



Friends of Tampa Recreation is an independent, not for profit charitable organization dedicated to supplementing, promoting and enhancing the City of Tampa's parks and recreation system. Friends works directly with the Parks & Recreation Director and staff to achieve mutually beneficial objectives. Since 1980, Friends of Tampa Recreation has been raising funds to help the City of Tampa Parks & Recreation Department improve parks, create youth recreational and educational experiences, produce special events and more. Here's a list of recent achievements.

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#### Summer Scholarships

Friends strongly believes all children should have access to summer camp. To date, Friends has contributed a total of \$150,000 to underwrite scholarships for summer camp.

#### Stay and Play Program

Kids who eat healthier move more and perform better. Friends has provided healthy meals to 325 children for eight weeks as part of the city's Stay and Play Program since the program was launched in 2015.

#### Van Replacement Program

Over the years, Friends has donated six vans and a mini bus to the department. In 2013 and 2014, FOTR donated a new 15-passenger van to the City of Tampa Parks & Recreation Department.

#### Computer Replacement Program

Tampa Parks & Recreation operates 23 public computer labs with free internet access. This year, Friends initiated a replacement program to purchase new hardware.

#### Jackson Heights Sports Complex

Friends has received over \$800,000 in grants from the NFL and other funding organizations for enhancements and improvements to this park, which serves the entire city.

#### Swim Lessons

Swimming is essential skill in Florida and to ensure our most vulnerable children acquire this life skill, Friends underwrote the cost of swim lessons for over 400 children in the summer of 2016.

#### Fitness Equipment Replacement Program

Friends established an equipment replacement program in 2010 at the Joe Abrahams Fitness Center, and replaces equipment annually.

#### KaBoom Playground Builds

Friends believes play is essential for children, and has teamed up with national playground builder KaBoom seven times and contributed over \$50,000 for the construction of new playgrounds throughout the city.

#### Perry Harvey Park

Renovation on this park did not include a playground, Friends of Tampa Recreation donated a NEOS 360 playground equipment, valued at over \$40,000 that will be installed before the end of 2016.

#### Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park

As part of the this park improvement project, Friends of Tampa Recreation has committed to purchase NEOS 360 playground that will be a centerpiece in the newly renovated playground and park improvements.

#### Employee Continuing Education Scholarship

Employee training and development is an opportunity to expand the knowledge base of all employees, but it's expensive. Friends established an employee scholarship fund to ensure Tampa Parks & Recreation staff always has access to learning opportunities.

#### Special Events

Friends continues to develop and produce free, family-friendly community events. Heritage events such as Santa Fest, Christmas Parade and the Friday Extra Concert Series as well as new events such as Movies in the Park, Tampa's Downtown on Ice, and Tampa's Tree Lighting Ceremony. Special Events generate recreational, cultural and social benefits for the City of Tampa residents and visitors of all ages.