



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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: May 5, 2026

TITLE: Motion Approving a Third Amendment to a Lease Agreement Between Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale for Lake Lauderdale, Joint Park Site, also known as Mills Pond Park - **(Commission District 3)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a third amendment to the lease agreement between Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale, in substantially the form attached, for an additional two (2)-year period, for the City's use and maintenance of Lake Lauderdale, Joint Park Site, also known as Mills Pond Park.

Background

For the past forty (40) years (1985-2025), Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale have been committed to providing a regional park, located in the City of Fort Lauderdale, currently known as Mills Pond Park. Mills Pond Park is home to a five (5)-field state-of-the-art softball complex, four (4) multipurpose fields used for football and soccer, playgrounds, pavilions, open play area, and a water ski lake.

On May 21, 1985, the City entered into a thirty (30)-year lease agreement with Broward County for the use and maintenance of Mills Pond Park, with an option to renew the lease for two (2) successive five (5)-year terms, and subject to and conditioned upon certain terms and conditions.

The first amendment to the lease agreement, dated January 11, 1996, updated the park site masterplan to provide a portion of the park for a batting cage facility, miniature golf course, family entertainment center, and associated concession facilities for public recreation purposes.

On June 17, 2014, pursuant to Article 5.2 of the Lease Agreement, the City Commission approved extending the lease term for two (2) successive five (5)-year periods, for a total of ten (10) additional years. The two (2) successive five (5)-year periods commenced on May 22, 2015, and expired on May 21, 2025.

The second amendment to the agreement was approved on May 6, 2025 (CAM #25-0492). Section 5.2 of the lease agreement was modified to create a renewal term. The renewal term automatically renewed the agreement for an additional one (1)-year period which will terminate on May 21, 2026.

The parties now desire, through the proposed third amendment, to extend the lease term for an additional two (2)-year period, subject to the same terms and conditions as provided in the Lease Agreement so the parties may engage in long-term contract negotiations for the City's continued use and maintenance of Mills Pond Park. However, it should be noted that during the proposed two (2)-year extension, City staff is interested in exploring all options including, but not limited to, an extended long-term lease period and property conveyance.

Resource Impact

There are no new fiscal impacts associated with this item as the City's obligations remain the same.

Strategic Connections

This item is a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Public Spaces and Cultural Initiatives.

This item supports the 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 Place specifically advancing:

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

Attachments

- Exhibit 1 – Original Agreement
- Exhibit 2 – Term Extension Letter
- Exhibit 3 – Second Amendment
- Exhibit 4 – Third Amendment

Prepared by: Carolyn Bean, Asst. to the Director, Parks and Recreation

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation