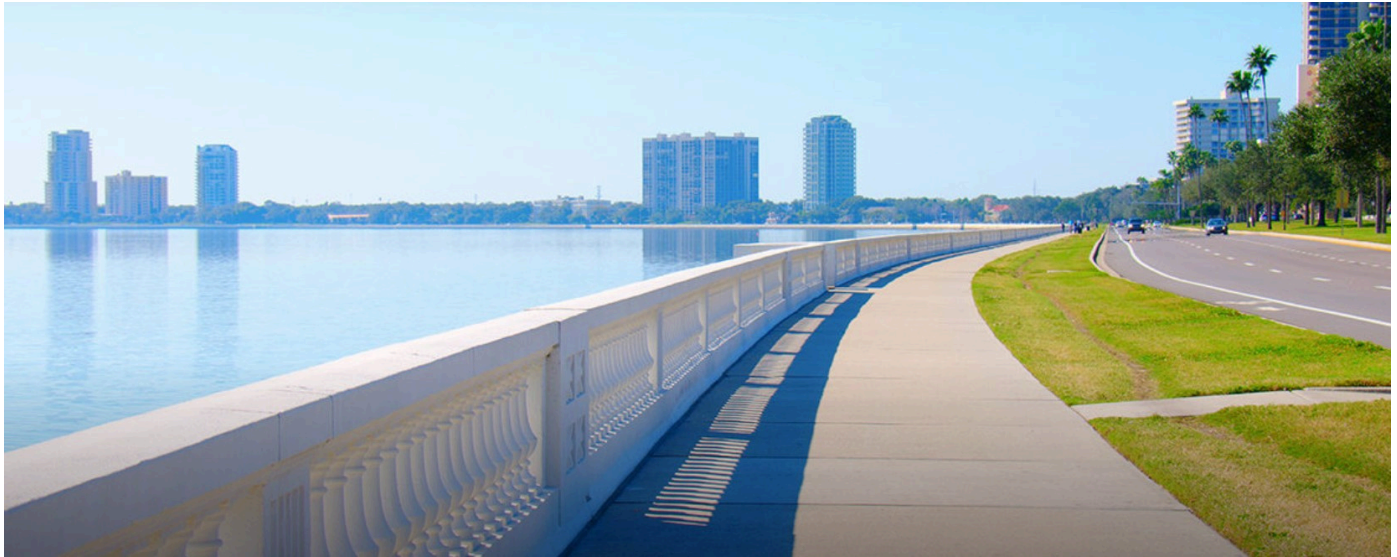


Conservation Newsletter



**Hillsborough
Soil & Water**
Conservation District
Florida



BAYSHORE BLVD, TAMPA FL

Input from Public Welcome!

The newly elected Supervisor's and Executive Director invite the public to provide feedback on the 2025 Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District Strategic Plan. There are a couple of ways to provide feedback on the plan:

1. Please fill out this quick 3 question survey regarding the 2025 HSWCD Strategic Plan Link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F35WLPN>

2. Send us an email
@soilandwater@hcfl.gov

3. Send us a letter at 4503 Coronet Rd, Plant City, FL 33566

Look forward to hearing from you!

HSWCD Staff x

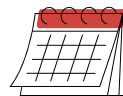
Mark Your Calendars!

HSWCD Regular Board Meetings for 2025 will be held every 3rd Monday of every month at 10 AM at the HSWCD Offices in Plant City unless otherwise posted.

Update: June meeting was changed from the 16th to the 30th.

Meeting Dates for 2025:

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| June 30 | September 15 |
| July 21 | October 20 |
| August 18 | November 17 |
| | December 15 |



Supervisors of the Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District:

Chair Parke, Seat 1
Supervisor Tompkins, Seat 2
Vice Chair Hoke, Seat 3
Vacant, Seat 4
Supervisor Sullivan, Seat 5

Welcome to HSWCD's Quarterly Conservation Newsletter!

Fresh From Florida

Fresh from Florida has a list of in Florida in season fruits, vegetables, seafood and meats. During the month of June: avocado, blackberry, blueberries, cabbage, cantaloupe, celery, cucumber, eggplant, guava, lychee, mango, mushrooms, oranges, papaya, passion fruit, peppers, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, squash, strawberry, star fruit, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon and more!

Think Global, and Buy Local!

Visit your favorite farmers market!

Website:

<https://www.followfreshfromflorida.com/>



**Fresh
Florida.**

Newly Created Paid Internship Position at Hillsborough Soil & Water

The Conservation District is excited to announce that we were able to offer a paid internship in Agricultural Policy. This position has been filled for Summer of 2025, however more paid internship opportunities will be made available in the future.

We are pleased to announce that Brooke Saunders is going to be HSWCD's first paid intern for the Summer of 2025. She is working on her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a minor in soil, water and ecosystem sciences. Her skills match directly the new direction our agency is headed.

She will be working on our five-year Strategic Plan and FY 2026 Work Plan with a focus on on-line research and potentially conducting interviews of program leaders at other conservation districts to identify in-demand technical service offerings.



Welcome



**Hillsborough
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Florida Fun Activities to do in the Summer



- Look for local U-Picks
- Busch Gardens of Tampa Bay
- Shell picking on our local beaches
- Glazer Children's Museum
- Lowy Park Zoo
- Tampa Bay History Center
- Go on a Kayaking Adventure
- Explore nature parks and trails
- Tampa Bay History Cruise
- Walk or Ride a bike on Bayshore Boulevard
- Visit Lettuce Lake Regional Park
- Hyde Park Village
- SS American Victory Mariner's Memorial & Museum Ship
- Cypress Point Park
- Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park
- Courtney Campbell Trail
- Picnic Island Park
- Ballast Point Park
- Eureka Springs Park
- Ben T Davis Beach
- Waterworks Park
- The Upper Tampa Bay Trail
- Joe Marti Park
- Centennial Park

Did You Know?

- If all the boxes of Florida tomatoes shipped in a crop year were laid end to end, they would stretch from Pensacola round-trip to Beijing, China - over 58 million boxes!
- The state flower of Florida is the orange blossom.
- The tortoise can live to be 140 years old.
- Kool-Aid was once marketed as Fruit Snack.
- Nolan Bushnell founded Atari and Chuck E. Cheese.
- The mango is the most popular fruit on Earth, consumed worldwide by a factor of three to one over bananas and ten to one over apples.
- There are about 9 chickens for every human being in the world.

-taken from *In the Field Magazine*



Visit these popular Natural Springs in South Florida

1. Ginnie Springs
2. Blue Spring State Park
3. Ichetucknee Springs State Park
4. Weeki Wachee Springs State Park
5. Rainbow Springs State Park
6. Wakulla Springs
7. Silver Springs
8. Manatee Springs State Park
9. Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park
10. Fanning Springs State Park





Find My Watering Days & Times

Each property owner or manager shall voluntarily reduce water use and prepare for possible worsening conditions and more aggressive water shortage actions if conditions worsen. All water users have a duty to keep informed about the water use restrictions and other required actions applicable to them.

Year-Round Watering Days and Times for Unincorporated Hillsborough County

Each property owner or manager shall voluntarily reduce water use and prepare for possible worsening conditions and more aggressive water shortage actions if conditions worsen. All water users have a duty to keep informed about the water use restrictions and other required actions applicable to them. Currently, residents are allowed to water twice a week.

Note: Watering restrictions may differ based upon the resident's service provider. Residents of the cities of Tampa, Plant City, and Temple Terrace should adhere to their city's watering days and restrictions.

Know your watering days:

Addresses ending in 0, 1, 2, and 3 - Monday and Thursday

Addresses ending in 4, 5, and 6 - Tuesday and Friday

Addresses ending in 7, 8, and 9 - Wednesday and Saturday

Locations with no address (e.g., common areas) or mixed addresses (e.g., office complexes and shopping centers) - Wednesday and Saturday

Note: Watering on both assigned days is permissible, but overwatering, runoff, or using broken/misdirected sprinkler heads should be avoided to conserve water and prevent violations.

Know your watering times

Watering is permitted only during the following hours on your allowable watering days:

- Before 8 a.m.
- After 6 p.m.

Important: Watering is **not allowed both before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. on the same day.**

Violations may result in fines from Hillsborough County Code Enforcement. By following these guidelines, residents can help conserve water and avoid penalties while supporting the county's water conservation initiatives.

Reclaimed water and other exemptions

This order affects all water use activities associated with lawn and landscaping in unincorporated Hillsborough County that use publicly supplied drinking water, well water, ponds, lakes, and streams. The use of reclaimed water for lawn and landscape use is exempt from this order.

Managing Entities

No managing entities, such as [homeowner associations \(HOA\)](#) or property managers, can enforce any deed restrictions that are inconsistent with current water use restrictions.

Residents complying with the one-day-per-week watering restrictions shall **not** be penalized by fine, lien, or any other form, by the City of Tampa or any other entity for the presence of dry-appearing turfgrass on their property.

Irrigation timers and rebates

Property owners should reprogram their automatic irrigation timers to adjust to their assigned two day a week schedule. Get free help with adjusting your automatic irrigation timer from a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program Coordinator by contacting Will Stone at (813) 744-5519 ext. 54133 or stonewi@hcfl.gov. Check your [eligibility](#) to receive a rebate worth up to \$250 for the installation of a qualified weather-based irrigation controller or soil moisture sensor, or alternatively, receive a device and installation free of charge, through the Tampa Bay Water Wise program. You can visit HCFL.gov/WaterConservation for water conservation tips and information.



Rules

Follow these rules for watering.

Hand watering

Hand-watering and low-volume irrigation of plant material other than lawns or turfgrass may be done on any day and at any time.

New sod and landscaping

All watering of new sod and landscaping must be done before 8am and after 6pm. An irrigation system zone can only be operated if the new sod or plant material covers at least 50 percent of that zone.

- New sod and landscaping may be watered on any day for the first 30 days
- On days 31-60, new sod and landscaping may be watered approximately every other day: even-numbered addresses on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday
- Odd-numbered addresses, locations with no address and locations with mixed addresses on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday

Decorative fountains, car washing, pressure washing

- The use of any fountain or water feature is allowed provided it is properly maintained and also recycles water, exclusively uses reclaimed water, or provides a necessary water quality benefit
- Car washing is allowed using hoses equipped with self-canceling or automatic shutoff nozzles, sponges, and buckets
- Pressure washing of sidewalks, driveways, patios and other impervious surfaces is allowed for public health and safety. Pressure washing should not be used to clean away materials that can be removed with a broom or other dry methods.

Reclaimed water

- Use reclaimed water for irrigation any day of the week, but it is prohibited between the hours of 10 AM and 4 PM
- Use reclaimed water for irrigation of lawns, gardens, and individual plants
- Do not allow ponding or run-off from your reclaimed water system
[View the ordinance](#)

More information

For more detailed information on water restrictions visit the following websites:

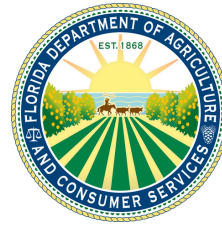
- [Southwest Florida Water Management District](#)
- [Tampa residents/businesses - City of Tampa](#)
- [Plant City residents/businesses - City of Plant City](#)
- [Temple Terrace residents/businesses - City of Temple Terrace](#)

Link to Post: <https://hcfl.gov/residents/property-owners-and-renters/water-and-sewer/find-my-watering-days-and-times>

Alafia River Basin BMAP Rule Change

Effective July 1, 2025

The Alafia Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP rule) from Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services along with Florida Department of Environmental Protection is updating the BMAP rule for the Alafia River, which is expected to go into effect on July 1, 2025. Essentially all of the smaller BMAP basins of the Alafia River are being consolidated as a single Alafia watershed wide BMAP. Further, the new rule carries a mandate of participation for all agricultural land operators and always did. The approach for the BMAP had always been to get land operators enrolled either via Best Management Practices or via a surface water quality monitoring plan, particularly when an operator asked for an updated or new water use permit. This new rule along with the restructuring of FDACS operations as creating new opportunities for HSWCD to contribute to the effort of helping operators.



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Important Links

<https://www.fdacs.gov/>

<https://floridadep.gov/>

<https://www.hillsboroughswcd.com/fdacs-cost-share-program>

<https://www.hillsboroughswcd.com/files/800feebf0/alafia-bmap.pdf>

<https://www.hillsboroughswcd.com/files/35ead9616/Item+6+-+BMAP+updates.pdf>

Thank you for reading!

Conservation Quiz Corner

Are you smarter than a 5th grader?

Answer the following questions to find out!



1. Moles are considered _____, meaning they are physically adapted for burrowing.
2. What is the largest river that is entirely in the United States that drains to the Atlantic Ocean?
3. What do you call the study of tree diseases?
4. What is the one Florida fish species to appear on both the state and federal list of threatened and endangered species? hint: there are 3
5. What federal law was designed to protect critically imperiled species from extinction?

Conservation Quiz Corner Answers: (1) Fossiliferous (2) Susquehanna River (3) forest pathology (4) Atlantic sturgeon, Nassau grouper, Gulf sturgeon (5) Endangered Species Act of 1973

**HILLSBOROUGH
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

P: 813.707.1652

E: SOILANDWATER@HCFL.GOV

www.hillsboroughswcd.com
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4503 Coronet Rd, Plant City FL