irrigation purposes. There has been no flow at the dam to the lower river for over a month.
- A briefing and discussion regarding dangerous motorized craft operation in the river between Hillsborough Avenue and the Jean Street Marina.
- A presentation by the newly formed Hillsborough River Watershed Alliance, briefing the TAC on this group's efforts to help in coordinating and promoting educational opportunities in the Hillsborough River watershed.
- A review of recent Hillsborough River events including Riverfest in Temple Terrace, Pops In the Park at Sulphur Springs River Tower Park in Tampa, and the Tampa Mayor's 19th Annual Hillsborough River & Waterways Clean Up.

TAC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. All TAC meetings are 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.

The TAC will not be meeting in the month of December.
The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2006.

So Frosty, where are you drifting off to?



I'm running down to Tampa to get some sun and help with the water supply shortage down there. See you next year!

RIVER NEWS

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Tampa Mayor's 19th Annual River & Waterways a Success