

Winter 2007

Partners in Planning

A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

RIVERNEWS

Publications

- NEWSLETTER
- Permits Report
- Economic & Demographic Summary
- Tampa Neighborhood News
- River News

RIVER MASTER PLAN GETS UPDATED

The policies of the local comprehensive plans also comprise the River Master Plan that is the responsibility of the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board.

The TAC reviewed the Hillsborough County river policies on November 20, 2007. The Board of County Commissioners is scheduled to transmit these policies to the state on February 7, 2007. Once the Cities have completed their update of the river policies, Hillsborough County's policies will be coordinated with these changes.

The City of Tampa's and Temple Terrace's adopted Hillsborough River comp plan policies were reviewed by a TAC subcommittee on June 27, 2007. The revisions suggested by the subcommittee were made to the policies and then presented to the

TAC at their August 21st meeting. The TAC reviewed and commented on the revised policies which were then edited and incorporated into the draft plan. The draft City of Tampa plan will be ready for public review and comment at the end of January, 2008. The draft Temple Terrace plan is proposed to be ready for public review and comment in May 2008.



The Planning Commission Hearing on the City of Tampa Plan will be held in March, 2008 and the Tampa City Council hearing to

transmit the changes to the state will be held in April, 2008. Workshops on the Temple Terrace Plan are proposed to be held by the Planning Commission and the Temple Terrace City Council in June, 2008 and public hearings are proposed to be held in August, 2008.

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RESIDENTS URGED TO PREPARE FOR SEVERE DROUGHT

The Southwest Florida Water Management District and local governments are urging all homeowners in the 16-county area to prepare your lawns now for potentially record-breaking drought conditions this spring.

Our area has been consistently receiving below-average rainfall since January 2006. As a result, water resources, such as the aquifers, rivers and lakes, are all far below where they should be. Now climatologists are predicting La Nina conditions, which are expected to result in a drier than normal fall, winter and spring.



An emergency water shortage order was issued in January 2007, which restricts lawn watering to one-day-per-week. In addition to following the restrictions, homeowners are encouraged to take several measures this winter that will not only conserve water but will also protect your property by training your lawns to use less water. Using less water will encourage deeper grass and plant roots, making your lawns more drought-tolerant this spring when conditions may be at their worst.

Some simple steps you can take include:

- Checking your irrigation system to make sure it is operating efficiently and you are watering the landscaping, not paved areas
- Raising your mower height to encourage grass roots to grow deeper and hold moisture longer
- Skipping a week of irrigation during the cooler months, when your lawn doesn't need as much water

Please continue to use water as efficiently as possible during the dry season. For more simple tips on conserving water both indoors and outdoors, as well

as information on Florida-friendly landscaping, visit WaterMatters.org/drought or contact your county extension office.

BUDGET CUTS EFFECT RIVER BOARD

The effects of the state mandated budget cuts will not go unfelt by the River Board and TAC. Staffing resources for the Board and TAC will be significantly reduced. Specific projects and tasks will be prioritized with some efforts deferred until resources are available. Most notably, the River News will be reduced to a quarterly publication and reformatted.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

West-central Florida is experiencing a drought. Over the last two years our rainfall deficit is more than 20 inches. Unfortunately, forecasters predict a dry winter and spring, which means the situation will only worsen and possibly set new low level records. The situation is serious.



The Southwest Florida Water Management District has speakers available to talk about the drought, what the District is doing to ensure water supply needs are being met, and what you can do to help.

If you would like to request a speaker for your homeowners association, church or civic organization, contact the District at 1-800-423-1476 ext. 4757. For additional information on the drought, water restrictions or water conservation tips, visit the District's web site at WaterMatters.org/drought.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD



Long time staff to the River Board and Technical Advisory Council, **Alan Wright**, has left his position after nearly 22 years of service.

Lovingly known as Mr. River in Hillsborough County, Alan served as a Principal Planner with the Hillsborough County Planning Commission and served as staff to the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board and Technical Advisory Council.

Alan has been instrumental in establishing the annual Mayors River Cleanup in the City of Tampa which just celebrated its 20th year. The cleanup event has grown from just a few dozen people the first year, to over 1,400 participants this year at over 30 sites along the river.

Mr. Wright also played a key role in purchase of the Sulphur Springs Water Tower property and establishing the River Tower Park on the banks of the Hillsborough River as well as the lighting and ongoing restoration of the historic Sulphur Springs Water Tower, which is a landmark to the city of Tampa. He also encouraged the rehabilitation of Sulphur Springs Pool and creation of adjoining recreation center for youth and the community. Without his leadership and foresight the park might not exist today.

In 2001 Mr. Wright was successful in obtaining the designation of the Hillsborough River Blueway into the Florida Greenways and Trail System that plays an important part in furthering the establishment of a statewide system of greenways and trails.

Mr. Wright lead the fight to maintain the fragile Hillsborough River ecosystem as an advocate for reducing our water usage and keeping our waterways clean. His daily work encompassed educating citizen groups and elected officials on how connected the whole Tampa Bay area is to the Hillsborough River and the importance of this resource in our environment. Alan could always be counted on, without hesitation, to fully take care of the unique responsibilities of his position.

This year the City of Tampa renamed its portion of

the Hillsborough River Blueway the “Alan Wright Hillsborough River Blueway” to recognize the years of service he has dedicated to protecting a resource we all love and cherish. Alan’s constant smile and upbeat attitude will be missed.



Shawn College will take over as staff to the River Board and Technical Advisory Council. Shawn is no stranger to this work and is looking forward to working with the community to help keep the issues facing the Hillsborough River in the spotlight.

Mr. College is a long time staff member, and Environmental Team Leader, with the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission. Mr. College can be reached at (813) 273-3773 x367.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

26TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY DESIGN AWARDS

“Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future”

The Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission invites entries to its 26TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY DESIGN AWARDS to recognize excellence in planning, landscape architecture, **environmental sensitivity** and architectural design in building, development, public participation, and preservation projects throughout Hillsborough County.

To download the Call for Entries Application or for more information visit: www.theplanningcommission.org. Entry fee is \$135 per entry.

Awards presented the evening of Thursday, April 3, 2008 at the 26th Annual Community Design Awards Program and Dinner to be held at the Tampa Theatre in Downtown Tampa.

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For more information on the Community Design Awards application process or to sponsor the Awards Program and Dinner contact Tony LaColla, AICP at 273-3774 ext. 350 or e-mail laColla@plancom.org

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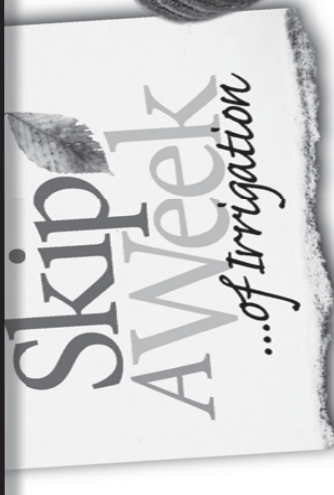
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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



During cooler months in fall and winter, your lawn doesn't need watering every week ... It's the best time to train your yard to need less water!

In fact, too much irrigation:

- Makes your lawn less able to survive droughts
- Encourages pests
- Wastes water

Here's how you'll know if your lawn needs watering:

- Grass blades are folded in half
- Grass blades are blue-gray
- Your footprint remains on the lawn

Grow smart with Florida-friendly landscaping and skip a week!

To learn more, visit our web site at WaterMatters.org and open the link to the "Skip-A-Week" page.

Southwest Florida
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