



LAUDERTRAC



PARKS AND PUBLIC PLACES UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2022

November/December 2022

ENHANCING & EXPANDING GREEN SPACE



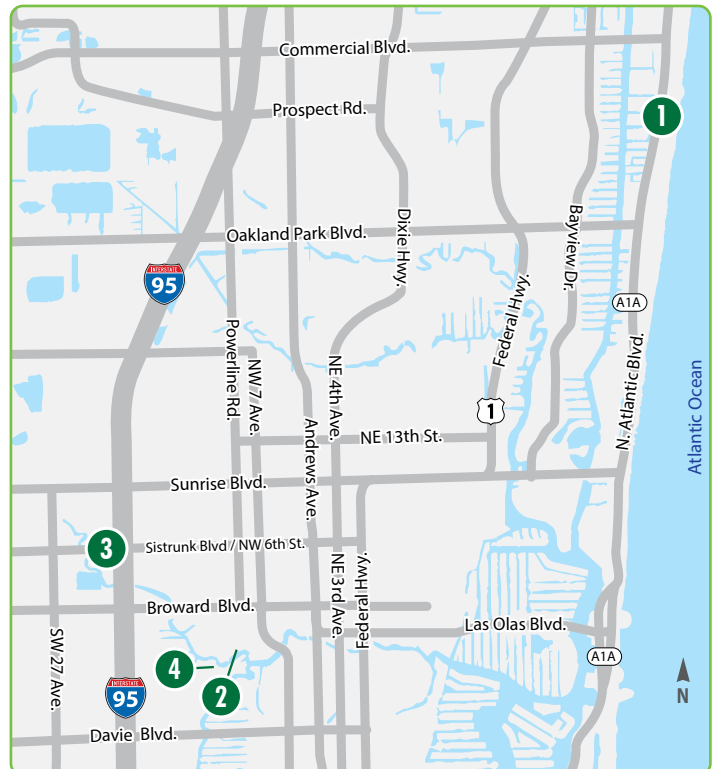
Photo of the newly renovated Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center.

One of the milestone accomplishments of this past year was completion of renovations to the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center. The renovated complex features new pools, a 27-meter dive tower, scoreboards, locker rooms, and an amenity deck. The Aquatic Center is available and open to the public seven days a week; visit the City’s website at parks.fortlauderdale.gov for more information with a full listing of hours.

This year the City emphasized its focus to enhance parks and public places through continued implementation of the Parks Bond Program. With the infusion of funding from the Parks Bond, the City also acquired four new properties to expand green space in each City district.

- 1 District 1 – 4201 N. Ocean Boulevard
- 2 District 2 – 1016 Waverly Road
- 3 District 3 – NW 6th Street
- 4 District 4 – SW 5th Court and SW 12th Avenue

These green spaces will provide a sense of place for neighbors while reducing soil erosion and stormwater runoff. Six other properties, with another five planned, have been rezoned to Parks, Recreation, and Open Space zoning districts. This rezoning protects property for its intended use as a public park or open space while limiting the sale, transfer, or lease of the property for future generations.



Map showing the four new properties to expand green space in each City district



Photo of a Mills Pond Park field that shows new LED lighting on the left side and halide lighting on the right side

In addition to the new green spaces, the City has also been working to improve and maintain its existing spaces. Lighting improvements were made in six parks to transition from metal halide lamps to LED lighting for its play courts and fields. The new lighting will improve park lighting and offer increased energy efficiency, which is expected to result in significant cost savings and streamlined maintenance and repair activities. The City also enhanced funding for median maintenance in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Approximately \$1.4 million in new funding has been included to better design and maintain landscaping in medians and another approximately \$221,000 has been included in the Community Investment Plan for streetscape improvements. Together, this funding will improve the look and quality of medians in the City.



Sculpture by Romero Britto

Other efforts to beautify the City include public art. This past year, a palm tree sculpture, crafted by Romero Britto, was generously donated to the City and stands in Florence C. Hardy Park. The City also transformed four lifeguard towers at the beach into art exhibits that boast and reflect the City's dynamic coastal life while serving as a critical beacon for those in need of assistance. In the near future, the City is looking forward to transforming another four lifeguard towers and various utility boxes throughout the City. Additionally, a steel seashell sculpture by Marc Quinn has also been donated for the James Winder Laird Arts Park at Tunnel Top Park.



Lifeguard Tower 2



Lifeguard Tower 5



Lifeguard Tower 6



Lifeguard Tower 7

Other efforts to improve public spaces include the addition of six new pickleball courts at Benenson Park, resurfacing 25 tennis courts located at George English Park and Holiday Park, converting three Bermuda multipurpose fields at Mills Pond to synthetic turf, and resurfacing the pools at Carter Park and Croissant Park.