

THE ALAFIA
RIVER BASIN
AGENCY
TEAM



Staff Report

Linking Land
And
Water Management
in the
Alafia
River
Watershed



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Alafia River Basin Board

Preparation of this report was aided through financial assistance and technical assistance received from the Southwest Florida Water Management District using the Cooperative Funding Program of the Alafia River Basin Board. The Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, through its Planning and Growth Management Department, are the sponsoring agencies for this project.

**The Alafia Watershed
Land & Water Linkage
Task Force**

The sponsoring agencies would like to thank the citizen volunteers of the Alafia Land & Water Linkage Task Force. The Task Force was composed of stakeholders that represented a variety of watershed interests who came together under the helpful and collaborative efforts of the Alafia River Basin Stewardship Council (ARBSC). A list of the volunteers that comprised the Task Force membership is contained in the Task Force's Pre-Strategy Report.

The Agency Team

An interagency group was established to guide and complete the study. The County Planning and Growth Management Department took responsibility for managing the study, with Brian Grady and Dan Blood representing the Department. Brian Grady acted as Project Manager.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District's Lisa Henningsen, SWFWMD's Project Manager, represented the SWFWMD Board in the formulation of this study. She and Craig Dye contributed resource management and technical guidance throughout the study.

Facilitator

Jim Stansbury, President of SRBD South, Inc. of Bradenton, Florida provided professional facilitation and other consulting services throughout the study.

STUDY PURPOSE

The Challenge

This report concludes a year long effort to improve the management of land and water resources in the Alafia River Basin in central Hillsborough County. The sponsoring agencies set out to implement a strategy that would accomplish three things:

- Improve linkages between land planning and water management
- Improve linkages between the efforts of the regional water resource agency (SWFWMD) and the County's planning efforts
- Provide a link between affected citizens and their local government and their regional water resource agency in addressing land and water issues.

The two sponsoring agencies have distinct but interwoven areas of responsibility within the Alafia River watershed. SWFWMD has four Areas of Responsibility (AOR's) that frame every policy it establishes and every action it takes – Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection and Natural Systems. Through the development of Comprehensive Watershed Management (CWM) Plans for each river basin/watershed, SWFWMD now looks at the broadest possible picture for the management of the resources under their responsibility rather than addressing them on a project-by-project bases. Through the CWM plan, developed through an agency team from various disciplines, issues are identified and prioritized and implementation strategies/ actions are outlined. Implementation and monitoring of the effectiveness of the actions is carried out through the agency teams.

Hillsborough County sees the opportunity to tie into the comprehensive Watershed Management Plans by adding its own distinct "Area of Responsibility" – Growth Management. Growth Management consists of the land use planning, zoning, stormwater management and related capital improvements that guide where, when and how development occurs.

These five areas of responsibility – water supply, water quality, flood protection, natural systems and growth management – represent significant links between a watershed's land and water resources. A key component of developing effective programs and projects associated with these five areas of responsibility is the ability of public agencies to include the values and interests of citizens and stakeholders.

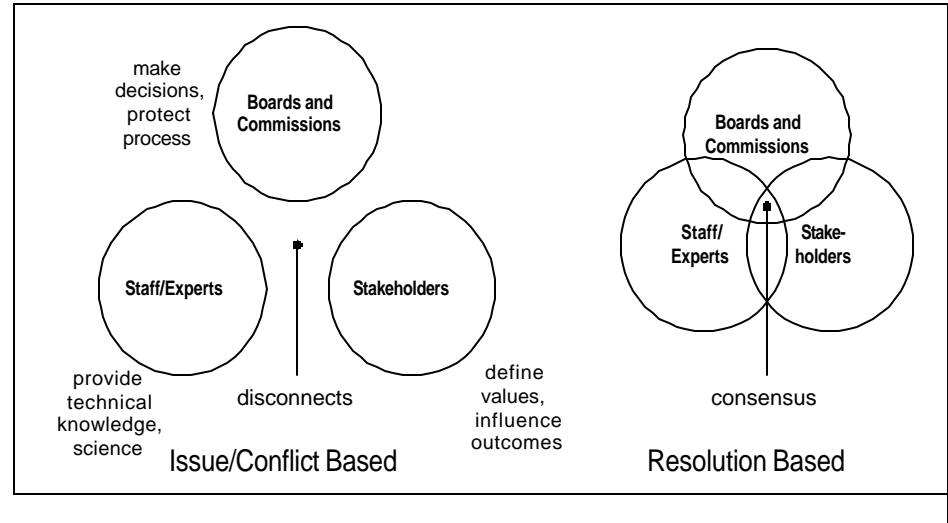
The Alafia River Focus

This effort is a continuation of the land-water "Linkage" study conducted in the rural northwest part of the County in 1996. That study brought together citizens, stakeholders and agencies and produced over 40 projects to implement citizen priorities within the Northwest portion of the County. Recent events within the Alafia River Watershed, specifically, the 1998 spill of process water from a phosphate processing plant and Tampa Bay Water's plan to utilize the Alafia River as a potable water supply source, led citizens in the watershed to desire to have a more proactive role in the decision making process on the issues that affect their quality of life. Through the Alafia River Basin Stewardship Council, a local citizen group, a request was made to SWFWMD and Hillsborough County for assistance in facilitating affective citizen input. The Land & Water Linkage process is an effort to bring land planning into a watershed context. This process, developed in the Northwest project, was the logical avenue through which to address citizen desires in the Alafia River Watershed. The Study Area, including maps, is described in detail in Chapter 3.

In sponsoring the study the agencies wished to achieve a high degree of community participation and interaction. Using the Northwest Link project as a template and the expertise of the Project Facilitator, the project staff agreed on both an overall process to keep roles and responsibilities clear; a sequence for collaborative problem-solving, and an organizational approach that would guide the development of the strategies. These processes are illustrated by Figures 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Roles and Responsibilities

Figure 1 illustrates the need to respect distinct roles while adopting collaborative approaches. In this study, the Boards and Commissions would protect the process while reserving their right to accept, modify or reject any recommendations. The community stakeholders would define their values and influence objectives that fit local aspirations. The staff and experts would support the process, while being accountable for providing relevant information and applying sound knowledge. This phase culminated in a Pre-Strategy Report, containing the Task Force's recommendations.



Two Phases

Figure 1 Respecting Roles and Responsibilities in Seeking Consensus

A two-phased approach was developed to guide collaborative problem solving. The Project Facilitator's use of PIBEO (Public Input Before Expert Output) was adopted. Figure 2 illustrates this approach. In Phase 1, the community took the lead, with the staff offering information, advice and other support as requested. Community efforts used Task Force workshops, and general public forums, with sufficient time to accomplish worthwhile work. Further details of this interactive process are included in the Pre-Strategy Report, a separate document from which Chapter 4 of this report is excerpted. In Phase 2, staff agency Team took the lead, developing the strategies and actions that would be submitted to the Boards and Commissions for review and decision. Before completing its Final Report, the Agency Team met with the Task Force to review a complete draft of its proposed report.

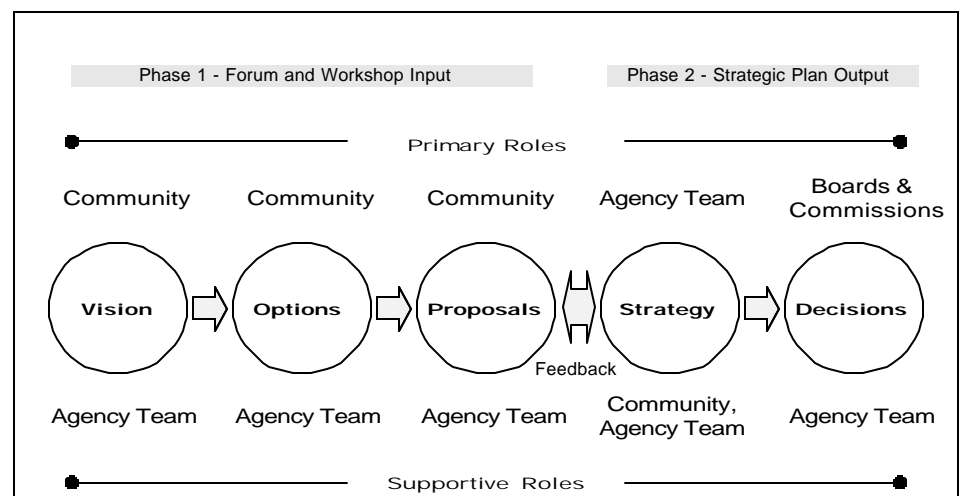


Figure 2 Public Input Before Expert Output and Board/Commission Decisions

Integrated Action

Figure 3 illustrates the desire for the sponsoring agencies to move beyond justification of their existing procedures and rules. The links sought in this study require a strategy for interagency actions, in which each step outside of traditional regulatory or policy roles to get at the heart of land and water management problems in the Alafia River Basin. In some cases, agencies need to collaborate on a particular action. Overall, however, a coordinated effort by all is needed.

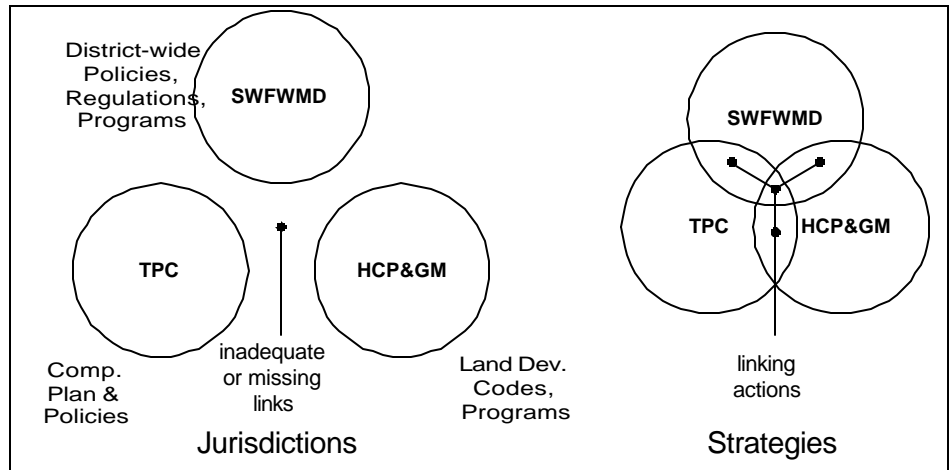


Figure 3 Linking Actions Across Jurisdictions

The Study Content

Discussions at the beginning of this project made an effort to define the specifics of this study. The study was not intended to create a vision for all aspects of life in Alafia River Watershed or to encourage competition between scientific expertise and citizen goals. Furthermore, the study was not designed to make decisions on specific local development proposals or to implement new regulatory measures or rules, create community plans, or search for single answers to every community problem in the study area.

In contrast, the expected outcomes of the study were laid out in the beginning of the effort. The study did have intentions to create a community vision for the future of Alafia River Watershed's natural environment, and to blend that vision with the science of resource management. The study needed to produce outcomes leading to better decision-making by the sponsoring agencies. Such decisions could improve regulations and policies, be useful in guiding future Community Plan preparation, and widen the range of potential water management solutions to typical land use problems.

In the following chapters of this report are the general facts of the physical and natural environment in the area, citizen recommendations and the methods used by the Task Force to analyze all the information available. The report concludes with a formulation of the strategies recommended for consideration by the governing bodies to bring this report to an action stage.

The Appendices provide a glossary of terms used in this report, as well as endnotes.

STUDY AREA CHARACTERISTICS¹

The Southwest Florida Water Management District Alafia River Watershed

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) encompasses sixteen counties, in whole or in part, on the west-central coast of Florida, from Charlotte County on the south to Levy County on the north. It also extends from the Gulf of Mexico east to Polk and Highlands counties. The District contains 98 local governments spread over approximately 10,000 square miles, with the total population in 1990 exceeding 3.3 million. Map 1 shows county boundaries, as well as the locations of major cities within the District.

The Alafia River Basin covers an area of 259 square miles within the central part of Hillsborough County (see Map 2). The headwaters of the Alafia River originate in Polk County and comprise an additional 133 square miles of the watershed. The North Prong Alafia River, South Prong Alafia River and the Alafia River form the primary limbs of the surface water network for the watershed. The North Prong originates west of Plant City and south of Lakeland, in western Polk County. The South Prong originates in an area bordered by State Road 64 and State Road 37, in southeast Hillsborough County. The Alafia River flows approximately 25 miles westward, from the confluence of the North and South Prongs in Alderman's Ford Park, to Hillsborough Bay.

The central portion of Hillsborough County is identified by the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan as a likely high growth area of the County over the next 15 years (see Map 3). This area, in addition to being faced with a host of development-related land use issues, includes the location of major public supply projects, including proposed withdrawals from the Alafia river and a proposed reservoir (see Map 4). The Watershed incorporates parts of Lakeland, Plant City, Mulberry, Brandon, large expanses of rural or undeveloped farm and phosphate mining lands. The northern and western portions of the watershed are characterized by higher density residential and commercial development, whereas the southern and eastern portions of the watershed in Hillsborough County are characterized by agriculture and mining land uses with scattered residential development (see Map 5). Portions of the watershed, particularly along the river and the major tributaries, remain in a natural state and are either under public ownership or identified for preservation (see Map 6).

Since a portion of the watershed is in Polk County, many land use decisions and activities that effect the Alafia River within Hillsborough County are outside the jurisdiction of Hillsborough County. Therefore, continued intergovernmental coordination and cooperation needs to occur through SWFWMD's Alafia River CWM Plan implementation in order to ensure the protection of the Alafia River and its resources.

TASK FORCE'S PROPOSALS

Community Goals

The following goals, proposed community action ideas, and other recommendations are excerpted in their entirety from Chapters 6 and 7 of the Task Force's Pre-Strategy Report of February 13, 2000. That report is available as a separate document. There are some proposals that would benefit from editing. However, staff decided that the report should stand as the Task Force's document, without post-completion changes by others.

A goal is a generally stated desired achievement. It tries to answer "what do we want" type questions, not "how do we do it" type questions. Individual authors prepared specific goal ideas, and received peer review from others. A subsequent review and discussion led to a summary supported by the entire group. Since peer review criticism was to include proposed improvements, the absence of peer review comments indicates the reviewers were satisfied or supportive.

WATER SUPPLY

Goal 1: To provide adequate water at the lowest environmental cost.

Peer comments: Conservation is an important component of water supply.

Goal 2: To encourage natural landscaping to reduce water usage.

Goal 3: To implement the current Hillsborough County Position Statement on the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA).

Goal 4: To protect private wells from groundwater withdrawals through wellfield pumping by TBW and its successors.

WATER QUALITY

Goal 1: To put a Hillsborough County moratorium, by 2002, on septic systems for new development directly on the Alafia River and develop the initiative to identify older and poor functioning system and replace or hook to county water where available.

Peer comments: Offer financial incentives to homeowners with older septic systems to upgrade or replace these systems with a new one.

Goal 2: To eliminate road flooding, river flooding, house flooding, etc. through adequately structured drainage and retention of stormwater.

Goal 3: To employ best management practices for stormwater in both agricultural and urban land development and land uses.

Goal 4: To promote and fund ELAPP to buy river frontage land where vacant by renewing funding after 2000. Accelerate such purchases on lands already identified, and combine with SWFWMD program to increase buying power.

Peer comments: No more building within an area of the river. Implement an area to protect the river from harmful runoff.

Goal 5: To identify where stormwater - sewage, fecal and industrial pollutants are entering the watershed, including those sources in Polk County, and develop a corrective action plan to remediate, prior to permitting additional development.

Peer comments: Enforce permitting now.

Goal 6: To ensure the proper design and development of mining facilities such that the chances of a major spill are minimized or practically eliminated

Goal 7: To ensure a swimmable/fishable river

Goal 8: To develop cooperative incentive based approach to encourage reduction in nutrient loads in order to achieve / maintain goals of fishable / swimmable for the Alafia

Goal 9: To establish water quality standards for the river and to implement best management practices to protect river water quality and enhance recreational uses. Also to monitor water quality along specific parts of the river.

Peer comments: Monitoring must be followed by evaluation, planning and implementation of desired outcome-oriented action plans.

Goal 10: To improve water quality through restoration of sea grasses and other natural vegetation along the banks of the Alafia River.

Peer comments: Reduce dependence on hardened sea walls.

Goal 11: To reduce St. Augustine lawns along the Alafia River, through public education.

Peer comments: To reduce fertilizer usage and related chemical and nutrient runoff. Also, promote use of natural deterrents such as predators for pest control instead of insecticides. Promote educated use of lawn chemicals.

FLOOD PROTECTION

Goal 1: To create more natural wet lands to replace ones that no longer exist due to developments. Each county controls its own floodwaters. No more undeveloped land around watershed to be rezoned for large developers to kill.

Peer comments: Stronger wetland protection and restoration; development must preserve wetlands; HC must restore currently damaged wetlands by 2003.

Goal 2: To better monitor Alafia River basin development. Too much development in the basin will ultimately cause harm to the river (water quality) and continue to create rapid fluctuation of the river levels causing residential flooding. Streets need better drainage and continuous maintenance to allow drainage to work properly.

Peer comments: Infrastructure improvements for existing systems and planning for future development; more natural wetlands

Goal 3: To preclude development in areas that are providing natural flood storage capacity, on a regional basis that covers the entire Alafia River basin.

Goal 4: To include proper maintenance of ditches, culverts and retention ponds in the management of existing and future drainage system improvements.

Peer comments: This goal, if accomplished, should eliminate the existing problems such as standing water in the streets; overgrown and polluted ditches and culverts, and overflowing retention ponds.

Goal 5: To determine causes of flooding within the Alafia river basin through completion of studies by SWFWMD, State departments, and Hillsborough County.

Goal 6: To identify and address causes of unnatural flooding on the Alafia River, and maintain regular flooding at pre-development "normal" flood levels (13.5 feet).

- allow no unmitigated development in the 100 year floodplain;
- enhance and retrofit upstream water storage capacity.

Goal 7: To reassess stormwater design standards employed by Hillsborough County and SWFWMD and inform the public as to the implications of changing these standards relative to both flood control and the cost of development.

Goal 8: To employ best management practices in urban and rural areas to improve water quality and reduce runoff.

Peer comments: Such BMP's promote the use of pervious materials, for example.

NATURAL SYSTEMS

Goal 1: To delineate within the Land Development Code natural resource areas and to provide incentives for landowners to preserve, protect, restore and manage the resources. Peer comments: Provides incentives that result in the goal - in 5 years (2005)

Goal 2: To enforce and impose stricter no-wake zones and laws on the Alafia River.

Goal 3: To protect and manage springs, natural shorelines, tributaries and islands in the Alafia River from development.

Goal 4: To reduce non-native invasive plants along the Alafia River's edge (Brazilian Pepper, Melaleuca, Lead Tree, etc.)

Goal 5: To encourage habitat restoration and enhancement projects that will create incremental natural system improvements and additions..

Goal 6: To design wildlife corridors, greenways and large parklands to allow sustainable wildlife populations.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Goal 1: To develop alternate routes and modes of transportation for all residents of Hillsborough County and eliminate toll roads which discriminate against certain residents traveling to and from remote areas to the downtown hub and within the confines of Hillsborough County

Goal 2: To develop an operational education center at Lithia Springs involving the Hillsborough County school system, Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation and area seniors for instruction.

Goal 3: To develop a community-based plan for the basin that promotes neo-traditional development with help of basin stakeholders and qualified consultants - within 2 years Peer comments: Have schools in own community less bussing kids.

Peer Comments: Strong consideration should be given to enhancing appropriate facilities in existing communities (post offices, schools, sidewalks, recreation, shopping, and libraries).

Goal 4: To ensure that each home is located no more than 1/2 mile from an elementary school / convenience shopping / postal facility, passive recreation center opportunity, active recreation center, and mass transit stop.

Goal 5: To create and implement a green space plan for the Alafia River watershed that assures public accessible open space (parks, picnic areas, walking trails, etc.) is available within miles (maybe 3 miles) of every resident in the Basin. Acquire, through ELAPP and/or other environmental lands acquisition programs land along Alafia River (including into Polk Co.) and develop into public parks and wildlife corridors.

Goal 6: To require new developments to create set aside open space - area required should be based on size of development, e.g. 10-ac./100 ac.

Goal 7: To schedule regular Hillsborough County maintenance and repair of existing parks and sidewalks.

Goal 8: To ensure a safer and more pleasant trip for the traveler and more compatible roadway for the homeowner/community

Goal 9: To establish stringent planning guidelines and requirements to assure quality development in an orderly manner

Goal 10: To restrict developers from cutting down large, old tree. Build around them. The trees were here first. Peer comments: Tree ordinance needs to first emphasize protection, and then require replacement of same size when necessary to cut down; The term necessary should be defined and adhered to.

Goal 11: To establish traffic patterns that preserve neighborhood character, and to enforce speed limits. Also to provide alternatives - bike lanes, sidewalks, and busses are available by 2005.

Goal 12: To achieve 100% of new subdivisions utilizing landscaped transition areas instead of walls. Peer comments: Everywhere the subdivisions all look alike with these walls; Privacy is really isolation – promote connections between neighbors; Walls = safety - until crime can turn and locked gates are not necessary. Until then, some like the idea of gated communities.

Goal 13: To preserve and extend horse pastures, greenways with trails and wildlife habitats. Trees are important, they allow beauty to parking lots and edges outside of walled subdivisions. Farmland makes us rural, reflecting more land and less concrete. Peer comments: Incentives in place to sustain agricultural operations; growth management backbone; more horse and hiking trails to encourage young kids into more nature instead of trouble; an equestrian center could focus

Goal 14: Create a conservative, protective, less dense growth. Management plans near and along river. Helps with water run-off, flooding, less building, lawn chemicals and traffic. Provides for parks, open spaces, greenways, recreational trails, natural sites throughout community, restrictions of bldg., enforced zoning and ordinances, etc. Peer comments: Need to involve the area residents

Goal 15: To a) reduce/eliminate unlawful speeds by powerboats and personal watercraft in no wake zones of Alafia River. High speeds are dangerous to swimmers, canoeists. Increased traffic with growth is a problem especially on weekends. b) increase no wake one areas on the Alafia River and 3) increase budgets for the Marine Division of the Hillsborough County Sheriff Department or "DEP" or FL Fish and Wildlife. Peer comments: Time? Date? Measurement? How many boats/people?

Goal 16: To improve/rebuild Riverview Community Center; add new boat ramps and picnic areas. Include learning/interactive rooms (classrooms) with good acoustics for meetings. Include permanent "educational" displays inside center / and outside near boat ramp and picnic areas

Goal 17: To protect and restore resources before any permit is given for future development. All utilities must be affordable and connectable. Take care of what is wrong or below standard now. Peer comments: Time/Date? Now? Measurement? How do we take care of what is wrong? Enforce permitting now.

Goal 18: To achieve a drop in air quality indicators (sulfur oxides and nitrous oxides) of 75 in five years. Peer comments: More and more trucks on the road. They also need to go through emissions; surrounding counties must participate in actions to surrounding air quality; education regarding air sources.

Goal 19: To realize and exceed the goals of the Nitrogen Consortium and control sustainable levels of air sources. Hillsborough County meets "attainment". Peer comments: surrounding counties must assist in "attainment" activities / initiatives

Community Action Ideas

Community action ideas suggest possible ways of attaining goals. They are not required to be scientifically or technically sound, but do serve to stimulate strategies and approaches to problem-solving by those having the scientific, technical and planning expertise. The participants developed and refined specific action ideas to implement their goals and achieve their vision. Each idea was reviewed by at least one other person. These action ideas do not exhaust the range of possibilities, and the Task Force welcomes additional ideas and refinements from the supporting agencies. The following tables (shown as tables in Pre-Strategy Report) group the proposed actions by Area of Responsibility (AOR). Within each AOR, ideas are ranked for priority.

Water Supply	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To limit Tampa Bay Water's withdrawals from the Alafia River and groundwater projects to current 1999 permitted levels, quantities and rates, provided that Hillsborough County's Independent Monitoring Program (HCIMP) shows no deleterious effects at those Use retention ponds as irrigation sources. 2. <i>Hillsborough County, Tampa Bay Water, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District will manage resources to eliminate need for Southern Water Use Caution Area designations</i> <p>To make the Tampa Bay Water intake structure on the river be more natural looking and camouflaged, and not impact navigation, safety, recreation and the local hydrogeology</p>
Water Quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide natural water quality management through the conservation and preservation of natural lands along the river corridor. 2. Increase/improve regulation of point and non-point sources of pollution, including industrial, agricultural and stormwater. 3. Improve standards and increase enforcement fines for mining facility violators. 4. More restricted development of riverfront lands, coupled with stewardship and vigilance. 5. Hire another ELAPP (Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program) officer, specifically for the Alafia River watershed. 6. Improve agency coordination concerning water quality. 7. Moratorium on septic systems for new development on Alafia River. Develop initiative to replace older and poorer functioning systems or hook up to public water where available.
Flood Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proper analysis of growth as well as corrective action for problem flooding areas. 2. To stop flooding of the road, yards and under the houses. 3. Natural reservoirs –river, culverts, ditches, street flooding. 4. To control water runoff in their own developments. More natural wetlands.
Natural Systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Alafia Basin parklands committee to identify suitable lands, recommend possible purchase funds and seek purchase. 2. <i>County funding on a quarterly basis for cleaning of the Alafia River, including clearing of debris and fallen trees on Alafia River State Canoe Trail.</i> 3. Improve and increase Land Development Code to protect natural resource areas. <p><i>Fund a program to enforce no wake laws, and establish community-based center to enforce boating and other recreational use laws, and environmental laws on Alafia</i></p>
Growth Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement a community-based growth management plan. 2. More patrol officers per square foot of land area being occupied. 3. Conduct transportation study of Alafia River Basin communities and implement its recommendations 4. More community involvement in planning. Let's work together. 5. Create and adopt standards for development quality and growth. 6. Establish a policy to minimize destruction of older trees. 7. Build new Riverview Community and Learning Center. 8. Adopt development recommendations requiring open space for development, and require County staff to incorporate better planning and design within development. 9. Improved design standards for mobility and thoroughfares. 10. Polk, Pasco, and Pinellas counties will Implement Motor Vehicles Emission Testing Program (MVP) like Hillsborough County's by 2002. 11. Establish patterns and infrastructure to preserve neighborhood character (bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.). 12. More campgrounds and canoe access to Alafia River. State canoe trail ends at Bell Shoals. Reopen access or new access near end of trail.

Additional Proposals

The Task Force offers the following additional recommendations for consideration by the sponsoring agencies.

Recommendation 1: Implement the Pre-Strategy Report through Actions by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Hillsborough County through the Comprehensive Plan, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, Stormwater Management Plans, Land Development Codes, Capital Improvements Plan, ELAP Program, the Tampa Port Authority's Sovereign Land Committee and other applicable programs and initiatives.

Recommendation 2: Fund continuing facilitated Task Force participation in Alafia River Watershed planning and resource management.

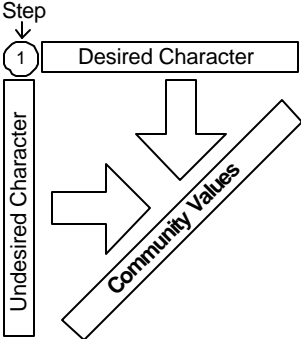
FROM COMMUNITY INPUT TO EXPERT OUTPUT

In accordance with the process model from the first chapter of this report, staff took the lead role from the Community in Phase 2. This section explains the procedures used by staff, using the citizen workshops and forums and its own professional expertise. Staff reviewed the Pre-Strategy report proposals, along with responses from the general public. Staff felt that it had received an excellent range of proposals and recommendations for its consideration in developing strategies to link land and water management.

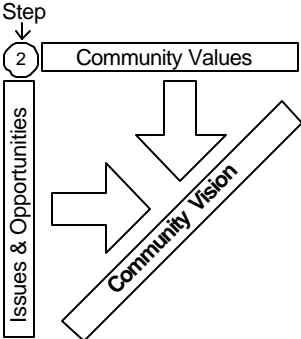
Organizational Culture

Each agency has a set of existing programs, policies, regulations and/or codes that it applies within its jurisdiction. These planning and management tools reflect distinct organizational vocabularies that are not readily integrated. One agency's "strategy" is another's "goal" or "policy." Some agencies are issue-oriented, basing most of their actions on the need to resolve them. Others are driven more by legislative requirements, or internally generated resource management models.

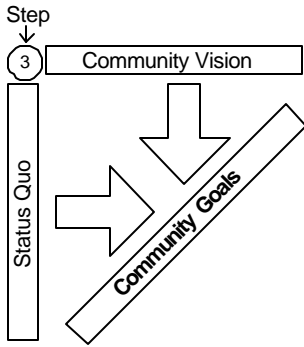
These cultural differences offer the comfort of a known home base for staff, with well-understood procedures and rules. However, they can also impede the progress of solving the community's problems in a truly collaborative fashion. The community does not generally care about such distinctions among agencies, except when they get in the way of coordinated action.



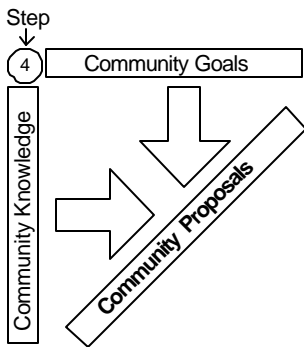
In Step 1, the Task Force's photographic assessment of two inputs, Desirable and Undesirable Characteristics, allowed it to establish a set of Community Values.



In Step 2, these Community Values, when combined with identified issues and opportunities for solutions, led to a Community Vision for 10-15 years ahead.



In Step 3, the Vision, when compared back to the situation as it exists today, produced a set of goals that the task force identified as desired outcomes.

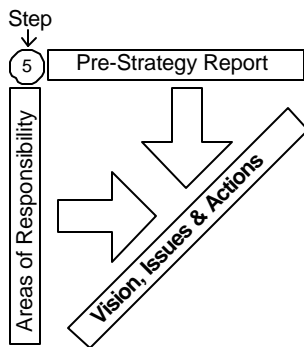


In Step 4, the Task Force used their personal backgrounds and expertise and merged them with the community goals to produce a set of Proposed Community Action Ideas and Other Recommendations. These proposals concluded Phase 1 of the study, and provided the basis for staff's efforts in Phase 2.

Generating Outcomes and Objectives

Staff continued with additional I/O diagrams to move from the Task Force's proposals to the Commitments to Implement that are recommended in this report.

Staff continued with an additional five steps illustrated with similar I/O diagrams. The team moved from the Task Force's proposals to the Commitments to Implement, fulfilling its role as established for Phase 2. It started with a review of the Pre-Strategy Report's Community Proposals.



Step 5 began by reviewing the Pre-Strategy Report, examining its many water, environment, land use, design, education and property rights themes. The community vision, issues and recommendations are shown in tabular form on Tables 1 and 2, arrayed under five Areas of Responsibility. The first four, Natural Systems, Water Supply, Flood Protection, and Water Quality represent the areas of responsibility of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The fifth, Growth Management, represents Hillsborough County responsibilities (under the distinct mandates of the Planning and Growth Management Department and The Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission).

Vision

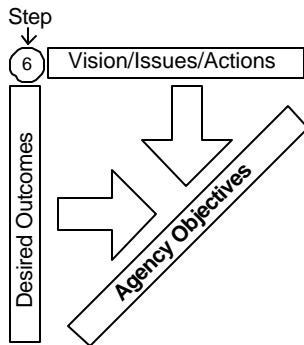
The **Vision** section is used in this analysis to reflect what future conditions and desires were expressed as expectations for the study area and community in the future. The Natural Systems vision includes a balancing of water, environment and human uses of land with an expectation of protected sustainable systems of wetlands, habitat, surface water and groundwater resources. The Water Supply vision sees the need for an adequate supply of water for human needs while at the same time avoiding the stresses to the aquifer and natural systems, by way of a managed approach to water quantity and quality. The Flood Protection vision reduces flood damage through educated use of surface water systems in relation to the land, with a clear understanding of the risk involved in threatening the limits of the natural functions of watersheds and surface water systems.

The Water Quality vision recognizes the need for clean water in all the functions of life and recreational enjoyment. The Growth Management vision provides for balanced and sustainable (adequate provision and appropriate use of services) growth patterns with high quality urban/suburban development (in design and function) in urbanizing areas and low intensity development within an agricultural and open space setting in the rural areas. Natural systems limits are not being threatened and property rights, as well as a respect for land development, places the environment on an equal basis with other land priorities.

Issues The **Issues** section contains subjects that are generally in debate or under review in the Alafia River Basin. They represent several sets of physical conditions in the environment as well as major themes where land and water come together in a joint focus:

- Water as represented by the river, its tributaries, streams, and springs as resources are threatened, both from a water supply and water quality standpoint, and must be protected;
- Sensitive environmental lands are affected by human activity that is impacting wildlife populations and recreation opportunities (quality and quantity).
- Local agencies and citizens need to effectively take advantage of the increased opportunities available through SWFWMD's Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and Hillsborough County's Watershed Master Plans to improve intergovernmental coordination and to influence agency decisions to act and control the water and natural resources in the long term;
- Citizen involvement in development-related decisions has not been optimized. While citizens are typically the ones most affected by development in their community, their voices are often not heard until late in the process of development approval.

Actions The **Actions** section organizes the recommendations of the Task Force and citizen forums into groups for further analysis and discussion. These represent ideas and tools that should be considered in the improvement of existing policies, programs and rules, or the creation of new approaches. They represent several levels of government, and are intended to encompass groundwater and surface water policy, which is largely under the purview of the State, the Water Management District and other regional agencies, land use policy and regulation which is under the jurisdiction of cities and counties, and institutional jurisdictions, which range from taxing powers to shared control over environmental problems. Environmental issues such as water quality and water pollution may even find mandates in the federal jurisdiction.



In Step 6, using the Northwest Links project as a template, staff developed a set of Desired Outcomes, merging its own professional opinions and expertise with the community input from Step 5. In keeping with the Northwest Links process, the five areas of responsibility were aggregated into three goals, Water, Land, and Natural Systems.

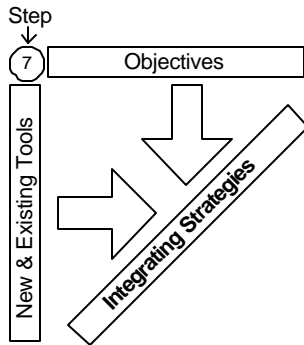
The result of this step was a set of specific Objectives, presented in Table 3. Desired Outcome statements appearing on the left side of the table blend staff's professional views with those expressed by the citizens about the key issues in the study.

Table 3 also arrays two goals taken from the Water Management District Water Management Plan and one generalized land use goal from the Future of Hillsborough Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element.

The main body of the table is a more defined set of Objectives. These objectives are milestones which are specific enough to be realized in a short time period by an implementing stakeholder such as the Water Management District or the County Planning and Growth Management Department. The Objectives were formulated to reflect desirable, measurable and achievable milestones that are indicated by pursuing the associated goals and outcomes.

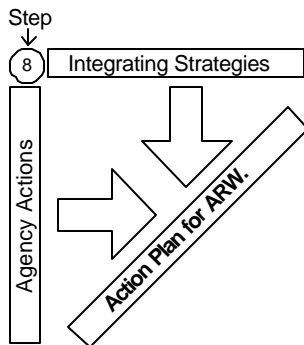
Different numbers, types and styles of Objectives could have been made at this point in the analysis. In keeping with the Northwest Links process, the staff team kept its focus to the eighteen Objectives derived from the six desired Outcomes and three long range Goals.

From Objectives to Strategies and Actions



The next step in the analysis first tested for gaps, inclusions, emphasis, or variations among the many Tools available to the agencies. There is a rather vast array of programs, projects, techniques or activities that could be utilized to reach the Agency Objectives from Step 6.

Staff concluded this step by formulating a set of Integrating Strategies that would cut across agency boundaries, and create the stronger links sought by this study.



Step 8 blended the Integrating Strategies with a set of Agency Actions. The concept, first established through the Northwest Links project, was that each agency involved in the study, as well as others, would need, and be expected to, act in concert. The result of this step was an Action Plan for the Alafia River Watershed in Hillsborough County.

Tables 4-6 provide staffs formulation of this Action Plan. The Integrating Strategies from Step 7, each of which is integrative of all agencies, are at the top of each table. The Actions needed to carry out an Integrating Strategy are also listed.

Table 1 Community Vision, Issues and Actions (1st Three Areas of Responsibility)

Area of Responsibility ⇒	NATURAL SYSTEMS	WATER SUPPLY	FLOOD PROTECTION
VISION	No property flooding.	Water use compatible with the environment	Natural environment in balance
	Increased Recreational Opportunities	Balance of water and environment	Man's land use not threatened
	Protected wetlands and river	Ecologically sustainable pumpage/withdrawals	Water resources in balance
	Protected habitat.	Adequate supply of water	Regional stormwater system
	Wildlife corridors.	Minimized impact on ecosystem	Lakes as systems
	Natural/reserved areas	Protect groundwater & surface water quality	Retain stormwater onsite
	Connected systems	Surface water under control	Streamflow not impacted by new development
	Water use compatible with the environment		Protection from flooding
			Use natural solutions
			Protect floodplains
ISSUES	Sustainable systems	Southern Water Use Caution Area	Altered drainage pattern
	Ecosystems damaged/destroyed by pumping/withdrawals	Altered wetland hydro-periods	Protect water quality
	Reduced recreational quality/quantity	Use alternate sources	Altered wetland natural systems
	Ecosystems endangered by too much development	Adequate supply for use	Flood control structures don't work
	Altered drainage pattern	Over-pumping of groundwater and surface water	Chemical hazardous materials pollution
	Altered drainage pattern	Limit water export to other areas	
	Improper use of natural areas	Safe withdrawals & structures	Flooding/emergency management
		More reclaimed water use	

Table 1 Community Vision, Issues and Actions (1st Three Areas of Responsibility - Cont'd.)

Area of Responsibility ⇒	NATURAL SYSTEMS	WATER SUPPLY	FLOOD PROTECTION
ACTIONS	System studies & more purchase of suitable lands	Limit Tampa Bay Water's withdrawal rates to current permitted levels (no future increases)	Proper analysis of growth and other causes of flooding
	Fund quarterly cleanups of Alafia River	Joint actions by County, SWFWMD and TBW (reduce demand, alternative sources, etc.) to eliminate need for SWUCA	Corrective actions for problem flooding areas
	Improve regulations to protect natural resource areas	Environmentally compatible and safely designed intake structure on Alafia	Natural solutions
	Improve enforcement of existing laws regulating use of river		More stormwater control in new developments

Table 2 Community Vision, Issues and Actions (2nd Three Areas of Responsibility)

Area of Responsibility ⇒	WATER QUALITY	GROWTH MANAGEMENT	
VISION	Clean water	Better planned and designed developments & communities	
	Swimmable & fishable water	Development balanced with natural resources	
	Reduced pollution from septic tanks/reduced number of septic tanks	More preservation of open space in developments	
	Reduced non-point source pollution from agricultural, residential and other uses	Agricultural uses protected and retained	
	Less impervious surfaces	Green space along roads	
	Protection of water resource	Rural development/settings	
	Maximize water quality		Properly located activity centers/nodes
			More xeriscaping
			More community centers
			No development in the floodplain
			Reduced urban sprawl
			Less traffic congestion
ISSUES	Land-water quality linkages	Implications of growth on water supply	
	Recreational impacts (i.e. motor boat pollution)	Habitat loss	
	Air quality impacts on water quality	Traffic Impacts	
	Stormwater run-off pollution	Appropriate development densities	
	Septic tank pollution	Recreational opportunities /access to public lands	
	Industrial discharges	Community aesthetics/quality of existing and future development	
		Citizen participation in development review process	
	Power lines/linear facilities		

Table 2 Community Vision, Issues and Actions (2nd Three Areas of Responsibility - Cont'd.)

Area of Responsibility ⇒	WATER QUALITY	GROWTH MANAGEMENT
ACTIONS	Preserve natural lands along river corridor	Conduct community-based plans
	Increase/improve regulation of non-point sources of pollution	Provide more patrol officers
	Improve standards/ enforcement for violations of standards from mining activities	Provide for more community involvement in planning
	Reduce development along river front/improve development standards	Develop design standards to produce higher quality development
	Improve agency coordination	Develop policies to minimize destruction of trees in new developments
	Septic tank moratorium/ replace improper functioning systems or hook up to public sewer	Build new community & learning center in Riverview area
		Improve development standards to provide more open space in developments and better planned/designed developments
		Improve transportation system (design and function)
		Establish design patterns to preserve/improve neighborhood character
		Improve recreational access

Table 3 Staff Team Objectives

GOAL COMPONENT →	WATER	LAND	NATURAL SYSTEMS
A Desired GOAL is to →	Ensure an adequate supply of the water resource for all reasonable and beneficial uses now and in the future, while protecting and maintaining water quality/quantity and related resources.	Compatible land uses and prevention of environmental degradation [FLUE Goal]	Preserve, protect and restore natural systems in order to support their natural hydrological and ecological functions
a desired OUTCOME is: ↓	OBJECTIVES are to: ↓	OBJECTIVES are to: ↓	OBJECTIVES are to: ↓
SAFE WATER WITHDRAWALS	Establish a carrying capacity or safe yield for the Alafia River through comprehensive water resource planning and evaluations	Establish programs for water conservation and demand which can protect the long term sustainability of potable water supplies	Evaluate public lands or lands to be protected related to surface water levels and protection of natural systems.
SUSTAINALBE NATURAL SYSTEMS	Establish program(s) to eliminate/reduce water quality impacts from septic tanks	Establish development policies at all levels to achieve consistent project design considerations related to environmental systems	Review existing programs/policies and formulate new programs/policies to increase the acreage of protected natural lands and open space.
PREVENTING FLOOD DAMAGE	Use stormwater for augmentation of surface water and groundwater resources	Review and change, as necessary, stormwater management standards based on current and reliable watershed, lake and floodplain information	Develop and implement plans for managing the stormwater resource to reduce the occurrence and extent of detrimental flooding, and to reduce the impairment of natural systems.
QUALITY DEVELOPMENT AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS AND DENSITIES	Identify water uses that can be eliminated, reduced or set at levels to prevent or reduce environmental impacts	Prepare community or sector level plans.	Develop programs to integrate more open space/natural areas into new developments
INCREASED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & EDUCATION ABOUT LAND/WATER LINKAGES	Develop a Community/Education Center along the Alafia River as a means to promote preservation of river resources	Evaluate methods to increase and/or maintain meaningful public involvement in the development review process at the local, regional and state level.	Evaluate methods to increase and/or maintain meaningful public involvement in the environmental protection programs and projects at the local, regional and state level.
RESPECT FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS	Promote programs of land and water management practices for private land owners	Establish flexible design standards	Promote integrated conservation planning with agriculture and other rural stakeholders

Table 6 Strategy For Sustainable Natural Systems

<p>Strategy</p>	<p>An integrated, inclusive approach to sustainable natural systems is necessary to maintain, protect and improve the natural and human communities. Actions should be taken to:</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and modify the adopted Wellfield Protection Program to address the protection of lands associated with new water sources (i.e. the Alafia River). 2. Continue a joint County/District Land Acquisition Initiative for the Alafia River Basin. 3. Evaluate the County's adopted Greenways Master Plan for deficiencies within the Alafia River watershed and work to obtain funding for implementation of greenway projects within the watershed. 4. Identify and utilize alternative land acquisition methods. 5. Continue and enhance the County's environmental stewardship efforts, such as the Lake Watch and Adopt-a-Pond programs, as a means of gaining valuable information and actively involving citizens in natural resource protection. 6. Develop a program to improve local efforts to control and eradicate invasive non-native plant species on public and private lands. 7. Continue to implement both SWIM activities and the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Tampa Bay. 8. Continue coordination of land and water linkage issues between the County and SWFWMD through the District's Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. 9. Evaluate adding an additional land acquisition manager. 10. Evaluate the effectiveness of existing environmental regulations/programs in addressing Community Action Ideas (i.e tree preservation regulations) and seek modifications or new programs to address any identified deficiencies. 11. Seek continuation of the Environmental Land Acquisition and Protection Program beyond its current funding life cycle.

Summary

The three strategies formulated by staff encompass the themes of water, land and environment. The Strategy For Excellent Water recognizes that a well managed water supply of excellent quality is critical to sustaining the desired lifestyles in the Alafia River Watershed. The action program for this strategy covers critical themes of aquifer and surface water regulation, recharge, flood protection and natural stormwater system functions. Methods and techniques to manage water resources to establish natural limits and protect the long-term viability of the water, natural systems, and land resources, are considered.

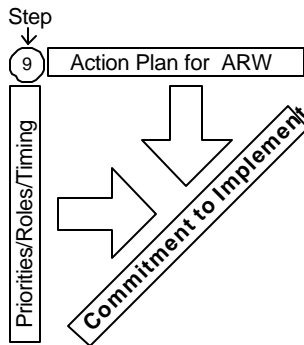
The Strategy for a Livable Community Lifestyle presents an action program to support the desire to improve the quality of life in the Alafia River Watershed. A definitive message emanating from the Task Force was the desire for the County to better address community design issues and the provision of services to the community. Citizen support for linking land and water management depends on making those affected by development a vital part of growth management. This can take numerous forms, including but not limited to, creation of comprehensive community plans crafted in partnership among public and private interests, and intended to guide future development. The action program for this strategy identifies a reformulation of activities to reset the direction of growth through revisions to plans, policies and regulations, along with increased opportunities for public involvement and input and continued inter-jurisdictional cooperation and decision making based on reliable information.

The Strategy for Sustainable Natural Systems recognizes that an integrated, inclusive approach to sustainable natural systems is necessary. The action program for this strategy to link land and water management include regulatory actions for priority water bodies, joint programs between SWFWMD and the County for long term projects in the preservation of the natural system, land preservation and community problems.

Formulation of these three strategies completes all but Step 9 of the process. That Step is discussed in Chapter 6. Staff looks forward to further citizen participation and a review by all affected agencies and stakeholders as a part of the decision-making process.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

From Actions to Roles, Schedules and Budgets



Step 9 represents the last task in this project to link land and water management in the Alafia River Basin. This final step assigns the action programs to the agencies in a coordinated fashion that reflects their roles, as well as appropriate timing and priorities. Implementation will require commitments to this direction by the governing Boards and Commissions involved.

The Implementation Program provides the timing, sequence and agency assignment of the Action Plans for linking land and water management. Several guidelines for developing the Implementation Program have been developed to give definition to the design of the implementation program.

- A three-year time frame was chosen as the desirable period for accomplishing the Action Plans.
- Action Plans were placed into one-year cycles of activity and a sequence of work that would be required for a multi-year approach, knowing the constraint of limited resources for the overall program.
- Priorities were assigned based on: 1) priorities established by the Task Force for applicable Community Action Ideas; 2) projects which could be started first and scheduled within the 2001 fiscal year; 3) whether a technical sequence exists for the progression of activities; 4) recognition that future program and budget decisions by governing boards would be required; and, 5) knowledge that other discretionary preferences by the Task Force may adjust priorities, such as timing and coordination of the Action Plans among the three Strategies.
- Agencies are assigned up to three roles in the implementation process; 1) The **Responsible Agency** has primary charge to execute the provisions of the action plan. 2) The **Lead Technical Agency** is generally capable of generating and producing data, with specific expertise, and is technically accountable in supporting the Responsible Agency in carrying out the action plan. 3) The **Support Agency** assists with developing or implementing the particular action plan, but has neither the expertise nor the mandate to actually carry out the plans provisions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Tables 7-9 summarize the timing by year, sequence within a year, and identification of the lead agency for actions within each strategy. Each of the action plans was placed into one of three time frames (2000-2001, 2001-2002, or 2002-2003). The Action Plans are presented in the order in which they should occur. Many can be implemented simultaneously. The Action Plan number is also a reference number used in Tables 10-12. These tables offer more detailed descriptions, a synopsis of related citizen recommendations, and agency leadership needed to carry out the project. The Planning Commission's, Hillsborough County's and Southwest Florida Water Management District's Responsible, Technical or Support roles are therefore identified.

The Implementation Plan will require continuing commitment and monitoring by local, state and regional agencies to achieve both vertical links (agency actions), and horizontal links (program actions in functional areas). Accomplishments and impacts will be monitored by the Responsible Agency on an on-going basis with reporting of pertinent results to the Agency Team. In keeping with the process first established in the Northwest Links project, this review should occur on a yearly basis at a minimum. Significant impacts, both positive and negative, should be reported on a more frequent basis. A re-evaluation process, requiring attendance by both the Agency Team and the Task Force, shall occur on an annual basis, unless the interim reports reflect a need for more immediate attention. The Agency Team will then be responsible for summarizing these reviews and issuing a strategy status report for distribution to the community.

Table 7 Timing and Priority of Action Plans for Excellent Water Management

Action Plan Number	Responsible Agency	Actions
1	TAMPA BAY WATER	No increase in permitted withdrawal levels from the Alafia River
2	TAMPA BAY WATER	Safe and aesthetic intake structure on Alafia River
3	SWFWMD	Incorporate Community Action Ideas into SWFWMD's Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Alafia River Basin
4	COUNTY	Evaluate flood protection Community Action Ideas through Hillsborough County's Alafia River Watershed Management Plan
5	COUNTY	Continue County Program to extend reclaimed water
6	COUNTY	Continue aquifer storage and recovery efforts
7	COUNTY	Obtain funding for quarterly river cleanups
8	COUNTY	Non-point source pollution regulation evaluation
9	COUNTY	Identify and Eliminate illegal/unnecessary point source discharges
10	COUNTY	Identify water use permits that can be eliminated
11	COUNTY	Evaluate the stormwater design standards.
12	COUNTY	Conduct Septic Tank Study

Notes:

Number = Sequence within a year

No shading = 2000-2001 priority

Light shading = 2001-2002 priority

Dark shading = 2002-2003 priority

Table 8 Timing and Priority of Action Plans for A Livable Community Lifestyle

Action Plan Number	Responsible Agency	Actions
13	COUNTY	Evaluate modifications to LDC to address community design issues
14	COUNTY	Investigate new methods of citizen involvement
15	COUNTY	Conduct Community/Sector Plans
16	COUNTY	Continued facilitation of Alafia Task Force
17	COUNTY	Provide additional recreational access to the river
18	COUNTY	Continue to enhance the development review process between the District and the County
19	COUNTY	Evaluate Capital Improvement Program
20	COUNTY	Evaluate New/Improved Community/Education Center
21	COUNTY	Evaluate provision of services
22	SWFWMD	Identify and implement programs to preserve agriculture

Notes:

Number = Sequence within a year

No shading = 2000-2001 priority

Light shading = 2001-2002 priority

Dark shading = 2002 -2003 priority

Table 9 Timing and Priority of Action Plans for A Sustainable Natural System

Action Plan Number	Responsible Agency	Actions
23	COUNTY	Review and modify adopted Wellhead Protection Ordinance.
24	COUNTY	Continue Joint County/District Land Acquisition
25	COUNTY	Evaluate Greenways Master Plan projects in the Alafia River Basin
26	SWFWMD	Identify and utilize alternative land acquisition methods
27	COUNTY	Enhance local programs such as Lake Watch and Adopt-a-Pond
28	COUNTY	Develop a program to improve local efforts to control and eradicate invasive non-native plant species on public and private lands.
29	COUNTY	Continue to implement both SWIM activities and the Tampa Bay Estuary's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
30	COUNTY	Continue coordination of land and water linkage issued between the County and SWFWMD.
31	COUNTY	Evaluate addition of land acquisition manager
32	COUNTY	Evaluate effectiveness of environmental regulation/programs
33	COUNTY	Seek Continuation of the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program beyond its existing funding cycle

Notes:

Number = Sequence within a year

No shading = 2000- 2001 priority

Light shading = 2001- 2002 priority

Dark shading = 2002 - 2003 priority

Table 10 Detailed Description of Actions for Excellent Water Management

ACTION PLAN #1	No Increase in Permitted Withdrawal Levels from the Alafia River
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – Water Supply (WS) # 1 Community Action Ideas – Water Quality (WQ) # 1
Results Expected By	End of 2001
Responsible Agency	Tampa Bay Water
Lead Technical Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Support Agency	Hillsborough County
Expected Workload	Requires review of program and action by TBW Board

ACTION PLAN #2	Safe and aesthetic intake structure on Alafia River
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Action Ideas – WS # 2
Results Expected By	December 2000
Responsible Agency	Tampa Bay Water
Lead Technical Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Support Agency	Hillsborough County
Expected Workload	Requires review of program by TBW Staff
ACTION PLAN #3	Incorporate Community Action Ideas into SWFWMD’s Alafia River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans and continue cooperative efforts to implement plan policies.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals Community Action Ideas
Results Expected By	June 2000
Responsible Agency	SWFWMD
Lead Technical Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Support Agency	Hillsborough County
Expected Workload	Requires action by SWFWMD Governing Board
ACTION PLAN #4	Evaluate implementation of flood protection Community Action Ideas through the Alafia River Watershed Management Plan
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Flood Protection (FP) Community Goals FP Community Action Ideas
Results Expected By	Ongoing through 2001/2002
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Expected Workload	Incorporate into current work program.

ACTION PLAN #5	Continue Program to Extend Reclaimed Water within the Alafia River.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – WS #'s 1 & 3
Results Expected By	Ongoing
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #6	Continue and Expand Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals - WS #'s 1 & 3
Results Expected By	Ongoing
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #7	Obtain Funding for Quarterly Alafia River Cleanups
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals - Water Quality (WQ) # 7 Community Action Ideas - Natural Systems (NS) # 2
Results Expected By	October 2001
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #8	Evaluate effectiveness of existing programs/regulations to reduce non-point source pollution and investigate new programs and modifications to existing programs.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – WQ #'s 3, 5 & 7 Community Action Ideas – WQ # 2
Results Expected By	2002
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Support Agency	FDEP
Expected Workload	Requires review of programs.

ACTION PLAN #9	Identify permitted and non-permitted point source discharges and work to eliminate unnecessary discharges
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – WQ #'s 3, 5 & 7 Community Action Ideas – WQ # 2
Results Expected By	2002
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Support Agency	Tampa Bay Water
Expected Workload	Requires review of program.
ACTION PLAN #10	Identify Water Use Permits That Can Be Reduced or Eliminated within the Alafia River Watershed
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – WS 1 & 3
Results Expected By	December 2001
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Support Agency	Tampa Bay Water
Expected Work Load	Requires Review of Budget and Program
ACTION PLAN #11	Evaluate the Stormwater Design Standards Employed by Hillsborough County and SWFWMD to Determine the Implications of Changing the Standards on both Flood Protection and the Costs of Development
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – FP 18
Results Expected By	2002
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County, Southwest Florida Water Management District
Support Agency	
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #12	Investigate Septic Tank Use as a contributor to ground and surface water pollution and develop a program of policy, regulation and projects to resolve septic tank use that contributes to water quality degradation.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals - WQ #1 Community Action Ideas – WQ # 7
Results Expected By	Start Project in late 2001 – finish by late 2002/early 2003
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District, Planning Commission
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.

Table 11 Detailed Description of Actions for A Livable Community Lifestyle

ACTION PLAN #13	Evaluate, for effectiveness in addressing Community Action Ideas, the proposed modifications to the County's Land Development Code currently being developed to address rural design guidelines, open space & natural lands preservation, and alternative community design issues.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – NS #1; Growth Management (GM) #'s 5, 6, 9, 11, 12 Community Actions Ideas – NS # 3; GM #'s 5, 8, 9, 11
Results Expected By	December 2000
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	The Planning Commission
Expected Workload	Requires review of program.
ACTION PLAN #14	Investigate, and Implement as Appropriate, New Methods to Involve Citizens in Development-Related Decision Making.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Action Idea – GM # 4
Results Expected By	June 2001
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	Planning Commission
Expected Workload	Requires review of program.
ACTION PLAN #15	Prepare Comprehensive Community or Sector level plans for communities within the Alafia River Watershed
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – FP #'s 2 & 4; GM 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14 Community Action Ideas – WQ # 4; FP # 1; NS # 3; GM 1, 3, & 4
Results Expected By	2001–2002
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	The Planning Commission
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #16	Identify and program funding for continued facilitation of the Alafia Land & Water Linkage Task Force
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Recommendation
Results Expected By	June 2000
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.

ACTION PLAN #17	Provide Additional Canoe Access and Other Recreational Amenities Along the Alafia River
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Action Ideas – GM # 12
Results Expected By	2001
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Support Agency	FDEP
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #18	Continue and Enhance the Development Review Process between the District and the County as a Means of Linking Regulatory Responsibilities.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Action Ideas – WQ # 6
Results Expected By	Ongoing
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	SWFWMD, Planning Commission
Expected Workload	Requires review of program.
ACTION PLAN #19	Evaluate and Program Recommended Capital Improvement Projects into County and Other Funding Sources.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – GM #'s 1 & 2 Community Action Ideas – GM #'s 3, 7, 16, 27
Results Expected By	Program in appropriate funding lists by October 2001
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	The Planning Commission, Southwest Florida Water Management District
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #20	Evaluate New/Improved Community/Education Center at the site of the existing Riverview Community Center
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Action Idea – GM # 7
Results Expected By	Program in appropriate funding lists by October 2001
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.

ACTION PLAN #21	Evaluate Existing Public Services and Identify Deficiencies then Program Funding to Address Deficiencies.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – NS #'s 2 & 6; GM 4, 5, 7, & 15 Community Action Ideas – NS #4; GM 2
Results Expected By	Program in appropriate funding programs by June 2002
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District,
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #22	Identify and Implement Programs to Preserve Agricultural Lands.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – FP #'s 2 & 3; GM # 14 Community Action Ideas – WQ # 4
Results Expected By	December 2001
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program

Table 12 Detailed Description of Actions for A Sustainable Natural System

ACTION PLAN #23	Review and Modify the Wellhead Protection Ordinance to Address Protection of Lands Associated with New Water Sources
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – WS #1; WQ #'s 5 & 9; NS # 4 Community Action Ideas – WQ #'s 2 & 4; NS # 3
Results Expected By	Requires Ongoing Monitoring
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Support Agency	Tampa Bay Water
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #24	Continue a Joint County/District Land Acquisition Initiative for the Alafia River Basin.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – WQ 4; NS 3 Community Action Ideas – NS # 1; WQ 1
Results Expected By	Ongoing
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County/Southwest Florida Water Management District
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #25	Evaluate the County's adopted Greenways Master Plan for deficiencies within the Alafia River watershed and work to obtain funding for implementation of projects within the basin
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – GM #'s 1, 3 & 5 Community Action Ideas – NS # 1
Results Expected By	October 2001
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	SWFWMD
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #26	Identify and Utilize Alternative Land Acquisition Methods
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – FP # 3; NS 3; GM #'s 5, 13, 14 Community Action Ideas – NS # 1
Results Expected By	Ongoing
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Support Agency	
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.

ACTION PLAN #27	CONTINUE AND ENHANCE THE COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP EFFORTS, SUCH AS THE LAKE WATCH AND ADOPT-A-POND PROGRAMS, AS A MEANS OF GAINING VALUABLE INFORMATION AND ACTIVELY INVOLVING CITIZENS IN NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Generally Implied
Results Expected By	
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #28	DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO IMPROVE LOCAL EFFORTS TO CONTROL AND ERADICATE INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANT SPECIES ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS THROUGH: 1) BETTER COORDINATION AMONG COUNTY, REGIONAL, AND STATE AGENCIES; 2) PRIORITIZATION OF SITES AND RESOURCES; AND, 3) INCREASED EDUCATION.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals - WQ #'s 10 & 11; NS #'s 22, 24 & 25
Results Expected By	June 2001
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County
Support Agency	Southwest Florida Water Management District, FDEP
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #29	CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT BOTH SWIM ACTIVITIES AND THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM'S COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TAMPA BAY.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals - WQ # 10; NS # 5; GM # 43 & 44
Results Expected By	Ongoing
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County/SWFWMD
Lead Technical Agency	Hillsborough County/SWFWMD
Support Agency	
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #30	Continue Coordination of Land & Water Linkage issues between the County and SWFWMD through the District's Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Generally Implied
Results Expected By	Ongoing
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County/SWFWMD
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	The Planning Commission and Various
Expected Workload	

ACTION PLAN #31	Evaluate effectiveness of existing environmental regulations/programs in addressing Community Action Ideas (i.e. tree preservation regulations) and seek modifications or new programs to address any identified deficiencies.
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals – WS #'s 1 & 4; FP # 4; WQ #'s 3, 4, 9 Community Action Ideas – WQ #'s 2 & 3; FP # 4; GM # 6
Results Expected By	June 2002
Responsible Agency	
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #32	Evaluate Addition of Land Acquisition Manager
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Action Ideas – WQ # 5
Results Expected By	October 2001
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program.
ACTION PLAN #33	Seek Continuation of the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program beyond its current funding cycle
Related Pre-Strategy Report Sections	Community Goals - WQ # 4; NS # 3 & 5 Community Action Ideas – NS #'s 1 & 5
Results Expected By	November 2003
Responsible Agency	Hillsborough County
Lead Technical Agency	
Support Agency	
Expected Workload	Requires review of budget and program



GLOSSARY

ACTION	An accomplishment over a period of time.
ACTION PLANS	The organization's planned efforts to achieve its strategic and operating objectives. Action Plans vary in length, but usually cover one to two year periods of activity. Action plans need to encompass every person in the organization, and address every objective. The plans usually describe the basic tasks and activities that will be carried out in fulfillment of each objective, start and completion dates, who is accountable, other resources to be allocated, and how progress will be monitored.
AGRICULTURAL LAND	Lands with commercially productive soils and/or in viable agricultural production
AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF	Byproducts of agricultural activities such as suspended solids, nutrients, animal wastes and pesticides caused by application of fertilizers and pesticides, the decomposition of organic materials such as animal wastes, plant debris, and muck soil, or by soil erosion
AQUIFER	A body or rack or soil that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to conduct groundwater and to yield economically significant quantities of groundwater to wells and springs.
AQUIFER RECHARGE	The replenishment of groundwater in an aquifer occurring primarily as result of infiltration of rainfall, and secondarily by the movement of water from adjacent aquifers or surface water bodies.
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)	Method or combination of methods determined after problem assessment, examination of alternative practices, and appropriate public participation, to be the most effective and practicable means of reducing or preventing non-point source pollution to levels compatible with water quality goals. These measures could include both structural (e.g., sediment/debris basins, wetland impoundment of agricultural runoff, etc.) and non-structural (e.g., street vacuuming, deferred grazing systems, etc.) approaches to abatement of non-point source pollution, and would vary on a regional and local basis depending on the nature of the problems, climate, physical characteristics, land use, soil types and conditions and other factors.
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CLUSTERING	The practice of grouping permitted types of residential and/or non-residential uses close together rather than distributing them evenly throughout a site while remaining at/or below the appropriate gross density ceiling in order to encourage creative site planning and/or protect natural resources.
COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM	A public water system which serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents. (Comp. Plan)
COMPETITION	Conflict between individuals or populations that are attempting to make use of a common resource.
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	An official document in ordinance form adopted by the local government setting forth its goals, objectives, and policies regarding the long-term development of the area within its jurisdiction. In unincorporated Hillsborough County, this refers to the text and maps adopted and amended by the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to Chapter 163.3161, et seq, FS, as amended, and it is called the Future of Hillsborough - A Comprehensive Plan for Unincorporated Hillsborough County.

CONCURRENCY	A regulation specifying that before a development order can be issued, which public facilities must be provided to a proposed development or redevelopment commensurate with adopted levels of service, when these facilities will be provided, and who will pay for these public facilities in such manner that is consistent with the intent of the state's land use legislation, Part II, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, Chapter 75-390, Laws of Florida, as amended and implementing regulations. For additional information, please reference the Capital Improvements Element
CONSERVATION AREA	<p>Environmentally sensitive areas which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Natural shorelines (other than those included in preservation areas); ● Class III Waters; ● Freshwater marshes and wet prairies; ● Sand-pine scrub; ● Hardwood swamps; ● Cypress swamps; ● Significant wildlife habitat ●
CWM	Comprehensive Watershed Management
DENSITY	The average number of dwelling units per unit of area (acre, square mile, etc.).
DENSITY, GROSS	The number of dwelling units per gross acre. Gross acreage is the total amount of raw land, including all developable and undevelopable portions thereof
DESALINATION	To remove salts and other chemicals from sea water.
DEVELOPMENT	The act of building, engineering, mining, or other operations in, on, or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any building or other land.
DISCHARGE	Includes, but is not limited to, any release, spilling, leaking, seeping, pouring, emitting, emptying or dumping of any substance or material.
DRAINAGE BASIN OR WATERSHED	The area within which all surface water runoff will normally gather in a single tributary, stream, river, conduit or other water course. This area is determined by topography that forms drainage divides between watersheds.
ECOLOGICAL VALUE	The value of functions performed by ecosystems, including, but not limited to, wetlands, uplands, environmentally sensitive areas, ecological communities, and other environmental resources. These functions include providing habitat for wildlife, corridors for wildlife movement, food-chain support, groundwater recharge, water storage and flow attenuation, and water quality enhancement
ECOSYSTEM	The system of ecological relationships between organisms (plants and animals) and their physical and chemical environment; a functional unit that includes both the organisms and their non-living surroundings.
ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT	An integrated, inclusive approach to the management of this state's biological and physical environment which is conducted through the use of tools such as planning, land acquisition, environmental education, regulation, and pollution prevention and which is designed to maintain, protect, and improve the state's natural, managed, and human communities.
ELAPP	Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program administered by Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department and funded by County-wide ad valorem tax. This program acquires land for resource protection. It also receives assistance from other programs such as SWIM, to restore sites.
ENDANGERED	Nearing extinction; existence of the organism and its environment are in immediate jeopardy; distribution is usually restricted to highly specific habitats.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS	Lands that, by virtue of some qualifying environmental characteristic (e.g. wildlife habitat), are regulated by either the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), or any other governmental agency empowered by law for such regulation. These include Conservation and Preservation Areas as defined in the Conservation and Aquifer Recharge Element (CARE) program.
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS	Lands or wetlands that are designated or identified as including significant environmental attributes including water resources, habitat, wildlife, and ecosystem potential.
ESTUARY	A partially enclosed body of water where fresh water from rivers and streams mixes with salt water from the sea, or the mouth of a river entering the sea where the current of the river meets the tide and where salt and fresh waters mix.
FLOODPLAIN	An area adjacent to a lake, stream, ocean or other body of water lying outside of the ordinary banks of the water body and periodically inundated by flood flows. Areas inundated during a 100- year or other specified flood event identified by the National Flood Insurance Program as an A Zone or V Zone on Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
GOAL	The long- term end toward which programs or activities are ultimately directed. A long- term organizational target or direction of development. It states what the organization wants to accomplish or become over the next several years. Goals provide the basis for decisions about the nature, scope, and relative priorities of all projects and activities. Everything the organization does should help it move toward attainment of one or more goals.
GREENWAY SYSTEM	A system of interconnected open spaces which include uses such as, but not limited to, recreation, conservation and aquifer recharge, connected via existing rights-of-way, existing and extended bike paths, nature trails, rivers and other open spaces corridors.
GROUNDWATER	Water that penetrates the earth's surface from precipitation and from infiltration by streams, ponds, and lakes.
GROWTH MANAGEMENT	A method to guide development in order to minimize adverse environmental and fiscal impacts and maximize the health, safety, and welfare benefits to the residents of the community.
HABITAT	The sum of environmental conditions in a place where a plant or animal lives. The range of environmental factors at a particular location supporting specific plant and animal communities.
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	A substance or material in a quantity or form that may pose an unreasonable risk to health and safety or to property when stored, transported or used in commerce.
IMPERVIOUS SURFACE	Surface that has been compacted or covered with a layer of material so that it is highly resistant to infiltration by water, including surfaces such as compacted sand, limerock, shell, or clay, as well as most conventionally surfaced streets, roofs, sidewalks, parking lots and other similar structures.
ISSUES	A subject in dispute or unsettled.
LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS	Ordinances enacted by governing bodies for the regulation of any aspect of development and includes any local government zoning, rezoning, subdivision, site development review, building construction or sign regulations or any other regulations controlling the development of land.
LEVEL OF SERVICE	An indicator of the extent or degree of service provided by, or proposed to be provided by a public facility based on and related to the operational characteristics of the facility. Level of service shall indicate the capacity per unit of demand for each public facility.
MEAN HIGH WATER	The average height of high waters over a defined period.
MILESTONE	A significant date or event during execution of a project, often associated with the end of a phase or sub-phase.

MISSION	A brief statement of what the organization believes is important, expressed in a way that everyone, both inside and outside the organization, can understand. It establishes what the organization is doing, for whom, and the philosophy under which it operates.
NATIVE SPECIES	Flora and fauna that naturally occur in Hillsborough County, not to mean naturalized or indigenous species that originate from outside the County.
NATURAL PLANT COMMUNITIES	Naturally occurring stands of native plant associations exhibiting minimal signs of anthropogenic disturbance. Specific community types can be identified by characteristic dominant plant species composition. Community types found in Hillsborough County include pine flatwoods, dry prairie, sand pine scrub, sandhill, xeric hammock, mesic hammock, hardwood swamp, cypress swamp, freshwater marsh, wet prairie, coastal marsh, mangrove swamp, coastal strand and marine grassbeds. Descriptions of these community types are provided in the Inventory and Analysis section of the Conservation and Aquifer Recharge Element (CARE).
NATURAL SHORELINES	All emergent and submergent lands which are not classified as Preservation Areas, which border Class I, II, or III Waters, which are within the mean annual floodplain of said waters and whose topography has not been significantly altered by human activity.
NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION	Pollution that comes from many sources and cannot be traced to one specific point, such as pollution from stormwater runoff and the atmosphere.
OBJECTIVE	A measurable target that must be met on the way to attaining a goal. A specific, measurable, intermediate end that is achievable and marks progress toward a goal.
OPEN SPACE	Undeveloped lands suitable for passive recreation or natural preservation uses.
OUTFALL	This is the terminal point of a natural or man-made stormwater conveyance system that drains the land.
PLRG	Pollutant Load Reduction Goal
POINT SOURCE	Any discernible and confined conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, container, rolling stocks, concentrated animal feeding operation, vessel, or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture.
POINT-SOURCE POLLUTION	Pollution that comes from a specific source or point of origin, such as a discharge pipe or outfall.
POLICY	The way in which programs and activities are conducted to achieve an identified goal.
POLLUTANT	Dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, filter backwash, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials (except those regulated under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), heat, wrecked or discharged equipment, rock, sand, and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water.
POTABLE WATER	Water satisfactory for drinking, culinary, and domestic purposes.
PRINCIPLES	The values or criteria which will guide all strategic and operating actions undertaken by the organization.

PRESERVATION AREAS	<p>Environmentally sensitive areas which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aquatic preserves; ● Class I and II Waters ● Coastal marshes ● Coastal strand ● Essential wildlife habitat ● Mangrove swamps ● Marine grassbeds ● State wilderness areas
RECLAIMED WATER	Highly treated wastewater. Reclaimed water is colorless and odorless and can be used for landscape irrigation, industrial cooling and various agricultural applications.
RIVER	A broad, deep inland body of water with a steady, directional current, or the open water and wetlands up to the mean annual high-water mark of a naturally occurring, flowing water body of considerable volume.
RIVER CORRIDOR	The lands within 500 feet of the mean annual high water mark of a river.
RUNOFF	Water from rain or irrigation that flows over land. Runoff often carries pollutants such as oils, fertilizers and pesticides and is frequently a major component of non-point-source pollution.
RURAL AREA	Country as opposed to City areas.
SUSTAINABLE YIELD	The quantity of water available for man's use without causing unacceptable adverse impacts to the water resources, associated natural systems, and existing legal uses of water (1996 WRAP). Or, The volume of groundwater that can be withdrawn from public water supply aquifers without resulting in adverse environmental impacts (e.g. saltwater intrusion), while at the same time ensuring an adequate long-term water supply under conditions of historically-precedented low rainfall, predictable increases in demand, and events causing significant interruption of the water supply.
SALTWATER INTRUSION	Inward or upward movement of saline water within a surface water or groundwater aquifer system.
SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE HABITAT	Contiguous stands of natural plant communities in Hillsborough County which have the potential to support healthy and diverse populations of wildlife and which have been identified on the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission's natural systems and land use cover inventory map, and mapped as significant wildlife habitat on the County's GIS (includes both uplands and wetlands meeting minimum size and width criteria).
SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN	Fauna identified in Section 39-27.03-05 Florida Administrative Code that warrants special protection, recognition or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation that in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming a threatened species; may already meet certain criteria for designation as a threatened species but for which conclusive data is limited or lacking; may occupy such an unusually vital and essential ecological niche that should it decline significantly in numbers or distribution other species would be adversely affected to a significant degree; or has not sufficiently recovered from past population depletion.
STAKEHOLDER	Any person, group, or organization that can place a claim on an organization's attention, resources, or output, or is affected by that output.
STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS	Numerical and narrative standards that limit the amount of pollutants that are allowed in Waters of the State, as defined by Chapter 17-3, Florida Administrative Code.
STORMWATER	Surface runoff and drainage of water resulting from rainfall.
STORMWATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM	A series of open channels and/or pipelines through which stormwater runoff is transported.

STORMWATER RUNOFF	That portion of precipitation that is not passed into the soil by infiltration, evaporated into the atmosphere, or entrapped by small surface depressions and vegetation, and that flows over the land surface during, and for a short duration following any rainfall.
STRATEGIES	Sets of integrated tasks or actions that will achieve a desired result. Strategies are needed to deal with problems that are complex, and cannot be resolved by single answers or “silver bullets.” They often cut across departmental or bureaucratic boundaries, requiring coordination of teams or other groups. Strategies may be inherent in an organization’s Action Plan. However, they are often responsive to new situations that were not contemplated in the Action Plan. Strategies to arrest a sudden decline in membership renewals, or to increase support for pending legislation, are examples of the latter.
STRATEGIC PLANNING	A disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, what it does, and why it does it.
STRATEGIC (LONG RANGE) OBJECTIVES	The results an organization wishes to achieve in the more distant future, usually over a period of 3-10 years. This horizon will depend on the nature of the organization and its work. Strategic objectives can address elements of a vision.
STRATEGY	Coordinated and inter-related tasks that work together to create action. A deliberate approach or method to address a set of goals and objectives. The means by which an organization intends to accomplish a goal or objective. It summarizes a pattern across policies, programs, projects, actions, decisions, and resource allocations.
STREAM	A narrow, shallow body of water with a steady, directional current.
SURFICIAL AQUIFER	Rainfall localized to lakes, wetlands, streams and the Gulf of Mexico
SWFWMD	Southwest Florida Water Management District
SWIM Program	Surface Water Improvement and Management Program
THREATENED	Nearing or endangered status; existence of organism and its environment in potential jeopardy; distribution of the organism is local in a few areas.
URBAN SERVICE AREA	Area served by infrastructure characteristic of city life.
VISION	An imagined future physical stage or set of conditions.
WASTEWATER TREATMENT	Processes that help remove solids, nutrients and other pollutants from water before it is discharged or reused.
WATER BODIES	For the purpose of determining permitted density, these shall be defined to include river, lake, or pond beds and any other permanently or historically water-covered land that occurs naturally at the intended site up to the mean high water level. This definition shall apply for purposes of density credits to areas, defined as environmentally sensitive by regulatory agencies.
WATER RECHARGE AREAS	Land or water areas through which groundwater is replenished.
WATERSHED	The region drained by or contributing water to a stream, lake, or other body of water. Or, the geographic region that drains into a particular stream, river or body of water. The Tampa Bay watershed covers more than 2,200 square miles in six counties
WATER TABLE	The upper surface of the free groundwater in a zone of saturation except when separated by an underlying of groundwater by unsaturated material.

WETLANDS	Lands that are transitional between terrestrial (upland) and aquatic (open water) systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or where the land is covered by shallow water, and such lands are predominantly characterized by hydrophytic vegetation. The presence of hydric soils as determined by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and other indicators of regular or periodic inundation, shall be used as evidence of the presence of a wetland area. The existence and extent of these shall be determined by the jurisdictional limits defined by Chapter 17-4, Florida Administrative Code and implemented by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or as defined within Chapter 40D-4 Florida Administrative Code and implemented by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), or as defined within the Wetlands Rule, Ch. 1-11, and implemented by the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County (EPC).
WILDLIFE	Any member of the animal kingdom, with the exception of man, including but not limited to any mammal, fish, bird, amphibian, reptile, mollusk, crustacean, arthropod, or other invertebrate and excluding domestic animals.
WILDLIFE CORRIDORS	Contiguous stands of significant wildlife habitat that facilitate the natural migratory patterns, as well as other habitat requirements (e.g. breeding, feeding), of wildlife.
WRAP	Water Resources Assessment Project - Developed for all WUCAs to identify "safe yield".
WUCA	Water Use Caution Area - A critical ground water supply problem area.
ZONING	In general the demarcation of an area by ordinance (text and map) into zones and the establishment of regulations to govern the uses within those zones (commercial, industrial, residential, type of residential) and the location, bulk, height, shape, use, and coverage of structures within each zone.

MAPS

1. Southwest Florida Water Management District
2. Study Area
3. Adopted 2015 Future Land Use
4. Tampa Bay Water Master Water Plan
5. Existing Land Use
6. Significant Wildlife Habitat
7. Preserve Lands