

Greetings, District 1 Neighbors!

Fort Lauderdale's parks are a cornerstone of the community, offering residents and visitors a variety of recreational opportunities in beautifully maintained natural spaces. From expansive athletic fields and tranquil waterfronts to pet-friendly areas and playgrounds, the City of Fort Lauderdale continues to enhance its parks to serve the diverse needs of its population. Ongoing projects, such as upgrades to Lockhart Park and the reopening of Dottie Mancini Park, alongside updated regulations for park usage, reflect the City's commitment to providing high-quality public spaces that promote outdoor activities, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. These efforts ensure that Fort Lauderdale's parks remain vibrant, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone. Here are a quick update on what we've achieved so far.

Lockhart Park Update:

AECOM submitted the Quality Assurance & Quality Control (QA/QC) process for the 100% Construction Documents (CDs) for Lockhart Park. Following that, AECOM submitted a signed and sealed set of documents, along with a response letter to the Development Review Committee (DRC) on November 6, 2024. Once the 100% CDs are reviewed and accepted, the project will move forward with Phase 1 bidding, which includes clearing, grubbing, and fencing of the northeast quadrant of the park. Additionally, any environmental work or material segregation required in this area will be addressed during this phase. The full bid package for the entire park is expected to be submitted by AECOM in December 2024.

Dottie Mancini Park Update:

In October, the City Commission approved a lease agreement between Broward Health Hospital District and the City of Fort Lauderdale for Dottie Mancini Park, located at 6520 NE 22nd Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308. The lease has an initial term of 30 days, which automatically transitions into a month-to-month agreement with a rent of \$17,000 per month for the first year, after which it switches to a dollar a year for the remainder of the 30 year lease period. The lease will continue until either party provides a non-renewal notice 15 days before the end of any month or until the conditions for an Extended Term are met. The park officially reopened in October, with a grand-opening event planned for December.

Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations:

The City Commission recently adopted a resolution amending the Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations, which includes updates on domestic pet access—specifically for dogs—along with several other changes to park property regulations, hours of operation, and enforcement policies. Under the previous rules, dogs were only allowed in designated areas, such as Canine Beach, Riverwalk, and specific dog parks within Snyder Park,

Riverside Park, and Holiday Park. However, with the amendment, dogs are now permitted in all City parks as long as they are kept on a maximum six-foot leash.

There are still restrictions in place for certain areas, including playgrounds, athletic fields, water play areas, and beaches, where dogs are not allowed. In addition to dog access, the amendments include provisions designed to protect the natural beauty and integrity of the park environments. For instance, new measures have been implemented to prevent damage to trees and other vegetation. There is also a focus on wildlife protection, with prohibitions against trapping, harming, or disturbing animals within the boundaries of the City's parks.

These changes aim to make the parks more accessible to pet owners while balancing the need to preserve the parks' ecosystems and ensure the safety and enjoyment of all visitors.