

*Executive Summary*

City of Fort Lauderdale

# Parks and Recreation Long Range Strategic Plan



## —Introduction—

The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Long Range Strategic Plan is the culmination of a yearlong effort by the City to develop a long range vision for the park facilities and programs and strategically plan for the future needs of residents. By strategically planning parks, greenway, trails, streets and public open spaces, as well as providing recreational opportunities that are relevant to the lifestyles and demographics of the community, the City can greatly influence the quality of life for present and future generations of residents and visitors.

The planning process includes an inventory and analysis of existing facilities, an assessment of the community's future needs and recommendations for changes to the parks system to meet those needs. The assessment of facilities and future needs has been derived through quantitative evaluations as well as qualitative expressions of community desires through public involvement.

The Long Range Strategic Plan has taken into account the entire City of Fort Lauderdale neighborhood residential areas, the Downtown, North-West and South Regional Activity Centers and

the Barrier Island /Beach areas and reflects the City's historical context. Ultimately the plan seeks to integrate with other City efforts to advance a common vision of a more livable and sustainable community. To this end the planning process incorporated and built upon the results of previous planning studies.

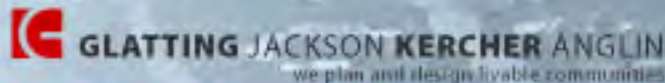
Previous studies that were reviewed include:

- 2007 Evaluation and Appraisal Report
- Building a Livable Downtown Plan
- South Andrews Avenue Master Plan and Development Guide
- Davie Boulevard Master Plan
- Flagler Village Precinct Plan
- Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Redevelopment Plan Update
- Tarpon River Civic Association Future Plan
- New River Master Plan
- Central Beach Master Plan

# Action Plan

1. Increase Health and Wellness Facilities
  - Renovations at Carter and Holiday Parks
  - Cooperative facility development in the Hospital District
  - Cooperative facility development in the Downtown
  - New facility development at Riverland and Croissant Parks
2. Develop a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
3. Partner with the Transit Authority to provide a Recreation Bus Loop
4. Expand Water Access and Nature-based Programs
  - Formalize neighborhood access at street end and canal end areas
  - Develop more nature programs at Snyder park
5. Expand "At Will" Recreation Opportunities
  - Provide more drop in style programs
  - Create facilities that can be used at peoples discretion
  - Apply the Pyramid Methodology for cost recovery
6. Increased Programming in Downtown and Riverwalk Areas
7. Increase Public Awareness and Promote Joint Marketing Opportunities
8. Enhance Partnerships and Cooperation
9. Integrate Plan into Codes and Ordinances
10. Develop a Life-Cycle Replacement Budget to Maintain Existing Facilities
11. Integrate Sustainability Practices in Park Planning and Design
  - Reduce water consumption and maintenance through the use of artificial turf on high use fields
  - Use native plants in non-active park areas
  - Minimize the use of pesticides through Integrated Pest Management practices
  - Minimize runoff with bioswales and porous pavement
12. Expand Neighborhood and Community Park Special Events
  - Promote neighborhood interaction and identity
  - Strengthen community ties
  - Celebrate Diversity
  - Encourage assimilation
  - Provide information about City facilities and programs

prepared by:



in strategic association with:



# Needs Assessment

The needs assessment process used objective, evaluations as well as both quantitative and qualitative means to develop a list of the priority needs for the City.

Methods included:

## Inventory and Assessment of Parks System/Facilities Resources

- Inventory of Existing Parks Resources
- Landscape and Maintenance Assessment
- Park Maintenance Policies and Procedures Evaluation
- Inventory and Assessment of Recreation Program Resources
- Gap Analysis of Recreation Programs and Services
- Current Recreation Opportunities Adequacy
- Access and Opportunity to Participate Analysis

## Financial Analysis

- Property Tax
- Culture and Recreation Fund
- Parks and Recreation Budget - FY 2006/2007 Adopted
- Revenue Plan 2006/2007

## Comparative Analysis (Quantitative)

- Level of Service Analysis
- Comparison to SCORP and NRPA Guidelines
- Comparison to Comparable Communities
- Access Analysis

## Community Involvement (Qualitative)

- Commissioner Interviews
- Focus Group Workshops
- Stakeholder Workshops
- Public Meetings
- Public Opinion Survey

## Capital Improvements Program Recommendations

The department currently conducts a capital improvements planning process that is based on individual requests and departmental identified priorities. This process is internal to the City and does not include the capital improvement planning of other critical partner agencies. As the Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department moves forward there will be an ever increasing need to develop facilities in partnership with other agencies and organizations. The Capital Improvement recommendations begin with premise that the City needs to first maintain what investment it has prior to committing to any new facilities. The Parks Department currently receives approximately 2.6 million dollars a year in capital improvement funding. Of that, amount approximately half is for the recurring replacement of built facilities with predictable life cycle. The first recommendation is to develop a recurring life cycle replacement budget to provide for the predictable replacement of existing park facilities. Further recommendations are intended to meet the expressed needs of the overall vision.

## Budget Considerations

In addition to the capital improvements needed to effectuate the plan there is also a need to fund several of the initiatives on an ongoing basis. Exact budget costs are difficult to determine and will need to be determined as a part of the budgeting process.

Recommended initiatives that will require budgeting include:

- Increased marketing and printing costs to effectively mail seasonal brochures to all City residents
- Explore partnerships for providing a park loop bus program
- Funding for the development of a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Expand nature based programming in the City



*This Process resulted in the definition of the following priority / most important needs:*

- Neighborhood access to local recreation amenities
- Trails and connectivity
- Health, fitness and wellness programs
- Natural resources and provide nature programming
- Better beach parking and access information
- Funding for maintenance and infrastructure improvements
- Safety and security

*Top priority needs identified by Fort Lauderdale youth:*

- Field Trips
- Dance / Cheerleading
- Health / Fitness
- Socialize / Meet Friends
- Pools/Water Parks
- Computers
- Baseball
- Swings / Slides / See Saw

*Additionally, several issues and opportunities emerged, including:*

- Enhance partnerships and cooperative planning efforts with other public agencies and private recreation providers
- Evaluate redevelopment impacts and amend codes and ordinances to create effective open space in densifying areas
- Enhance pedestrian friendly streets and increase non-vehicular mobility
- Integrate sustainable practices into future planning and design

## PRIORITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS DERIVED FROM THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS ARE:

1. **Life Cycle Replacement Budget for all Property in the Open:**
  - a. Sewer and Water Infrastructure
  - b. Roofing repair and Replacement
  - c. Paving and Resurfacing
  - d. Fencing
  - e. Shelters
  - f. Playgrounds / Splash Playgrounds
2. **Renovation of the community centers at Carter and Holiday Parks to accommodate more health and fitness activities**
3. **Improvements to streets-end and canal-end parks for better public access and recognition**
4. **Conversion of two high use athletic fields throughout the city**
5. **Land Acquisition and Development of a new neighborhood park in the Melrose Park neighborhood area**
6. **Development of a downtown community / health and fitness center in cooperation with the downtown property owners and businesses**
7. **Development of preserves and water access properties**
8. **Renovations at Snyder Park for better public access and nature based program facilities**
9. **Development of a Health, Wellness and Therapeutic Recreation Center in cooperation with healthcare providers in the hospital district**
10. **Land Acquisition and Development of a new neighborhood park in the Edgewood Neighborhood area**
11. **Addition to and development of new health and fitness centers at Riverland and Croissant Parks**

# Implementation Plan

To achieve the vision for parks and recreation in the City there are multiple steps that need to be taken. Some of these steps are broad and sweeping and others are smaller. The intent of the strategic plan is to guide the progress of City Parks and Recreation Department in that every incremental step, no matter how small, advances the overall vision for the future. In order to accomplish this goal there are both program and policy initiatives that must be initiated as well as budgeting and capital improvement planning that must be done. All of the following recommendations below are based on the best information available today; however a periodic review of these efforts needs to be done to insure their effectiveness and relevance to the ever changing political and economic climate. Following is a description of the recommended steps needed to achieve the Long Range Plan.



## PROGRAM AND POLICY INITIATIVES:

- Integrate the Master Plan Tenets into the City Comprehensive Plan
- Revise the City Land Development Regulations to be Consistent with the Plan Objectives
- Develop a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Evaluate and Develop a "Safe Routes to Parks" Program to Insure Safe Access to Local Parks
- Increase Coordination and Promotion of Programs
- Increase Awareness and Programming of Natural Areas
- Increase Programming in the Riverwalk and Downtown Areas
- Develop Park Facility Planning and Design Guidelines
- Adopt CPTED Standards for Safety and Security in Park and Open Space Areas
- Expand the Adopt-A-Park Program
- Adopt Green Design and Sustainability Practices
- Expand field trip programming and provide greater opportunities for youth to participate in activities throughout the area.

## Long Range Plan

The future plan for parks and recreation in the City of Fort Lauderdale is inextricably linked to the future vision of the City as a whole. Parks, recreation facilities, open spaces and natural areas, the sum total of the public realm, are woven into the community fabric and are integral to what makes the City a great place to live. To this end, this plan strives to integrate the relevant components of all previous planning efforts and build upon them to enhance the overall vision for the City as a whole. Ultimately, this plan will provide a clear layout for not only the strictly defined parks and recreation facilities of the department, but also provide a clear framework for all open space within the City. The hope is that by doing so mutual interests can be identified and multiple public benefits can be achieved.

### Elements of the plan include:

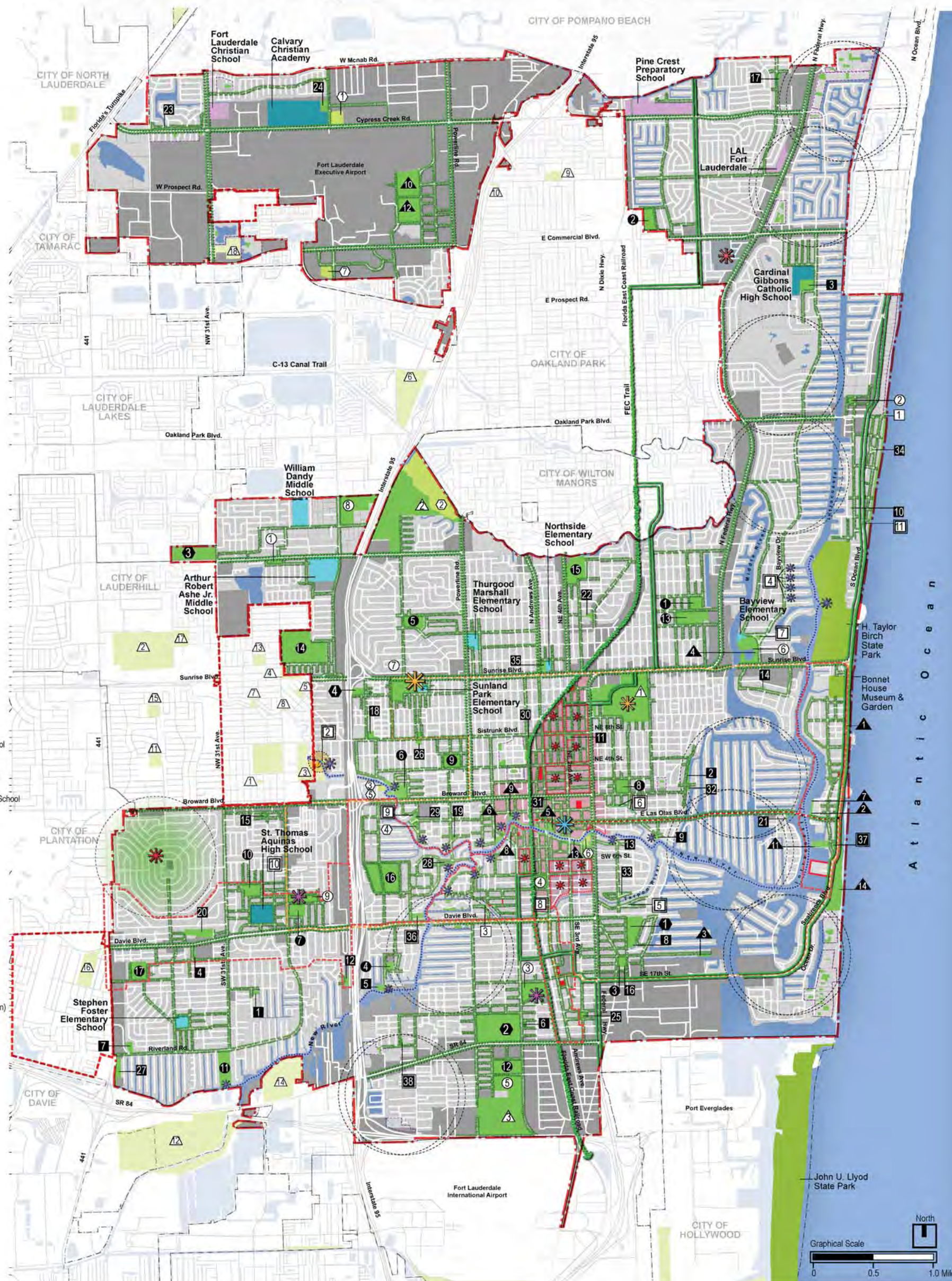
- 1 Improve Neighborhood Access to Local Recreation Amenities
- 2 Improve Existing Community-Wide Parks
- 3 Expand Access to Greenways and Trails
- 4 Improve Water Access
- 5 Expand Indoor Health and Fitness Oriented Community Recreation Centers
- 6 Improve "Complete Streets" to Create a Network of Sidewalks and Bike Lanes/Paths to Serve Schools, Parks, and Neighborhoods
- 7 Explore Partnerships for Providing Transit Service to Parks and Beaches



# Fort Lauderdale Parks & Recreation

## Long Range Strategic Plan

- LEGEND**  
 # Existing  
 # Proposed
- MINI PARKS**  
 1 Earl Lifshay Park  
 2 Sweeting Park  
 3 Tarpon Cove  
 4 Bayview Dr. Canals  
 5 Hector Park  
 6 Himmarshee Canals  
 7 Little George English Park  
 8 Tarpon River Park  
 9 Townsend Park  
 10 Westwood Heights Triangle Park  
 11 Willingham Park
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**  
 1 Ann Herman Park  
 2 Annie Beck Park  
 3 Bayview Park  
 4 Benenson Park  
 5 Bill Keith Preserve  
 6 Bryant Peney Park  
 7 Civic Peoples Park  
 8 Cliff Lake Park  
 9 Colee Hammock Park  
 10 Dolphin Isles Park  
 11 Flagler Heights Park  
 12 Flamingo Park  
 13 Francis L. Abreau Place  
 14 Greenfield Park  
 15 Guthrie Blake Park  
 16 Harbordale Park  
 17 Imperial Point Park  
 18 Lincoln Park  
 19 Maj. W.M. Lauderdale Park  
 20 Melrose Park  
 21 Merle Fogg Park  
 22 Middle River Terrace Park  
 23 Palm Aire Park  
 24 Palm Aire Village Park  
 25 Poinciana Park  
 26 Provident Park  
 27 Riverland Woods Park  
 28 Riverside Park  
 29 Sailboat Bend Park  
 30 Sistrunk Park  
 31 Stranahan Park  
 32 Victoria Park  
 33 Virginia Young Park  
 34 Vista Park  
 35 Warfield Park  
 36 Coontie Hatchie Landings  
 37 DC Alexander Park  
 38 Estere Davis Wright Park
- COMMUNITY PARKS**  
 1 Bass Park  
 2 Beach Community Center  
 3 Croissant | Davis Park  
 4 Florence Hardy Park and Southside Cultural Center  
 5 Floyd Hull Stadium  
 6 George English Park  
 7 J.C. Carter Park  
 8 Oswald Park  
 9 Riverland Park
- SCHOOL PARKS**  
 1 Bennett Elementary School  
 2 Floranda Elementary School  
 3 Harbordale Elementary School  
 4 Hortt Elementary School  
 5 Lauderdale Manors Elementary School  
 6 North Fork Park Elementary School  
 7 Riverland Elementary School  
 8 Virginia S. Young Elementary School  
 9 Walker Park Elementary School  
 10 Westwood Heights Park Elementary School  
 11 New River Middle School  
 12 Rogers Middle School  
 13 Sunrise Middle School  
 14 Dillard High School  
 15 Fort Lauderdale High School  
 16 Stranahan High School  
 17 Sunset School
- LARGE URBAN PARKS**  
 1 Holiday Park  
 2 Mills Pond Park  
 3 Snyder Park
- SPECIAL USE FACILITIES**  
 1 Public Beach  
 2 Birch Las Olas Anchorage  
 3 Boat Basin  
 4 Boat Ramps (George English)  
 5 Bubier Park  
 6 Cooley's Landing (7th Ave. Boat Basin)  
 7 Birch Las Olas Dockage  
 8 New River Dockage  
 9 Esplanade Park  
 10 Fort Lauderdale Stadium  
 11 Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex  
 12 Lockhart Stadium  
 13 Riverwalk Linear Park  
 14 South Beach Park
- CONSERVATION AREAS**  
 1 Cypress Creek Sand Pine Preserve  
 2 Mills Pond Conservation Area  
 3 North Fork Riverfront Park  
 4 Sailboat Bend Preserve  
 5 Site 141A  
 6 Smoker Park  
 7 Warbler Wetlands
- CEMETERIES | PASSIVE PARKS**  
 1 Evergreen Cemetery  
 2 Lauderdale Memorial Park  
 3 Sunset Memorial Park  
 4 North Woodlawn Cemetery
- COUNTY PARKS**  
 1 Boulevard Gardens Park  
 2 Central Broward Regional Park  
 3 Delevoe Park  
 4 Dillard Park Green Space  
 5 Franklin Park  
 6 John D. Easterlin Park  
 7 Lafayette Hart Park  
 8 Lewis Chisolm Park  
 9 North Andrews Gardens Park  
 10 North Andrews Park  
 11 Parkway | Broward Estate School  
 12 Pond Apple Slough  
 13 Roosevelt Gardens  
 14 Secret Woods Nature Center  
 15 St. George Park  
 16 Sunview Park  
 17 West Ken Lake Park  
 18 William J. Kelley Park



**Parks and Recreation System Master Plan Legend:**

- Existing Conditions:**
- Fort Lauderdale City Limit
  - Unincorporated Area
  - Surrounding City Limit
  - Non-Residential Area
  - Downtown Fort Lauderdale
  - City Park Land
  - City Conservation Land
  - County Park Land
  - State Park Land
  - Private School
  - Private Recreational Facility and Service Area
- Proposed Park Enhancements:**
- Proposed New Neighborhood Park
  - Areas for Future Neighborhood Park Consideration
  - Proposed Partnership with Public School for Neighborhood Park
  - Potential Partnership with Private School for Neighborhood Park
  - Potential Recreational Indoor Facility in Partnership with North Broward Hospital District
- Proposed Connectivity Enhancements:**
- Proposed Downtown Indoor Recreational Facility
  - Proposed Renovated Indoor Recreational Facility
  - Proposed New Indoor Recreational Facility
  - Proposed Water Access Points
  - Proposed Pocket Park Per Downtown Master Plan
  - Proposed Pedestrian Bridge
  - Park Proposed in Previous Planning Study
  - Proposed Greenway Per Broward County Greenways and Trails Master Plan
  - Proposed Rails with Trails Greenway
  - Complete Streets | Opportunities for Enhanced Pedestrian Connectivity
  - Park Streets | Opportunities for Enhanced Pedestrian Neighborhood Connectivity
  - Transit Connections | Park Loop
  - Transit Connections | Downtown - Beach Connector Via Las Olas Blvd.
  - Proposed Water Trail.

