

**From:** Marlon Brown  
**Sent:** 3/16/2023 9:23 AM  
**To:** [Jerry Fogle](#)  
**Cc:** [City Commissioners](#); [Jan Thornburg](#); [Jennifer Jorgensen](#)  
**Subject:** RE: JD Hamel park

Thanks Jerry. Park's use and other areas for multiple special events without applicable/appropriate fees to restore and repair is also being worked on by Jennifer and her team. The damage and clean-up after events are becoming more and more difficult using our staff resources and the general fund/tax payers funds.

Marlon



**Marlon Brown**  
City Manager, City of Sarasota  
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Email: [Marlon.Brown@Sarasotafl.gov](mailto:Marlon.Brown@Sarasotafl.gov)  
1565 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Sarasota, FL 34236



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**From:** Jerry Fogle <[Jerry.Fogle@sarasotaFL.gov](mailto:Jerry.Fogle@sarasotaFL.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:25 PM  
**To:** Marlon Brown <[Marlon.Brown@sarasotaFL.gov](mailto:Marlon.Brown@sarasotaFL.gov)>  
**Cc:** Pat Robinson <[Pat.Robinson@sarasotaFL.gov](mailto:Pat.Robinson@sarasotaFL.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: JD Hamel park

FYI:

I sent the same email to Ms. Bubb. Ms. Bubb sent you a similar email as the email below from Ms. Eatrides.

Thanks,

Jerry



**Jerry Fogle**  
Parks & Recreation Director  
Phone: (941) 263-6563  
Email: [Jerry.Fogle@sarasotafl.gov](mailto:Jerry.Fogle@sarasotafl.gov)  
1845 John Rivers Street, Sarasota, FL 34234



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**From:** Pam Eatrides <[pameatrides@gmail.com](mailto:pameatrides@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 4:51 PM  
**To:** Jerry Fogle <[Jerry.Fogle@sarasotaFL.gov](mailto:Jerry.Fogle@sarasotaFL.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: JD Hamel park

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**Think B4U Click!**

Thanks so much for your explanation. We look forward to seeing what's in store for that space in the future.

Have a good week,  
Pam Eatrides

On Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 3:51 PM Jerry Fogle <[Jerry.Fogle@sarasotafl.gov](mailto:Jerry.Fogle@sarasotafl.gov)> wrote:

Ms. Eatrides,

I hope your day is going well. Thanks for the email and suggestions.

J.D. Hamel/Gulfstream Park doesn't have any irrigation or turf at this time. J.D. Hamel/Gulfstream Park has "green stuff" (weeds mixed with grass). Part of the Parks and Recreation Master Planning process was to improve the City's 62 (soon to be 64) parks and recreation facilities to address concerns and desires raised by the citizens during public workshops, mailed randomized statistically valid surveys and online surveys. Per the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, J.D. Hamel/Gulfstream Park improvements may take place in 2028, depending on the availability of funds, along with the City's priorities that may change in the next few years.

The usage of park green space by the festivals is the reason for the large sandy patches and lack of "green stuff". Because this area is accessed by tractor trailers, skid steers, loaders, panel trucks, etc., it would not be practical to have a parklike setting with turf grasses. Sidewalks and paver bricks are also degraded due to the weight of driving over them when they were only designed for pedestrian traffic. Parks and Recreation Department installed a weight-bearing access ramp, but pavers were still being driven over, so bollards were installed to limit the width of the vehicle.

Materials, such as shell, gravel, or artificial turf, are unable to stand up to heavy equipment. The materials would be very expensive to purchase and install and would most likely be a short-term solution. Parks and Recreation can design the park to be a great event space with a small and protected amount of landscaping, or design the park to be green space that takes some minor wear and tear in the form of parking (not heavy equipment), or maybe prohibit parking and have a park space that supplies other leisure activities beyond events. The challenge is having everything (greenspace/events/park amenities/etc.) in one space.

If funding is approved by the City Commission (2028), then Parks and Recreation Department will be able to conduct community meetings to discuss whether or not J.D. Hamel/Gulfstream Park is logistically a good location for events. Can these events move to alternate paved locations like Centennial Park, for instance? This may become a policy decision for citizens to provide input to the Commission for landscaping J.D. Hamel/Gulfstream Park and utilizing it as park space or hardscaping the area for event space. Utilizing greenspace for frequent events using heavy equipment will be challenging for Parks and Recreation Department to maintain the sod and sidewalks and provide a safe park experience for everyone.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or suggestion for City parks and recreational facilities.

Thanks and enjoy the rest of your week!

Jerry



**Jerry Fogle**

**Parks & Recreation Director**

**Phone:** (941) 263-6563

**Email:** [Jerry.Fogle@sarasotafl.gov](mailto:Jerry.Fogle@sarasotafl.gov)

**1845 John Rivers Street, Sarasota, FL 34234**



**From:** Pam Eatrides <[pameatrides@gmail.com](mailto:pameatrides@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 12, 2023 3:08 PM

**To:** Jerry Fogle <[Jerry.Fogle@sarasotaFL.gov](mailto:Jerry.Fogle@sarasotaFL.gov)>

**Subject:** JD Hamel park

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Dear Mr Fogle

We love living in the City of Sarasota (we live on Arlington street). We walk downtown quite often and try to attend most events that the city puts on. We were at the Blues event yesterday and would love to recommend something else for ground cover at JD Hamel park. The Bayfront has real grass so maybe

it would be a great idea to do some artificial turf over on the other side at JDH park since it is mostly dirt. So many places in Tampa are doing this now and not only does it make it cleaner and more inviting, it makes the space look greener without having to worry about watering during drought periods. We are hoping to see some improvements to that area in the future!

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