



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 21-124

Date: December 14, 2021
To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners
From: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager
Re: Parks Bond Land Acquisition – December Update

On March 12, 2019, City of Fort Lauderdale voters approved a \$200 million bond to improve City Parks and Recreation facilities. A portion of the parks bond, approximately \$30 million, is earmarked for land acquisition. Since the bond approval, City staff, along with Collier's International ("Colliers"), has worked diligently with all interested parties to expand the City's green space in each Commission District. This effort required City Staff and Colliers to gather input from neighbors, community stakeholders, along with data published by the Trust for Public Land, to classify "areas in need" of a park. To date, the City Commission has approved and closed on four properties, one in each commission district. These acquisitions have increased City park space by approximately four and half acres.

City staff and Colliers continues the search for properties suitable for park space, as the real estate market experiences a "sellers' market" throughout the State of Florida. Homes and land are selling at a premium value above long-term pricing trends, and in Fort Lauderdale, properties are going under contract as soon as being listed. As such, City staff and Colliers are reviewing off market and properties that are listed for sale, while continuing the commitment to identify new properties for possible park space. In the search for potential park areas, there is a strategic focus on suitable spaces for specialty uses such as a kayak launch, skate park, dog parks, and a pickleball facility.

C: Tarlesha Smith, Assistant City Manager
Greg Chavarria, Assistant City Manager
Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney
Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Clerk
John C. Herbst, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers