



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

#26-0528

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: June 2, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Authorizing the City Manager or Designee to Proceed with the
Conceptual Site Plan for the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Project -
(Commission District 2)

Background

At the May 5, 2026 City Commission Conference Meeting, City staff and EDSA, Inc. (EDSA) presented a revised conceptual site plan for Fort Lauderdale Beach Park (CAM #26-0412). The conceptual site plan keeps the two (2) existing basketball courts in their current location and includes full resurfacing, new backboards, rims, and nets.

The proposed improvements also include four (4) new pickleball courts south of the basketball courts; a new outdoor fitness area; two (2) synthetic flex-green passive-use areas for activities such as yoga, stretching, and casual seating; landscaping; and site amenities, including signage, picnic tables, and bike racks. The conceptual site plan identifies an estimated sixteen (16) picnic tables and ten (10) grills that may be replaced or relocated as part of the proposed improvements. Final locations and quantities will be confirmed during design development.

During the May 5, 2026, City Commission Conference Meeting, staff stated that the conceptual site plan may require the removal of one (1) tree and twenty-one (21) palms, and that no pine trees would be removed. Following community feedback, staff is clarifying that the one (1) tree proposed for removal is an Australian Pine located near the proposed pickleball court area. Australian Pines are invasive in Florida and are classified as Category I invasive plants because they can displace native vegetation and negatively impact coastal areas.

Staff also asked EDSA to reconfirm the anticipated palm impacts within the site plan area. There are twenty-six (26) palms in the area. Of those, twenty-one (21) are proposed to remain and be protected, while five (5) are proposed to be removed. As the project advances through design development and permitting, staff will further evaluate and confirm all tree and palm impacts, including species, locations, final removal requirements, replacement landscaping, and the number of new trees and palms to be installed.

The opinion of probable cost for the proposed site plan is approximately \$2.5 million. The total project budget is approximately \$2.3 million, which includes \$1.3 million from the Parks Bond Program and up to \$1.0 million from the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the Bahia Mar Community Development District (CDD). CDD funding is limited to eligible improvements, including the basketball courts, pickleball courts, outdoor fitness equipment, and relocation of the storage/maintenance yard beneath the Bahia Mar pedestrian bridge for public parking use.

At the May 5, 2026 Meeting, the City Commission requested that staff present the proposed conceptual site plan to the Central Beach Alliance (CBA) for review and feedback, prepare an amendment to the Bahia Mar CDD Interlocal Agreement to extend the project timeline, and return to the City Commission for a vote on or before July 2, 2026.

City staff is scheduled to present the conceptual site plan at the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board meeting on May 27, 2026, and the Central Beach Alliance meeting on May 28, 2026, to receive advisory board and community input.

Following City Commission direction, the project is anticipated to proceed through design development, permitting, procurement, and construction, with an estimated delivery timeline of approximately thirty-five (35) to forty (40) months. All proposed improvements remain subject to final engineering and applicable permitting, regulatory, and environmental approvals.

Extended History

On March 12, 2019, City residents approved a \$200,000,000 general obligation bond (Parks Bond) proposal enabling the City of Fort Lauderdale to make significant citywide investments in the City's parks system (CAM #21-1149). Fort Lauderdale Beach Park improvements, in the amount of \$1,300,000, were included as part of the Parks Bond.

The City issued Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Event No. 12308-296 in August 2019 seeking the services of a qualified consulting firm to provide professional services for the implementation of the 2019 Parks Bond and the 2016 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan. AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM) was determined to be the highest ranked firm. On May 5, 2020, the City Commission approved an agreement with AECOM to perform the Design and Implementation Services for the Parks Bond and Parks and Recreation System Master Plan (CAM #20-0299).

On August 16, 2022, as part of a \$3,585,277 Parks Bond budget amendment, an appropriation of \$185,352 was made from Parks Bond funds towards Fort Lauderdale Beach Park for initial design & planning efforts (CAM #22-0262). City staff intended to advance the project efforts at that time, but given a backlog of other Parks Bond projects, the project was put on hold until a future phase of the Parks Bond program.

On June 20, 2023, the City Commission approved a resolution to enter into a Development Agreement with Rahn Bahia Mar, LLC. for the Bahia Mar Planned Development District (CAM #23-0619).

On January 9, 2024, the City Commission approved an interlocal agreement between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the CDD (CAM #24-0002). As part of the agreement, the City agreed to relocate operational equipment, install pickleball courts at the existing basketball court site, and install fitness equipment. The CDD agreed to reimburse the City up to \$1,000,000 for these three (3) site improvements.

On June 20, 2025, the City executed Task Order #23 with AECOM to perform site evaluations, concept development and a permit needs assessment for the following improvements.

- Conversion of Basketball Court to Pickleball
- Playground Replacement
- Fitness Equipment Improvements
- Relocated Basketball Court

At the August 18, 2025, CDD Board meeting, the Board passed a motion to work with the City Manager to explore additional park improvements that could be added as authorized and eligible for reimbursement by the CDD, specifically the relocation of the existing basketball courts. City staff met with CDD and Bahia Mar representatives on the project scope and timelines.

On October 1, 2025, City staff published Letter to the Commission (LTC) No. 25-189 titled "Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Update" which provided three (3) park site plans that included relocating the basketball courts. On October 15, 2025, City staff published LTC No. 25-203 titled "Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Update #2 - Alternative 1A", to provide a fourth conceptual site plan that incorporated City Commission feedback to mitigate the parking lot impacts. On October 23, 2025, during the City Commission Conference Meeting, the site plans were discussed. As part of the discussion, there was a request to incorporate and advance four (4) pickleball courts into Site Plan Alternative 1A.

During the December 16, 2025, City Commission Regular Meeting, the City Commission deferred a proposed resolution authorizing the City Manager to proceed with Site Plan Alternative 1A for the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Project (CAM #25-1215). The deferral allowed for additional discussion and clarification of the proposed site plan. The Commission directed the Mayor, City Manager, and City Attorney to continue discussions with the Bahia Mar Community Development District and return with greater clarity on a potential path forward.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2026 Commission Priority, advancing Public Spaces and Cultural Initiatives.

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

- The Public Places Focus Area, Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.

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

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

- The Public Places Focus Area
- The Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Element
- Goal 2: Be a community with high quality parks and recreational facilities that highlight the character of our City.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Conceptual Site Plan

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Quentin Pough, Assistant City Manager, City Manager’s Office
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Charter Officer: Rickelle Williams, City Manager