



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#26-0412

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: May 5, 2026

TITLE: Presentation on Conceptual Site Plan for the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park
Project – City Manager’s Office (**Commission Districts 2 and 4**)

Background

During the December 16, 2025, City Commission Regular meeting, the City Commission deferred a proposed resolution authorizing the City Manager to proceed with Site Plan Alternative 1A for the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Project (CAM #25-1215). The deferral allowed for additional discussion and clarification of the proposed site plan. The Commission directed the Mayor, City Manager, and City Attorney to continue discussions with the Bahia Mar Community Redevelopment District and return with greater clarity on a potential path forward.

At the May 5, 2026 City Commission Conference Meeting, City staff and EDSA, Inc. will present the proposed conceptual site plan for the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Project. The plan retains the basketball courts in their current location and includes full resurfacing of the two existing courts, along with new backboards, rims, and nets. Additional proposed improvements include four (4) new pickleball courts located south of the basketball courts, a new outdoor fitness area, and two new synthetic flex-green passive-use spaces intended for activities such as yoga, stretching, and casual seating.

All amenities will be connected by well-designed, hard-packed sand pathways to create safe, accessible, and pedestrian-friendly circulation throughout the beach park. The project also includes extensive landscaping with natural plant materials, supported by irrigation and designed to complement the surrounding beach environment. All proposed improvements will be open to the public and managed and operated by the City.

The opinion of probable cost for the proposed site plan is approximately \$2.5 million. The total project budget is approximately \$2.3 million, consisting of \$1.3 million from the Parks Bond Program and up to \$1.0 million from the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the Bahia Mar Community Development District (CDD). CDD funding is limited to improvements for the basketball courts, pickleball courts, outdoor fitness equipment, and the relocation/restoration of the storage/maintenance yard beneath the Bahia Mar pedestrian bridge for public parking use.

Subject to City Commission direction on the proposed site plan, City staff will continue advancing the project, including pursuing an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Bahia Mar Community Development District. Under the existing agreement, the off-site public improvements must be completed within three (3) years of the January 29, 2024 effective date, and the agreement terminates one (1) year after completion of those improvements. Given the project's anticipated thirty-five to forty (35-40) -month delivery timeline, an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement to extend the completion timeframe will be necessary, with a target approval date of no later than July 2, 2026. Following City Commission direction, the project is anticipated to progress through design development, permitting, procurement, and construction. All proposed improvements are subject to regulatory approval and environmental review.

Extended History

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 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.

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.

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.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Presentation

Prepared by: Quentin Pough, Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office

Charter Officer: Rickelle Williams, City Manager