

# Parks & Recreation

Our Parks and Recreation Department has traditionally been one of our largest departments as it takes a number of people to provide quality services and programs to our residents. In order to reduce the size of city government, we have made strategic cuts, while reorganizing the department, to ensure that we continue to provide the high-level of quality programming our citizens have come to expect.

A bond for \$17 million utilizing Community Investment Tax (CIT) dollars was issued in December 2006 for ten projects. During fiscal year 2008, the New Tampa Community Center, Macfarlane Park-Freedom Playground, Wellswood ball field lighting, and the renovation of Cyrus Greene Pool were completed. Progress will continue on the remaining projects including the Spring Hill Community Center, Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park/Heroes Plaza, Seminole Garden Center, and Ballast Point Pier and boat ramp.

## **New Tampa Park**

The New Tampa Community Center opened in New Tampa Park following the completion of construction in February 2008. Now Tampa's largest recreation center, the 19,568 square-foot facility boasts a gymnastics area that includes a tumbling pit and full apparatus equipment. Construction of a skate park

adjacent to the community center will soon begin, providing additional amenities for New Tampa's residents.



## **Ballast Point Pier**

Funded at \$1.2 million, work will soon begin on the renovation of south Tampa's Ballast Point Pier.

## **Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park/Heroes Plaza**

Located adjacent to the soon to be completed Tampa Bay History Center, \$2.5 million in CIT bond funds and \$1 million in county funding are being used to construct an undeveloped portion of Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park. Construction began this month and improvements include the construction of the Riverwalk segment along the park's edge and development of Heroes Plaza, a major element designed to honor those who have lost their lives in war.