

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Raul J. Aguila, Interim City Manager

DATE: February 10, 2021

SUBJECT: Discussion on Parks Accessibility

DocuSigned by:
Raul Aguila
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ANALYSIS

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Mayor and City Commission with an overview of accessibility to parks within our City. The information contained herein will also be updated on the level of service (LOS) findings in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Determining LOS standards for parks and recreation systems can be measured in multiple ways, but a generally accepted metric is a 10-minute (½ mile) walkable service area. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has championed the 10-minute (½ mile) walk as a metric in their ParkServe catalog to generate information for communities across the country. This was used as a starting point to benchmark Miami Beach against other local communities, popular coastal areas, and major cities across the United States. This is an easy to understand metric that all stakeholder groups can use.

We are proud to report that TPL data as of January 25, 2021, shows 97% of Miami Beach residents are within a 10-minute (½ mile) walk of a park. Compared to other communities locally, across Florida and nationwide, Miami Beach ranks highly with respect to accessibility to parks. The national average for communities is 55%.

The following are the TPL accessibility figures for other communities:

Local communities

Miami Beach (97%)
Key Biscayne (90%)
Miami (87%)
Key West (81%)
Fort Lauderdale (77%)
Coral Gables (84%)
Aventura (81%)
Coral Springs (66%)
Doral (28%)
Weston (24%)

Other communities in Florida

Palm Beach (71%)
Orlando (64%)
Naples (64%)
Tampa (63%)

West Palm Beach (53%)
Tallahassee (47%)
Jacksonville (35%)

Coastal communities

Seattle, WA (97%)
Portland, ME (89%)
Long Beach, CA (84%)
Santa Monica, CA (83%)
San Diego, CA (81%)
Honolulu (79%)
Los Angeles, CA (62%)

Major U.S. cities

New York, NY (99%)
Washington, DC (98%)
Chicago, IL (98%)
Denver, CO (91%)
Portland, OR (90%)
Atlanta, GA (72%)
Houston, TX (61%)

The Parks and Recreation Department has worked closely with the TPL in order to provide updates to their data with respect to Miami Beach. Based on information previously submitted to the TPL, Miami Beach's accessibility rating (park score) increased from 95% to 97%. Since then, additional data was provided to the TPL, which is pending to be updated into their catalog. Based on internal assessments, the accessibility rating is expected to increase closer to 99% of Miami Beach residents living within a 10-minute (½ mile) walk to a park or greenspace promenade. Greenspace promenades, which are included in the TPL's metrics, are public facilities on typically smaller lots such as street-ends, plazas, and pathways, that complement the parks system and provide ancillary benefits such as benches and other amenities, or access to the beachwalk, beaches, and bayfront.

MT/JR/JDR

