

***FACT SHEET: Hillsborough River Basin Management Action Plan  
Adopted by the DEP***



The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced adoption of the Hillsborough River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The action plan, developed in partnership with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program; Hillsborough, Pasco and Polk Counties; The Cities of Plant City, Tampa, and Temple Terrace; the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission and the Health Department; the Florida Department of

***Where is the Hillsborough River Basin located?***

- The basin is located in Hillsborough, eastern Pasco, and western Polk Counties.

Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District; and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences identifies actions that are needed to decrease bacteria in six Waterbody Identification units (WBIDs) for a portion of the Hillsborough River Basin.

The Hillsborough River basin BMAP was developed under DEP's comprehensive approach that builds partnerships with local, regional and state interests to identify and restore polluted waterbodies. Similar efforts are currently underway in other areas of the state.

**Why was a BMAP needed in the Hillsborough River Basin?**

The Hillsborough River is a Class 3 water body suitable for recreational use and the propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. Due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria, these WBIDs in the Hillsborough River Basin did not support these uses. Water quality restoration targets, called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), were adopted by DEP that provided numerical water quality restoration targets for these six WBIDs. The BMAP is the implementation plan that identifies actions that will be taken to achieve these restoration targets.

**Who was involved?**

The action plan, developed in partnership with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program; Hillsborough, Pasco and Polk Counties; The Cities of Plant City, Tampa, and Temple Terrace; the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission and the County Health Department; State Agencies including: the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District; and the University of Florida Institute

of Food and Agricultural Sciences were involved in identifying actions that are needed to decrease bacteria in these Hillsborough River Basin WBIDs.

### **What will the BMAP accomplish?**

Reducing the discharges of pollutants into these waterbodies will help achieve water quality standards and designated uses established by the DEP. The phased approach outlined in the BMAP involves implementation of actions such as improved stormwater management alongside activities such as continued water quality sampling to better control and understand the sources of these pollutants. The implementation of BMAP actions will decrease levels of fecal coliforms in the impaired WBIDs in the Hillsborough River Basin.

Specific actions in the BMAP include wastewater infrastructure and stormwater system management; regulations, ordinances and guidelines; conservation and land acquisition; best management practices for agricultural lands, public education and outreach; and ongoing water quality monitoring.

### **Where can you find more information?**

The Hillsborough River Basin Management Plan is available at:

[ftp://ftp.dep.state.fl.us/pub/water/BMAP/TampaBay/Hillsborough\\_River](ftp://ftp.dep.state.fl.us/pub/water/BMAP/TampaBay/Hillsborough_River)

The following websites contain more information about water quality protection and restoration activities in the Hillsborough River Basin:

Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Division:

<http://www.epchc.org>

Hillsborough County Health Department:

<http://www.hillscountyhealth.org>

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Agricultural Water Policy:

<http://www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com>