

CITY OF TAMPA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2004-2005  
December 28, 2004

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**Block Club:** Area I

**Neighborhoods:** Florence Villa, Beasley, Grant Park, Oak Park, Northview Hills, Galloway Heights, Northeast Community, and Highland Pines.

**Boundaries:** Hillsborough River (north); Tampa By-Pass Canal (south); Tampa By-Pass Canal (east); 40th Street (west).

**Contact Person:** Ms. Rosalie Jones, Chairperson  
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**Submitted by:** Ms. Betty Bell  
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**Need and Recommendation 6. Improvements for Highland Pines Playground, Located at 4505 E. 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue.**

- a. Recreation Center. This has been a repeat request for approximately 21 years.
- b. Police protection to address the drug activity in the area.
- c. Resurface parking area.
- d. Picnic shelter. Previously requested three shelters, received two.
- e. Additional picnic tables and grills.
- f. Replace sand in play area.
- g. Additional equipment for children in play area.
- h. Upgrade the swing set (infant, small children compatible).
- i. Clean the pond, to include overgrowth of foliage around the pond.
- j. Fence entire pond (Small children are there unsupervised on the weekend).
- k. Install mile markers along walking/jogging path.
- l. Keep trees and grass maintained in a timely manner at the park.

**Response to a. and c.:** From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. Funding for the construction of the Playground Activity Center was included in the Parks and Recreation FY04 Community Investment Tax Budget (RC50352CC) for \$575,000. The project

is in the design stage, and we recently meet with the community last week to review the design. The parking lot improvement was included in the construction of the Playground Activity Center.

**Update to a. and c.:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The design stage for the project is being completed. After the project is designed it will be available for bid, awarded and construction will begin. Anticipated completion of this project is February 2005.

**Response to b.:** From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. Corporal Stephen Smith spoke with Mrs. Bell on March 30, 2004 in reference to her concern in Highland Pines Park. She requested that uniformed officers attempt to write their reports in the park when practical, due to drug activity taking place at various times. Corporal Smith assured Mrs. Bell that both A and B Cycle Quad squads are aware of her concern and will be conducting ongoing investigations in the area to address the problem. B Cycle Quad will conduct an operation within the next couple of days.

**Update to b.:** From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. QUAD squads patrol this area on a nightly basis and will continue to monitor the activity. The following statistics are a result of the investigations made by the squads:

- 15 felony arrests
- 5 misdemeanor arrests
- 11.6 grams of cocaine seized
- 40.3 grams of marijuana seized
- 8.5 grams of ecstasy seized

**Response to d., g., and h.:** From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of developing a Recovery Action Plan (RAP) for the Parks and Recreation Facilities. The RAP looks at the elements within a park and determines if amenities are warranted. If the element is warranted, it will be placed as a priority in the next year's budget request. The RAP is scheduled to be completed by June 2004.

**Update to d., g., and h.:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Department staff has reviewed the park and determined that the third shelter and additional play equipment is not needed at the park.

**Response to e. and f.:** From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. Picnic tables and grills will be installed within this budget year. The sand will be replaced within this budget year.

**Update to e. and f.:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Picnic tables and grills have been ordered and the sand has been replaced in the play area.

**Response to i.:** From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The department will request funding in the FY05 Budget to clean various ponds throughout the city.

**Update to i.:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Funding was not approved in FY05 Budget, but the department will continue to work with Stormwater to clean the pond.

**Response to j.:** From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. Ponds are enhancements to Parks and Recreation facilities and most do not require fencing. The department will investigate to determine if this pond requires fencing.

**Update to j.:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department has determined that the pond is a usable part of the park area and will not be fenced.

**Response to k.:** From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The department is working with the Boy Scouts to put mile markers on the path as an Eagle Project. If we are unable to get this done as an Eagle Project the department will paint the markers.

**Update to k.:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department has painted markers along the trail.

**Response to l.:** From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The department has specific performance guidelines on the level of service for all of its parks and playgrounds. The department will review and monitor performance to ensure Highland Pines is receiving appropriate maintenance service.

**Update to l.:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department has reviewed and will continue to review and monitor the performance at Highland Pines to ensure that the park is receiving appropriate maintenance.

**Need and Recommendation 9. Install Speed Calming Devices on E. 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, near Highland Pines Playground.**

**Response:** From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Because the last speed study on 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue had erroneous or corrupt data, a new study has been requested on your behalf and the estimated time of completion is approximately 12 weeks. After the speed study is completed, our findings will be reviewed and shared with you. If you have not received an update on the speed study after this 12-week period, please contact the Traffic Analysis Section at 274-8333. Before consideration is given to the installation of speed tables or any other traffic calming measures, a documented speeding problem must exist. This documentation takes place once the Transportation Division staff conducts a speed study and substantiates the existence of a speeding problem. In rare circumstances, such as an intersection with a documented history of pedestrian accidents, other site-specific traffic calming measures may be implemented.

Speed studies determine the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is the speed at, or below which 85% of the observed free-flowing vehicles travel. The Transportation Division, in

cooperation with the Tampa Police Department, considers speeding excessive at a point in which 85% of the motorists are traveling 10 mph or more above the designated speed limit.

The City of Tampa has documented over 220 locations Citywide with speeding problems. Of the 220 locations, 159 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential or Neighborhood Collector roadways.

As each new speeding location is documented, they are added to the Speeding Location List (SLL). This list contains all of the locations in the City of Tampa that have documented speeding problems. The SLL is a prioritization tool and a prerequisite prior to considering a location for traffic calming measures. The SLL ranks speeding locations by the greatest differential between the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed and the designated speed limit. This sorting ranks the worst speeding locations first. Additionally, rankings will change when each new speeding location is documented.

**Update:** From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. A 24-hour machine count was performed March 30, 2004 on W. 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue between 40<sup>th</sup> and Melburne for east/west traffic. The resulting 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 41-mph in a 30-mph speed zone with a daily vehicular volume of 3,983. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is the speed at, or below which 85 percent of the observed free-flowing vehicles travel. The Transportation Division, in cooperation with the Tampa Police Department, considers speeding excessive at a point in which 85% of the motorists are traveling 10-mph or more above the designated speed limit.

Based on the results of this study, W. 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue between 40<sup>th</sup> and Melburne does appear to be experiencing a speeding problem. This location has been placed on the Speeding Location List (SLL). We are currently working to resolve the documented speeding problems in the order of severity (worse case first). When we reach W. 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue on the SLL, we will work with the affected property owners and their neighbors to find the best solution to address the speeding problem.

The City of Tampa has documented over 230 locations Citywide with speeding problems. Of the 230 locations, 160 of them qualify for traffic calming measures because they are classified as local residential or Neighborhood Collector roadways.

**Need and Recommendation 12. Improvements to Williams Park, located at 4362 E. Osborne Avenue.**

- a. **Need grills**
- b. **Expansion of Williams Park activity center. Additional space is needed for various programs. With the existing equipment in the facility, space is limited.**
- c. **Install water fountains.**
- d. **Install a wrought iron gate on the back parking lot, located on N. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street.**
- e. **Install rubberized surface under play equipment.**

**Response to a., b., c., d. and e.:** From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. Additional grills will be installed within this budget year. The department will request funds in the FY05 Budget for the expansion of the playground activity center. A water fountain will be installed within this budget year. The department will request in our FY05 budget funding to install a large metal gate. Rubberized surface is scheduled to be installed under the large play unit in FY04.

**Update to a., b., c., d. and e.:** From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Grills and drinking fountain have been ordered, rubberized surface is scheduled to be installed in FY05, and the fence has been installed on the back part of the parking lot. Funding was not approved for the playground activity center.

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