

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012 | 3NE

SUNNY ISLES BEACH

New 4-acre park in the works

■ A parking garage, a butterfly garden and a children's splash pad are just a few of the amenities planned for the city's new park.

BY LIDIA DINKOVA
ltzdinkova@gmail.com

A butterfly garden, a performance stage and a children's splash pad. These are some of the features of the park coming to Sunny Isles Beach. The four-acre Gateway Park will be west of Collins Avenue between the eastbound and westbound lanes of Sunny Isles Boulevard. It will be the 10th in the city and should be completed by the end of 2013. Here are some of the amenities to be featured: A three-story parking garage on the west side. Upon exiting, patrons will be in a European-style plaza with tree-lined alleys, said Eduardo Castineira, president of the architecture firm that designed the park, Axioma3architects. A waterfall will line the northwest side of the park. The mist coming from the cascading water is meant to cool a seating area nearby and lessen the noise from traffic on Sunny Isles Boulevard. There will be a splash pad for children.

• TURN TO PARK 12NF

12NE | THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012

NE

SUNNY ISLES BEACH

New park coming to city's south side

• PARK, FROM 3NE

Across a rectangular-shaped lawn extending to the east side of the park will be a performance stage and a butterfly garden.

The butterfly garden will be made up of Milkweed,

Lantana, Firespike, Jamaican Dogwood and other plants that either by their color or nectar attract birds and butterflies, said Barry Miller, the park's landscape architect of the North Miami-based Savino & Miller Design Studio. A path will

connect the butterfly garden to a Florida-native-plants garden, he said.

The commission approved the construction of the park and the garage at a total cost of \$16.5 million taken out of the city's General Fund budget, City Manager

Alan Cohen said.

Gateway Park will be the first one on the south side of the city. "Many people in the southern part of our city will no longer have to get in their cars to get to a park," said Mayor Norman Edelcup recently.