

**CITY OF TAMPA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FY2003-2004
January 6, 2004**

Block Club: Area IX

Neighborhoods: Carver City/Lincoln Gardens, North Bon Air, MacFarland Park, Oakford Park, West Shore Palms, Gray Gables/Bon Air/Southern Pines, Palma Ceia, Golfview, Beach Park, Beach Park Isles, Culbreath Isles, Culbreath Bayou, Culbreath Heights, Sunset Park, Mid-Peninsular, Virginia Park, Bel Mar Shores, and Southern Pines.

Boundaries: Columbus Drive (north); Euclid Avenue (south); MacDill Avenue (east); Old Tampa Bay (west).

Contact Person: Ms. Thelma Davis, Chairperson
1602 N. Lois Avenue
Tampa, FL 33607
Phone: 878-0025 (h)

Need and Recommendation 1. Lighting in Laurel Street Park.

At night, there are cars parked at Laurel Street Park for illicit purposes. There is only one light in the middle of the park. Park is located at the corner of N. Grady Avenue and W. Laurel Street, adjacent to the city maintenance shop.

Response: From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. The Tampa Police Department will patrol the park to determine the nature of the cars parked there and take corrective action as deemed necessary.

Update: From Ann Andrews, Tampa Police Department, 276-3755. Tampa Police Department continues to patrol the park.

Response: From Ross J. Ferlita, Director, Parks Department, 931-2121. The Parks and Recreation Departments will investigate the following to determine the best course of action. The Forestry Division will look at the possibility of uplifting the trees. The North Division will determine if bollards can be added to keep the vehicles off the grass and the need for additional lighting.

Update: From Ross J. Ferlita, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 274-7730. The Parks and Recreation Departments have trimmed and uplifted the trees to improve the sight lines and is determining the best alternative to keep the vehicles off the grass and the need for additional lighting at the park.

Need and Recommendation 2. Trash Bins at All Bus Stops.

- a. **Trash bins are needed on N. Lois Avenue between W. Cypress and W. Spruce Streets.**
- b. **N. Lois Avenue and W. Grace Street.**
- c. **N. Lois Avenue and W. Cypress Street.**
- d. **N. Lois Avenue and W. Spruce Street.**

Response to a. through d.: From Steve Hiza, Engineer, Transportation Division, 274-8998. HARTline is responsible for trash receptacles at bus stops. Your request will be forwarded to Mr. Les Weakland, of HARTline, 223-6831, ext. 2105.

Update to a. through d.: From Steve Hiza, Engineer, Transportation Division, 274-8998. HARTline has reported that they have placed trash bins at the requested locations.

Oakford Park

Submitted by: Katherine H. Echevarria, President
Oakford Park Neighborhood Association
308 N. Beverly Avenue
Tampa, FL 33609
(813) 877-3357
(813) 875-3071 (fax)
(813) 240-5272 (cell)
Kechev@aol.com(e-mail)

Need and Recommendation 3. Oakford Park Neighborhood is requesting a CDBG Project to prepare a Street to be considered for Sidewalks.

We are proposing the closing of selected open drainage ditches and linking them to the existing closed underground system of storm water drainage leading to Tampa Bay. The ditches are unsightly, hamper pedestrian traffic, parking, and represent an unnecessary hazard to autos. Most importantly, Oakford Park's residents are denied any hope of the

safety and comfort of an east-west sidewalk, as long as the problem with the ditches goes unattended.

The initiative to provide sidewalks throughout Tampa neighborhoods has been very successful. It is our understanding that we are slated for a two-block sidewalk on the South side of W. Gray Street between N. Dale Mabry Highway and N. Himes Avenue. This will enhance a mini park being planned for the Sterling Gray Triangle. However, according to Ron Litts, the very busy east-west Oakford Park streets, east of Himes Avenue, are not candidates for continuous sidewalk placement because of the ditches.

Response: From Alexander P. Awad, Department of Sanitary Sewers, Stormwater Management Division, 274-7865.

The Department of Sanitary Sewers pipe in ditches only when certain conditions apply:

1. Does piping the ditches enhance the stormwater system in the area?
2. How close is the existing ditch to the edge of pavement?
3. Is the ditch over two to three feet deep, and is it mowable?
4. Have there been any accidents reported due to the location of the ditch system.

The estimated cost for piping these ditches is approximately \$250,000. This includes permitting, water quality restoration, and reworking existing driveways, sodding the disturbed areas, street restoration, and construction of the pipe system. The Department needs is such that funding is not available for piping ditches that do not meet the above criteria.

Response: From Steve Hiza, Engineer, Transportation Division, 274-8998. The eligibility of the area in question, for consideration and prioritization of continuous sidewalk placement, would be contingent upon the modification or closure of existing ditches. The City Sidewalk Supervisor, Ron Litts, 274-8541, would evaluate the merits of sidewalk placement through the procedures of the New Sidewalk Program.

Need and Recommendation 4. East-west streets proposed for ditch piping.

The east-west streets proposed for ditch piping are W. Gray or W. North "B" Streets. Specifically, the south side of W. Gray Street between N. Himes Avenue and N. Lincoln Avenue, or the North side of W. North "B" Street between N. Himes Avenue and N. Lincoln Avenue (See map included-"Addendum "B-II").

Response: From Alexander P. Awad, Department of Sanitary Sewers, Stormwater Management Division, 274-7865. The Department of Sanitary Sewers pipe in ditches only when certain conditions apply:

1. Does piping the ditches enhance the stormwater system in the area?
2. How close is the existing ditch to the edge of pavement?
3. Is the ditch over two to three feet deep, and is it mowable?
4. Have there been any accidents reported due to the location of the ditch system.

The estimated cost for piping these ditches is approximately \$250,000. This includes permitting, water quality restoration, and reworking existing driveways, sodding the disturbed areas, street restoration, and construction of the pipe system. The Department needs is such that funding is not available for piping ditches that do not meet the above criteria.

Response: From Steve Hiza, Engineer, Transportation Division, 274-8998. If CDBG funding in the amount of \$250,000 were made available to address the drainage, we would definitely reconsider this location as a candidate for sidewalk.