



CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BAT TOWER MAY RISE AGAIN IN TEMPLE TERRACE

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 10/4/07) – Fundraising efforts are under way to recreate a full-size replica of Temple Terrace’s most famous landmark – the Bat Tower.

Supporters are hoping to raise \$50,000 to \$75,000 to build a replica of the wooden structure, which burned down in 1979. The original tower, built on the banks of the Hillsborough River, was intended to be a roost for bats. It was considered a natural way to control mosquito populations.

“It was a landmark for so many years. It used to define Temple Terrace,” said James Chambers, director of the Temple Terrace Parks and Recreation Department.

Efforts to build a new tower are being spearheaded by Friends of the Temple Terrace Parks and Recreation and the Temple Terrace Preservation Society. Parks Planner Dana Carver said supporters hope to build “an exact replica” of the tower on the outside, with more advanced roosting construction internally.

Carver said the tower will be built at Riverfront Preserve, a 108-acre tract on the Hillsborough River near Florida College. The City is creating a passive park at the preserve.

As part of that effort, the City is working with Stan Russell, an assistant professor at the School of Architecture and Community Design at the University of South Florida. Russell’s students are designing a wooden pavilion for the park. The City will provide the materials, and the students will build it.

Russell’s students will unveil four proposed designs on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2007 at the university. The unveiling will be at 10 a.m. in the Human Services (HMS) building, across the street from the Sun Dome.

Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible donation for reconstruction of the bat tower may send a check made out to the City of Temple Terrace (reference the Bat Tower Project) and mail to Al Latina, Friends of the Temple Terrace Parks and Recreation, 7002 Doreen St., Tampa, FL 33617.

To volunteer, call Latina at (813) 988-6794 or e-mail alatina1@tampabay.rr.com.