



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
City Commission Agenda Memo  
REGULAR MEETING**

**#25-0538**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** June 3, 2025

**TITLE:** Motion Approving NatureScape Irrigation Services and Residential  
Irrigation Rebate Program Interlocal Agreement with Broward County for  
\$165,786.55 Over a Five-Year Period – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and  
4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve the NatureScape Irrigation Services Program (NIS Program) and Residential Irrigation Rebate Program (RIR Program) Interlocal Agreement with Broward County in the amount of \$165,786.55 over a five-year period.

**Background**

The NIS Program was developed and promoted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and Broward County for the purpose of promoting water conservation. The NIS Program provides irrigation system efficiency inspections on larger municipal and commercial sites. The County also offers the RIR Program whereby the County performs irrigation system efficiency inspections and facilitates rebates to residents to offset costs to upgrade water-efficient irrigation system components.

The NIS Program is a specialized irrigation service offering a free water use audit to irrigation system owners. NIS Program staff evaluates the effectiveness of a property owner's irrigation system and then recommends efficiency improvements. The City has received this service from Broward County for the last 15 years. Under the 2020-2025 NIS agreement, 80 evaluations in the City have been completed with actual water savings of 26,000,000 gallons. This is an average savings of 5,200,000 gallons per year and an average reduction of 29.52% per site.

Based on the NIS Program portion of the new proposed agreement, the City identifies three (3) properties each year for the NIS Program to perform an initial and follow-up site evaluation. Also, the County will annually conduct additional evaluations per the agreement. The maximum number of evaluations in the City over the term of the 5-year agreement is 81. The City's maximum not-to-exceed amount for the five (5)-year NIS Program is \$97,663.10: Year 1 - \$25,125.00; Year 2 - \$17,082.00; Year 3 - \$17,765.28;

Year 4 - \$18,475.90; and Year 5 - \$19,214.92, based on the methodology provided by the County for the program.

Pursuant to the RIR Program portion of the proposed agreement, residents will have the opportunity to seek irrigation rebates between \$200.00 and \$600.00 (Exhibit 2). The County will measure long-term water use reduction achieved as a result of the RIR Program within the City. The City's maximum not-to-exceed amount for the five (5)-year RIR Program is \$68,123.45: Year 1 - \$18,250.00; Year 2 - \$12,180.00; Year 3 - \$12,367.20; Year 4 - \$12,561.89; and Year 5 - \$12,764.36, based on the methodology provided by the County for the program.

The County administers both programs and prepares annual summary reports on water savings. The implementation of the programs will help the City meet water conservation requirements as outlined in the City's South Florida Water Management District's Water Use Permit. The benefits to our neighbors include improved irrigation efficiency by implementing best management practices and cost savings with more efficient and effective irrigation.

### **Resource Impact**

There is no current fiscal year (FY) impact as services under the new agreement will not be billed until 2026. The costs for Year 1 - \$43,375.00 have been requested via the FY26 budget process. There is a combined fiscal impact in the amount of \$122,411.55 for the four subsequent contract years for both programs. Funding for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2030 is contingent upon City Commission approval of respective annual operating budgets.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a FY 2025 Commission Priority, advancing the Infrastructure and Resilience initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure and Resilience Focus Area, Goal 3: Be a sustainable and resilient community.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan 2035: We Are Ready*.

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Sanitary Sewer, Water & Stormwater
- Goal 4: Continue to support water conservation efforts to support sustainability and extend existing water resources.

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 - NIS and RIR Program Interlocal Agreement

Exhibit 2 - RIR Program Information Sheet

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Prepared by: David Reece, Environmental Compliance Supervisor

Department Director: Talal Abi-Karam, P.E., Public Works Interim Director