

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL, 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.**

October 2009- September 2010

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	1	0
Sean Fee, Vice Chair (7:03)	P	1	0
Curtiss Berry	P	1	0
Betty Shelley	P	1	0
John Verkey	P	1	0
Matthew Weiss	P	1	0
Robert Payne	P	1	0
Ed Angelbello (7:02)	P	1	0
Larry Mabson	P	1	0
Mark McCormick	P	1	0
Jeffrey Cannon	P	1	0
Marilyn Markus	P	1	0
Bruce Quailey	P	1	0
R.L. Landers	P	1	0
Joe Bellavance	P	1	0

Currently there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant
Terry Rynard, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Gerry Roberts, Park Ranger Supervisor
Diana Alarcon, Director, Parking and Fleet Services
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

None at this time.

Roll Call

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Markus, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2009 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Mr. Angelbello joined the meeting at this time (7:02 p.m.).

1. Department Report – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard introduced the Board's two new members, Mr. Bellavance and Dr. Landers. Mr. Bellavance was instrumental in helping the Department acquire the Tarpon River Park, and a field is named after Dr. Landers at Croissant Park.

She provided an overview of the Halloween events planned for the weekend, including the following:

- Pumpkin Patch Carnival (Warfield Park)
- Spooky Pool Party (Carter Park)
- Spooky Halloween Dance (Bass Park)
- Trick or Treat on 2nd Street (Esplanade Park)
- Annual Halloween Party (Croissant Park)

She provided fliers for any interested Board members. Chair Hartman added that details are available on the Department's website, along with information for potential volunteers.

Vice Chair Fee joined the meeting at this time (7:03 p.m.).

2. Elect Chairman and Vice Chairman – Assistant Director Rynard

Chair Hartman advised that these positions will go into effect immediately following the elections.

Motion made by Mr. Weiss, seconded by Vice Chair Fee, to nominate Chair Hartman to another term as Chair. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Mr. Weiss stated that Chair Hartman does a "great job" as Chair, and felt the Board is lucky to have him in that position.

Motion made by Mr. Weiss, seconded by Ms. Markus, to nominate Vice Chair Fee to another term as Vice Chair. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

3. Harbordale Park Conceptual Plan – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard stated Harbordale Park is located on Miami Road, south of 17th Street, at 18th Court. It is a vacant piece of property, consisting of four lots purchased in 2005 and must be developed by the end of 2010. The location is just over one acre in size.

She advised she had met with the Harbordale Neighborhood Board of Directors, followed by a Neighborhood General Meeting. At the latter meeting, a Park Board consisting of residents was nominated to work more closely with the design of the Park as it is developed. A particular item of interest is the incorporation of old gates from Harbordale Elementary into the design.

The Park will feature a recycled path with lighting, a playground, exercise stations, bike path, drinking fountain, and a gazebo or open-air trellis. The path will consist of recycled rubber or varieties of mulch or wood fiber, and must be ADA-accessible. The playground will feature shade structures, and its play structures will be made of recycled plastic. Some open space will remain inside the Park as well.

The Department received a County grant of \$75,000 in 2008 and 2009 for use of recycled material. Assistant Director Rynard explained the Department is receiving its second year of funding through Parks for People grants, which are park-specific: in the first year, a park is eligible for \$75,000, and an application may be made for the same park the following year. Harbordale Park has received \$150,000 total in funding from the Parks for People grant.

Funds may be spent on specific items, including native plants, reduced-water irrigation, recycled materials, “environmentally friendly” products, and LED lighting.

Assistant Director Rynard clarified that some of the Park’s fencing will be black vinyl chain-link on the side that abuts private property, and split-rail fencing on the other three sides, including the side facing Miami Road.

She added that the Department will have to request a variance to exclude parking from the site, as parking areas take up a great deal of space. Space is available along an adjacent alley.

Chair Hartman referred to the memo regarding Harbordale Park, specifically noting the following statement: “The main purpose of this project is to manage this site as protected land, managed only for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of natural resources and for passive outdoor recreation.” He requested clarification of this description, noting that the Park seems “pretty developed” for a space dedicated to environmental protection.

Assistant Director Rynard explained that the green spaces in the Park, purchased with County bond funds, qualify in this category. She noted that even the active spaces qualify in this regard, as a percentage is dedicated to conservation. All invasive plant species must be removed, and all protected plants must be native; materials used for development must be "as green as possible."

Regarding passive outdoor recreation, she advised that the Board's December meeting Agenda will include a discussion of whether or not the playground can be considered passive, as some neighborhood residents share this concern.

She continued that the grant monies must be spent within one year of the date on which the final agreement for this funding was signed. The estimated total cost of the Park is \$314,000.

Ms. Shelley pointed out that a "crime walk" was recently held in the area in question, and hoped the Park will serve as a deterrent to crime. Assistant Director Rynard agreed that legitimate activity in an area can lessen the amount of unwanted activity.

At this time Assistant Director Rynard introduced Diana Alarcon, Director of Parking and Fleet Services, to present improvements in signage on the beach and in other areas.

Ms. Alarcon explained the City is considering implementation of a new sign system along the barrier island and the beach. This sign package would address vehicular and pedestrian gateways and directional signs, parking identification, transit stops, and beach regulations. She provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation to show the suggested signage.

She advised that international icons will be used wherever possible, as many visitors are non-English-speaking. Sign colors also correspond with internationally recognized uses.

Transit signage would include information on bus routes, and would be lighted for evening use. The water taxi will be included as a mode of transportation.

Beach regulatory signage, she pointed out, will seek to inform visitors of regulations without sounding overly negative. "Slash through" icons will be used and verbiage will be softened. The sign will be cement and will be placed directly on the sand. Its reverse side lists all the amenities offered in a specific area, and information will be provided on sea turtles to explain regulations.

Gateway signage is planned with photo opportunities for visitors in mind, she continued. Signs on the beach will be lighted facing away from the sand in

compliance with turtle lighting requirements. Vehicular gateways would include coming “over Las Olas,” the 17th Street Causeway, and Sunrise Boulevard. The City is also working to identify a gateway on A1A.

Currently Parking and Fleet Services is meeting with various stakeholders to gain input and feedback. They hope to bring the sign package before the City Commission in November or December 2009, along with a funding plan. The signage would be implemented in three phases: beach, roadways, and gateways.

Mr. Weiss asked if the City can expect some signage to be in place before the 2010 Super Bowl and Pro Bowl. Ms. Alarcon stated funds are available for this effort; fabricators who would create the sign are already under contract with the City, and Staff could install the signs. She explained the Bowls create a “sense of urgency,” particularly in the south area of the beach, where many Bowl-related activities are planned.

Chair Hartman advised that the City offers resident parking. Ms. Alarcon added that this is made possible with use of a resident beach card, which costs \$5 and allows residents to park at the north beach area along A1A, as well as Fort Lauderdale Beach Park (formerly South Beach) and the Intracoastal parking lot off the Las Olas Bridge. Ms. Alarcon noted that the program is “extremely popular,” and the City has sold over 5000 cards.

Chair Hartman thanked Ms. Alarcon for appearing before the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Mabson, to approve the conceptual plan for Harbordale Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

4. Dolphin Isles Park Conceptual Plan – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard stated this Park is .22 acres and is located by the beach at NE 33rd Avenue. It is due to be completed in 2011, and the neighborhood has expressed no concerns regarding its development. The cost will be approximately \$200,000, of which nearly half has come from the County.

The Park will have a “tot lot” with a swing, along with trash cans, benches, and bicycle racks, and will use recycled amenities and ADA-accessible surfacing. Parking is available on the street. She explained this is intended to be a neighborhood park, with only a “handful” of cars in the area at any given time; the Department plans to request a variance for this Park.

Motion made by Mr. Qualey, seconded by Mr. McCormick, to approve the conceptual plan for Dolphin Isles Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

5. New Bermuda Playing Fields Procedure – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard recalled that this had been suggested by the Board in the past, as use of the City's Bermuda fields has greatly increased. A permit is now required for the use of any athletic field space with Bermuda turf. If groups or individuals without permits use this turf, park rangers advise them that this is not an option, and provide them with cards instructing them where to obtain a permit. The cards also inform users of locations that do not always require permits. Permit rates have been adjusted downward to \$30/hour for residents and \$40/hour for non-residents.

She noted that there have been only "a few complaints" so far, and most groups opt to use other sites when they learn a fee is involved.

One reason for instituting the policy, Assistant Director Rynard explained, was that fields were getting too much use to allow them proper rest, which became a maintenance issue. The fields are very expensive to maintain at \$50,000 per field per year; Bermuda grass must be cut three times per week during its season, and must be "top-dressed" and aerated regularly. A study done by a Department intern showed that the City was not providing the highest level of maintenance necessary to maintain the fields' safety standards for their level of use.

Mr. McCormick observed that the City is the only County entity that allowed free use of Bermuda turf, which brought users in from all parts of Broward County.

Assistant Director Rynard added that park rangers are using reasonable discretion regarding whether to ask individuals to use other fields.

Dr. Landers asked to know the purpose of using Bermuda grass on park fields intended for public use. Assistant Director Rynard explained if St. Augustine grass is used, it is only good for "a handful of times," as it is not designed to handle heavy foot traffic. Bermuda turf is used where foot traffic is more common: while it is sports turf, and provides a flatter surface for play, it is also more expensive to maintain.

She advised that this Item was presented for informational purposes; however, if the Board would like to take action in support of the new procedure, it could be beneficial.

Mr. Weiss asked if individuals leave the fields at the request of park rangers, but then return. Assistant Director Rynard agreed this can happen; however, she added that lights will only be switched on when fields are reserved by permit.

Mr. Angelbello stated he had seen some adult activity, such as fitness programs, move from Bermuda grass to other locations while still remaining in the parks. He felt the change is “a great policy.”

Motion made by Mr. Mabson, seconded by Mr. McCormick, in support of the new Bermuda playing fields procedure. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

6. Board Comments/Communications to City Commission – Chair Hartman

Chair Hartman advised there will be no scheduled meeting in November, and the December 2009 meeting will be held at an earlier date, December 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. He requested that Staff place the Parks and Recreation Long-Range Strategic Plan on that meeting's Agenda, explaining that he would like to revisit the document, as a new City Commission is in place. He hoped the Board would bring the document before the new City Commission and ask that they support it.

Due to the size of the document, which is available online, he drew the Board's attention to Section 6 in particular. He felt the Board could facilitate positive results coming from the Long-Range Strategic Plan by bringing it to the City Commission's attention.

Mr. Quailey asked if the Plan was available for informational purposes only. Chair Hartman explained they cannot make changes to the document, but can call attention to positive changes that can come from it. He estimated the Plan had cost the City roughly \$250,000 to prepare.

Assistant Director Rynard recalled that the City's consultants had looked at the various park elements, conducted a complete inventory of the system, surveyed local residents, evaluated the condition of parks, and determined where and what kind of future development could occur, along with identification of what programming might be lacking. She felt the Board could use the document to help determine its focus for the following year.

Mr. Angelbello suggested it would be helpful to know how the Department is using the document and its recommendations. Assistant Director Rynard agreed to provide this information at the next meeting.

Mr. Berry requested an update on the lighting issue at George English Park, which had been discussed at previous meetings. Assistant Director Rynard replied that the City had awarded a contract for these lights, and they were expected to be complete in spring 2010.

Mr. Berry invited Dr. Landers and Mr. Bellavance to tell the Board more about themselves.

Dr. Landers has worked with the Recreation Department since 1954, particularly with summer programs. He headed the softball and Junior Olympics programs, which gained national recognition, and headed the Amateur Softball Association. He taught at Broward Community College for 27 years and worked for the City of Fort Lauderdale during those summers.

Mr. Bellavance has worked for the Parks Department, and attended Broward Community College and Florida Atlantic University. He is a longtime resident of Fort Lauderdale and retired from the Sheriff's Office. He is active with the Historical Society, and helped the City apply for a grant that led to the purchase of Tarpon River Park, on which an archaeological survey was done in the early 1980s.

Mr. Quailey asked for an update on the lightning predictors. Assistant Director Rynard stated they are part of the budget as approved earlier in the month, and estimated they are six months away from the devices' installation.

She continued that she had visited the Coral Ridge neighborhood, and a conceptual plan will be presented to the Board at the December 2 meeting. She described it as similar to the Dolphin Isles Park conceptual plan, with a tot lot for very small children. Assistant Director Rynard noted some neighbors are opposed to this feature, as they do not feel it is appropriate for a passive park.

Mr. McCormick felt the Board should take a historical view of its budget in comparison to previous years, pointing out that he believed public safety is, over time, taking a "larger and larger chunk" of this budget. He stated he would like to find out if this is indeed a trend so the Board can defend its budget before the City Commission. Chair Hartman agreed this should be discussed well in advance of the 2010 budgeting process.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

Develop Coordinated Sign System for City's Gateways,
Landmarks and Beaches

TASK 2: PRELIMINARY CONCEPTUAL DESIGN THIRD PRESENTATION

REVISED
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009



TASK 2 - PRESENTED CONCEPTUAL SIGN TYPES

- Beach Vehicular Gateway
- Beach Pedestrian Gateway / Identity
- Vehicular Directional Sign
- Parking Identity Sign
- Parking Directional Sign
- Transit Stop Sign
- Pedestrian Directional Sign
- Beach Regulatory Sign



1.1 - SIGN FAMILY



FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH WAYFINDING

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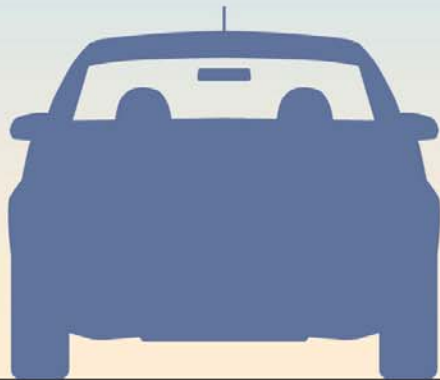
2.1 - VEHICULAR DIRECTIONAL



3.1 - PARKING IDENTITY







4.1 - PARKING DIRECTIONAL



5.1 - TRANSIT SIGNAGE – BUS & TROLLEY



5.2 - TRANSIT SIGNAGE – BUS





6.1 - PEDESTRIAN DIRECTIONAL











8.1 - PEDESTRIAN GATEWAY





9.1 - VEHICULAR GATEWAY - DAYTIME



FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH WAYFINDING

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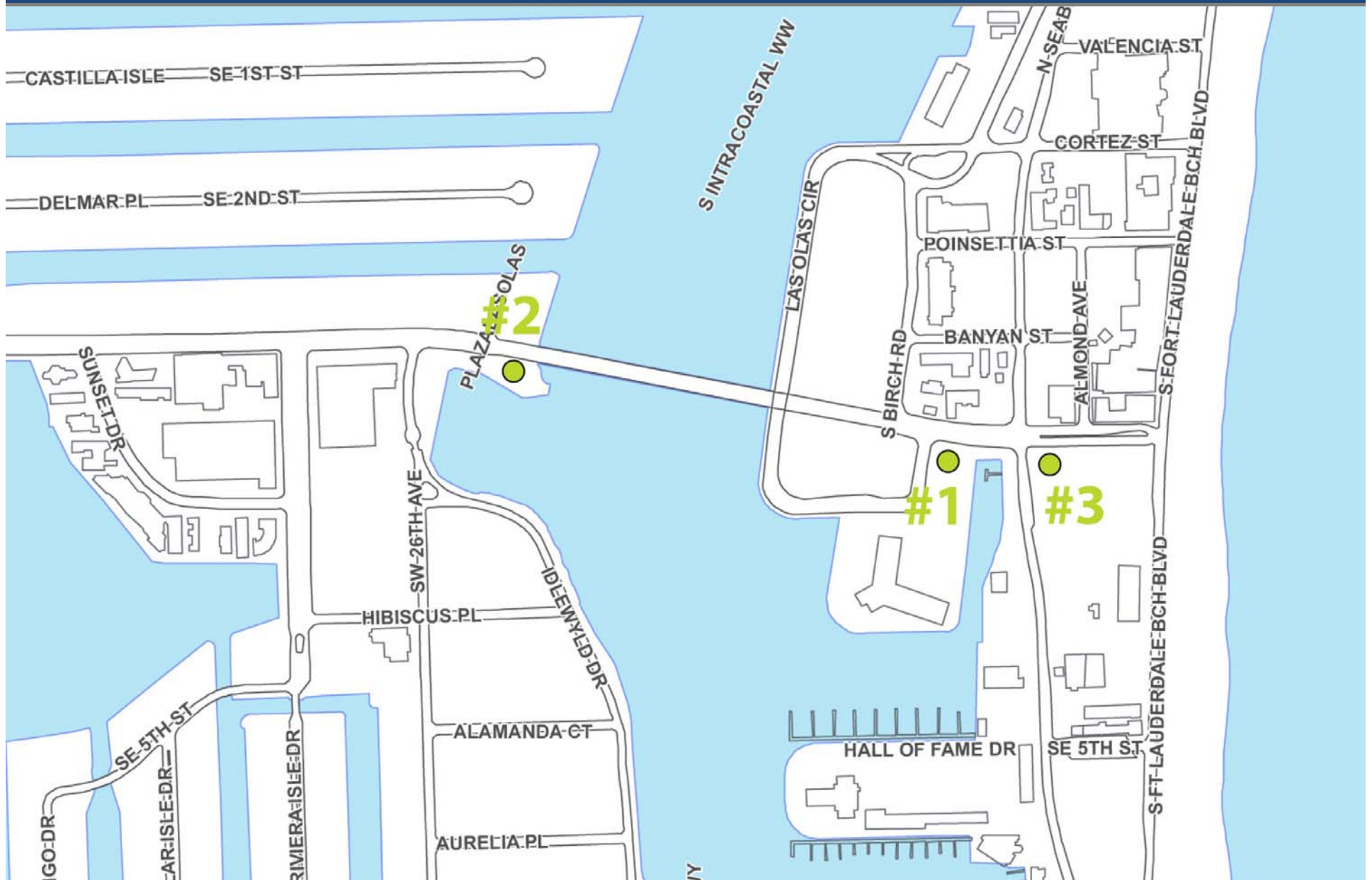
9.2 - VEHICULAR GATEWAY - NIGHT



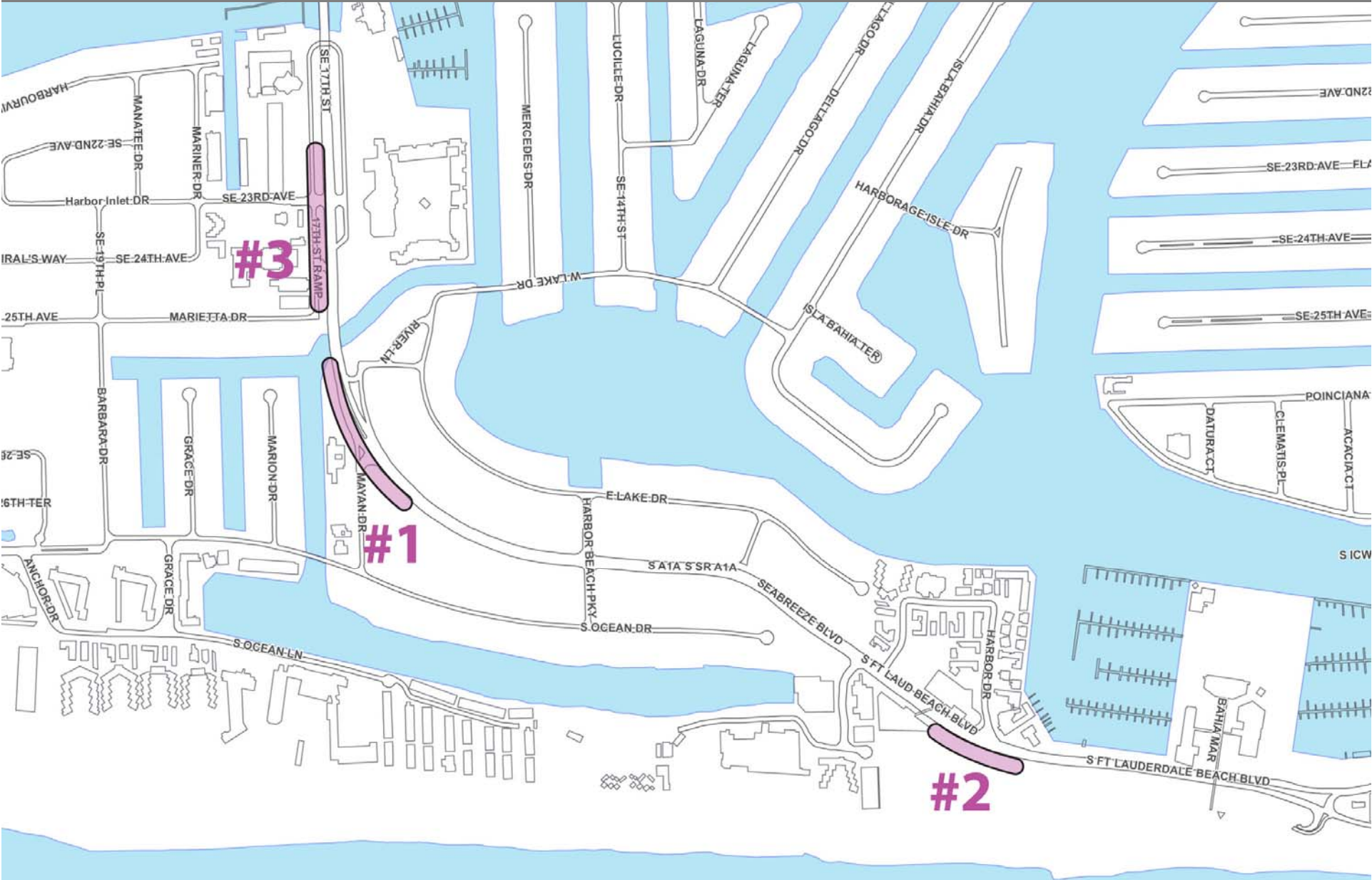
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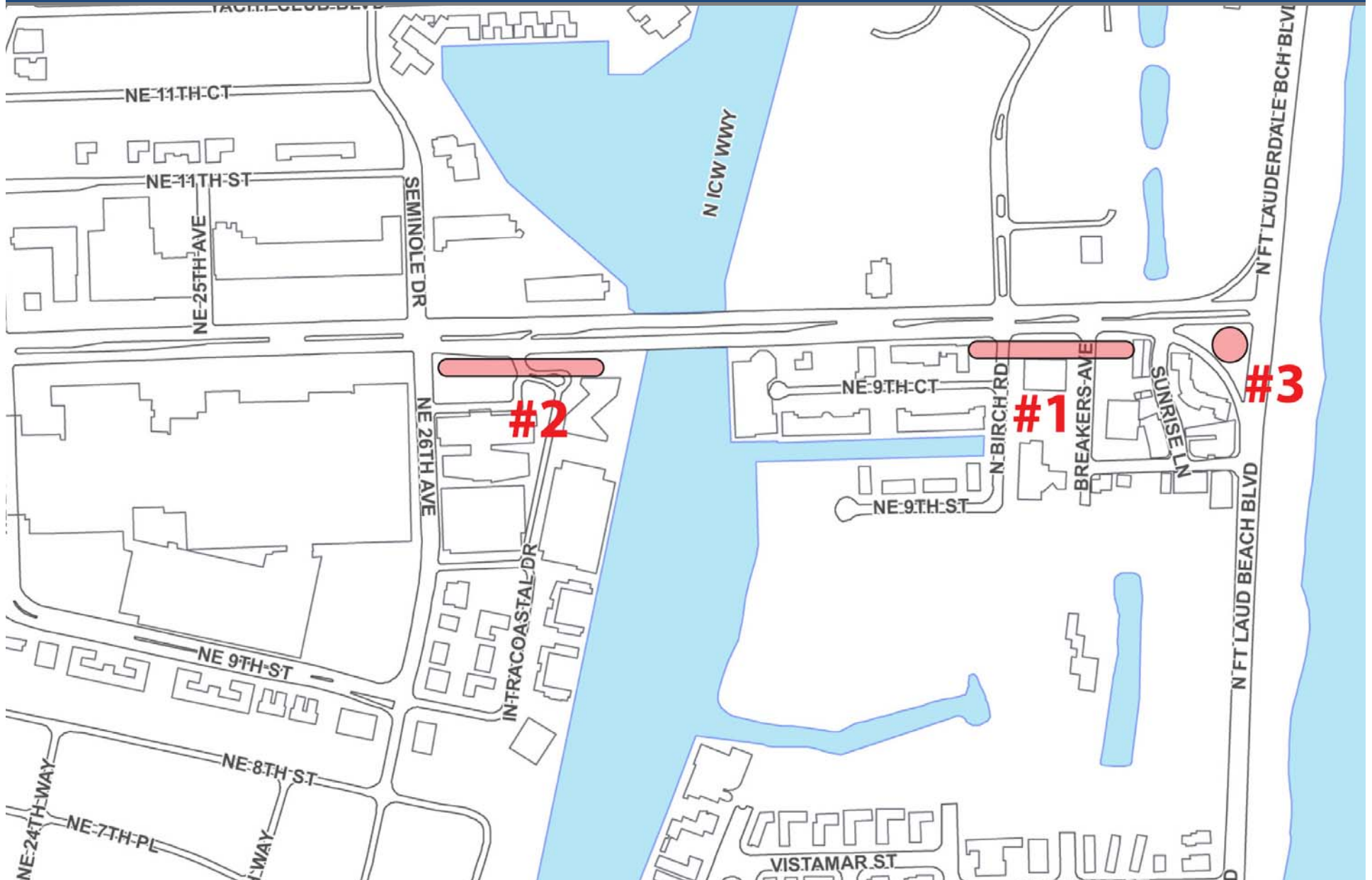
9.3 - VEHICULAR GATEWAY – POTENTIAL LOCATIONS ON LAS OLAS BOULEVARD



9.4 - VEHICULAR GATEWAY – POTENTIAL LOCATIONS ON 17TH STREET



9.5 - VEHICULAR GATEWAY – POTENTIAL LOCATIONS ON SUNRISE BOULEVARD





environmental graphics > branding > graphic design