



**SCHOLARS**  
STRATEGY NETWORK

## **Keep Tampa Bay Parks Open So People Have Room to Roam**

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Local leaders in the Tampa Bay area have taken seriously the need to maintain social distancing, and their actions have helped limit COVID-19 infections in our region. But even those sheltering in place need fresh air and exercise. Access to open space is a critical resource at this moment, especially for urban residents, who must be able to get outside while maintaining social distance. Keeping parks open, even in a limited fashion, and converting underused roadways to bike/pedestrian trails is a fast and easy solution to ensure that open space is available to everyone.