

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

A single goal statement was developed which states the philosophy of the Stormwater Management Element and the mission of the comprehensive Stormwater Management Program. Individual objectives were created to address identification and evaluation of problems/concerns, implementation of solutions to the problems/concerns, and maintenance of facilities to ensure provision of the adopted level of service standards. Finally, specific policies were produced as the means by which the goal and objectives could be put into practice.

The following goal, objectives, and policies have been developed specifically for unincorporated Hillsborough County. Thus, an individual reference to unincorporated Hillsborough County may not be provided, but is implied, in each statement. Also, the use of the term "County" implies "unincorporated Hillsborough County".

GOAL A: Provide the residents of Hillsborough County with a managed system of stormwater infrastructure which will:

- (1) minimize the occurrences of damage due to flooding,
- (2) improve the quality of surface waters,
- (3) reestablish and create wetland habitat,
- (4) improve the recharge of the potable water supply and
- (5) provide opportunities for reuse and recreational benefits.

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish reasonable and appropriate levels of protection or levels of service.

Policy 1.1:

All new development shall be designed such that post-development stormwater runoff from the site shall be substantially similar to or better than predevelopment runoff in terms of rate, hydroperiod, and drainage basin, and shall meet applicable state and water management district water quality standards. To protect water quality from stormwater runoff, scientifically-based ecological buffers shall be incorporated into all land development plans. (see the Conservation and Recharge Element)

(Administrative)

Policy 1.2:

All nonresidential and nonagricultural redevelopment and expansions of existing nonresidential and nonagricultural development shall construct or

contribute to a stormwater management system for the entire site which, at a minimum:

- a. treats stormwater runoff to state and water management district water quality standards, and
- b. has a runoff rate and duration which is substantially similar to that for predevelopment conditions.

For purposes of this level of service, redevelopment or an expansion of a development is subject to these standards if the redevelopment or expansion is the greater of:

- a. a cumulative alteration area of 5,000 square feet or for sites greater than 50,000 square feet, a cumulative alteration area of 10% of the site, or
- b. a cumulative alteration of 50% of the remaining pervious area of the site.

(Administrative)

Policy 1.3:

Hillsborough County will carry out its level of service to abate the water quality impacts of agricultural activities through reliance on the policies of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Department of Consumer and Agricultural Services (DACs) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service which encourage and require the use of regulatory and non regulatory measures to improve water quality discharges to water bodies. Enforcement of the County's Stormwater Quality Management Ordinance, 94-15, will also serve this purpose. The County supports creation of agricultural land management plans for appropriate agricultural activities in conjunction with the SWFWMD Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) program and the Natural Resources Conservation Service and DACs encouragement of the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). The County will rely on County Watershed Management Master Plans, the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program (NEPTBEP) and technical design standards which regulate new development, to achieve water quality improvements in water bodies in the County.

(Administrative)

Policy 1.4:

The adopted level of service standards to be provided by the County's stormwater management infrastructure are as defined in the Capital Improvements Element Policy 1.c.1.b.

OBJECTIVE 2: Evaluate the storage and discharge characteristics of existing stormwater conveyance, detention and retention systems to identify existing and future flooding problems and their solutions, and evaluate water quality degradation related to stormwater runoff to identify potential solutions to excessive pollutant loadings.

Policy 2.1 Reserved
(Administrative)

~~Policy 2.1:¹~~

~~By September 2003, the comprehensive, Countywide Watershed Management Plan will be completed. The individual sub-basin/watershed Watershed Management Plans were completed for the Wellfield Resource Protection Area located west of I-275.~~

Policy 2.2:²

The established priority list for ~~developing or~~ updating the individual Watershed Management Master Plans is as follows:

Basin No.	Basin Name	Completion
1	East Lake Area	Completed FY99
2	Lower Sweetwater Creek	Completed FY98
3	Pemberton Creek/Baker Canal	Completed FY98
4	Rocky Creek/Brushy Creek	Completed FY98
5	Little Manatee River	FY02
6	Delaney Creek/Archie Creek/North Archie Creek	Completed FY00
7	Double Branch Creek	Completed FY98
8	Curiosity Creek	Completed FY00
9	Brooker Creek	Completed FY98
10	Alafia River	FY02
11	Hillsborough River	FY02
12	Tampa Bypass Canal	FY02
13	Bullfrog Creek/Wolf Branch Creek	Completed FY00
14	Cypress Creek	Completed FY01
15	Silver/Twin Lakes Area	FY01
16	Sweetwater Creek	Completed FY98
17	Duck Pond Area	FY01

<u>Watershed Plan</u>	<u>Update</u>
<u>Brooker Creek</u>	<u>FY06</u>
<u>Curiosity Creek</u>	<u>FY06</u>
<u>Duck Pond</u>	<u>FY06</u>
<u>East Lake</u>	<u>FY06</u>
<u>Alafia River</u>	<u>FY07</u>
<u>Cypress Creek</u>	<u>FY07</u>
<u>Delaney/Archie</u>	<u>FY07</u>
<u>Double Branch</u>	<u>FY08</u>
<u>Pemberton/Baker</u>	<u>FY08</u>
<u>Tampa Bypass Canal</u>	<u>FY08</u>
<u>Hillsborough River</u>	<u>FY09</u>
<u>Lower Sweetwater</u>	<u>FY09</u>
<u>Silver/Twin Lake</u>	<u>FY09</u>
<u>Rocky/Brushy</u>	<u>FY10</u>
<u>Sweetwater</u>	<u>FY10</u>
<u>Bullfrog/Wolf Branch</u>	<u>FY11</u>
<u>Little Manatee River</u>	<u>FY11</u>

(Administrative)

Policy 2.3:

Following SWFWMD's guidelines and specifications, the ~~individual sub-basin/watershed~~ Watershed Management Master Plans, which collectively ~~will~~ comprise the Countywide Plan, will continue to be ~~developed~~ updated to the levels of detail necessary to address the needs generated by the corresponding individual levels of existing population and expected growth. All Watershed Management Master Plans will include evaluations of the water quality and environmental conditions of the sub-basins/watersheds and of any proposed capital improvements, and will be developed under the philosophy of maximizing the use of existing facilities.

(Administrative)

Policy 2.4:³

Following the ~~completion~~ update of a Watershed Management Master Plan study, new identified stormwater management facility improvement projects will continue to be incorporated into the next Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Plan/Capital Improvement Element update, as projects are developed and funds are identified for construction.

(Administrative)

Policy 2.5:

The established formal prioritization methodology, relating to the scheduling of stormwater management facility improvement projects will be used to annually reevaluate and update the Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Plan contained in the Capital Improvements Element.

Policy 2.6:⁴

Data collected from the stormwater inspection and monitoring program, as part of the County's NPDES permit activities, [as well as monitoring being done to evaluate identified or potential waterbody impairments as part of the TMDL program](#) will be used to identify the need for potential upgrades, retrofits, or maintenance to the systems. In addition, the information from the Watershed Management [Master](#) Plans will be used for this purpose.

(Administrative)

Policy 2.7:

The use of non-structural Best Management Practices for solving stormwater management problems will [continue to](#) be considered for implementation in each Watershed Management [Master](#) Plan.

(Administrative)

Policy 2.8:

The potential for implementing regional or area-wide stormwater management facilities within the County will [continue to](#) be evaluated on a case-by-case basis during the [development—update](#) of the Watershed Management [Master](#) Plan for an area.

(Administrative)

Policy 2.9:

The use of stormwater storage facilities will be the preferred alternative to alleviate flooding problems. All stormwater management projects will seek to maximize, to the greatest extent practicable, improvements to wetland habitat, water quality and groundwater recharge functions.

Policy 2.10:

The stormwater quality data collected under Policy 2.6 will be evaluated to determine the effectiveness of stormwater management and treatment system performance.

Policy 2.11:

The County will encourage the use of new, affordable stormwater management technology, such as pollutant filters and sub-surface storage, as well as Low Impact Development techniques in order to minimize the impervious surfaces in new developments, and to minimize pollutant loads due to stormwater runoff.

(Administrative)

OBJECTIVE 3: Implement programs and projects to control flooding attributable to, and improve the quality of, stormwater runoff to maximize the benefits and beneficial uses of the stormwater resource.

Policy 3.1

The stormwater management facility improvement projects identified in the initially completed Watershed Management Master Plan studies, which are needed to provide the adopted ultimate level of service standards, will be completed by FY2015.

(Administrative)

Policy 3.2:

Only those stormwater management facility improvement projects included in the Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Plan will be implemented, unless actual significant flooding conditions, or water quality degradation due to stormwater runoff that may affect the health, safety, and welfare of the public dictate the immediate need to implement other stormwater management improvement projects.

(Administrative)

Policy 3.3:⁵

Development in the 100-year floodplain shall be regulated in order to protect floodplain functions. Total flood volume compensation will continue to be required for new developments which encroach into and displace 100-year riverine flood storage or floodplain areas. All development in the 100-year floodplain of rivers shall provide a minimum 50-foot buffer from the landward extent of wetlands.

The Watershed Management Plans ~~underway~~completed by the Public Works Department will ensure compliance with regional plans.⁶

(Administrative)

Policy 3.4:

The concept of establishing only one set of regulations to direct stormwater management system design in the County will continue to be pursued.

Policy 3.5:⁷

The County will continue to establish and maintain an informal communication network with other government agencies which have authority over, or interest in, stormwater management practices in the County.

Despite efforts on the County's part to develop ~~such~~formal interlocal agreements, adjacent jurisdictions preferred to continue present informal cooperative agreements.⁸

Additionally, the County will pursue an integrated stormwater management master plan with adjacent jurisdictions to coordinate stormwater drainage issues.

(Administrative)

Policy 3.6:⁹

The County will continue the implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program to insure compliance with its Municipal Separate Storm sSewer System (MS4) ~~municipal~~ permit requirements. The County's permit was made effective January 1, 1996, and was renewed in ~~2001~~2002. The permit outlines a blueprint for effective stormwater management in the County, while protecting water quality and wildlife habitat. This program will continue to be coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the co-permittees: the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Plant City.

(Administrative)

Policy 3.7:¹⁰

~~As The~~ Watershed Management Master Plans ~~are~~have been completed and approved by the BOCC, and as they are updated, they will continue to be implemented, to improve, where economically feasible, the problem areas identified in the stormwater quality data collection and assessment programs defined under Objective 2. The use of Best Management Practices will be required for minimizing contributions of poor quality stormwater runoff to both groundwater and surface water bodies.

(Administrative)

Policy 3.8:

When effective pretreatment measures (i.e., measures to remove sediment, oils, greases, and other floatable debris) can be provided and the treatment system will maintain or restore the long-term, natural viability of the wetland system, wetlands will be used for stormwater treatment when appropriate.

Policy 3.9:

New stormwater management facilities will not be permitted to discharge untreated stormwater runoff into directly-connected sinkholes or, otherwise, directly into the Floridan Aquifer. Existing facilities will also be modified to meet this policy where economically feasible and physically practical.

OBJECTIVE 4: Stormwater management systems and facilities shall be operated and maintained in a manner which will support the continued provision of the adopted level of service standards.

Policy 4.1:

In conjunction with Policies 2.6 and 3.6 regarding NPDES activities, a program of inspection of County-maintained stormwater management facilities will be implemented to more effectively monitor whether facilities are providing their adopted level of service standards.

Policy 4.2:

In conjunction with Policies 2.6 and 3.6 regarding NPDES activities, and under the authority defined in County Ordinance 94-15, continue implementation of inspection for illicit connections and illegal discharges into the County-maintained system.

Policy 4.3:

An annually updated "repair and replacement" list will continue to be developed to prioritize those facilities which are physically in need of "more than routine" improvements. Such facilities will then be incorporated into

the Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Plan: ~~as corresponding Watershed Management Plans are completed, or via the Secondary System Improvement Fund.~~

(Administrative)

Policy 4.4:

The existing Maintenance Management System will be adjusted and expanded, as required, to accommodate the scheduling of routine maintenance activities at frequencies which will support the adopted level of service standards, and in compliance with the County's NPDES MS4 permit requirements.

(Administrative)

Policy 4.5:

Maintenance work will continue to be conducted in a manner that will result in the minimal possible disturbance of the natural features of environmentally-sensitive storage and conveyance areas.

Policy 4.6

The stormwater treatment systems which have been formally accepted by the County for maintenance, will be maintained in a manner which will support compliance with the requirements of the appropriate local, state and federal regulations.

Policy 4.7:

~~By September 2002, a~~ stormwater management system inventory and ~~map atlas series~~GIS database ~~will be~~has been completed-finalized. The ~~map atlas series~~inventory will be continuously updated and will be utilized to, among other things, identify the physical location and characteristics of the system components, and which components are due for maintenance and/or replacement.

(Administrative)

OBJECTIVE 5:¹¹ Continue to implement the integrated water resource management program through the following policies:

Policy 5.1:

Technical design standards which manage the impacts of stormwater quantity and water quality for new development and redevelopment in the County will be established and maintained in order to reflect current

conditions in the County, and to address cumulative impacts of stormwater runoff to flooding and water quality.

(Administrative)

Policy 5.2:

Stormwater Levels of Service (LOS) for watersheds in the County will continue to be identified in the Capital Improvement Element as the after completion of Watershed Management Master Plans are updated, and new capital projects identified and scheduled to achieve watershed levels of service.

(Administrative)

Policy 5.3:¹²

Water quality and environmental conservation considerations shall continue to be taken into account in the Watershed Management Master Plans and through participation in and sponsorship of local projects which implement and contribute to the goals and priorities of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program of SWFWMD, and as developed in Basin Management Action Plans for the implementation of TMDL's.

(Administrative)

Policy 5.4:

Programs and practices to maintain compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program and for reuse of reclaimed water, water conservation, and land development regulation to protect and conserve functions of natural systems such as the encouragement of the use of Low Impact Development principles for new development shall be established.

(Administrative)

Policy 5.5:¹³

A program and schedule of integrated capital projects shall be incorporated in Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) for surface water and groundwater resource management in the County in coordination with Tampa Bay Water (TBW) and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

V. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

INTRODUCTION

Any plan, regardless of its merits on paper, is only as good as is the ability and effort of the responsible entity to implement that plan. The previously stated goal, objectives, and policies which comprise the plan for the Stormwater Management Program, have been developed by and for the County, and will be implemented by the County in cooperation with other federal, state, and local agencies where appropriate.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Many of the policies refer to the "development and implementation of a program" to achieve the intent of a particular policy, while others refer to specific actions which are the actual intents of the policies. In either case, implementation of the policies will be effected through mechanisms such as: modifications to existing regulations, enactment of new ordinances, revisions to current County policies/directives, enactment of new County policies/directives, interlocal governmental agreements, and interagency agreements, to name a few.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The implementation effort, and the effectiveness of the comprehensive Stormwater Management Program itself, will be monitored on the basis of the milestones (i.e., specified timeframes within which certain actions must be undertaken or accomplished) set forth in the policies. An evaluation and appraisal report will be prepared, as required, to detail the specific measures/methods exercised in implementing the critical activities and policies, and to provide an update on the progress of implementing the remaining activities and policies. Potential amendments, deletions, and/or additions to the Program policies will also be presented and discussed in the report, as will the impacts of such amendments, deletions, and/or additions on the policies of other related Elements (i.e., Conservation and Aquifer Recharge Element and Capital Improvements Element).

VI. DEFINITIONS

Best Management Practices (BMPs) - Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce pollutants from entering Hillsborough County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) or being discharged from the MS4. BMPs include, but are not limited to, both structural and nonstructural treatment methods and practices to control the discharge of pollutants.

Capital Improvement Plan - A projected schedule of capital improvement projects which is based on estimated costs and expected funding levels.

Detention or To Detain - To temporarily store stormwater runoff in such a way as to reduce its flow, for the purpose of either limiting downstream impacts or providing treatment for water quality, or both.

Drainage Basin or Area - Surface drainage area which is defined by topographic boundaries that direct stormwater runoff to a common point or receiving waters, and is a subdivision of a watershed.

Economically Feasible - When the public benefit attributable to an improvement justifies the cost of the improvement and this cost is fundable.

Environmentally Feasible or Practical - When the implementation of an improvement, or the improvement itself, will not significantly and permanently degrade the environment.

Low Impact Development – A comprehensive land planning and engineering design approach with a goal of maintaining and enhancing the pre-development hydrologic regime of urban and developing watersheds.

Physically Feasible or Practical - When an improvement can be implemented within the constraints of the surrounding physical environment.

Receiving Waters - Bodies of water, and ancillary facilities thereof, which serve as the receptacles for stormwater discharges. Generally, receiving waters include significant wetland areas, lakes, rivers/streams, other major stormwater conveyance or storage systems, bays, etc.

Regional Stormwater Management Facility - A common, large-scale detention or retention lake system, along with its ancillary collection network, which provides stormwater runoff attenuation and/or treatment for many sites or large tracts of land under various and different ownerships.

Retention or To Retain - To store stormwater to prevent its discharge into

receiving waters or to provide a storage facility for stormwater where no outfall is available.

Stormwater Conveyance System - A series of open channels and/or pipelines through which stormwater runoff is transported.

Stormwater Runoff (Stormwater) - Flow of surface runoff water which results from and which occurs during and immediately after a rainfall event.

Stormwater Management Facility - A feature which collects, conveys, channels, holds, inhibits or diverts the movement of stormwater.

Stormwater Treatment Facility - A structural Best Management Practice (BMP) designed to reduce pollutant loading to a receiving waters by reducing the volume of stormwater discharge, providing for the biological uptake of pollutants, and/or inducing pollutants to settle out of stormwater flow. Structural BMPs include, but are not limited to, detention basins, retention basins, open bottom inlets, undercut ditches, exfiltration trenches and swales.

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- ¹ CPA 00-22 – Updates planning schedule related to the new Watershed Management Plan and defines parameters and effects upon completion of this county-wide plan.
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