

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

Block Club: Area VII

Neighborhoods: Lowry Park, North Lowry Park, Sulphur Springs, Forest 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-Pasco County Line (north); Fletcher Avenue (south); city limits (east); city limits (west).

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Need and Recommendation 2. Elimination of raw sewage odor and caustic chemical odors (or a mix of both) flowing into the surrounding neighborhood

Replace/upgrade the Sulphur Springs Sewer Pump Station is being requested.

Reduce the volume going through the pumping station and corresponding trunk lines to reduce its' impact on the neighborhood.

The existing pump station utilizes 50-year old technology. The pump station, as built and operated, subject residents in the surrounding neighborhood to raw sewage and caustic chemical odors (or a mix of both) on a virtually daily basis (to our knowledge, the same odor problems exist for residents and businesses up-line at the 131st Avenue and Nebraska Avenue Pump Station). The subject pump station's service population has increased many-fold in the years since it was built. The most significant indication of this is the annexation and development of New Tampa. New Tampa began developing in the 1980's and now represents the equivalent of a small town being added to a system that was designed and built for a much smaller service area. The odor problems have increased in intensity and frequency over the years and present an increasing health hazard to the surrounding population. There is justification for the replacement of the Sulphur Springs Pump Station, in order to protect the Hillsborough River. Tampa has experienced a number of breaks in this particular sewer "trunk" line over the past couple of years. The most major break, to our knowledge, occurred in November 2004, just down-line from the subject pump station at the edge of the Hillsborough River. This break resulted in millions of gallons of sewage flowing into the Hillsborough River and flooding several homeowners' properties.

Problematic is Florida's warm climate, which materially contributes to the accelerated decay of sewage and corrosive structural integrity of the trunk lines.

We are cognizant that this project is a major undertaking and will impact CDBG Block Areas 2, 3, and 7.

Response: From Charlie Lynch, Professional Engineer, Wastewater Department, 274-8916. As a result of the force main failure at Sulphur Springs pumping station, the Wastewater Department is currently designing a new force main to replace the existing force main (approximately 21,000-ft). The cost to replace the existing force main will be approximately \$16,000,000 and construction is estimated to begin in the summer of 2008.

Constructing facilities to divert flow away from the Sulphur Springs pumping station, as proposed, would be extremely costly and would not guarantee that the odors in the area would be eliminated. In addition, diverting flow may also cause new odor problems in other areas.

The current odor control system located at the Sulphur Springs pumping station requires that the odor causing gases be pulled to the pumping station to be treated by a chemical air scrubber. This system requires constant maintenance and if it is not operating properly, the system can exhaust sewage odors or chemical odors into the surrounding area.

The Wastewater Department has been pilot testing a new technology for treating sewage odors at a similar pumping station located in south Tampa. This technology utilizes the injection of a chemical upstream of the station so that odor-causing gases do not occur. As a result, the gases do not need to be pulled to the station for treatment and the existing chemical air scrubber can be shutdown.

Instead, air blowers at the station can be used to push air away from the station so that it can disperse throughout the numerous pipelines that connect to the station. This method has been very successful in eliminating odors at the station in south Tampa and the chemical air scrubber has been shut-off.

The Wastewater Department has begun the process of changing to the new system and plans have the system fully operating by this fall.

Update: From Charlie Lynch, Professional engineer, Wastewater Department, 274-8916. The Wastewater Department is in process of completing the design for the replacement of the force main for the Sulphur Springs pumping station. Construction is estimated to begin in the summer of 2008.

The project to change the method of treating odors at the pumping station has not been funded at this time. The existing odor control system will remain in operation.

Need and Recommendation 3. Reduce the volume going through the pumping station and corresponding trunk lines to help reduce its impact on the neighborhood.

This request is to re-route the Sulphur Springs trunk line or add a new trunk line directly from New Tampa.

A potential re-route of the problematic trunk line running from the 131st Avenue and Nebraska Avenue Pump Station (passing through the Sulphur Springs Pump Station) and on to the 25th Street (Ybor City) pump station. This re-route uses the existing trunk line from 131st Avenue south along the railroad easement to 109th Avenue from here (where the old route turns into the neighborhood at 109th Avenue). The new route would continue south along the railroad easement until it crosses over the Hillsborough River. At some point south of the river, the new trunk line would pass through a new lift station, then continue south along the railroad easement to East Osborne Avenue or East Curtis Avenue. At this point, the re-route trunk line could turn west one block to North 26th Street, then turn south approximately four (4) blocks and connect back into the existing trunk line at 26th Street and Chelsea Avenue.

By crossing over the river with the new trunk line, the new pump station to the south has, potentially, less lifting to do, thus expending less energy in pushing the sewage south to the Ybor City Pump Station. This re-route appears a much less circuitous and, seemingly a less costly system to run, in moving sewage through this area of expanding population in North Tampa. It would also have less impact on the neighborhoods and the river than the current route does.

A new trunk line should be installed running directly south from New Tampa along the Bruce B. Downs Boulevard and 30th Street corridor to Yukon Street, turning west along Yukon Street, through Rowlett Park over to Rowlett Park Drive. At this point, it could run south, crossing over the river (other utility trunk lines cross over the river here). Further south, the new trunk line would pass through a new lift station (See Appendix B). This new lift station could be built on currently available open land and easily buffered from residential development. The new trunk line could then continue south along the railroad easement, in conjunction with the Sulphur

Springs re-route and continue toward the Hookers Point Treatment Facility.

Please refer to attached map with proposal route.

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Need and Recommendation 13. Park Development

Develop a park just north of the Babe Zaharias Golf Course Club House located at 11412 Forest Drive and south of Lake Eckles. This is City of Tampa owned property.

This City of Tampa property is unused along the south side of Lake Eckles. A park here would provide residents and children of Forest Hills a place to meet and play near their homes.

Response: From Michael J. Burwell, Planning and Environment Division, Stormwater Department, 274-7864. The Stormwater Department has no objection to the development of this parcel into a city park. Certain improvements could actually improve water quality from the upstream basin and relieve occasional flooding of Forest Hills/County Club. The Stormwater Department does not, however, have funding available for this project.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department will research the feasibility with the Stormwater Department, of developing a park at this location.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department is evaluating this issue.

Need and Recommendation 14. Clubhouse

Build a new clubhouse (with dining and meeting facilities) at the Forest Hills Golf Course located at 11412 Forest Hills Drive.

The building of a clubhouse facility at the Babe Zaharias Golf Course would heighten the usage of this city golf course. It could offer an additional source of revenue for the City of Tampa. It would also provide a meeting place (community meetings, receptions, marriages, birthday parties, holiday parties, etc.) for Forest Hills and City of Tampa residents. It could attract golf tournaments and be a sign of Tampa's commitment to its' historic past.

Response: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Babe Zaharias Golf Course is operated by the Tampa Sports Authority. We will notify the Authority of the community's request.

Update: From Karen Palus, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The department has contacted the Tampa Sports Authority with this request. Inquiries as to the status of this can be made directly to Tampa Sports Authority by calling at 673-4300.