



LAUDERTRAC



INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESILIENCE UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2022

June 2022

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Las Olas Isles Utility Undergrounding Project

The long-anticipated start of utility undergrounding projects in the City was officially celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony on June 14, 2022. This event was the culmination of efforts that began in 2010 when the then-City Commission approved an ordinance enabling communities to take action to have overhead utility wires in their neighborhood removed and safely buried below ground. Following the adoption of that ordinance, the Las Olas Isles community association was among the first to apply and is leading the way to bring its vision to reality.

The Las Olas Isles community championed the project recognizing the benefits undergrounding provides to enhance the reliability of utility services during adverse weather events, improve neighborhood aesthetics, and increase property values. According to Florida Power & Light (FPL), undergrounding increases reliability day-to-day by 50% and during storms by 85%. Over 70% of neighborhood residents voted for the project and agreed to finance the work through a special assessment levied to each property. This \$9 million project will bury all overhead utility lines underground and provide for new pad-mounted electric transformers, decorative features, energy efficient LED street lighting, and the repaving of roads.

Recently, workers started with horizontal directional drilling to install underground conduits for the new wires. Nearly 1,000 feet of conduit is already in place along Isle of Capri Drive. Work will continue along each of the roads from Mola Avenue east to Isle of Palms Drive. Once the conduits are placed, crews will install the various power and communication wires into the conduits and make new connections to each of the 309 homes in the neighborhood. This work is estimated to take approximately six months to complete. Both AT&T and Comcast will also be adding much needed fiber cables to provide for improved communication services to their customers in the area. Following the work, roadways will be repaved and the area will be restored.

Since the ordinance was adopted, five other neighborhoods have submitted initial applications or expressed interest to begin the undergrounding process: Harbor Beach, Idlewyld, Riviera Isles, Seven Isles, and Sunrise Key. City staff have also received inquiries about the process from Rio Vista and Victoria Park.

To learn more about this initiative, visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/undergrounding.



Las Olas Isles utility undergrounding groundbreaking ceremony



Las Olas Isles undergrounding of overhead utilities work area



Conduit used for underground FPL lines