CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo **#26-0046**
REGULAR MEETING

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: March 3, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Accepting Grant Funds from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, through the Florida Communities Trust, Florida Forever Parks and Open Space Grant Program in the amount of $626,414 for Bal Harbour Park - (**Commission District 1**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission accept grant funds from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) through the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Grant Program in the amount of $626,414 with a required grant match in the amount of $626,414 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 Florida Communities Trust Parks and Open Space Florida Forever grant program is a state land acquisition grant program that provides funding to local governments for acquisition of community-based parks, open spaces, and greenways that further the outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government comprehensive plans. Applicants may seek reimbursement for properties acquired within twenty-four (24) months of the application deadline. Eligible grant costs must be based upon the site's appraised value and may include due diligence costs.

On March 12, 2019, the City Fort Lauderdale voters approved a General Obligation Bond referendum, authorizing the issuance of bonds not to exceed $200,000,000 to finance the acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of various parks and recreational facilities ("Parks Bonds").

On August 20, 2024, the City Commission approved the purchase of property located at 2201 NE 19 Street using Parks Bonds in the amount of $1,740,000 plus closing costs (CAM #24-0681), following a recommendation for approval by the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board at its June 26, 2024 meeting.

On October 25, 2024, the City closed on the purchase of said property, referred to as Bal Harbour Park (Park), in the amount of $1,763,211.

On January 13, 2025, City staff applied to the FCT Grant Program to request grant funds to offset expenditures associated with the acquisition of Bal Harbour Park.

On August 26, 2025, City staff was notified of the approval of a grant in the amount of $626,414, which equates to fifty percent (50%) of project costs, based on the appraised value of the site. The City's grant match requirement was met upon the acquisition of the property.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for Bal Harbour Park was held on September 27, 2025.

Pursuant to the Grant Agreement the following criteria are required with FCT funds received:

- The Park is required to have a sign acknowledging the site was purchased with FCT funds, as well as interpretive signage to educate visitors about the natural environment and area history;

- The Park must also include a picnic bench and exercise station; and

- The Park must connect to the adjacent neighborhood by a sidewalk within an existing right-of-way.

A management plan outlining the park's management and maintenance must be prepared and submitted to the FCT prior to the final disbursement of the FCT award. Bal Harbour Park will be subject to a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants (DRC) to ensure the use of the site for public use. The DRC must be recorded in the public records within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the FCT award.

Resource Impact

This action has a positive fiscal impact to the City in the amount of $626,414. This item is contingent upon the approval of the Consolidated Budget Amendment (CAM #26-0061) included on the March 3, 2026, City Commission Regular Meeting agenda.

Source:

	Funds available as of February 2, 2026				
ACCOUNT NUMBER	**COST CENTER NAME**	**CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME**	**AMENDED BUDGET (Character)**	**AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)**	**AMOUNT**
10-129-9300-572-334-700-P12919A	Bal Harbor Park FCT Grant	Fla Dept of Environmental Protection / State Grant - Culture/Recreation	$0	$0	$626,414.00
			TOTAL AMOUNT →		**$626,414.00**

Use:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-129-9300-572-60-6599-P12919A	Bal Harbor Park FCT Grant	Capital Outlay / Construction	$0	$0	$626,414.00
			TOTAL AMOUNT →		**$626,414.00**

Strategic Connections

This item is a Fiscal Year (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

Prepared by: Gina Rivera, Grants, Parks & Recreation Department

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks & Recreation Department