

SPRING / SUMMER 2026

# OAKLAND PARK ON THE RISE

Progress, by Design!



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Get news and events throughout the year. Scan here to receive our weekly newsletter.




# Celebrating Our Team

The progress in this newsletter doesn't happen on its own. It happens because a dedicated team of public servants shows up every day, skilled, proud, and committed to Oakland Park. This is their story as much as it is the city's.

Across every department, Oakland Park's staff bring professionalism and genuine care to keep services reliable and neighborhoods safe. The recognition below reflects that commitment.



- Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA for 29 years
- Florida League of Mayors City Catalyst Grant for a Technology Hub at the City Library
- Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2024
- Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for fiscal year 2025 budget
- Human Rights Campaign Foundation Municipal Equality Index, perfect score of 100
- Keep America Beautiful Affiliate
- Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification improved from 3 to 2, placing Fire Rescue in the top 3% of departments nationwide
- National League of Cities Cultural Diversity Award

Each recognition reflects a team that holds itself to a high standard and genuinely cares about the people it serves.

# A Message from our Mayor

*Oakland Park has come a long way. The best is still ahead.*



Dear Oakland Park neighbors,

There are moments when you can feel a city's momentum, when years of quiet work suddenly become visible all at once. Oakland Park is in one of those moments, and I could not be prouder to share it with you.

This newsletter tells the story of what was delivered, what is underway, and what comes next as our city approaches its centennial in 2029. The Sky Building is open. City Hall moved to the west side of Dixie Highway. Work advances on Greenleaf Park and Horizon. These are not just construction projects, they are places where residents will live, gather, and build daily routines for generations.

Progress is happening citywide: safer routes, ADA improvements, park upgrades, and stormwater investments that protect property after storms. Careful planning, responsible budgeting, and aggressive pursuit of grants kept projects moving even as costs rose nationally. The city has lowered the millage rate year after year, saving taxpayers more than \$21 million since 2014, while delivering more than \$154 million in capital improvements since 2020. That combination of lower taxes and more investment is something Oakland Park has genuinely earned.

Behind this progress are the first responders, public works teams, volunteers, nonprofit partners, and city staff who deliver the services residents count on every day.

The work continues. Thank you for staying engaged and holding us to a high standard. It is an honor to serve as your mayor.

Warmest regards,  
*Mayor Steven R. Arnst*

# The New Heart of Oakland Park

| *A city that believed in itself and built the proof.*



There is a particular kind of pride that comes when a place finally becomes what it was always meant to be. Downtown Oakland Park is living that moment and every resident who walks its revitalized streets or stands at the steps of a City Hall planted proudly at the center of it all is part of something genuinely historic.

For too long, downtown carried the quiet frustration of unrealized potential. The community was strong. The location was right. But the connective tissue, the energy, the destinations, the reasons to visit, were missing. Oakland Park made the change. With

strategy, sustained investment, and an unwavering belief in what this community deserves, the city transformed its heart from the inside out.

Sky at Oakland Park is the proof. On what was once a vacant parcel now stands a bold mixed-use development: modern housing, street-level retail, public parking, and City Hall at the center of downtown. Relocating City Hall from east of the tracks wasn't just a logistical decision, it was a declaration of confidence. The results speak for themselves: more foot traffic, thriving businesses, and new residents choosing Oakland Park as home.

That success rests on years of disciplined groundwork, assembling key properties, remediating contaminated land, rebuilding roads and infrastructure. A once-vacant site now generates taxable value and draws new life into the surrounding blocks.



Across North Dixie Highway, Horizon of Oakland Park is the next chapter. The former City Hall site is being redeveloped with new housing, retail, and green space, including Greenleaf Park, a full public amenity delivered at no cost to the city.

The Harlem McBride neighborhood, home to the Sky Building, once a federally designated Qualified Census Tract, a marker of economic distress, no longer qualifies. Years of targeted investment changed the economic trajectory of an entire community. That is not a footnote. That is a milestone worth celebrating. Downtown Oakland Park is not a pass-through anymore. It's a destination, sought out, returned to, and growing.

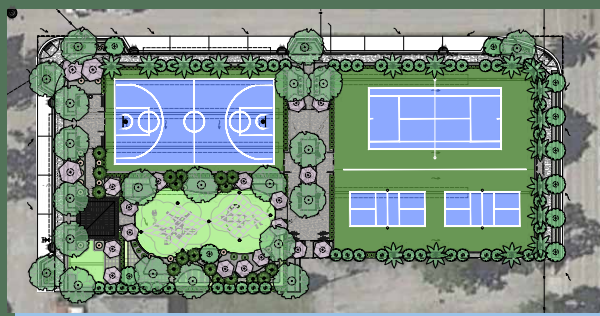


## Mayor's Perspective

*"Residents asked for a downtown with energy, activity, and real reasons to stay. Sky put City Hall at the center of it all and changed the map. Horizon carries that momentum across the street with new housing, new retail, new streetscapes, and a downtown that grows more vibrant with every passing month."*

*– Mayor Steven R. Arnst, City of Oakland Park*

# Momentum Beyond Main Street



## Greenleaf Park, Coming with Horizon

A brand-new public park at no cost to taxpayers. Greenleaf Park will feature:

- Playground for all ages
- Shaded pavilion for gatherings
- Full basketball court
- Tennis and pickleball courts
- Lighting and landscaping throughout



## Progress You Can Measure

- **One Qualified Census Tract** designation eliminated through sustained investment
- **Hundreds** of new residents living in the heart of a revitalized downtown
- **\$0 cost** to the city for Greenleaf Park, delivered through Horizon

# A City on the Move

*The decade that moved Oakland Park forward — 2015 to 2025.*

Ten years. Delivered deliberately, relentlessly, and with a clear sense of purpose. From east to west, north to south, across every neighborhood and every service area, what residents see today is a decade of vision turned into action.

New parks. Upgraded facilities. Safer streets. Stronger infrastructure. More than \$154 million in capital improvements since 2020, with the millage rate trending down the entire time. Careful planning and aggressive grant funding kept projects moving year after year. What follows is the full record, what was built, what is coming, and what will define Oakland Park's next chapter.

## Parks and Public Spaces



**Grand Plaza**

3855 North Dixie Highway



**City Centennial Park**

3900 NE 3rd Avenue



**North Andrews Gardens Community Center**

250 NE 56th Court



**Stunson Nature Trail**

1701 Park Lane West



**Dr. Carter G. Woodson Park**

3490 NE 3rd Avenue



**Wag Dog Park**

600 Park Lane East



**Harlem McBride Community Garden**

3490 NE 3rd Avenue

**\$154M+** invested in capital improvements since 2020

## Public Safety Investments



**Fire Station 9**  
599 Park Lane East



**Fire Station 87 Hardening**  
2100 NW 39th Street



**Fire Station 20 Hardening**  
4721 NW 9th Avenue

## City Facilities



**Public Works Facility**  
5100 NE 12th Terrace



**Municipal Building Hardening**  
5399 North Dixie Highway



**Renovations at 250**  
NE 33rd Street



**City Hall at Sky Building**  
1100 Park Lane East

## Neighborhood and Mobility Upgrades

- **LERIX Pump Station** in Lloyd Estates on the Sleepy River
- **Multimodal improvements** on Andrews Avenue, NW 10th Avenue, NW 21st Avenue, Park Lane, Powerline Road, and Prospect Road
- **New sidewalks** in Lakeside, along Floranada, on NE 13th Avenue and side streets, near Lloyd Estates Elementary and Oakland Park Elementary
- **Neighborhood monument signs** in 13 communities: Central Oakland Park, Coral Heights, Garden Acres, Harlem McBride, Lloyd Estates, North Andrews Gardens, Oakland Hills, Prospect Gardens, Royal Palm Isles, Royal Palm Lake Estates, South Royal Palm Acres, Tamarac Forest, and Twin Lakes South
- Nine miles of city-owned **streets resurfaced**



# The Decade that Moved Oakland Park Forward

## *It's All in the Details*

Every detail across the city's parks and public spaces tells a story of intentional design and community pride. Architectural features such as arches and pergolas, along with carefully selected fencing, benches, and fountains, bring a cohesive and recognizable identity to Oakland Park.

These elements do more than enhance appearance. They create inviting spaces where residents gather, relax, and build connections. The consistency in design helps unify the city's growing network of parks and facilities, giving Oakland Park a distinct sense of place that residents can recognize and take pride in.

It is this combination of big-picture vision and attention to detail that continues to move Oakland Park forward, shaping a city that honors its past while confidently building its future.



**Coming Soon**



**City Library**  
3900 NE 3rd Avenue



**Veterans Park**  
3401 NW 21st Avenue



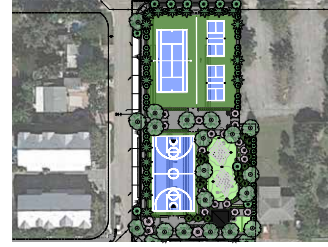
**Royal Palm Park**  
1701 Park Lane West



**Richard E. Giusti**  
600 Park Lane East



**Stevens Field**  
3881 NE 6th Avenue



**Greenleaf Park**  
1300 Park Lane East

**Looking Ahead**



**City Centennial Park**  
3900 NE 3rd Avenue



**Glenwood Garden**  
1200 block of NE 35th Street



**Fire Station 20**  
880 West Prospect Road

**\$70M+** in grants since 2015 – two-thirds of capital projects funded by outside dollars

**\$21M+** saved by residents through millage rate reductions since 2014

# Priority One: Safe Access for Everyone

*Oakland Park moves better when everyone can move.*

A parent walking their child to school on a new sidewalk. An older adult crossing an intersection with extra time to spare. A neighbor in a wheelchair navigating a curb ramp that finally works. These moments happen every day across Oakland Park because the city invested in making them possible.



Over the past decade, Oakland Park made a clear, sustained commitment: every resident deserves to move through the city with confidence and independence on foot, by bike, by bus, or by wheelchair. That commitment is measured in miles of new sidewalk, millions in grants, and real improvements residents can feel on every block.

## **Access Is the Point**

Sidewalks matter most when they connect people to real destinations: schools, parks, bus stops, and businesses. Oakland Park closed gaps that once turned short trips into obstacles, building networks near elementary schools and through neighborhoods that had waited years for safe, direct routes. ADA improvements make those connections work for everyone, parents with strollers, older adults, wheelchair users, and people who are visually or hearing impaired. Every resident deserves mobility options that work for them.

## Built to Last

The smartest investments solve more than one problem at once. Oakland Park's corridor upgrades combine mobility improvements with drainage and utility work, stretching every dollar further and sparing neighborhoods from repeated construction. The NE 13th Avenue project is a model: over \$5 million invested to combine sidewalks, drainage, utilities, and landscaping in a single effort.

Accessible routes extend into parks too. Playground improvements at City Centennial Park, North Andrews Gardens Community Center, and Dr. Carter G. Woodson Park mean every family can take full part in what Oakland Park offers.



## A City Worth Getting To

Coming soon: a community shuttle connecting downtown with City Hall, Centennial Park, and Prospect Plaza, expanding mobility options and improving access to businesses and Broward County Transit for residents in underserved areas.

Getting around Oakland Park should never be the hard part. That's not a wish, it's a commitment the city keeps, one investment at a time.

- ▶ **20+** miles of new sidewalk installed citywide
- ▶ **\$9.45** million in drainage and flood protection projects
- ▶ **\$6.99** million in sidewalk and school-route grants
- ▶ **\$5** million NE 13th Avenue corridor: sidewalks, drainage, utilities, landscaping
- ▶ **Phase 1** of ADA Plan complete, improvements underway

# Parks with a Purpose

*Investing in every corner of the park system and residents can feel the difference.*

A park is never just a park. It's a promise that this city values your time outside, your wellbeing, and the places where you gather and breathe. Oakland Park is making good on that promise across its entire park system, and the results are showing up everywhere.

New trails, better lighting, accessible paths, refreshed facilities, and the thoughtful details that turn a quick stop into a reason to stay. Every upgrade starts with a simple question: what do residents actually need? The answer is showing up in courts and kayak launches, in community centers that do far more than one thing. Parks are becoming places people plan their days around.

Oakland Park's parks are a love letter to the people who live here, written in trails and trees, in courts and kayak launches, in lights that stay on so residents can stay out.

## CITY LIBRARY

3900 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

Construction is 60% complete. When it opens later this year, the Oakland Park Library, a technology hub, job training, telehealth access, and flexible community spaces will be under one roof. The temporary library at Jaco Pastorius Community Center remains open. This isn't just a building, it's a launchpad for opportunity.



## GLENWOOD GARDEN

NE 35th Street

A new passive park at NE 35th Street, funded in part by a private donation from a city resident. Community investment, growing back into the community.

## RICHARD E. GIUSTI HEART PAR COURS

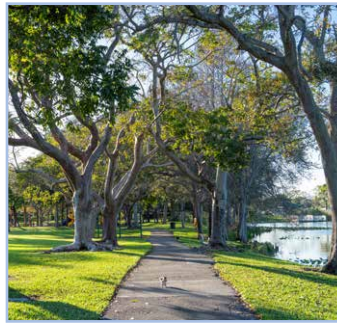
600 Park Lane East

New trail improvements, upgraded exercise equipment, and refreshed signage make this beloved wellness destination even better.

## ROYAL PALM PARK

1701 Park Lane West

A comprehensive trail upgrade brings pedestrian-friendly pathways, improved lighting, landscaping, and better stormwater management. Safer, greener, and more welcoming.



## STEVENS FIELD

3881 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue

A full rebirth: new perimeter walking trail, restroom building, LED sports lighting, multipurpose field, improved grading, benches, bike racks, trash cans, and bleachers.

## VETERANS PARK

3401 NW 21st Avenue

A new kayak launch opens Blue Heron Lake to paddlers. A paved trail, enhanced lighting, accessibility upgrades, resurfaced parking, and new amenities throughout make this waterfront gem more alive than ever.



## J. DEWEY HAWKINS LANDING

2960 NE 12th Terrace

J. Dewey Hawkins Landing is about to become one of Oakland Park's most treasured outdoor destinations, providing access to Middle River. The city secured \$860,000 in grants, with construction planned for later this year.

## CITY CENTENNIAL PARK

3900 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

Leading up to our centennial, five acres made available by the Public Works relocation will expand Centennial Park with a tiered lawn viewing area, performance stage space, outdoor seating, new trails, a butterfly garden, gathering space, urban forest, exercise area, jogging trail, and surface parking.



# Greener Acres

*In a growing city, new green space doesn't come easy. Oakland Park found a way.*

Land is precious in South Florida. Finding new green space in a city requires creativity, smart planning, and partnerships that turn unlikely opportunities into lasting gifts to the community. Oakland Park has done all of that and the city is greener for it.

Two recent developments delivered more than 25 acres of new parkland. The BLYS development on NE 6th Avenue created a public waterfront promenade connecting the Middle River to Oakland Park Boulevard. The Oak Tree community off Prospect Road added a nine-acre linear greenway linking to existing trails on NW 44th Street. The Horizon development will deliver Greenleaf Park with a playground, pavilion, basketball court, tennis and pickleball courts, at no cost to the city. The existing space and legacy tree at the southeast corner will become a new dog park and passive park for the community.

Smart reuse adds acres, too. The Public Works relocation to NE 12th Terrace opened five prime acres on NE 5th Avenue to expand City

Centennial Park with new green space and new opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

Glenwood Garden adds another chapter. Planned for NE 35th Street, the passive park will become reality through a generous private donation from a city resident. Community love, growing right back into the neighborhood.

## **A City That Keeps Growing Its Canopy**

First recognized as a Tree City USA in 1991, Oakland Park has expanded its canopy since 2015 by planting more than 1,900 trees and distributing more than 6,000 to residents. Every tree planted is a long-term investment in shade, air quality, and the character of Oakland Park's neighborhoods.

More green space. More trees. More places to walk and gather. Oakland Park keeps building a greener city, one inspired acre at a time.



- ▶ **25+** new acres of parkland delivered through recent developments
- ▶ **1,900+** trees planted since 2015, plus **6,000+** distributed to residents
- ▶ **29** years as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA

# Stronger by Design

***The infrastructure beneath Oakland Park makes everything above it possible.***

You can't see the pipes, the pump stations, or the drainage systems quietly doing their job beneath Oakland Park's streets. But you feel the difference when they work, and you'd certainly feel it if they didn't. For years, Oakland Park has been making that invisible foundation stronger, smarter, and more resilient.

More than \$60 million invested in stormwater improvements over 15 years. The \$11 million LERIX pump station, the city's largest single drainage investment, now serves Lloyd Estates. Five pump stations receive monthly inspections and emergency generator testing. Crews sweep 97 lane miles of streets every month to keep debris out of the system before it becomes a problem.

Planning keeps investments targeted. An updated Stormwater Master Plan, built on a rigorous Flood Vulnerability Assessment, identified more than \$50 million in improvements for the next 15 years, a clear-eyed commitment to what comes next. The city also participates in FEMA's Community Rating System, supporting a 20% flood insurance discount for eligible properties in the Special Flood Hazard Area.

Grant funding accelerates the work. Oakland Park secured \$9.39 million in state funding for flood and sea-level rise protection, including drainage improvements on NE 6th and NE 13th Avenues.

- ▶ **\$60M+** invested in stormwater improvements over 15 years
- ▶ **\$11M** LERIX pump station – the city's largest drainage investment
- ▶ **\$9.39M** in state grants for flood and sea-level rise protection
- ▶ **20%** flood insurance discount for eligible properties through FEMA's Community Rating System



## ACTIVE RESILIENCE PROJECTS

### ■ **NE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drainage Improvements**

Phased work between NE 38th Street and Commercial Boulevard adds new drainage infrastructure to a critical corridor.

### ■ **NE 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements**

Drainage upgrades, paired with improvements along the NE 13th Avenue corridor and surrounding side streets, will reduce nuisance flooding, protect roadway conditions, and deliver new sidewalks to the community through an integrated design.

### ■ **North Andrews Avenue Drainage Improvements**

Targeted upgrades in low-lying areas help streets recover faster after heavy rain.

# Putting our First Responders First



Public safety shows up in the moments residents cannot plan for. A fire station that works. Equipment that holds up. People who train hard and stay ready. Those essentials stay in focus, with continued investment where it counts.

That commitment shows up in the support behind the service: pay, benefits, facilities, and equipment that help first responders do their jobs well and stay ready when residents need them most. In the city's general fund, Police Services through BSO account for 27% of spending and Fire Rescue accounts for 22%. Together, public safety accounts for about 49% of the total, with annual spending up more than 50% since 2020.

Pay and long-term benefits make up the largest share of public safety budgets. Since FY 2022, firefighters received wage increases of more than 30%, supported by step plan enhancements and additional earning opportunities. Over the same period, BSO deputies and sergeants assigned to Oakland Park received regular annual increases that combine base pay adjustments with step increases.



At the time this publication went to print, the city has offered the fire rescue union a generous 18 percent salary increase over the next two years. The union countered with a 34 percent increase over the same term. Negotiations continue.

Oakland Park participates in the Florida Retirement System, with pension costs funded through state-set employer contribution rates. Recent state changes to DROP extended the program from five to eight years, giving eligible firefighters and paramedics more time to work while pension payments accumulate in a separate retirement account. A longer DROP window can significantly increase the lump sum available at separation, in addition to regular pay earned during continued service.

Support also shows up in the places and tools first responders rely on every day. Fire Station 9 opened in 2024 as a modern base for operations and support, built for today's demands and the daily pace of emergency service. Existing stations also received important upgrades. Grant-supported improvements at Fire Station 20 include new doors and windows, a roof replacement, and a generator replacement. Station 87 received similar improvements that support day-to-day readiness. Plans for a future new Fire Station 20 will help keep coverage aligned with community needs.

The city also invested in the BSO district offices at the municipal building on Dixie Highway. As one of the first buildings addressed through the bond program, the site received a new standby generator, impact windows and doors, a new elevator cab and equipment, and other improvements. The project totaled \$1,369,547, including \$546,751 from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Readiness depends on the right tools. Oakland Park Fire Rescue added a new ladder truck, two rescue units, and improved its ISO rating from 3 to 2, an independent measure of fire protection. Specialized training, including an ALS Competition Team and a Vehicle Extrication Team, adds another layer of readiness. Investments that matter when seconds count.

### **Oakland Park Fire Rescue Now Hiring**

Ready for a career that matters? Oakland Park Fire Rescue is hiring for multiple positions. Join a department focused on training, readiness, and service.

- Competitive pay and benefits
- Florida Retirement System pension and DROP options
- Career growth, training, and specialty opportunities

Apply at [oaklandparkfl.gov/jobs](http://oaklandparkfl.gov/jobs).



# Hard Hat Heroes

Water flows from the tap. The garbage is gone. The drain clears. None of that happens by accident. It happens because a skilled team of city employees shows up every day, ready for whatever Oakland Park needs.

**Public Works** handles drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, roads, sidewalks, stormwater, city buildings, vehicles, and equipment. The team smoke-tested approximately 200,000 feet of gravity sewer, completed roughly 420 lift station repairs, and collected more than 25,400 tons of garbage, recycling, and bulk trash in a single year. When storms hit, crews shift to emergency mode around the clock. The department also leads on sustainability – earning Keep America Beautiful affiliate status, launching Roll with Reusables, and helping shape the Broward County Climate Action Plan from Oakland Park's seat at the table. While much of the work stays out of sight, the results show up everywhere.

► *Residents notice. A citywide survey found 94% satisfaction with garbage collection and 88% satisfaction with parks.*



# Where Loakls Lead

**Oakland Park didn't become "The Brooklyn of Broward" by accident.**

When the South Florida Sun Sentinel called Oakland Park "The Brooklyn of Broward," it was describing something real: a culinary scene that surprises visitors, walkable streets with genuine character, and an independent business culture that feels earned. That kind of recognition takes years to build, and Oakland Park has been building it intentionally.

For years, the city has invested in the places and programs that help independent businesses open, grow, and stay. The result is a city that draws people in, keeps them longer, and gives residents more reasons to spend locally.



## Tools That Make a Real Difference

The Community Redevelopment Agency and Economic Development team work directly with business owners on incentives, expansion plans, and real-world resources, real conversations, not just pamphlets.

The Qualified Census Tract Business Incentive Program offers up to \$20,000 through a dollar-for-dollar matching grant for eligible businesses investing in improvements and growth. In 2026, updated HUD maps expanded eligibility to additional areas while keeping prior eligible areas in the program. More businesses can now access support that makes a visible difference on the street.

Oakland Park also connects entrepreneurs to small business bootcamps, one-on-one technical assistance, and specialized coaching, resources that help local businesses build stronger foundations on their own terms.

## Keeping the Energy Going

The quarterly Oakland Park Art Walk boosts foot traffic and gives local artists, merchants, and small businesses more visibility. Economic Development staff stay engaged year-round recognizing grand openings, meeting with owners, and making sure every business knows what resources are available.

The goal never changes: help Oakland Park's independent businesses thrive and give residents a city that is genuinely worth exploring.

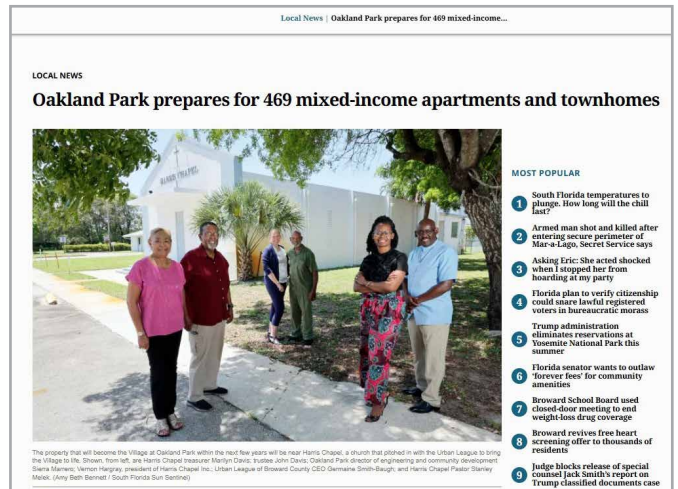
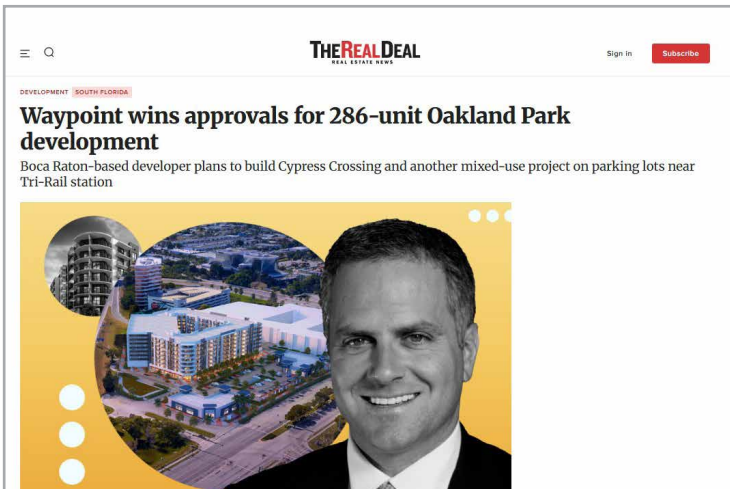


**Westside: Invested and Moving Forward**  
 Oakland Park's westside is a priority, backed with more than \$18 million in sustained investment across public safety, parks, mobility, and corridor improvements. West Oakland Park Boulevard is one of Broward County's highest transit ridership corridors. Investment here strengthens daily life for the residents who rely on it most.

The first business incentive program launched outside the CRA is already producing results. The latest grant recipient, a commercial plaza at 2152 - 2192 W. Oakland Park Blvd., is moving forward with exterior renovations, showing exactly how targeted public investment unlocks private reinvestment. Proactive code compliance work west of I-95 is raising standards alongside those investments.

Westside Investments: By the Numbers	
Recently Delivered Projects	
Lakeside Sidewalk Improvements	\$1,100,000
NW 21st Avenue Corridor Enhancements	\$7,341,828
Fire Station 87 Phase 1	\$1,900,000
Stunson Nature Trail Phase 2	\$254,000
Oakland Park Boulevard Phase 2 (Landscaping)	\$332,000
Oak Tree Public Greenway (Developer Funded)	\$3,130,000
Underway and Planned (Estimated Investment)	
Royal Palm Park Improvements	\$848,000
Veterans Park Improvements	\$720,000
NW 21st Avenue Improvements South of Oakland Park Boulevard and Bike Lanes	\$2,565,902
<b>Total Investment:</b>	<b>\$18,191,730</b>

Oak Tree, a 140-acre development west of Prospect Road and NW 21st Avenue, includes 405 units, 23 acres of open space, and a nine-acre trail. The Village at Oakland Park, with 469 attainable residences, green space, and neighborhood-serving amenities at NW 21st Street and NW 26th Avenue, will be a transformative new anchor for the westside.



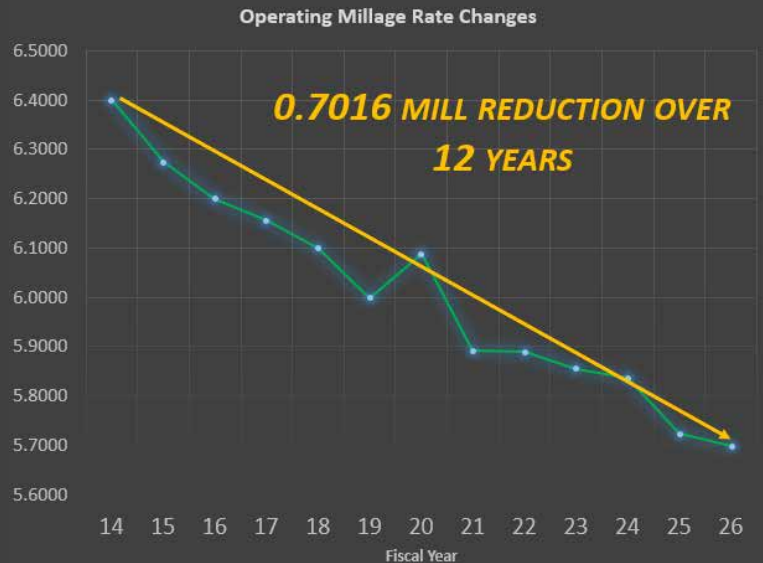
▶ To find out if your business qualifies for our incentive program or to learn more, contact us at [opcra@oaklandparkfl.gov](mailto:opcra@oaklandparkfl.gov).

# The Low-Rate Playbook

**Lower millage. Stronger services. More investment. All three, at once.**

Most cities face a choice: cut taxes or fund improvements. Oakland Park found a third way and has been executing it for over a decade. Lower millage rates, year after year, while delivering major capital investments citywide. That is disciplined, strategic financial management, and it is saving residents real money.

Since 2014, millage rate reductions have saved taxpayers more than \$21 million, even as the city expanded capital improvements across Oakland Park. For FY 2026, the city lowered the operating millage rate again, to 5.6979 mills, extending one of the strongest rate-reduction records in Broward County.



## The Strategy Behind the Record

Oakland Park issued \$40 million in general obligation bonds at historically low interest rates, locking in borrowing costs before construction inflation spiked. As costs rose, the city paired bond funding with grants and outside dollars to keep projects moving without placing the full burden on residents.

## Grants and Outside Funding

More than \$70 million in grants since 2015 has helped Oakland Park deliver parks, infrastructure, public safety, and resilience projects while keeping the local tax burden lower. Approximately two-thirds of capital projects are now funded by outside sources, an extraordinary return on every local dollar invested.

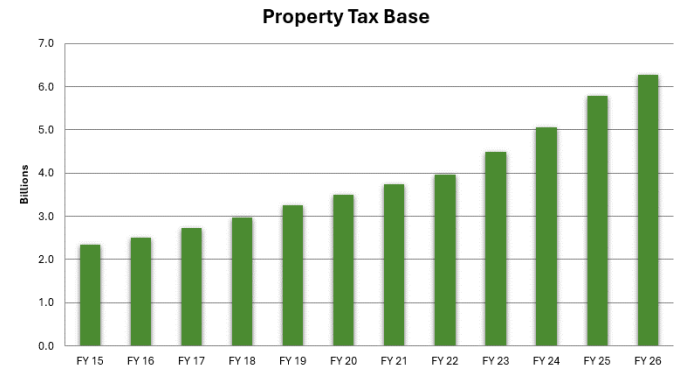
## Planning Ahead

The Florida Legislature is debating proposals that would remove homesteaded properties from the tax rolls. The Broward County Property Appraiser's Office estimates that change would cost Oakland Park approximately \$10.6 million per year, requiring difficult choices about services and future investments. Oakland Park is monitoring these discussions closely and planning proactively. Significantly reduced property tax revenues would make it difficult to maintain current service levels.

- ▶ **\$21M+** saved by taxpayers through millage reductions since 2014
- ▶ **5.6979 mills** – Oakland Park's FY 2026 operating millage rate
- ▶ **\$70M+** in grants secured since 2015
- ▶ **~2/3** of capital projects funded by outside sources
- ▶ **23 consecutive years** - GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
- ▶ **21 consecutive years** - GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

# Confidence Builds Here

*When a city invests in itself, the private sector follows.*



There is a signal that investors watch more closely than any market report: what is the city itself doing? Is it investing, planning, executing? Oakland Park’s answer is an unambiguous yes, and the private sector has responded.

More than \$450 million in private development is recently completed, underway, or in the pipeline. New homes, ground-floor retail, public parks, and walkable streetscapes are taking shape across the city. Oakland Park set a clear direction: build destinations, add housing variety, expand green space, protect neighborhood character, and the market followed.

## The Projects Taking Shape



### Parklyn

Opening soon, Parklyn brings a modern mixed-use building with new residences and ground-floor retail to a major corridor in Oakland Park.



### Horizon of Oakland Park

Now underway on the former City Hall site, Horizon delivers new homes, retail space, and public parking at one of the city’s most prominent locations, with Greenleaf Park, a public amenity and neighborhood destination.



### The Village at Oakland Park

469 residences and significant green space at NW 21st Street and NW 26th Avenue. Designed as an intergenerational neighborhood with family-serving amenities and stronger transit connections for the westside.

## A Principled Approach to Affordability

Growth means little if residents cannot afford to stay. Oakland Park made attainable housing a genuine planning priority, engaging residents through public workshops, appointing an Affordable Housing Ombudsman, and advancing incentives including permit and plan review fee reductions for qualifying projects.

Eight hundred affordable units are currently available or in development across Sky, Horizon, and The Village at Oakland Park. Not a distant goal, already in motion, already making a difference for real families in this community.

- ▶ **\$450M+** in private investment recently completed or in the pipeline
- ▶ **800** affordable housing units completed or currently in development
- ▶ **469** new residences coming to the westside

# Powered By People

Every city is ultimately a community. Oakland Park's volunteers and nonprofit partners, the ones who pack groceries for a homebound neighbor, clean a waterway, or give a Saturday morning to beautify a block, make this more than a place to live. They make it a place worth belonging to.



- ▶ 200 homebound seniors receiving monthly grocery deliveries
- ▶ \$80K invested in local nonprofits through the Aid to Nonprofits Program

## Taking Care of Seniors

Every month, volunteers pack and deliver groceries directly to 200 homebound residents who are elderly or unable to get out on their own. It is one of the city's most consistent programs, and it runs because neighbors choose to show up. To volunteer, visit the city website or call 954-630-4506. Homebound seniors can enroll through the Broward County Vulnerable Population Registry at 954-831-4000.

## Supporting our Local Nonprofits

Through the Aid to Nonprofits Program, Oakland Park is investing \$80,000 annually in local organizations that deliver direct community support, including Light of the World Clinic, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Farm Share, and Hands On South Florida.

## Save the Date

### GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY

— Sept. 12, 2026 —

Oakland Park's citywide day of service. Residents, volunteers, nonprofits, schools, and city staff, all coming together for the community they love.

## Ways to Get Involved

- Food Distribution
- Cleanup / Beautification
- Adopt-A-Road
- Service Projects / Events

To volunteer, visit the city website or call 954-630-4506.

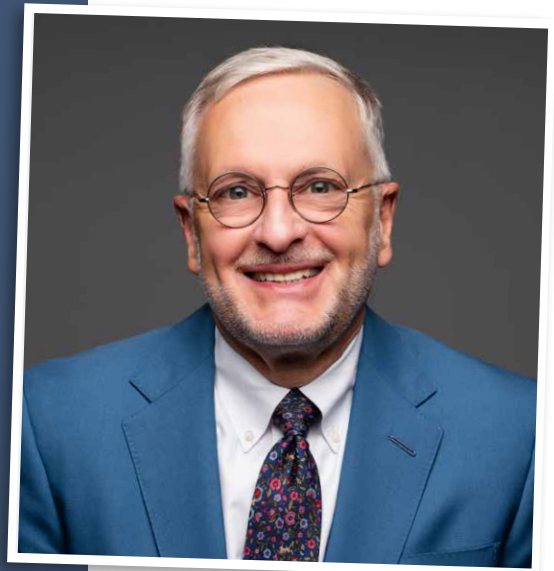
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Oakland Park is built on the belief that neighbors take care of neighbors. In the past two years, volunteers gave over 3,000 hours of their time to serve our community.

# A Message from the City Manager

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Though I live only three miles from City Hall, for the past twelve years, I often take the long way to work. I drive through Oakland Park neighborhoods and commercial areas envisioning the possibilities, thinking about the potential. Today, when I make that same drive, I see the vision fulfilled throughout the city.

It has truly been a decade of progress.

With the support of the community, Oakland Park invested in new parks and facilities, expanding the amenities across the city and adding park land and green space. Beautification and enhancement projects preserved the city's small-town charm and neighborhood character through updated code provisions, safer streets and sidewalks, and investment in our tree canopy. Public services and infrastructure were enhanced and expanded.

Improving quality of life for all Oakland Park residents is what drives these efforts. The catalyst and inspiration for much of this effort began with the reimagining of Downtown Oakland Park.

Downtown Oakland Park today is a dynamic destination for dining and entertainment, and it's well on its way to becoming a place where families and people of all ages will live, work, and enjoy life to its fullest.

Fiscal prudence made this progress possible. Careful long-term planning, disciplined budgeting, and aggressive pursuit of outside funding helped Oakland Park lower the millage rate year after year while investing across the city. Those decisions strengthened services, protected taxpayers, and supported property appreciation in neighborhoods throughout Oakland Park.

None of this is possible without a committed city staff, the support of engaged residents, and a Mayor and City Commissioners who share a vision for the future of Oakland Park.

It is a wonderful city that gets better every day. I am proud and honored under the direction of the City Commission to lead a team of dedicated professionals and citizen volunteers who are genuinely committed to making it a city everyone can be proud to call home.

*David Hebert*  
City Manager





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# Connect with Us

## Follow Us on Social Media

Facebook: @OPCityFL  
Instagram: @CityOaklandPark  
Nextdoor: www.nextdoor.com  
Twitter: @CityOaklandPark

## Important Phone Numbers

24/7 AI Assistant Janine: 954-630-4330  
Broward Sheriff's Office (Non-Emergency): 954-764-4357  
Building and Permitting Services: 954-630-4350  
City of Oakland Park (Main Number): 954-630-4200  
Community Enhancement: 954-630-4400  
Community Redevelopment Agency and Economic Development: 954-630-4390  
Engineering and Community Development: 954-630-4419  
Fire Administration: 954-630-4550  
Human Resources: 954-630-4313  
Oakland Park Library: 954-630-4370  
Parks & Leisure Services: 954-630-4500  
Solid Waste Collection: 954-630-4452  
Public Works (After-Hours): 954-561-6275  
Utility Billing Services: 954-630-4280

## An official publication of the City of Oakland Park

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