

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

Block Club: Area VII

Neighborhoods: Lowry Park, North Lowry Park, Sulphur Springs, Forrest Hills, Blue Sink/Curiosity Creek, North Tampa Community, University Square, Hillsborough Heights, Terrace Park, and Temple Crest.

New Tampa-Brookfield, Deer Creek, Cypress Green, Espirit, Fox Chase, Heather Downs, Hampshire, Hampton on the Green, Heritage Oaks, Hunter's Green, Lakeside, Laurel Ridge, Lockwood Links, Magnolia Chase, Nathan's Court, Oakcrest, Osprey Point, Pinnacle, Quail Creek, Richmond Place, Stonebridge, Tampa Palms, Waterforde, Wynstone.

Boundaries: Fowler Avenue (north); Sligh Avenue (south); city limits (east); City limits/Armenia Avenue (west) and New Tampa Annexation.

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Need and Recommendation 3. Increased NEAT Clean-Ups.

Boundaries: E. Busch Boulevard (N), Hillsborough River (S), N. 22nd Street (E), and Nebraska/Florida (W).

We request two additional NEAT Clean-ups to be scheduled each year, one in March and one in November. The "Claw" truck could ride through our neighborhood and pick up large items at the curbside.

There are a high number of low-income families who do not have the means to take items to McKay, nor can they afford to pay to have the items picked up. This community also has a large turnover of residents moving in and out of duplexes. Subsequently, after they move, whatever they leave behind ends up on the street. With the large amount of vacant lots, this tends to lead to illegal dumping, which is an eyesore to our neighborhood.

Response: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. The department will request additional NEAT staffing in the FY05 operating budget, which could assist in this request. Without additional funding the NEAT section cannot specifically say it can provide two additional clean-ups in March and November. All available weeks without holidays are scheduled. NEAT will work with other departments and see if something can be worked out. These sorts of cleanups have to be done on overtime and will affect the department's overtime and disposal budgets.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The N.E.A.T. Team has been transferred to Code Enforcement.

Update: From Bill Doherty, Deputy Director, Department of Code Enforcement, 274-5562. The Code Enforcement Department has implemented a systematic clean-up approach for the NEAT staff to work in conjunction and team with Code Enforcement staff. Code Enforcement supervisors will coordinate with NEAT supervisors to ensure continuous code action and clean-ups are performed as needed. However, additional solid waste pick-ups due to illegal dumping on vacant lots or city right-of-ways resulting in request for assistance in taking these items to the McKay disposal facility will have to be coordinated through the Solid Waste Department.

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Need and Recommendation 7. Sidewalks Requested.

Sidewalks are requested to ensure the safety of our residents and school children. The locations are as follows:

- a. N. Jones Avenue – between E. Waters Avenue and E. Skagway Avenue.**
- b. W. Wood Street – between N. Boulevard to N. Florida Avenue.*

Response to a.: From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3400. N. Jones Avenue between E. Waters and E. Skagway – Construction of sidewalk at this location is not recommended due to drainage problems that would be encountered. The drainage work would severely elevate the cost.

Update to a.: From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3400. Jones has been added to our updated consideration for future construction list.

Response to b.: From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3400. W. Wood Street from N. Boulevard to Florida – This appears to be a very reasonable location for new sidewalk, however, the possibility of HARTline funding should be explored.

Update to b.: From Ernie Seal, Construction Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 635-3400. Wood Street from Boulevard to Florida was added to our updated consideration for future construction list and has been tentatively selected for construction under the 2005 contract.

Need and Recommendation 8. Purchase a Vacant Lot for a Community Playground. Suggested Lot Locations Are:

- a. Vacant lot at the 8400 Block of W. Wood Street and N. Tampa Street (for teens – especially basketball).
- b. HARTline bus lot (for bikes and skateboards)
- c. Verizon property (for young/elementary/pre-k).

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the population are under 18 years of age. There is no park or public land in the entire area where teens and children can play. Instead, they end up playing in the streets, putting their lives in major danger.

Response to a.: From Wayne Papy, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7726. Parks and Recreation will contact Real Estate about these lots. Real Estate is the responsible department on the acquisition of real estate. If the RAP report supports the acquisition, the department will begin requesting funding to purchase the property.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department has forwarded this request to Real Estate. If the property can be purchased by Real Estate if not already City owned, Parks and Recreation will request funding to develop the project. Parks and Recreation will explore the possibility of collaborating with Hartline and Verizon in the potential use of their property for this purpose. We are in the process in coordinating a meeting with Hartline and Verizon to discuss the use of the above vacant lot.

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