

FORT LAUDERDALE NEW RIVER MASTER PLAN

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA



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INTRODUCTION

THE RIVERWALK, 20 YEARS LATER

The reinvigoration of our city waterfronts, in Fort Lauderdale and around the nation, is a critical aspect of our society's attempts to reconnect with the natural systems that support us.

20 YEARS AGO, the City of Fort Lauderdale presented a vision for the future of the mile-long, Downtown stretch of the New River, and the District surrounding it. A conceptual plan and design guidelines for the New River area formalized the bold thinking and creativity of a city that recognized the importance of reconnecting the Downtown to the New River. The plan called for a new linear park that would dramatically alter the image of Downtown, while providing recreational opportunities and fostering economic development. Much of the original vision, through the diligence and hard work of many, has been achieved.

TODAY, we are in a position to envision the next stage of life for the New River. We can look back upon the recent massive investment in the public realm, and evaluate the successes, the shortcomings, and the brand new opportunities resulting from an entirely

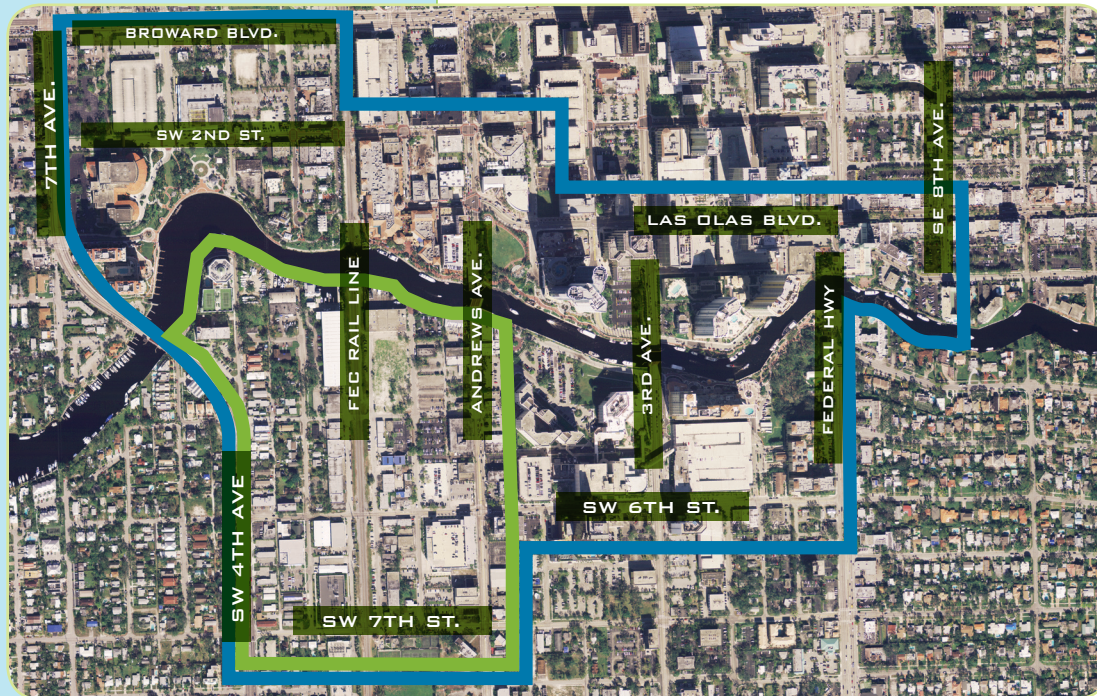
transformed Downtown context. The Downtown Master Plan of 2003, and the Downtown Master Plan Update of 2007, have responded to this changing context, advocating a mixed-use urban fabric of walkable, tree-lined streets, integrated transit options, a network of interconnected, distinct public spaces, and high quality architecture and urban design. For the New River, now that the “bones” of the Riverwalk are in place, it is time to fill out the “body” of the entire area. We have the opportunity to better connect areas along and across the river, increase public access, integrate the riverfront back into to surrounding inland neighborhoods, and encourage the highest quality development for any key sites along (or near) the river subject to change. The emphasis is less about paving and benches, and more about the shape of public spaces, the way building edges meet these public spaces, and the interconnectedness of the areas around the New River. In other words, we need an updated “framework” that describes the big ideas and consensus vision, that will ultimately set the stage for the more detailed design issues that will be encountered for years to come.

INTO THE FUTURE, the Riverwalk District will have a much greater impact on the image of Fort Lauderdale. As a vibrant destination for both locals and tourists, it can merge Fort Lauderdale's vibrant maritime activity with cultural and institutional magnets, a mixed-use walkable Downtown, and elements of beautiful South Florida vegetation. The end result could be a truly unique Downtown amenity that combines the best of both our natural and built environments.



An aerial view of proposed waterfront between Andrews Avenue and FEC railway

THE NEED FOR A NEW RIVER MASTER PLAN



 Riverwalk Framework plan

 Tarpon River Neighborhood Precinct Plan



Public Involvement Program

- Area-wide public workshop
- Tarpon River neighborhood workshop
- Stakeholder meetings

OUR TASK

Seize the remaining chance to define the high-quality, enduring character of the river, Riverwalk and its surroundings

- A compelling vision for the riverfront
- A mixed-use Downtown, integrating maritime, mixed-income housing, commercial & cultural uses
- A linked network of pedestrian friendly public spaces & parks
- Connections to surrounding neighborhoods
- Time to “think big” again...

PROJECT APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

- Build on past work – Downtown is not a blank slate
- Implement specific planning principles and guidelines from the 2003 Downtown Master Plan & 2007 Master Plan Update
- Continue to refine a consensus vision
- Break project down into themes and geographic sub-areas