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### **Ward 5 Parks and Recreation Facilities Benefit from Thomas' Leadership**

*Washington, DC*—Since he was sworn into office in January 2007 and assumed the chairmanship of the Council's Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation, Councilmember Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr. has ensured that Ward 5 recreation facilities and parks receive their fair share of capital improvements.

Funds for capital projects are allocated each year as part of the city's fiscal budget, as well as by reprogramming requests that shift funds among projects during the year. The vast majority of funds for parks and recreation capital projects are part of the Department of Parks and Recreation's capital budget, but some are included in the capital budgets of other agencies. Consequently, identifying and tracking expenditures for Ward 5 parks and recreation projects is not a straightforward exercise.

When Thomas took office, several Ward 5 recreation centers had been recently replaced, including Turkey Thicket, North Michigan Park, Trinidad and Brentwood. Many others, however, were in need of replacement or significant upgrading, including Joseph Cole, Harry Thomas, Sr., Edgewood, and Langdon Park. Ward 5 also has a large number of unimproved pocket parks for which Thomas has made funding a priority. The grid below summarizes the parks and recreation capital improvements planned for, underway, or completed in Ward 5 since Thomas took office.

Highlights of work completed to-date at Ward 5 recreation centers and playgrounds include:

- \$8 million replacement of Joseph Cole Recreation Center completed in August 2010, with playground and park upgrades to be completed in the fall.
- \$2 million interior and exterior upgrades to Harry Thomas, Sr. Recreation Center completed in March 2010.
- \$500,000 interior and exterior upgrades to Edgewood Recreation Center completed in May 2010.

- \$500,000 new playground at Arboretum Recreation Center completed in April 2010.
- \$600,000 renovation of North Michigan Park Recreation Center completed in March 2010 to convert excess bathrooms to community room.

Work underway includes:

- Renovation of park at First Street and Florida Avenue, NW to increase visibility. The budget is \$1.2 million.
- Upgrade of park at Michigan Avenue and Varnum Street, NE. The budget is \$250,000.
- Creation of passive park at site of former Gage-Eckington Elementary School, located on Ward 1-Ward 5 border. Budget is \$1.5 million.

The FY2011 budget includes the following new projects in Ward 5:

- New park amenities at Dakota Playground. FY11 budget is \$500,000.
- New park amenities at Noyes Field. FY11 budget is \$1 million.
- Replacement of Edgewood Recreation Center. Total project cost is \$14 million, with \$6.5 million in FY11 budget and \$2.5 million in FY12 budget.

“Ensuring that Ward 5 recreation facilities and parks receive their fair share of capital improvements is a priority for me,” said Councilmember Thomas. “Through my oversight as Chair of the Council’s Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation, I have been able to make a difference and bring resources to Ward 5.”

### **Ward 5 Park and Recreation Center Improvements**

*(as of 8/9/10)*

<b>Site</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Site Specific Budget</b>
Arboretum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of new playground.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction completed in April 2010.*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500K in FY10 budget</li> </ul>
Brentwood (New Facility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of new field barrier net</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation completed in 2010*</li> </ul>	NA
Dakota Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning, design, and construction of new park amenities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting agency to initiate design process in FY11.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500K in FY11 budget</li> </ul>
Dunbar		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School-based facility</li> </ul>	
Edgewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of current facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2008 improvements: play courts upgraded; water fountains.*</li> <li>• 2010 interior improvements: new HVAC system, upgraded restrooms, new flooring, new lighting, and painting. Exterior improvements: new fencing and picnic benches, new painting of roof, replacement of gutters/down spouts, and repair of cement in specified areas,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500K in FY09 budget</li> <li>Replacement of facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6.5M in FY11 budget</li> <li>• \$2.5M in FY12 budget</li> <li>• Total project budget is \$14M</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		field improvements	
Florida Avenue Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play court improvements</li> <li>• Renovation of park to increase visibility from street</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play court improvements completed in 2008*</li> <li>• Preliminary concept design presented to community in early 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.2M (source of funds is reprogramming)</li> </ul>
Fort Lincoln (Theodore Hagens Cultural Center)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interior and exterior renovation and roof replacement of Hagens Cultural Center.</li> <li>• Outdoor pool upgrade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hagens Cultural Center renovation completed in April 2009.*</li> <li>• Outdoor pool upgrade completed in 2008.*</li> </ul>	NA
Harry Thomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interior recreation center improvements, including upgrading all restrooms/locker rooms, replacing lighting throughout, renovating kitchen with new appliances, replacing boxing ring, and providing new boxing equipment.</li> <li>• Exterior recreation center improvements including resurfacing basketball and tennis courts, installing a horse shoe pit, addressing erosion problems in front of the building.</li> <li>• Construction of new gymnasium.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interior and exterior work completed.</li> <li>• Center officially re-opened on March 22, 2010.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1M in FY08 budget</li> <li>• \$1M in FY09 budget</li> </ul>

Joseph Cole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of facility</li> <li>• Playground and park improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roof replaced in 2008.*</li> <li>• New 2010 facility amenities: expandable multipurpose spaces, computer and game rooms, office space, locker rooms and ADA compliant restrooms, indoor and outdoor basketball courts</li> <li>• Playground and park improvements to be completed in fall 2010.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$8M in FY10 budget</li> </ul>
Langdon Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New boiler.</li> <li>• Installation of new playground.</li> <li>• Installation of dog park.</li> <li>• New recreation center.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New boiler installed in 2007.*</li> <li>• Installation of new playground completed in June 2009.*</li> <li>• Installation of dog park underway.*</li> <li>• Recreation center design process underway.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$765K in FY09 budget</li> </ul>
New York Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball court improvements.</li> <li>• New recreation center.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basketball courts improved in 2007.</li> <li>• Awaiting agency to initiate concept and design process for new center.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$721K in FY09/10 budget</li> <li>• \$1.5M in FY2016 budget</li> </ul>
North Michigan Park (New Facility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resurface gymnasium floor.</li> <li>• Playground improvements.</li> <li>• Demolish excessive number of bathrooms, redesign space into programmable space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resurfacing of gym floor and playground improvements completed in 2008.</li> <li>• Renovation of excess bathroom space completed in 2010, creating new community room.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$600K in FY08 budget</li> </ul>
Noyes Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning, design, and construction of new park amenities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting agency to initiate design process in FY11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1M in FY11 budget</li> </ul>
Pocket Park at Michigan Ave/18 <sup>th</sup> St/Varnum Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscaping, benches, walkways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community is reviewing concept designs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$250K FY10 budget</li> </ul>
Taft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility has been leased, slated to re-open September 2011, negotiating for recreation wing access.</li> <li>• Courts repainted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School-based facility.</li> </ul>	
Trinidad (New Facility-2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of outdoor pool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting agency's initiation of project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500K in FY09 budget</li> </ul>
Turkey Thicket (New Facility-2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field renovation</li> <li>• Playground improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field renovation completed in 2009.*</li> <li>• Awaiting agency's initiation of playground improvements.</li> </ul>	NA
Ledroit Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of passive park at site of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency is defining scope of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.5M re-</li> </ul>

(at the site of the former Gage-Eckington ES in Ward 1 near Ward 5 border)	the former elementary school	work.	programmed in FY2010 budget
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*\*Funded through DPR's General Improvement capital budget.  
NA = Not available*

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