

## [Linwood Park's makeover moving forward, could Allie's playground be there?](#)

### Tampa Bay Nature

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By Debbie Carson, Staff Writer

TEMPLE TERRACE — Allie Blain and her mother, Renee, are still searching for a home for the 5-year-old's playground for all children. Could it be at Linwood Park?

No one knows just yet.

The Blains have not yet had a chance to sit down with the Temple Terrace Rotary Club or James Chambers, the city's director of Leisure Services.

But that doesn't mean that they're not working to that end. Renee said last week that she hopes to meet with Rotary Club officials sometime this week to discuss the possibility of incorporating her daughter's dream playground at Linwood Park.

"We're excited about it," Renee said.

Also, several people in Temple Terrace have approached the Blains, expressing their support for Allie's playground.

The child has a rare disease that causes her spleen to attack her blood platelets, which in turn, keeps her blood from clotting. If she were to take a stumble or otherwise get hurt, she could bleed to death.

The Blains have focused on Linwood Park because the park is already targeted for some much-needed upgrades.

The Temple Terrace Rotary Club is working to raise money to help the city replace the aging fitness stations in the park with more modern, weather resistant ones.

"It's going fantastic," said Perry Jacobsen, the Rotary's point man for the project, of the fund-raising efforts.

Already, the club has raised \$11,000, about half of its goal.

"It's going to be something we're all proud of," Jacobsen.

While the club is targeting the fitness aspect of the park, the city's parks division is working on the playground.

Chambers said that the city plans on having a playground for children ages 2 to 5. The ages were

selected due to the demographics of the nearby neighborhoods that the park serves.

Allie would rather have a playground suitable for children ages 2 to 12.

Space and parking could be other hurdles the Blains might face at Linwood Park, according to Jacobsen. The park has only a couple parking spots and is rather small in the middle, where the playground would be situated.

That doesn't mean the Rotary Club isn't interested in Allie's playground, he said.

"I'm not saying it's totally ruled out," Jacobsen said. He added that no matter where Allie's playground would be located, he suspects his fellow Rotarians would be supportive in helping any way they can.

"It's a project I'm interested in," Jacobsen said.

Chambers said that he had not heard about Allie's dream playground and could not comment on its suitability at Linwood Park or at any of the other Temple Terrace parks.

#### **How to help the Rotary Club's Linwood Park project:**

Fund-raising is on going. To donate to the Temple Terrace Rotary Club's Linwood Park Project, contact Perry Jacobsen at (813) 899-1747.

#### **How to help Allie in her quest for an all-children's playground:**

Renee and Allie are asking for the community's support in organizing a fund-raiser to create the playground. If you have any ideas or want to get involved, call Renee at (813) 382-0430 or e-mail her at [CloudsOfHope@verizon.net](mailto:CloudsOfHope@verizon.net).