



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

**#25-1215**

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

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** December 16, 2025

**TITLE:** Resolution Authorizing the City Manager or Designee to Proceed with Site Plan Alternative 1A for the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Project, an Approved Parks Bond Improvement Project - **(Commission Districts 2 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager or designee to proceed with Site Plan Alternative 1A for the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Project, an approved Parks Bond improvement project, and authorize the City Manager or designee to execute any and all agreements or documents deemed necessary or incidental thereof.

**Background**

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.

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 Bahia Mar Community Development District (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. During those discussions, the CDD confirmed that it is not willing to amend the existing interlocal agreement. Instead, the developers of the Bahia Mar project are willing to provide a one-time, upfront donation in the amount of \$500,000 toward the Parks Bond project in support of the basketball court relocation.

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.

The project budget is approximately \$2.3 million which is comprised of \$1.3 million from the Parks Bond program and \$1.0 million (combined) from the CDD and Bahia Mar contributions. The Site Plan Alternative 1A opinion of probable cost is approximately \$2.35 million with two (2) pickleball courts and \$2.59 million with four (4) pickleball courts.

AECOM began initial outreach to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding Site Plan Alternative 1A. Given the substantial time investment needed for additional due diligence and planning activities, City staff recommend that the City Commission provide direction by adopting a resolution selecting Site Plan Alternative 1A for the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park – Parks Bond improvements.

Once the preferred Site Plan is selected by the City Commission, City staff will continue to advance the project. The final park improvements and overall design may deviate from the proposed site plan based on the permitting requirements, available funding, and/or future City Commission direction.

### **Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a FY 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the 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 – Alternative 1A Site Plan (with Pickleball Options)

Exhibit 2 – Alternative 1A Cost Estimate (with Pickleball Options)

Exhibit 3 – Letter to the Commission (LTC) No. 25-189

Exhibit 4 – Letter to the Commission (LTC) No. 25-203

Exhibit 5 – Resolution

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Charter Officer: Rickelle Williams, City Manager