



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-073

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: March 16, 2026
SUBJECT: NatureScape Emerald Award

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission that the City of Fort Lauderdale's Parks and Recreation Department has received the NatureScape Emerald Award from Broward County's Natural Resources Division for Riverside Park, located at 551 SW 11 Avenue.

The NatureScape Emerald Award recognizes businesses, municipalities, schools, government facilities, and homeowners for exemplary landscaping practices.

On March 4, 2026, the City was notified by Broward County Natural Resources Division that the City's submission for Riverside Park had been selected for an Emerald Award. The City's submission included a carefully planned renovation of the playground, around existing tree roots. The trees and landscapes were improved to complement the new playground, including the appropriate plants installed in the best location to provide additional cover and feeding for wildlife. New swales were installed to capture and use rainwater in addition to the installation of WeatherTRAK, a smart irrigation system using weather-based smart irrigation controllers to eliminate water waste and deliver operational savings.

In recognition of this achievement, NatureScape recognized the City and presented an Emerald Award sign on Saturday, March 14, 2026, during the Water Matters Day Celebration held at Tree Tops Park in Davie, FL. The Emerald Award will be displayed at Riverside Park.

Please join me in congratulating the Parks and Recreation Department on this significant achievement.



Should you have any questions, please contact Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Director, at CWilliams@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5348.

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