

# Parks & Recreation

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Providing citizens with quality services means we must provide quality parks and recreation programs. Tampa's Parks and Recreation Department works hard to ensure our citizens have a wide variety of programming to choose from while maintaining the appearance of the parks and recreation centers throughout the city. Our parks provide important environmental benefits and we will continue to restore and protect parks and open spaces so that these natural areas are resources for both people and wildlife.

Despite cuts in the Parks and Recreation budget, we are continuing to make progress in many areas. The fiscal year 2008 budget includes \$1 million for general improvements to our parks and recreation system including painting, installation and upgrades to irrigation, refinishing of gymnasium floors, court resurfacing, and improvements to trails and sidewalks. Using revenue from the Community Investment Tax Bond Fund we will

continue to invest in major projects and improvements. The New Tampa Recreation Center is scheduled to be completed in early 2008 and Freedom Playground, Tampa's first playground for disabled children, will open by the end of 2007.



Reconstruction of Cyrus Greene Pool, a \$1.5 million project, and the New Tampa Fields and Park improvement project, a \$3 million investment, will be underway this fall. Additionally, providing state-of-the-art, energy-efficient sports lighting at the Wellswood Playground is set to begin construction this fall. Design work on the Ballast Point Park pier and boat ramp improvements project will soon be completed with construction expected in spring 2008. Design of the Springhill Park Community Center in Sulphur Springs and design work for the renovations to Seminole Garden Center will begin later this year. The continued investment in many of these multi-year projects will enhance the overall livability of our community.

