



## Davis Islands Trail Planning Under Way

By **MARK HOLAN** The Tampa Tribune

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Mayor Pam Iorio and city officials have outlined steps for completing a 1.3-mile neighborhood trail segment by December 2008.

Neighborhood representatives met with the mayor Monday.

"We are very pleased to get an idea of what, when and where it will be," said Charner Reese, president of the Davis Islands Civic Association. "We will be very interested in the design plan."

Reese hopes the trail has plenty of landscaping and enough room to accommodate walkers, joggers and bicyclists. The timeline calls for a Nov. 1 public workshop on the design.

The trail segment will run from Channel Drive and East Davis Boulevard to near Peter O. Knight Airport. Construction is anticipated to begin in June 2008, with a ribbon cutting penciled in for Dec. 1.

The trail will cost an estimated \$971,000, with the money coming from the \$1 million that Tampa General Hospital donated to the community in return for leasing city land for its expansion.

As part of the deal, TGH also is upgrading the portion of the city's Marjorie Park that it didn't swallow up for a parking garage and building a quarter-mile trail segment on its property.

The two trail segments will be about two miles apart, a gap that can be traversed via streets and sidewalks. Civic association member Rudy Fernandez said he anticipates the segments will act like anchor tenants in a mall.

"The idea is we start with these two ends, then the vision for the remainder makes more sense," he said.

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