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DOWNTOWN MIAMI

### Brickell residents will soon get new park

*A new park will be coming to a one-acre parcel on Brickell Avenue in downtown Miami.*

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Residents along Brickell Avenue will see more green space coming their way by year's end.

Thanks to a collaboration between the Hollo family and Commissioner Marc Sarnoff, there will soon be a new park at 1814 Brickell Ave.

Earlier this year, the city of Miami bought the one-acre parcel for \$2.6 million and the Hollos contributed a further \$200,000, said David Karsh, a spokesman for Sarnoff.

The green space is coming at a crucial time, as more people make downtown Miami their home. A study by the Miami Downtown Development Authority and Goodkin Consulting/Focus Real Estate Advisors found that nearly three-quarters of the 22,079 condo units built since 2003 are occupied. The area spans the Brickell district south of downtown Miami to the Julia Tuttle Causeway.

Possible features of the park include shaded rest areas, a tot lot, dog park and walkways.

Sarnoff said he got the idea for a park in 2008, when he saw that none of the impact fees Miami had collected were being spent in District 2. Impact fees come from building permits and are meant to offset the costs associated with new projects.

“The fees were coming from Brickell, that's where construction was going on,” Sarnoff said. “It took almost two years to get it done.”

Jerome Hollo, vice president of Florida East Coast Realty, said the original plan was to allow the city to use one of their sites as a temporary park, but it fell through.

His parents' foundation, the Tibor and Sheila Hollo Charitable Foundation, helped Miami acquire the park land.

“We are very happy to help the city,” Hollo said.

“It will be a great asset to the residents of the Brickell area.”

But that's not all. Sarnoff has reached out to Brickell residents, asking them to raise money to cover the park's improvements and maintenance costs.

So far, the commissioner has secured \$271,000 from bond money. He wants to match that with \$271,000 from the private sector.

Ernesto Cuesta, president of the Brickell Homeowners Association, said his group welcomes the new amenity.

“We are thrilled to have this for the residents,” Cuesta said. “We have been advocating for a park for a while.”

Cuesta said the commissioner would speak more about the park's design at a meeting on Thursday at 6 p.m. at The Metropolitan, 2475 Brickell Ave., sixth floor.

Sarnoff is exploring creating another park in the north end of his district in the Little River area.

“We are looking at a piece of property there,” he said.