

East Tampa Progress Report

Transforming East Tampa into a community of vibrant residential, business, social and cultural life.

August 2008

East Tampa Development Division
Department of Economic and
Urban Development

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East Tampa is a culturally rich and historically diverse area with approximately 30,000 residents. Over the past several decades portions of the area have shown signs of age and disrepair. In 2004, the City of Tampa took an important step toward improving the neighborhood by designating it a Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) eligible for Tax Increment Financing (TIF). To date, over \$15 million has been generated providing the necessary financial resources to upgrade aging infrastructure, make corridor beautifications, and provide investment incentives that will eventually make East Tampa an even better place to live and do business.

2008

Fair Oaks Community Lake

Part of a stormwater retention pond beautification pilot program, the Fair Oaks Community Lake project was completed. Located at 34th and E. Ellicott Streets, the pond was transformed into a community lake featuring park-like qualities. A perfect extension of the adjacent Fair Oaks Park and Community Center, the lake area now features paved walking paths with seating areas, a covered picnic pavilion site and lush, colorful landscaping. Funding for the \$1 million project was provided by TIF and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) revenues.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Retention Pond Beautification

The retention pond located on N. 17th Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard will be the second site to be converted into a community lake. This project is scheduled to begin winter 2008. The planned features include a covered area, pier, boardwalk and walking

path. The estimated cost of this project is \$1.1 million to be funded by TIF dollars.



Completion of Cyrus Greene Pool

Cyrus Greene Pool was officially reopened. The \$1.5 million renovation of the 25-yard pool provided for handicap accessibility as well as new features including six swim lanes, a splash pad with three water drops, floor sprays, two rain arches and a tube slide.



City of Tampa Housing Rehabilitation Program

The Housing and Rehabilitation Program offers assistance to homeowners seeking home

rehabilitation or code violation repairs. Since 2005, this program has provided \$1.2 million in TIF funding for the renovation of 55 homes.

Creating Economic Development Opportunities

22nd Street is a vital corridor for the East Tampa community. Investment in this area is critical to redevelopment. In 2008, nine parcels along the corridor were purchased using \$490,000 in TIF revenue. These parcels provide for greater economic redevelopment opportunities.

Highland Pines

In an effort to reduce speeding on E. 21st Avenue, between Dodge Street and Cord Street, traffic-calming measures including radar speed display, crosswalks, and additional signage were installed in the area. A lighted fountain was added to the retention pond behind the Highland Pines Park Activity Center. Funding for these projects totaled \$38,000 in TIF revenue.



Grant Park Drainage Improvements

The City purchased a half-acre of land located at the corner of North 52nd Street and East 32nd Avenue to create a green space for the alleviation of flooding. This project helps eliminate structural flooding and significantly reduces street and yard flooding in the area. Improvements include the installation of bollards surrounding the property and an inlet and pipe system to collect runoff from the roadway on 32nd Avenue. Total cost for the project was approximately \$400,000.

City of Tampa Receives Diversity & Inclusion Award

The City of Tampa Economic & Urban Development Department was awarded the 2008 Diversity & Inclusion Special Recognition Award. *Tampa Bay Business Journal* specifically recognized the East Tampa Development office for bringing new life and working to draw businesses to the area by offering incentives and assistance with zoning hurdles. The Diversity & Inclusion Award was created in 2008 to recognize companies and individuals who have been instrumental in contributing to the success of minority-owned businesses in the Tampa Bay area.

2007

Park Terrace Apartments

The City provided \$200,000 of State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funds to bring 215 affordable housing rental units to the North 43rd Street area.

Brandywine Apartments

This development features 144 units of affordable housing with a community center, pool and playground.

Tampa Police Department District III Police Station

The TPD III facility was located in East Tampa to promote the safety of the residents in the area. The building includes the East Tampa Development Office and a public art plaza. The \$9.2 million project includes \$1.5 million of TIF funding.

Fast Lane Clothing, Inc.

The screen print apparel manufacturer, winner of the 2008 Award of Merit for Urban Infill, brought their business and approximately ten new jobs to East Tampa with the assistance of \$211,471 CDBG funds.

Lake Avenue Enhancements

The City enhanced Lake Avenue from North 22nd Street to North 29th Street creating an attractive roadway with landscaping, bicycle lanes and improved bus shelters. Funding for the \$2.73 million project was provided by Gas Tax and East Tampa TIF revenues.



City Receives \$400,000 Grant

The City of Tampa received a \$400,000 EPA Grant. The Grant funds Phase I and II environmental assessments to assist in the redevelopment of targeted land.

Gene's Bar

The City purchased Gene's Bar and cleared the land to create

an opportunity for commercial development at a TIF investment of \$240,000.

Grant Park Resurfacing

Over 80 street blocks were repaired and resurfaced. The Gas Tax funded \$450,000 and TIF funded the remaining \$300,000.

East Tampa Environmental Detectives

The East Tampa CRA funds \$250,000 for an Environmental Detective Program, first established in 2007, to proactively pursue illegal dumping and other environmental criminal activities.

2006

Meridian Pointe Apartments

The Meridian Pointe Apartment community opened with 360 affordable rental housing units and land to support an additional 20,000 square feet of commercial space. The City provided \$1 million of federal HOME program funds to the development.

Williams Park and Recreation Center

Two hundred corporate and community volunteers participated in the annual Day of Caring at Williams Park. The volunteers painted; landscaped; cleaned and cleared debris; and reconditioned the playground areas.

V.M. Ybor Neighborhood Road Resurfacing

The City invested approximately \$531,000 of CDBG funds into resurfacing several roads within the V.M. Ybor neighborhood.

Cyrus Green Park Community Center and Highland Pines Park Activity Center

The City opened the new \$2 million Cyrus Green Park Community Center. The 10,000 square-foot facility, funded through a bond issue, provides programs and activities for both children and adults.

The new 3,000 square-foot Highland Pines Park Activity Center was built with \$600,000 of TIF funding. The Center includes a multi-purpose room and a computer room.

HOPE VI Belmont Heights Estates

The Tampa Housing Authority and Michaels Development moved forward on the construction of 36 single family detached homes. The City contributed \$1.5 million of CDBG funds for infrastructure improvements.

Award of Merit

East Tampa CRA received the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Agency Award of Merit for the Public Participation Program in 2006.

East Tampa Summer Youth Program

This program, initiated in 2006, employs local youth between the ages of 16 and 18. The work includes clearing illegal dumping and litter. The program is funded through TIF revenue.



2005

Completion of Cuscaden Pool Renovation

The Historic Cuscaden Park Swimming Pool, originally built in 1937, was renovated with a grant and an additional \$1.8 million in CIT funds.

Historic George Washington Junior High School Memorial Bus Shelter

The Historic George Washington Junior High School Memorial Bus Shelter was established in 2005 by the Department of Transportation.

Centro Place Apartments

This 150-unit senior adult apartment complex was built with the City's assistance of \$900,000 of SHIP funds and \$600,000 of federal HOME dollars.

East Tampa Accepts Planning Commission Award

The East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership was honored with the Planning Commission's Community Design Award in recognition of outstanding public participation in the development of the East Tampa Community Redevelopment Plan.

2004

The Environmental Protection Agency Awards Grant to the City of Tampa

The EPA awarded \$200,000 to conduct over 40 Phase I and II environmental assessments for contamination in the East Tampa area.

2003

Belmont Heights Little League Field

The City of Tampa partnered with the Tampa Bay Rays and others to improve the historic fields and concession area.



End Gate Trailer Park

The City took action to relocate residents living in the trailer park that was plagued with sub-standard living conditions. The land was then purchased and cleared by the Hillsborough County School District.

The Historic Village

Twenty-seven historic homes were relocated to this designated historic area for the I-4 expansion. The City assisted with in-kind contributions associated with land acquisition and infrastructure improvements.



For more information on the East Tampa redevelopment initiative, please contact: East Tampa Development at (813)242-3807 www.tampagov.net