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## Recreation Department

- Major Accomplishment: Utilized \$17 million bond issue to redevelop/construct 16 recreation facilities located throughout the City.<sup>1</sup>
- Received \$1.2 million in grant funding since 1995 (12 grants), including over \$79,000 from the Verizon Foundation for computer labs.
- Renovated more than 40 Recreation facilities throughout the City.
- Partnered with the YMCA to construct the New Tampa YMCA Olympic-sized swimming pool (2001).
- Completed the renovation of the Sulphur Springs Pool, including Locker Room Facilities (2000).
- Initiated the renovation of the Cuscaden Park Pool.<sup>2</sup>
- 2002 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program includes:
  - Thirty-five (35) total projects.
    - Seventeen (17) complete.
    - Thirteen (13) under construction.
    - Five (5) scheduled to break ground by the end of 2002.
  - Ten (10) of the remaining projects are scheduled for completion by 2003.
  - Eight (8) projects funded through the Community Investment Tax totaling \$3.8 million.
- Coordinated several major family-oriented, citywide festivals and events, attended by over 100,000 people annually:
  - SantaFest and Parade
  - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Festival
  - Friday Extra Concert Series
  - Bark in the Park
  - Tampa/Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival
  - Halloween Fun Fest
- Established the Youth Enrichment Program in three Community Centers (1998).<sup>3</sup>
- Created over 20 partnerships with local and national organizations.<sup>4</sup>
- Developed a state of the art metalworking studio through public/private partnership.<sup>5</sup>
- Initiated the Community Center Computer Lab Program (1998).<sup>6</sup>
- Unveiled the 2001 Technology Program.<sup>7</sup>
- Restructured the Community Centers & Playground Division.<sup>8</sup>
- Opened the first city-operated recreation center in New Tampa (2002).
- Initiated City Special Event showcasing the Arts & Crafts Program.<sup>9</sup>
- Co-hosted the National Recreation and Parks Association Annual Congress & Exposition with the Parks Department.<sup>10</sup>

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### Recreation Department Notes:

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- <sup>1</sup> Dedicated nine (9) and began construction on four of the 16 venues identified in the Recreation Construction Bond Project.
- <sup>2</sup> Received \$994,980 grant from the National Park Service to renovate the historic pool.
- <sup>3</sup> The Youth Enrichment Program provides recreational and educational programs for more than 700 participants each year.
- <sup>4</sup> The partnerships with local and national organizations and corporations provide enhanced facilities and programs to City Recreation Facility users.
- <sup>5</sup> Established partnership with Hyde Park Craft Studio and the West Coast Chapter of the Florida Society of Goldsmith's to develop new facility providing opportunity for metal work and jewelry making. The Florida Goldsmith's donated \$4,500 in jewelry making equipment.
- <sup>6</sup> The Department received a \$54,800 Verizon Foundation Grant to acquire 30 computers with Internet access for new labs within DeSoto Park, Oak Park, and Grant Park Community Centers in 2001 and an additional \$25,000 in 2002. Also received City CDBG Funding to contract with Computer Mentors Inc. to teach basic computer skills classes at four recreation centers.
- <sup>7</sup> 2001 Technology Plan strives to provide and maintain up to 10 computers (with Internet connectivity) in each of the City's 24 community and playground activity centers with basic instructional software training. The Department worked with MIS and the Hillsborough County Library System to provide Internet access at three computer labs in 2002.
- <sup>8</sup> Added another manager (2002).
- <sup>9</sup> Event raised over \$5,000 to purchase supplies and equipment for the art studios.
- <sup>10</sup> Event brought over 7,000 park and recreation professionals to Tampa.