



### New Tampa Nature Park

- Entrance Gate
- Paved Multi-use Trail
- Mountainbike Trail

## New Tampa Nature Park

### General Description

Size: 122 acres. This site was purchased by Hillsborough County (ELAPP) in 2001 with joint funding from the Florida Communities Trust program. Ownership has been conveyed to the City of Tampa, and the City plans to develop a park on the site, to include a nature center. Although it is located next to the busy commercial center of New Tampa, the site is also adjacent to Wilderness Park, and functions as part of that much larger natural area.

### Location and Access

The site is located on the east side of Interstate 75, just south of the Bruce B. Downs Blvd. exit. To reach the site, go north on Bruce B. Downs Blvd. to the first traffic light past the interstate, turn right and follow Dona Michelle Drive south along the interstate. The road dead ends at the site, just past the entrance to the water plant.

### Environmental Significance

The site contains mostly pine flatwoods habitat. Scattered throughout the flatwoods are wetlands varying in size and composition from cypress domes to open marshes. An earthen levee with a shell road on top separates the park from the much larger Flatwoods section of Wilderness Park. The levee may deter some wildlife species from traveling back and forth between the two areas, but larger animals such as deer, coyote, foxes, and bobcat do so freely. The site was protected to prevent development from encroaching on the larger preserve, and to provide a complementary park and educational resource for residents of the area.

### Recreational Opportunities

There are some old, overgrown woods roads available for hikers interested in exploring the site. Future plans include an access road, parking, picnic areas, trails and a nature center. A trail connection will enable visitors to travel between this site and Wilderness Park.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Once the park and nature center are open to the public, the City of Tampa Parks Department will offer volunteer opportunities at the center to support educational programs, as well as in the park to help maintain trails, control exotics, etc.

### Contact Information

City of Tampa Parks Department, 7525 N. Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33604. (813) 274-8615.