



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#26-0096

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: February 3, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Accepting Grant Funds from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program for \$2,180,314 for Joseph C. Carter Park - (**Commission District 3**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission accepts grant funds from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLPP) grant in the amount of \$2,180,314 with a required grant funding match in the amount \$2,180,314, and authorize the City Manager to execute a grant agreement, in substantially the form attached and identified as Exhibit 1, and all documents necessary or incidental thereto.

Background

The need to redevelop Joseph C. Carter Park ("Carter Park") was identified in the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan approved by the City Commission on September 7, 2016. The City has since committed to enhancing its recreational facilities through voter-approved General Obligation Bond funding, with Carter Park designated as a signature project. Due to escalating construction costs, additional funding is required to deliver the planned improvements. The ORLPP grant is therefore requested to leverage bond funds to ensure the successful redevelopment of the park.

The total project budget for Carter Park is \$33.2 million. The \$2,180,314 grant presented for acceptance is included in the total project budget. Other funding sources include \$13.6 million from the initial Parks Bond allocation, \$2.1 million in Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds, \$2.0 million in park impact fees (CAM #24-0036), \$7.3 million in Parks Bond Acquisition funds (CAM #24-0304), and a \$6.0 million appropriation from PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) settlement proceeds (CAM #25-0723).

FDEP awards ORLPP funds to serve the outdoor recreation demands and needs of urban communities. Grant funds will be used to support outdoor recreational improvements at Carter Park including a playground with shade structure, walking trail, fitness stations, swimming pool, splash pad, parking area, synthetic turf, and bleachers.

All work must be completed in accordance with the LWCF Program and local, state and federal laws, approved project plans, all required permits, and the Florida Building Code. The City may not proceed with construction of approved project elements until the Notice to Commence from the granting agency has been issued. All construction and project-related tasks must be completed in accordance with the Grant Agreement and approved Grant Work Plan with final completion no later than July 1, 2028. A conceptual plan showing the size and location of a future community center was reviewed and approved by the Competitive Grants Office for the LWCF, National Park Services. Any eligible exceptions to any LWCF program funding requirements, or any expansion or change in the footprint of the proposed building of the community center require the compliance review and written approval from the National Park Service.

As required by the LWCF program funding rules, land that is acquired or developed with LWCF funds must be dedicated in perpetuity as an outdoor recreation site for the use and benefit of the public. In 2001, the City accepted a LWCF grant in the amount of \$150,000 (No. 12-00407), with a matching grant obligation, towards the construction of certain outdoor recreational improvements at Carter Park with a site dedication running with the land in perpetuity. Similarly, this project requires a site dedication that runs with the land in perpetuity and must be recorded in Broward County's property records.

Capital Project – Pre-Construction Next Steps

As part of the pre-construction phase, staff will host a final public meeting to present the planned improvements and confirm community alignment. The meeting is anticipated for February 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Carter Park.

Following the meeting, the City will advertise a solicitation for a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), with award approval anticipated by summer 2026. Under the CMAR delivery method, the contractor is engaged early—during the design—to support constructability reviews, scheduling, and cost estimating. Once design reaches an appropriate level of completion, the CMAR establishes a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) and assumes responsibility for delivering the project within the agreed cost and schedule.

Resource Impact

This action will result in a positive impact to the City in the amount of \$2,180,314 with a City Match of \$2,180,314. This item was approved via the Consolidated Budget Amendment (CAM #25-1157) included on the January 6, 2026, City Commission Regular Meeting agenda.

Source: (Grant Revenue)*Funds available as of January 15, 2026*

ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-129-9300-572-334-700-P12632C	Joseph C. Carter Park Improvements ORLPP Grant	Fla Dept of Environmental Protection / State Grant - Culture/Recreation	\$0	\$0	\$2,180,314.00
TOTAL AMOUNT →					\$2,180,314.00

Use:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-129-9300-572-60-6599-P12632C	Joseph C. Carter Park Improvements ORLPP Grant	Capital Outlay / Construction	\$0	\$0	\$2,180,314.00
TOTAL AMOUNT →					\$2,180,314.00

Source: (Cash Match)

ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-353-6999-572-60-6599-P12632	Joseph C. Carter Park Improvements	Capital Outlay / Construction	\$20,151,000	\$18,265,262	\$2,180,314.00
TOTAL AMOUNT →					\$2,180,314.00

Use:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-353-6999-572-60-6599-P12632D	Joseph C. Carter Park Improvements Grant Match	Capital Outlay / Construction	\$0	\$0	\$2,180,314.00
TOTAL AMOUNT →					\$2,180,314.00

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Public Spaces and Community 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 & 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 – Grant Agreement

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Exhibit 3 – Revised Park Conceptual Site Plan

Prepared by: Gina Rivera, Parks & Recreation Department

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks & Recreation Department
Colette Satchell, Capital Projects Department