



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#26-0300

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: March 19, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Delegating the City Manager the Authority to Submit a Grant Application to the Florida Inland Navigation District's (FIND) Waterways Assistance Program (WAP) for \$85,000 to Design and Permit an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible Kayak Launch and Floating Dock at the North Fork Riverfront Park - **(Commission District 3)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for grant funding in the amount of \$85,000 to the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) – Waterways Assistance Program (WAP) to design and permit an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible Kayak Launch and Floating Dock at North Fork Riverfront Park located at 200 NW 18th Avenue. This grant requires a City match of \$85,000.

Background

FIND administers the WAP to provide funding assistance to local governments within its jurisdiction to improve public access to the district's waterways. North Fork Riverfront Park is a passive waterfront park located at 200 NW 18 Avenue. Existing park amenities include a wooden walkway leading to a wooden platform, park benches and educational signage.

Proposed improvements associated with the Parks Bond Program include replacement of existing site furnishings and construction of an ADA-compliant public pathway extending from the parking lot to the ADA-accessible kayak/canoe launch. These improvements will enhance accessibility and provide direct access to the New River for water-based recreational activities such as kayaking, paddleboarding, and canoeing.

Funding in the amount of \$85,000 is being requested from FIND through WAP to support the design and permitting of improvements at North Fork Riverfront Park, including an expanded parking area, an ADA accessible pathway, an ADA accessible floating dock, and a kayak/canoe launch. The grant requires a fifty percent (50%) local match that will be funded with \$85,000 from the City's Parks Bond allocation for North Fork Riverfront Park.

The total estimated cost for the North Fork Riverfront Park improvements, including design, permitting, and construction, is \$170,000. If awarded, approximately half of the project's allocated funding will be utilized for design and permitting activities associated with the FIND grant.

FIND staff noted that the existing parking capacity at North Fork Riverfront Park is limited. Although a specific parking capacity threshold was not identified, FIND staff expressed concern that the current parking conditions may restrict public access to the site and limit its ability to support water-based recreational activities. As a result, the project design will include evaluation of opportunities to expand the existing parking area to better accommodate park users.

The announcement of the FIND grant awards is anticipated in October 2026. If awarded, the grant will support completion of the design and permitting phase of the North Fork Riverfront Park improvements, which is anticipated to be completed prior to the grant expiration date of September 30, 2028.

Following completion of design and permitting, the City anticipates advancing the project to construction in fiscal year 2029 or sooner, subject to the availability of funding. Upon completion of the design and permitting phase, the City may also be eligible to pursue additional cost-share funding from FIND through a future Phase II application to support construction of the North Fork Riverfront Park improvements.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. The grant will be brought back to the City Commission for execution and appropriation if awarded.

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 & Open Space Element
- Goal 2: Be a community with high quality parks and recreational facilities that highlight the character of our City.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Grant Pre-Application

Exhibit 2 – Grant Application

Exhibit 3 – Resolution

Prepared by: Jonathan Luscomb, Parks & Recreation Department

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks & Recreation Department