

**CITY OF TAMPA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2005-2006
December 15, 2005**

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).

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Need and Recommendation 1. Freezer Installation.

We are requesting a freezer at Grant Park Recreation Center/Playground, located at 3724 54th Street. There is no freezer to store unused food after social events.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Grant Park Center has a refrigerator and freezer. However, we will determine with facility maintenance if a freezer can be added to the kitchen.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. We will purchase a small freezer for the center within the next 2 months.

Need and Recommendation 3. Road Signs, Lower Speed Limit and Traffic Calming Devices.

- a. Need road signs on 53rd Street North and 54th Street North, 32nd Avenue East, and 30th Avenue East.
- b. Reduce speed limit on streets around Grant Park to 25 miles per hour.
- c. *Install traffic calming devices on streets surrounding the Grant Park area.*

The speed limit is currently 30 miles per hour, and needs to be reduced, since there are small children crossing the streets and people walking.

Response to a., b.: From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333.

a.) Traffic Analysis contacted Ralph Johnson via phone for clarification on the type of road signs requested and their placement. Mr. Johnson requested a faxed copy of Block Club Area I, Need and Recommendation 3 in order to reply to our request. Mr. Johnson will re-contact us with the information requested.

Update to a.: From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Traffic Analysis contacted Ralph Johnson via phone for clarification on the type road signs requested and their placement. Mr. Johnson requested a faxed copy of Block Club Area I Need and Recommendation 3 in order to reply to our request. Mr. Johnson has not re-contacted us with the information requested.

b.) The Transportation Division is in the eighth year of a ten year citywide Speed Limit Reduction Program. The premise of the program is to reduce the speed limit on all local streets and qualifying neighborhood collector streets in the City of Tampa by installing 25 mph speed limit signs where these streets intersection arterial and collector roads. The Grant Park Neighborhood was completed this year.

Update to b.: From William Porth, Transportation Technician, Department of Public Works, Transportation Division, 274-8333. Public Works staff drove each street in Grant Park from 50th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to confirm that the 25 mph speed limits signs were installed.

Need and Recommendation 4. Golf and Tennis Instructor.

The Grant Park Center/Playground needs a full-time golf and tennis instructor.

There are numerous requests made for the above-mentioned park. The planned activities do not include golf/tennis because there are no instructors. The Center does not have funds to pay full-time instructors.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department will try to make a tennis instructor available for instructions on a scheduled basis.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Department has hired a new supervisor for the tennis program and is developing an Inter-City tennis program.

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Need and Recommendation 7. Improvements for Williams Park Center/Playground.

- a. Drainage system for Williams Park Playground/northwest quadrant.*
- b. Expand Williams Park activity center by adding an office and an exercise room.*
- c. Purchase computers, and exercise equipment for Williams Park activity center.**
- d. Install rubberized surface under playground equipment.*

- e. *Install wrought iron fencing and gate on back parking lot of playground.*
- f. **Resurface Chelsea Avenue.**
- g. *Install traffic calming devices from 40th to 50th Streets, on Chelsea.*
- h. **Repaint center stripes on Osborne from 40th Street to Ashland Drive that were not replaced when streets were resurfaced.**
- i. *Complete sidewalk repairs on Ashland Drive, John Bell Drive, Curtis and portions of Atwater.*

The playground's back parking lot is on 43rd Street. Chelsea Avenue runs East and West. Williams Park activity center is located at 4362 E. Osborne Avenue.

Proper leveling to the track is needed because when it rains, the track is under water for days. Resurfacing is needed to help water run-off into the retention pond.

Williams Park Activity Center needs to be expanded to accommodate other activities. Accordion dividers are currently being used to separate spaces for accommodating some activities.

There are three (3) schools in close proximity of the center. Computers are needed for after-school training and tutoring program. When exercise classes are in session, children do not have enough space for their inside activities, nor can game tables be used during this time.

Response to c.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Computers will be installed at Williams Park. Due to space limitations exercise equipment will be very difficult to add.

Update to c.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Department will purchase a few computers this fiscal year for the center.

Response to f.: From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Department of Public Works, Operations Division, 622-1955. Chelsea from N. 40th Street to N. 50th Street is the responsibility of Hillsborough County. Please call them directly for resurfacing requests at 744-5518 ext. 607.

Response to h.: From Scott Shaw, Traffic Operations Chief, Department of Public Works, Operations Division, 622-1955. The painted existing lines were only supposed to be temporary after the completion of resurfacing, and are wearing away. Therefore, a work order was issued immediately to apply permanent Thermoplastic lines over the painted ones at the N. 40th Street end of the project and at the railroad crossing; the work was completed on March 30, 2005.

Contact Person: Ms. Betty Bell
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Tampa, FL 33605
Phone: (813) 621-5761

Need and Recommendation 8. Improvements for Highlands Pines Playground, Located at 4505 E. 21st Avenue.

- a. *Recreation Center. This has been a repeat request for approximately 21 years.*
- b. **Police visibility is needed to curtail the drug activity in the area.**
- c. *Playground's parking area needs to be resurfaced.*
- d. *Additional picnic shelter is needed. Previously requested three shelters, received only two.*
- e. **Additional picnic tables and grills are needed.**
- f. *Replace sand in play area.*

- g. *Additional equipment for children in play area is needed.*
- h. *Upgrade the swing set (infant, small children compatible).*
- i. Clean the pond, to eliminate overgrowth of foliage around the pond.**
- j. *Fencing is needed around entire pond (small, unsupervised children visit the playground on weekends).*
- k. *Install mile markers along walking/jogging path.*
- l. Keep trees and grass maintained in the park.**

Response to b.: From Ann Andrews, Grants Specialist, Police Department, 276-3755. District III zone units have been instructed to stop and make contact with park personnel as well as citizens utilizing the park. Tampa Police Department's QUAD squads check the area daily. The QUAD squads also gives the District's Captains a weekly update on certain locations, one of which is the Highland Pines/Highland Pines Park area. However, very little drug activity has been confirmed.

Update to b.: From Major Bob Guidara, Tampa Police Department, District Two, 931-6599. According to Captain Jill Ramsten, Sector Commander of the area, District Three has made the park a priority area and monitors it daily for illegal activity. They have found fairly light activity and calls for service in comparison to other parks within the district. The District Quad squads have conducted narcotic "buy bust" operations in the park over the past two months. While they have made a few arrests, they have observed very little narcotic activity. The high visibility and investigations will continue in an effort to further reduce criminal activity in the park.

Response to e., i.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730.

e.) Will be installed in Fiscal Year 2006.

Update to e.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Four tables and a grill have been installed.

i.) Will maintain the pond up to wetland jurisdictional lines. The department will request funding in the Fiscal Year 2006 budget to maintain various ponds.

Update to i.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. No funding approved in FY06.

Response to i.: From Alex Awad, Engineer III, Stormwater, 274-7865. The Stormwater Department maintains ponds that serve as retention or detention facilities. These ponds are under a maintenance mowing contract, and are maintained approximately every 30 days. Ponds that are within Parks and Recreation properties are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. Please contact the Parks Department at 274-7726 for a maintenance schedule.

Response to l.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Will provide schedule level of service as defined in the Parks and Recreation work program. The service levels states once every fourteen (14) days from April 15 to October 14 and once every forty-two (42) days from October 15 to April 14.

Update to l.: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Department has implemented the above maintenance service schedule.

Need and Recommendation 9. Clean Culverts (drainage ditches) of Debris.

The entire community is affected by this problem. Rain causes street flooding in our neighborhood; therefore, we request that ditches be cleaned on a more frequent basis.

Response: From Alex Awad, Engineer III, Stormwater, 274-7865. The Stormwater Department contacted Ms. Betty Bell on 03/30/05. A work order has been initiated for pipe and inlet cleaning within the neighborhood. The schedule will be a function of the zone maintenance plan. If you observe a nonfunctioning system, feel free to call the Maintenance and Operations division at 622-1901.

Update: From Alex Awad, Engineer III, Stormwater, 274-7865. A work order has been initiated for pipe and inlet cleaning within the neighborhood, and has been completed.

Need and Recommendation 10. Install and Upgrade Lighting Throughout the Community.

Response: From Calvin Thornton, Engineer, Department of Public Works, Transportation Planning, 274-8333. The phasing of the City of Tampa Street Lighting Initiative installations is based on production estimates provided by Tampa Electric Company (TECO). The current production estimate is 250 installations per month. As of 5/2/05, TECO has installed 4,845 street lights in Phases I, II and III. The city has completed the Street Lighting Initiative for Area I and no new lighting upgrades are proposed for this area. However, the city does have a continuous light program throughout the year to provide fill-in streetlights at specific areas that have been reported to be dark. You should contact Terry Wermuth at 274-8007 immediately with specific locations of darkness or submit request at the Customer Service Center website http://www.tampagov.net/appl_customer_service_center/.

Update: From Jan Washington, Engineer II, Department of Public Works, Transportation Planning, 274-8333. The City of Tampa has made arrangements with Tampa Electric to upgrade existing 50 WHPS and 70 W HPS lighting fixtures to 100 W HPS. The system-wide upgrade has been divided into seven phases which were determined in collaboration with the community and the City of Tampa Police Department. TECO will be upgrading approximately 250 fixtures per month.

To date, the City of Tampa has upgraded approximately 6,971 luminaries and 7,654 lights are waiting for upgrades. Phase IV of the program is expected to begin December 2005. If you have questions or want additional lighting, please contact our Street Light Line at 635-3407 or submit request at the Customer Service Center website http://www.tampagov.net/appl_customer_service_center/.

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