

06 | Initiatives and Implementation: Natural Environment



Park Enhancements

The City needs to add and enhance park space to meet Comprehensive Plan regulatory requirements as well as ongoing community and environmental needs. The biggest opportunity for doing this is to create new lakefront nature parks around Chaves Lake and the lake at Hallandale Elementary School. Both sites offer a chance to reestablish an entire native freshwater ecosystem with the associated flora and fauna that has been extinguished from the City. There are also opportunities for adding natural stormwater treatment and for developing environmental centers that are tied to programs and curricula at the adjacent elementary and high schools.



New civic parks at each of the 5 District Centers also offer the opportunity for additional and enhanced park space. Bluesten Park is large enough to accommodate the introduction of natural areas and plantings, and removal of exotic trees would allow the recreation of beachfront habitat at Beach Park.

Implementation

Capital Improvements

Construct Chaves Lake Park and Hallandale Elementary School Lakefront Park with native shoreline habitat, trails, walkways, access points, and nature centers.

Chaves Lake offers a wealth of scenic, recreational, and environmental enhancement opportunities.



Image of Chaves Lake pedestrian access improvement possibility.

Capital Improvements

Construct the green space portion of new parks at the Town Center Park and District and Neighborhood Center parks; reintroduce native vegetation and plant communities to the greatest extent possible.

Create strong pedestrian links to adjacent neighborhoods.



Waterfront Public Access

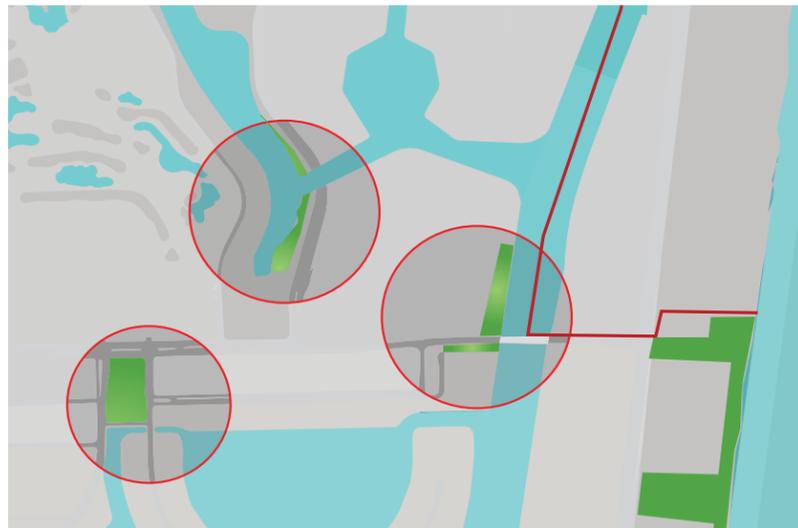
Public waterways in the City are an important community asset the value of which is currently limited by the small number of access points. Adding and enhancing access points will significantly increase the public's enjoyment of water views and breezes. The careful addition of limited fishing areas should also be considered.



Implementation

Capital Improvements

Construct and enhance public access walks and docks at key points along the Intracoastal Waterway including the new marina off Three Islands Boulevard and the space under the Hallandale Beach Boulevard Bridge.



Existing and potential waterfront public access points.



For every \$1 a city invests in trees, it receives benefits of up to \$3.74. Here's how:

Trade and the Economy



- ◆ Sales at businesses on tree-lined streets are up to 12% higher; shoppers are willing to pay more for parking and will pay up to 11% more for goods and services
- ◆ Residential property values can increase 5–20% if trees are in the landscape
- ◆ Workers with views of green from their desk report 23% less instances of illness

Residents



- ◆ Crime rates decrease in areas with more greenery
- ◆ Access to green areas helps reduce stress and aggression in urban environments
- ◆ Inner city common spaces with greenery are used more by residents, providing more opportunity for neighbors to know one another

Education



- ◆ Children who have a view of greenery perform better in school
- ◆ Increased exposure to nature enhances the ability of children to follow directions
- ◆ Access to green spaces relieves the symptoms of ADD, resulting in better concentration

Environmental Health



- ◆ Each year, an acre of trees absorbs the amount of carbon produced by driving a car 26,000 miles
- ◆ Trees remove dust and soot from the air, which can damage our lungs and increase asthma in children
- ◆ Trees cool city heat islands by 10-20 degrees, reducing ozone levels and helping cities meet air quality standards for federal highway dollars

Savings



- ◆ Streets with little or no shade need to be re-paved twice as often as those with 30% tree cover
- ◆ Just 3 trees strategically placed around a home can decrease utility bills by 50%
- ◆ Trees reduce the amount of water runoff from rain and clean the water that does run off, saving billions of dollars otherwise needed for storm water control and water treatment facilities

U.S. Conference of Mayors "Trees Make Dollars and Sense" Campaign.



Urban Forest and Tree Canopy

Like most of South Florida, the City of Hallandale Beach's tree canopy is far below national standards. Canopy needs to be dramatically increased to a minimum of 30% citywide to meet even the most conservative standard, with a 60% coverage target for parks and residential areas. Added tree canopy will enhance appearance and image, reduce the heat island effect, encourage pedestrian activity, and provide extensive related environmental benefits. According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, trees "help cities deal with the pollution of our air and water, cool city streets, reduce crime, reduce asthma and improve overall health" and provide \$3.74 cents in benefits for every \$1.00 invested.

Implementation

Policy and Regulations:

Assess canopy coverage and adopt 30% citywide canopy goal.

Change street tree requirements to emphasize live oaks and other canopy trees with palms used as accents and implement over time as resources become available.

Maintain Tree City USA designation and develop a canopy education and outreach program.

Require surface parking lots to include canopy trees with palms used for accents.

Capital Improvements

Undertake canopy tree plantings in rights of way and parks with a specific commitment to number of trees (500) planted per year.