

Table 5 - Myakka River Management Program Objectives and Actions.

Objective 1

To protect, enhance and maintain the unique and irreplaceable values, functions, diversity and benefits of the natural resources along the Myakka River

Action 1.1	Implement a prescribed burning and fuel reduction program involving landowners along the Myakka River	DEP/DRP Division of Forestry Sarasota County	X X X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 1.2	Implement an integrated program of exotic and nuisance species management for the river and the wild and scenic protection zone.	DEP/DRP DOT SWFWMD Sarasota County Division of Forestry	X X X X X	Staff Assignment	1-91/Ongoing
Action 1.3	Continue to develop and implement a plan to locate, catalog, and protect listed plant and animal species and species of local concern within the river and the wild and scenic protection zone.	DEP/DRP FWC FNAI	X  Staff Assignment	Staff Assignment	1-91/Ongoing
Action 1.4	DRP shall continue to coordinate with DACS to encourage riverfront property owners to protect any endangered or threatened plant species in the River Area or the Myakka River Protection Zone.	DEP/DRP DACS	X	Staff Assignment	1-91/7-91
Action 1.5	Continue to compile an inventory of special ecological features along the Myakka River	DEP/DRP Sarasota County FNAI Appropriate Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	1-91/1-92
Action 1.6	Inventory and monitor changes to animal and plant communities in the river area and wild and scenic protection zone.	FWC DEP/DRP SWFWMD	X X X	\$40,000 Bi-annual Staff Assignment Staff Assignment	1-91/Ongoing 1-91/Ongoing 3-97/Ongoing
Action 1.7	Expand the existing inventory program to monitor nesting, roosting, and breeding sites along the Myakka River corridor to protect these sites from actions that may disrupt their continued use.	FWC DEP/DRP Audobon and CSOs	X X	Staff Assignment Staff Assignment Volunteer Project	7-90/Ongoing 1-91/Ongoing
Action 1.8	DRP will continue to encourage coordination with different agencies to develop habitat and restoration plans for the river area and wild and scenic river protection zone	Applicable Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	1-91/Ongoing
Action 1.9	The MRMCC (DRP, Friends of Myakka, or the Myakka Conservancy) should conduct a survey of Myakka waterfront property owners in Manatee and Charlotte Counties to see if they perceive any management needs for the river.	DRP Coordinating Council		Staff Assignment Staff Assignment	
Action 1.10	Seek additional funding sources to acquire Vanderipe Slough as a conservation easement	Applicable Management Agencies		Staff Assignment	

Objective 2

To protect and/or enhance the surface and ground water resource values of the Myakka River, including protection and enhancement of water quality and designated uses, and protection and restoration of optimal quantity and timing of freshwater discharge.

Action 2.1	Strictly enforce regulations relating to water resources.	Applicable Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 2.2	Identify and seek funding sources to develop and institute programs for best management practices and educational programs to control and reduce nonpoint source pollution within the Myakka River watershed and help develop an integrated pest management strategy.	Applicable Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 2.3	Evaluate existing water quality monitoring programs where needed to determine whether to continue and/or expand these programs to include: a. Better coordinated and more comprehensive monitoring efforts, b. Linkage to regulatory actions and programs, c. Landfill and borrow pit monitoring, and d. Monitoring of tributaries; for example, Howard Creek and Myakkahatchee Creek.	Applicable Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 2.4	Conduct hydrologic study that considers all existing and potential water control structures and diversions of river water and eliminate water quality problems.	SWFWMD Applicable Management Agencies	X	\$325,000	7-90/Ongoing
Action 2.5	Petition the Environmental Regulatory Commission to amend Chapter 17-3, FAC, to designate the entire Myakka River as an Outstanding Florida Water.	DEP Applicable Management			

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		Agencies			
Action 2.6	Seek an exemption from the exotic aquatic plant control program within Myakka River State Park to allow the limitation or prohibition of power boats on Upper Myakka Lake and Lower Myakka Lake.	DEP/DRP SWFWMD	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/1-91
Action 2.7	Investigate alternatives to the chemical control of aquatic weeds and effective, environmentally sound management and control practices for chemical, mechanical, biological, and/or physical weed control.	DEP/DRP SWFWMD	X	\$80,000	7-90/Ongoing
Action 2.8	Maintain and coordinate monitoring programs for the consumptive use of groundwater within the Myakka River watershed. Particular emphasis should be placed on the maintenance of wetland hydroperiods.	SWFWMD	X	Staff Assignment	1-91/Ongoing
Action 2.9	Conduct a master watershed study to allow for comprehensive stormwater master planning	SWFWMD	X	\$240,000	1-91/Ongoing
		DEP/DRP	X		92/Ongoing
		DEP	X		7-90/Ongoing
Action 2.10	DRP (Friends of Myakka, or the Myakka Conservancy), should post "You are entering the Myakka River Watershed signs along roadways which cross through the watershed, to create public awareness of the Myakka Watershed Basin.	DRP CSOs		\$700	
Action 2.11	Encourage that salt water intrusion resulting from water withdrawals shall be prohibited.	SWFWMD DEP		Staff Assignment	
Action 2.12	Develop strategies to restore the historic timing, quantity, and quality of flows in the Myakka upstream of Sarasota County and then restore the swamps killed by excess dry season flow.	SWFWMD Applicable Management Agencies	X	40,000,000	3-07/Ongoing
<b>Objective 3</b>					
To preserve, protect and restore natural aquatic habitat necessary for the continued healthy existence of aquatic populations and communities within the Myakka River.					
Action 3.1	Identify, prioritize and implement feasible aquatic habitat restoration projects.	DEP/DRP Applicable Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	1-92/Ongoing
Action 3.2	Continue monitoring programs and baseline studies with respect to major potential water withdrawals including consumptive use permits and potable water withdrawals affecting the Myakka River.	Sarasota County	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
		SWFWMD	X	Staff Assignment	12-05/Ongoing
		USGS	X	Staff Assignment	1-39/Ongoing
Action 3.3	Promote aerial imagery and web based maps to educate boaters as to where shoal locations exist within the river to reduce the incidences of prop cuts caused by boat traffic in these shallow and sensitive areas.	DEP/DRP Sarasota County	X	Staff Assignment	12-08/Ongoing 7-90/12-90
Action 3.4	DRP should create an annual state of the river report. The monthly river reports and other activities of the river biologist should be reformatted into an annual report that is distributed to libraries, decision makers, Council members, schools, etc.	DRP		Staff Assignment	12-10/Ongoing
Action 3.5	Restore marsh conditions in Tatum Sawgrass to restore its historic ecological and hydrologic functions.	SWFWMD Applicable Management Agencies			
<b>Objective 4</b>					
To coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal agencies in the use and regulation of land management practices that protect the quality of the Myakka River and its tributaries.					
Action 4.1	Continue to evaluate the function and composition of the Council as a management coordination body and implement any necessary modifications.	DEP/DRP Myakka River Management Coordinating Council North Port Sarasota County	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 4.2	Maintain an officer who will be in charge of reviewing significant permits/development applications and review and comment on proposed land development controls that regulate development within the Myakka River watershed.	DEP/DRP Applicable Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 4.3	Encourage consistent land use planning and regulations in the watershed among all local governments and regional and state agencies to be consistent with the management plan.	Applicable Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 4.4	DEP and others instrumental in the management of the Myakka River should seek all appropriate funding sources for the implementation of the management plan. Sources should include, but not be limited to, Manasota Basin Board, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, Department of Community Affairs, etc.	Applicable Management Agencies		Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 4.5	Continue to monitor local codes and review and comment on proposed land development controls that regulate development within environmentally sensitive areas of the Myakka River watershed.	DEP/DRP DCA	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 4.6	Encourage and provide information to help create a homeowners guide to regulatory requirements on the Myakka River and promote awareness and appreciation of the history and ecology of the Myakka among people living and working in the watershed.	DEP/DRP Sarasota County CSOs		Staff Assignment Staff Assignment	
Action 4.7	Coordinate and collaborate the management of the extensive public lands in the Myakka watershed towards common goals and objectives. Focus should be on watershed restoration and management of key wildlife species.	Applicable Management Agencies		Staff Assignment	
<b>Objective 5</b>					
To minimize urban and suburban encroachment and resultant adverse impacts to the river and allow appropriate land uses within the watershed.					
Action 5.1	Continue to ensure through comprehensive plans, land development regulations and/or appropriate ordinances that urban and suburban land uses are minimized within the river area, wild and scenic protection zone, and the watershed	Applicable Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 5.2	DEP/DRP shall regulate and minimize infrastructural impacts to ensure that adequate protection is given to wild and scenic values. New river crossings shall be discouraged in undeveloped areas. Improvements and new infrastructure should be added to existing facilities.	DEP/DRP Sarasota County North Port Venice	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 5.3	Encourage that land development review and approval consider sea-level rise, subsequent landward migration of wetlands, and resultant need for an upland buffer.	DCA DEP/DRP SWFWMD SWFRPC TBRPC North Port Sarasota County Applicable Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing

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Action 5.4	Continue to encourage Sarasota County to acquire the rest area located at the Interstate 75 / River Road Interchange	FDOT Sarasota County			
Action 5.5	Mitigate and reduce spill light from all road crossings and the communities located south of the Carlton Reserve.	Applicable Management Agencies		\$5,000	
<b>Objective 6</b>					
To provide for the regulation, control, and distribution of public access to the Myakka River where necessary to protect and enhance the resource values of the river area.					
Action 6.1	Limit uncontrolled public access to the Myakka River on public lands to the extent allowed by the rivers' carrying capacity, and include toilets, designated campfire areas, and refuse containers with a suitable vegetated buffer from the river area.	DEP/DRP Sarasota County DOF	X X	\$33,000	7-90/Ongoing 82/Ongoing
Action 6.2	Restrict additional public access on the Myakka River until a recreational carrying capacity is established and enforceable.	DEP/DRP Sarasota County	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
<b>Objective 7</b>					
To minimize the disturbances to natural resources of the Myakka River from river related recreational uses.					
Action 7.1	Conduct a comprehensive boat utilization study to quantify recreational carrying capacities by river segment and enforce recreational activity levels after carrying capacities are determined.	DEP/DRP	X	\$52,000	7-90/Ongoing
Action 7.2	Prohibit airboats except for official permitted use by agencies operating in the wild and scenic portion of the Myakka River.	DEP/DRP	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 7.3	Educate the public through a sign placement program, at river access points which describes the resource values and regulations of the wild and scenic designated portion of the river.	DEP/DRP Sarasota County	X	\$8,000	7-90/Ongoing
<b>Objective 8</b>					
To protect archaeological/historical/paleontological sites from adverse impacts associated with development, vandalism, and artifact collecting and expand the knowledge and database of the archaeological/historical resources in the Myakka River vicinity and in the watershed.					
Action 8.1	Support a policy on the preservation of archaeological/historical sites on public lands in the watershed.	DEP/DRP DHR Applicable Management Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 8.2	Enforce existing laws and coordinate with state and local police authorities to protect archaeological/historical/paleontological sites and educate law enforcement officials and the general public of these laws and regulations.	DHR Applicable Management and Law Enforcement Agencies	X	Staff Assignment	7-90/Ongoing
Action 8.3	Commission a cultural resource assessment survey of the watershed and the wild and scenic protection zone to acquire greater knowledge and understanding of the watershed's archaeological/historical resources.	DEP/DRP DHR Sarasota County	X	\$52,000	1-91/Ongoing
Action 8.4	Designate a local museum in the Myakka River vicinity as an educational and curatorial facility to receive artifacts collected within the Myakka River watershed.	Applicable Management Agencies		Staff Assignment	
Action 8.5	Sponsor an annual Myakka River Pioneer Festival at a restored homestead, farmstead or the Miakka School House with demonstration of pioneer crafts, music, storytelling, exhibits and costumes.	DEP/DRP DHR Sarasota County		Staff Assignment	1-91/Ongoing
Action 8.6	Design markers to indicate historic features of the river area.	DEP/DRP DHR	X	Staff Assignment	1-91/Ongoing

Coordinating Council - Myakka River Management Coordinating Council  
 CSO - Citizens Support Organizations  
 DACS - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
 DCA - Department of Community Affairs  
 DEP/DRP - Department of Environmental Protection/ Division of Recreation and Parks.  
 DEP - Department of Environmental Protection  
 DHR - Department of Historical Resources  
 FDOT - Florida Department of Transportation

FFWCC - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
 FNAI - Florida Natural Areas Inventory  
 SWFRPC - Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council  
 SWFWMD - Southwest Florida Water Management District  
 TBRPC - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
 USGS - United State Geological Services