



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 25-142

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

DATE: September 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Completion of the Sailboat Bend Historic District Interpretive Signs and Walking Tour Project funded by the Florida Department of State

This memorandum provides an update on the Sailboat Bend Historic District Interpretive Signs and Walking Tour project that was recently completed by the City of Fort Lauderdale. The project was funded through a \$50,000 grant from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historic Resources, and was accepted by the City Commission on September 3, 2024 ([CAM #24-0740](#)).

The project includes eight (8) interpretive and educational panels that were installed in the Sailboat Bend Historic District in August 2025. Each panel includes a quick response (QR) code that links to a web-based walking tour, offering expanded information and interactive storytelling that brings the history of Sailboat Bend to life. Panels measure 24 inches by 54 inches, are fabricated using materials that will provide long-term durability and weather resistance and are mounted in aluminum angle frames featuring decorative elements.

Sign locations were carefully selected and are strategically placed throughout the neighborhood based on their historical relevance, highlighting connections to significant events, places, and individuals that correspond with the displayed content. Priority was given to city-owned parcels to ensure accessibility and ease of installation.

The signs contribute to the neighborhood's identity, aligning with the Sailboat Bend Historic District Vision Plan 2025, by offering historical context and educational messaging. They help residents and visitors connect with the area's unique history, fostering a sense of place and community pride. Designed to be both informative and visually engaging, the signs aim to enhance the visitor experience and support local tourism by transforming public spaces into meaningful destinations.

Signs were installed in the following locations:

- Sign 1: W Las Olas/SW 7 Avenue (700 W. Las Olas Boulevard)
- Sign 2: Cooley's Landing – 450 Cooley Avenue
- Sign 3: William Lauderdale Park – SW 4 Street

- Sign 4: William Lauderdale Park – SW 4 Street
- Sign 5: Swing Bridge – SW 11 Avenue/New River
- Sign 6: West Side Fire Station – 1022 W Las Olas Boulevard
- Sign 7: West Side School – 301 SW 13 Avenue
- Sign 8: Sailboat Bend Preserve/Townsend Park – 1400 Argyle Drive

SAIL AROUND SAILBOAT BEND ON A HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



Sailboat Bend Map with interpretive sign locations

Development of the research and design of this project was undertaken by Trisha Logan, Principal Urban Planner, and Vasilya Allakhverdieva, Urban Planner II in the Urban Design and Planning Division of the Development Services Department. Research support, including the provision of images and hosting of the walking tour application was provided by *History Fort Lauderdale*, including Patricia Zeiler, Executive Director, and Ellery Andrews, Deputy Director. The sign panels and frames were manufactured by Neon Sign Solutions, who were selected as the contractor for this project, following a competitive bid process for the design, fabrication, and installation of the signs.

This project was presented to the Historic Preservation Board on July 7, 2025, and was well received. Additional outreach was provided to the Sailboat Bend Civic Association, the Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum, and the Village of Sailboat Bend Condominium Association, and all provided positive feedback.

This initiative reflects the City's ongoing commitment to placemaking and cultural vibrancy through accessible, site-specific public art. It also supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan, specifically within the Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area and the Historic Preservation Element. The project advances Goal 2 of the Historic Preservation Element: "Provide educational and incentive opportunities to further the City's historic preservation goals," including Objective HP 2.2 and Policy HP 2.2.3, which promote public education and collaboration with local historical organizations.

An unveiling event for the Sailboat Bend Historic District Interpretive Signs and Walking Tour is scheduled at Cooley's Landing Park and Marina, located at 450 Cooley Avenue, for Friday, September 26, 2025, at 5:30pm.

Should you have any questions please contact Trisha Logan, Principal Urban Planner at tlogan@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-7101 or Lina Allakhverdieva, Urban Planner II at vasilyaa@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-4995 with any questions or concerns.

Attachment:

1. Photos of Completed Signs and QR Codes for Walking Tour
- c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors

Attachment 1: Photos and QR Codes for Completed Signs

Sign 1: History of Sailboat Bend

West Las Olas/SW 7th Avenue (700 W. Las Olas Boulevard)



Sign 2: The New River and Cooley's Landing Marina
Cooley's Landing – 450 Cooley Avenue



Sign 3: Early Residents of Sailboat Bend
William Lauderdale Park – SW 4th Street



Sign 4: Early Settlements

William Lauderdale Park – SW 4th Street



Sign 5: A Pioneer Settlement

Swing Bridge – SW 11th Avenue/New River



Sign 6: The Railroad Arrives
West Side Fire Station – 1022 W. Las Olas Blvd



Sign 7: Development Boom
West Side School – 301 SW 13th Avenue



Sign 8: Architectural Styles of Sailboat Bend
Sailboat Bend Preserve/Townsend Park – 1400 Argyle Drive

