

CITY OF TAMPA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2007-2008
December 12, 2007

Block Club: Area I

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

Boundaries: Sligh Avenue/Hillsborough River (north); Adamo Drive (south); Tampa By-Pass Canal (east); 40th Street (west).

**Chairperson/
Submitted by:** Ms. Rosalie Jones
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Need and Recommendation 1. 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. Your response was that we had an accordion divider. This is incorrect. We do not have a divider. Please reconsider this request.*
- c. **Purchase computers and exercise equipment for Williams Park activity center.**
- d. *Install wrought iron fencing and gate on back parking lot of playground.*
- e. *Resurface Chelsea Avenue.*
- f. *Install traffic calming devices from 40th to 50th Streets, on Chelsea Avenue.*
- g. *Complete sidewalk repairs on Ashland Drive, John Bell Drive, Curtis Street and portions of Atwater Drive.*

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

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

Response to c: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. Computers have been placed at Williams Park. We will consider exercise equipment in the future.

Update to c: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. At the present time the department is not able to place exercise equipment at Williams Playground. Due to the size of the facility the equipment would cause safety issues with other activities at the facility.

Contact Person/ Ms. Betty J. Bell
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Need and Recommendation 6. Alligators (Non-Eligible)

In June 2006, a report was made to the Florida Wildlife Commission, the City of Tampa's Parks and Recreation Department, the Tampa Police Department, and a trapper concerning an alligator in the pond at the park. By the last week of June, there were two (2) alligators in the pond and eight (8) eggs in a nest. The Florida Wildlife Commission informed the neighbors that the alligators posed no threat to the community. In August, this was reported to members of the Mayor's office. We received the same information from the Florida Wildlife Commission that we had gotten before. One alligator is reported to be nine (9) feet long. The alligators are still in the pond. Children are unsupervised on the weekend at the park. This is highly dangerous for our children. When a child is hurt or killed, then the blame will fall on someone (sadly). This is a first request.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. We will continue to work with Florida Wild Life Commission to resolve this issue.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department will keep on monitoring this situation and continue to work with the Florida Wildlife Commission to ensure everyone's safety.

Need and Recommendation 7. Fountain

The pond in the Highland Pines Park is ideal for a fountain. This fountain would be seen off of

21st Avenue and 46th Street. When I-4 is completed, it will be seen from that site also. We think that the scene will be beautiful and enhance the area and the community.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. We will work with the Stormwater Department to determine if a fountain is feasible for the pond.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The fountain is being designed and is funded through East Tampa TIF, and should be ready to price in the next 30-60 days. Installation could happen in 90 days.