



LAUDERTRAC



PARKS AND PUBLIC PLACES UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

March 2021

WORKING TO ENHANCE OUR PARKS & PUBLIC PLACES

Fort Lauderdale Parks Bond Program

In fiscal year 2019, Fort Lauderdale residents passed a referendum authorizing \$200 million in general obligation bonds to finance the cost of additions and improvements for citywide parks and recreation projects. The approval of the City’s Parks Bond provides the financial support required to address the top priorities identified within the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan needs assessment. The top five priorities include:

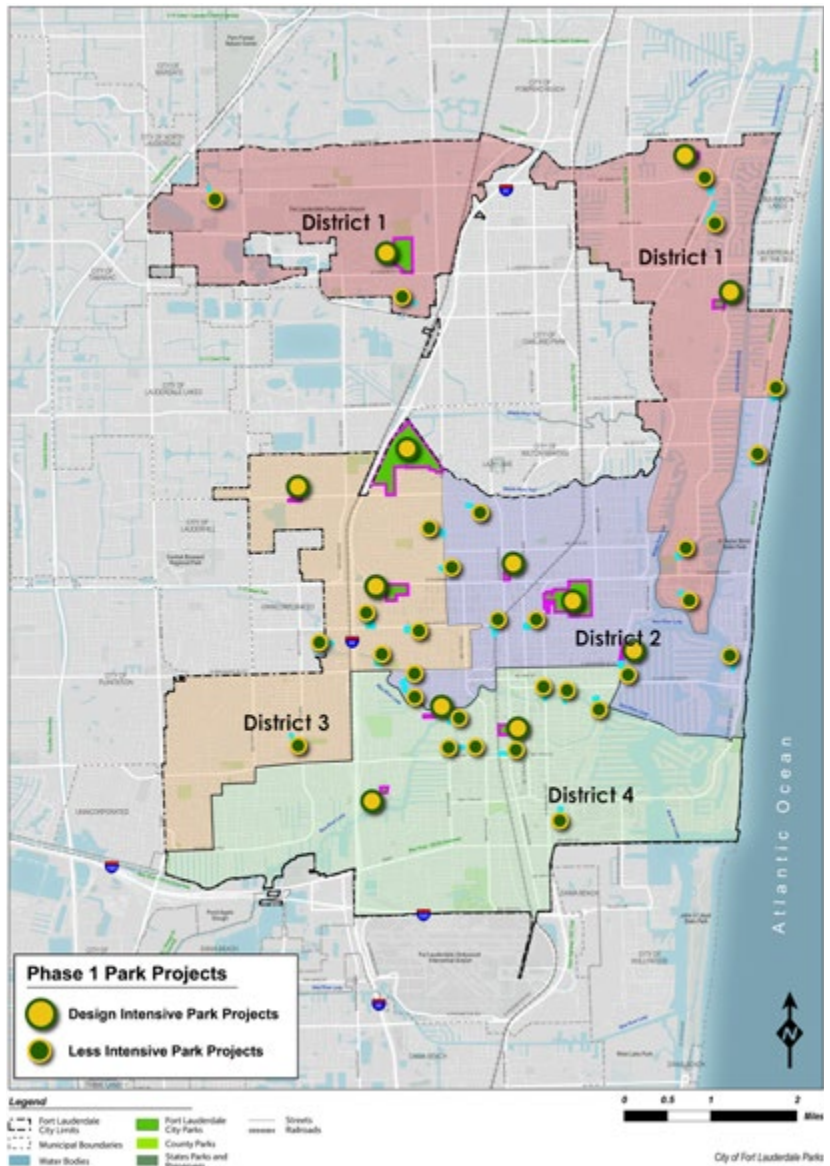
- ▶ Enhancing existing parks and facilities.
- ▶ Providing new walking and biking trails.
- ▶ Providing equitable access to parks via enhanced connectivity and walkability.
- ▶ Improving safety and security across parks and facilities.
- ▶ Improving communication between the Parks and Recreation Department and the community.

Since approval, the City has hired AECOM as the Program Manager to implement the Parks Bond initiatives. A project schedule overview was developed in September 2020 for a five-year program that will be planned in four phases. The program will focus on improvements and upgrades to more than 97 public parks and facilities located throughout the City.

In conjunction with the extensive public outreach and stakeholder engagement efforts initially conducted during the development of the Parks Master Plan, AECOM worked with City staff to develop and launch a virtual platform soliciting further neighbor feedback on the renovation and upgrade plans for parks and open space locations across the City. The online open house featured virtual rooms for each park and simulated in-person meetings through a 3D platform. Each virtual room offered a listing of upgrade and renovation plans, site photos, and improvement diagrams illustrating the proposed changes.

All virtual rooms included a feedback opportunity that allowed participants to leave general comments, prioritize the improvements, and the option to provide contact information for follow-up and continued engagement.

Map of Phase 1 Park Bond Projects



The engagement portal was active and available throughout February 2021 and garnered nearly 6,500 visits, 4,700 comment portal views, and 3,500 comments and responses. Initial review of the comments shows strong alignment between the current plans and proposals and overall public agreement with feedback on 68 of the park plans featured on the platform, generating either full support or support with minimal modifications.

A full presentation of findings was delivered to the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board on March 24, 2021 and is expected to be delivered to the City Commission for Public Hearing this May.

In addition to the solicitation, review, and integration of public feedback received, the initiation of design, planning, and permitting for Phase 1 sites will be the primary focus of calendar year (CY) 2021 parks bond progress, with Phase 2 planning and design commencing toward the last quarter of CY 2021.

FORT LAUDERDALE PARKS BOND PROGRAM TIMELINE



In CY 2021, the Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Bond Master Plan and Design Implementation Program will further focus on the purchase of land to increase public spaces, partnerships with Broward County Schools for shared playground use to augment the cost of acquisition, the expansion of pedestrian-friendly trail systems, and renovations to the Aquatic Complex and Swimming Hall of Fame.

Additional information related to City progress on the Parks Bond is available at www.ftlparksprojects.com.

GET INFORMATION AND UPDATES



Parks Bond Program Website: www.ftlparksprojects.com

Phone: 954-828-PARK (7275)

Email: parksinfo@fortlauderdale.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/playlauderdale

Twitter: www.twitter.com/playlauderdale

Instagram: www.instagram.com/playlauderdale

Nextdoor: www.nextdoor.com