



## LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

**LTC No: 26-015**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission  
**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**DATE:** January 20, 2026  
**SUBJECT: Riverside Park Playground Closure**

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The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission of the temporary closure of Riverside Park playground (for ages five (5) – twelve (12)), located at 555 SW 11 Avenue, for the installation of a new shade structure.

Parks and Recreation staff are installing a new shade structure over Riverside Park playground to enhance visitor comfort, provide ultraviolet (UV) protection, and improve usability of the space. The playground closed on Saturday, January 17, 2026, and is expected to reopen on February 4, 2026. Signage has been placed throughout the park, and the Strategic Communications department shared this information with residents via email, Nextdoor, social media pages, and the Parks and Recreation website to ensure the community is informed. In addition, the Riverside Park Homeowners Association was advised of this closure by city staff at its January 7, 2026, general meeting.

Riverside Park Playground has one (1) playground area that is designed with multiple distinct play areas to accommodate children of varying age groups, including a dedicated section for children ages two (2) – five (5), a separate section for children ages five (5) – twelve (12), and an independent swing area. The play area designated for children ages two (2) – five (5) is currently equipped with a shade structure and will not be impacted by the proposed improvements.

Historically, the remaining play areas benefited from natural shade provided by a large mature tree; however, this tree was removed to ensure public safety. Following the removal of the tree, the community requested to have shade coverage restored. The new shade structure will be securely attached to the play structure serving children ages five (5) – twelve (12).

For additional information, please contact Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Director, at [cwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:cwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov).

Attachment:

1. Riverside Park Playground Closure Flyer

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
City Manager's Office  
Department Directors



# **RIVERSIDE PARK 5-12 YEAR OLD PLAYGROUND CLOSURE**

**Closed for the installation  
of a new shading system**

**January 17 - February 4, 2026**



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