

# DANIA BEACH

<http://www.daniabeachfl.gov/index.asp>

## LOCATION

City of Dania Beach  
100 W Dania Beach Blvd  
Dania Beach, FL 33004  
954.924.3601

## HISTORY

The historic roots of the first city in Broward County date back to the 1880's, when much of what is now the FEC railroad line was laid through the area. In recognition of this transportation advantage, a pioneer and developer named W. C. Valentine planned a settlement called Modello and 12 Danish families moved from Chicago to settle there in 1898-1899. Three years later, 30 Danes were recruited from Oconto, Wisconsin to colonize the settlement, and the first home was built by A.C. Frost, for whom a park is now named. Frost built the first general store in 1902 and became Modello's first postmaster. He also built and donated the Town's first two schools. The following year, Dania Methodist Church was erected, becoming the City's first place of worship.

When the Town was incorporated in November 1904, its 35 residents, most of whom were Danes, changed the name to Dania. By 1912, Dania was a thriving community of almost 1200 people and continued to grow through the 1920's when the City suffered tremendous setbacks. In 1925, the Dania Hotel caught on fire, and the Bank of Dania failed due to embezzlers in the Bank's Atlanta home office. The '26 hurricane with its 200 mile-per-hour winds devastated the Town, destroying the first church building completely, and subsequent damage prompted residents to vote for annexation to the neighboring City of Hollywood. De-annexation came in 1927.

### Tomato Capital of the World

Early immigrants prospered in tomato farming and, as early as 1910, the Florida East Coast Railway was shipping to northern U.S. cities from "The Tomato Capital of the World". During the 3-month winter harvest, over 200 farmers shipped 1,000 to 1,500 train carloads of tomatoes and V. Taoring of New Orleans set up a tomato paste factory which contributed to local prosperity.

In 1927, the first "Tomato Day Celebration" was held to raise funds for the new Dania Methodist Church. Attracting a crowd of over 5,000, it was so successful, that the celebration continued into the 1940's featuring messy, but official, tomato fights and a Miss Tomato Festival Pageant. In the late '40's, the tomato boom was over, as crops began to fail from salt water intrusion into the fields.

### The Antique Capital of the South

Just as the Tomato Industry was fading, a new type of commerce ... the antique business ... arrived, when Genevieve and Willard Ely set up shop in 1945. It took 10 years for other antique businesses to follow, but it wasn't long thereafter that Broward's

first incorporated city once again gained fame, this time as the Antique Capital of the South. Today there are over 100 antique shops and malls vending their wares along a few short blocks of Federal Highway in Downtown Dania Beach.

Antique Row has become not only a browser's and shopper's paradise, but also the stores themselves are housed inside buildings steeped in the City's history including Broward County's first movie theatre.

The City has a wealth of historic architecture and a variety of architectural styles including Greek Revival (Dania Bank Building 1923); Mission Revival (Model Land Company Building 1900); Mediterranean Revival (the Martin Frost House 1913); and the Dania Beach Hotel, built by Francis Abreau in 1925. Art Deco styles are also present in the Florida Theatre (1939) and the Pirates Inn, formerly the Hotel Katherine (1940).

## **POPULATION**

Population: 28,000

## **EVENTS**

Flea Market  
Every 3 months on a Saturday  
Frost Park  
8AM - 2PM

Walker's Club  
Every Wednesday  
Dania Peach Pier  
5PM-7PM  
954-985-4400

## **ATTRACTIONS**

### MARINAS

DANIA BEACH MARINA  
101 N Beach Rd  
954.562.7537

### MUSEUMS

Igfa Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum  
300 Gulf Stream Way  
954.922.4212

## **SCHOOLS**

### SCHOOL BOARD

Broward County Public Schools  
600 SE 3 Ave  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
754.321.0000

## COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Key College  
225 E Dania Beach Blvd  
954.923.4440

Florida Atlantic University  
Dania Beach-Seatech Campus  
101 N Beach Rd  
954.924.7000

## **HOSPITALS**

Memorial Regional Hospital  
3501 Johnson Street  
Hollywood, FL 33021  
954-987-2000

Broward General Medical Center  
1600 South Andrews Avenue  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316  
954-355-4400

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

### SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Chester Byrd Park  
1021 SW 2 Ave

Mullikin Park  
230 SW 1 Ct

Northside/Melaleuca Park  
850 NW 10 St

Mildred V. Jones Park  
Corner of NW 2 St & NW 14 Way

### LARGE PARKS

C.W. THOMAS PARK  
800 NW 2 St  
954.924.3692

DANIA BEACH OCEAN PARK  
100 N Beach Rd  
954.924.3696

FROST PARK RECREATIONAL COMPLEX  
300 NE 2 St  
954.924.3690

I.T. PARKER COMMUNITY CENTER

901 NE 3 St  
954.924.3698

PATRICK J. MELI PARK AND AQUATIC COMPLEX  
2901 SW 52 St  
954.985.4400

Tigertail Lake Center  
580 Gulfstream Way  
954.201.4500

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### BUSES

Dania Beach Community Bus Service  
954.924.3601

Broward County Transit  
954.357.8400

### TRAINS

Tri-Rail  
800.TRI.RAIL 874.7245

Amtrak  
800.USA.RAIL 872.7245

### AIRPORTS

Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport  
320 Terminal Drive  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315  
954.359.6100

Miami International Airport  
P.O. Box 025504  
Miami, Florida 33102-5504  
305.876.5000

## **DEPARTMENTS**

Code Compliance Unit 954.924.3646  
Building Division 954.924.3700  
Building Official 954.924.3650  
Building Permits 954.924.3652  
Fire Rescue 954.924.3727  
Parks & Recreation 954.924.3626  
Utilities Director 954.924.3740  
Water Billing Inquiry 954.924.3663

## **UTILITIES**

FPL: 954.797.5000

Water Department: 954-924-3747  
Sewer: 954-924-3742  
Garbage:Waste Management: 954.974.7500  
Recycling: 954-924-3742  
Phone company: BellSouth: 888.757.6500  
Cable: Comcast: 800.266.2278

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