

City of Tampa Fertilizer Ordinance

Summary of Regulations

The City of Tampa fertilizer ordinance, which went into effect on June 1, 2012, is a measure to improve water quality in our lakes, streams, rivers, and bays. The Ordinance was enacted to reduce the potential of nitrogen and phosphorous being carried into our waters with stormwater runoff.



Fertilizer Application

- Fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous cannot be applied to turf during the restricted season from June 1 through September 30.
- Granular fertilizer containing nitrogen, must contain no less than 50% slow release nitrogen.
- Fertilizer containing phosphorous cannot be applied to turf or plants unless a soil analysis test indicates phosphorous deficiency.

Commercial Applicators

- Commercial applicators and their supervisors, as well as government and institutional landscape applicators must abide by and successfully complete an approved Green Industries Best Management Practice training program.
- A vehicle decal, issued by the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County, must be affixed on the exterior of all vehicles and/or trailers used by a company in connection with landscape maintenance involving regulated fertilizer application.

Retailers:

- Cannot sell granular fertilizers containing nitrogen that is less than 50% slow release from October 1 through May 31.
- Cannot sell lawn and landscape fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous during the restricted season from June 1 through September 30.
- Must post notice that the use of lawn and landscape fertilizer in the City of Tampa is restricted by ordinance.

The City's fertilizer ordinance is supplemental to the rules of the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County. Both City and EPC laws must be followed within the City of Tampa's boundaries.

The additional County regulations pertain to the application of fertilizer, grass clippings, fertilizer-free zones, and more. For more information visit **www.epchc.org**.

If you hire a landscape professional, please be aware that these individuals must be trained and certified in proper best management practices for the application of fertilizer. Look for the required decal on company vehicles to verify that they have been certified.

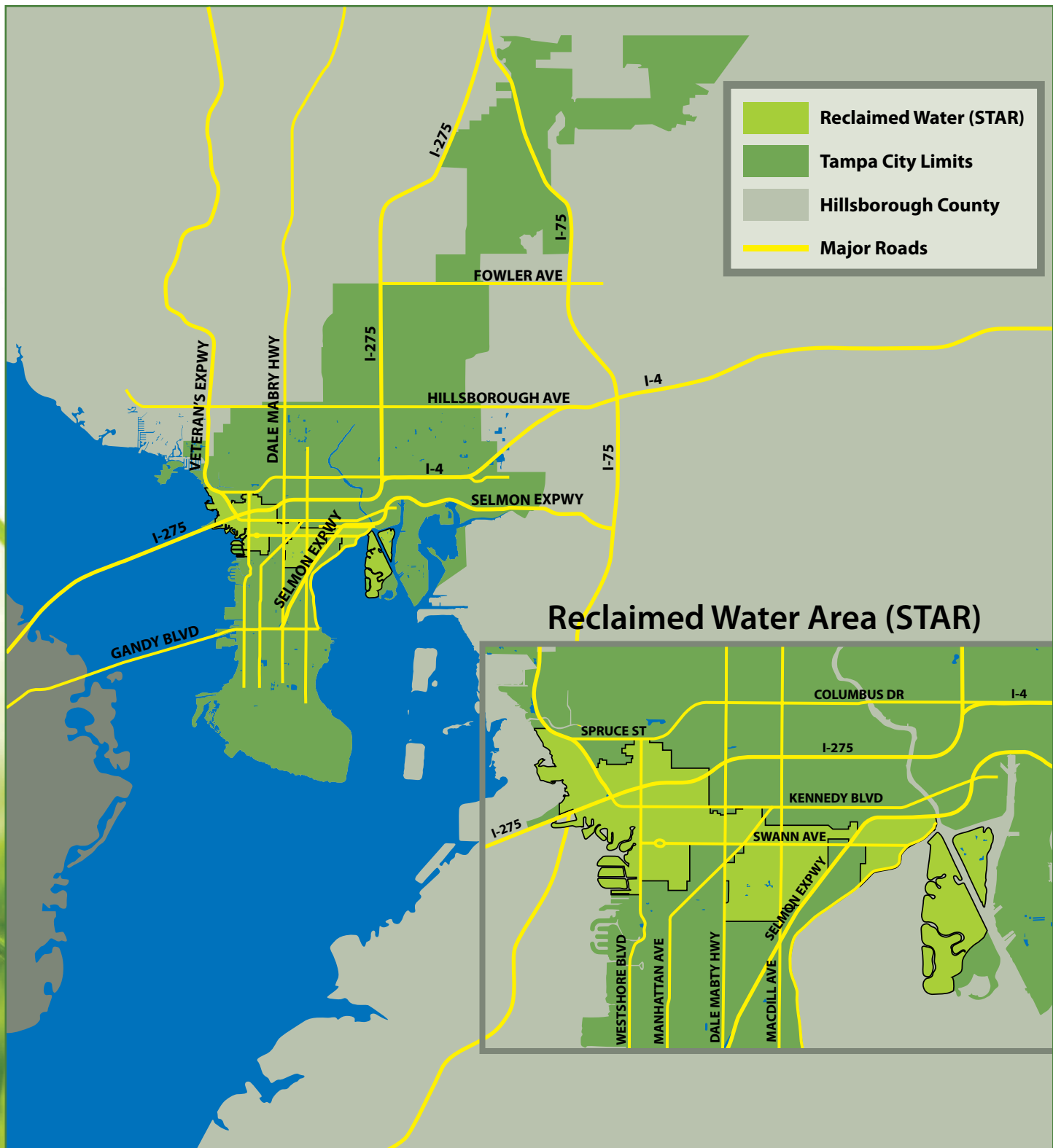
For more information,
visit the City of Tampa's website at:
www.tampagov.net/stormwater



**Department of
Public Works**

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Tampa City Limits & Reclaimed Water Area



The South Tampa Area Reclaimed (STAR) system provides users the opportunity to receive reclaimed irrigation water within this area. Reclaimed water contains nutrients that are used by plants; therefore, landscapes using reclaimed water may not need as much fertilizer to maintain plant health.

For more information and a detailed street map visit: www.tampagov.net/stormwater