

# GET THE FACTS



## STEWARDSHIP

The Harpeth River is a precious community resource and we are ever-mindful of the importance of stewardship of this vital community asset. That's just one of the reasons we take pride in the fact that our Water Reclamation Facility consistently outperforms the regulatory limits set on it by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

The state's permit establishes constituent levels for water discharged from the Water Reclamation Facility that – even if the levels were reached – would be protective of the Harpeth River.

But that's just one of the many ways the City of Franklin shows its commitment to stewardship of the river and other natural resources:

### FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND STATE PLAN

From 1997 through 2008, the population of the City of Franklin nearly doubled. With continued growth comes increasing pressure on all areas of City services and infrastructure, including roads and streets, water supply and treatment, wastewater treatment and disposal, and other services. These ever-increasing demands led City administration and staff in 2010 to reevaluate their water resources from a long-term, holistic perspective that encompasses water supply and treatment, stormwater management, wastewater collection and treatment, and reclaimed water distribution. The resulting Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) was developed through a facilitated process that engaged stakeholders – including HRWA and state regulators (TDEC) – from the inception of the project and throughout the planning process. This plan is the first of its kind in the state of Tennessee and helps govern planning and decision-making to help ensure the delivery of needed community services balanced with protection of our natural resources. Please take a look at the Integrated Water Resource Plan and the fact-check page at [www.franklintn.gov/iwrp](http://www.franklintn.gov/iwrp).


### IWRP GUIDES PLANS FOR UPGRADES & IMPROVEMENTS

The IWRP closely evaluated water withdrawal impacts to the Harpeth River through extensive modeling. So it was only after much research and many public discussions the Board of Mayor and Aldermen made the decision to upgrade the City of Franklin's Water Treatment Plant with a slight increase in capacity from 2.1 million gallons per day to 2.6 million gallons per day. ***These upgrades will not impact the withdrawal framework the city has been working under for the past six years.*** The City benefits from a diversified water source; this is extremely meaningful in the event of crisis, such as the 2010 flood and the recent water main break in Nashville. The City can produce water at a lower cost than it can purchase water, and those savings are passed to ratepayers who have experienced lower rate increases compared to other utilities.

Likewise, planned improvements to the City's Water Reclamation Facility are being guided by the IWRP. These upgrades will allow us to continue to outperform current water quality standards – as well as the anticipated more stringent water quality standards of the future – as we serve our growing community.

### LOWHEAD DAM REMOVAL

The City of Franklin was instrumental in the 2012 removal of the lowhead dam on the Harpeth River that made it one of the few rivers in Tennessee that is entirely free flowing. The City led the project and partnered with local watershed groups, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Department of Interior named this project as a model of America's Great Outdoors River Initiative to conserve and restore key rivers across the nation, expand outdoor recreational opportunities, and support jobs in local communities.



“The City of Franklin is honored and excited to be part of such an important and high profile project. Not only will the removal of the dam improve the quality of the water and fish habitat, but will also improve public access and enhance recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors. And it’s important to note, the new structure, made of natural materials, will continue to allow the City to continue to draw water into our reservoir to serve our water utility customers,” said Franklin City Administrator Eric Stuckey in a 2012 press release.

This is just one example of our willingness to work with government agencies and environmental organizations that include the HRWA to improve our stewardship of the river.

### **OTHER EXAMPLES**

Other examples of our stewardship of the river and its resources have included:

- Restoration of a stream through Eastern Flank Battlefield to its original, historic alignment
- Repair of a 116 million gallon raw water reservoir
- Extension of sanitary sewers to more than 600 homes with aging and failing septic systems, which represent a significant threat to public health and the environment
- Discovering and reporting the illicit discharges into the river by Egyptian Lacquer

### **QUALITY OF LIFE FOCUS**

Quality of life is a large part of the City of Franklin’s 30-year strategic plan, along with a safe, clean and livable city; sustainable growth and economic prosperity; and effective and fiscally sound government. Each goal relates to the others, and the Harpeth River is included in many ways for our future use. You can see the Franklin Forward Strategic Plan at [www.franklintn.gov/franklinforward](http://www.franklintn.gov/franklinforward). Franklin recognizes the importance of the Harpeth River and will continue to be a proactive steward of this resource. It is a duty we take very seriously.