

Sabrina Serretti

Dr. Emily Brooks

Media Writing

March 19 2024

River O'Green

Many people would find this type of event entertaining and a fun time. Tampa, Florida dyes the Hillsborough river emerald green yearly to mark the start of the River O'Green fest. River O'Green has been a yearly occurrence since the beginning of 2012 with Bob Buckhorn as mayor, while the Rough Riders St. Patty's Day parade has been a mainstay since 1995, nearly 30 years. It is a free event for people to go to for St. Patrick's Day to celebrate Saturday with an annual Irish-American tradition. This event begins at 11am and lasts until 6pm with the parade starting at 5pm. The parade starts off at Joe Courthouse Square and heads west on Madison street, where it ends up ending at Florida Avenue. All people, no matter the age, have something fun to do at this event. There are things to do for people of all ages. You'll find food vendors, a variety of beers, a pet costume contest, hurling demonstrations, cabbage tossing and other games, and free boat rides on the river. People gather whether it's on the riverwalk where there are many fun activities and food to try and other college kids or families meet up in the river on boats. To dye the river, a non-toxic, biodegradable dye that meets all EPA standards and is certified for use in and around drinking water is poured into the river. Since the green coloring is safe for the environment, humans and animals in the river, it lasts about 4 hours before it gets flushed out. According to the waste production manager for the city of Tampa, John Ring, he states that, "We start off with about 250 pounds of dye powder, and we blend that down into 280 gallons of water," and that is how they create the green coloring. Rachel Radawec, with Tampa downtown

partnership also assures people about the emerald green dye, as she says, “It's completely safe for the environment, it's biodegradable,”. This event makes people feel welcomed and included.

Everyone is out and about doing their own thing and just happily enjoying the day, therefore filling the energy with happy vibes all around. In the picture provided, you can see how everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather and all having an enjoyable moment. I asked this girl named Angelina about how she felt being at an event like this and being able to spend the day here and she said, “Today is always such a great time! I look forward to St. Patty’s day every year because

this is the best city to celebrate it with friends and family."

Serretti 4



St. Patty's fun afloat! Laughter, green, and good times on the waves."