



## FY 26 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: RANKED PROJECT LIST

### Year-end Update

### February 3, 2026

#### SP 1: Milani Park

Description: Continue to work with Palm Beach County Administration and Parks and Recreation Department along with County Commissioner(s) on the future development of Milani Park. Milani Park is governed by a settlement agreement that stipulates design of the park and the timing of construction. The county has one more 5-year extension.

Progress: County moving forward with project construction and has agreed to phase in parking with Phase I consisting of 38 general parking spaces. Construction planned for Summer 2026.

#### SP 2: Sanitary Sewer Lining Project

Description: The sanitary sewer system has begun to show signs of deterioration and needs complete rehabilitation via a comprehensive lining project. The selected method of rehabilitation is the least disruptive and most cost effective. The residents in March of 2024 authorized the project at a not to exceed cost of \$3.5 million. Secured a contract with Institutorm via OMINIA for \$1.5 million.

Progress: Project commenced and side streets complete. A1A with completion targeted for March 2026.

#### SP 3: Police Department Real-Time Operations Center (*Old Post Office*)

Description: Explore the rehabilitation of the old Post Office into a real-time operations center and public entrance to the Police Department. Project will evaluate physical connection of the old Post Office to the existing Police Station and create a real-time operations center focused on crime prevention. Project also incorporates landscape architecture, site paving and ADA improvements.

Progress: Design and cost estimation 50% complete.

#### SP 4: Communication & Community Engagement

Description: Actively communicate with the public through multiple mediums and platforms to ensure the community receives timely value-added communications regarding town business and affairs. Town Manager's Office is in the process of developing "My Highland Beach" app to improve interactive communication with residents. Also, plan community events.

Progress: Ongoing. "My Highland Beach" app initial rollout complete. FY 2026 focus is adding timely, value-added content, increase the number of users and integrate with other communication platforms.

#### SP 5: Police Marine Docking/Access Facility

Description: The project involves the design and construction of a marine docking facility to support the Police Department's patrol and rescue vessel. The facility will be situated at the western end of the Town Hall complex, behind the library. To offset project costs, the Town will actively seek grants and appropriations.

Progress: State appropriation for the project secured and joint public safety referendum passed; however, engineering and permit delays have resulted in a one-year delay in the project to allow for securing annual FIND Grant.

#### SP 6: Fire Station Annex

Description: Consider the rehabilitation of the Old Fire Station to not only store reserve apparatus and equipment for the Fire Rescue department but also create useful and beautiful multi-purpose space for community functions.

Progress: Joint public safety referendum passed and design engineering 50% complete.

#### **SP 7: E-Bikes, Scooters and Motorcycles**

Description: The increasing presence of electric bikes, scooters, motorcycles, and similar motorized devices on our pathways and streets has created growing safety concerns. As these devices become more common, so too have conflicts among users—particularly between motorized riders and pedestrians who share the same limited spaces. In response, local municipalities and the State are evaluating reasonable regulations aimed at promoting safe, responsible use and ensuring the protection of pedestrians and residents alike.

Progress: None

#### **SP 8: State Appropriations**

Description: Requests for state financial assistance for capital improvement and planning projects. Annually evaluate town operations and capital improvement plan for opportunities for appropriation requests and/or grants.

Progress: FY 2026 Highland Beach Pedestrian Safety Project - In-road crosswalk lighting and repaving pathway.

#### **SP 9: Reasonable Accommodations Procedure (Certified Recovery Facilities)**

Description: The state legislature approved SB 954 that requires all municipalities to codify a reasonable accommodations procedure for recovery facilities pursuant to the Fair Housing Act and American with Disabilities Act.

Progress: Town Commission reviewed initial drafted developed by the Town Attorney and forwarded to the Planning Board for review and recommendations.

#### **SP 10: Crime Prevention & Community Policing Technology Initiative**

Description: This initiative advances the Town's commitment to proactive public safety by directing the Police Department's leadership team to evaluate and systematically deploy crime-prevention and community-policing programs supported by cost-effective, modern technologies. Using a structured, data-driven approach, all programs and technologies will undergo operational and cost-benefit evaluation to ensure fiscal responsibility and measurable public safety outcomes.

Progress: Ongoing. Town Commission authorize 10-year technology contract with Axon.

#### **SP 11: Comprehensive Plan Update**

Description: Pursuant to state law, local governments are required to periodically update their Comprehensive Plan. The Town's comprehensive plan functions as a roadmap for a community's future growth and development, encompassing principles, guidelines, standards, and strategies to ensure orderly economic, social, physical, environmental, and fiscal growth. It captures the community's commitment to implementing sustainable, balanced development initiatives through detailed sections, which often include goals, objectives, and policies. These sections outline how the local government's programs, activities, and land development regulations will align with and promote the plan in a cohesive and consistent manner

Progress: Comprehensive Plan modifications reviewed by Planning Board and Town Commission and sent to State for review. State issued "null and void" letter stating

many goals and objectives were more restrictive and burdensome and thus non-complaint with SB 180.

#### **SP 12: Sign Ordinance Review**

Description: The Town Commission and concerned residents have requested staff to evaluate the ordinance provisions related to temporary signs with a focus on political signs and real estate signs as well as permanent signs with a focus on size.

Progress: The temporary signs component has been suspended due to limitations imposed by SB 180. Consideration can resume in 2027. The permanent signage size component was heard by the Town Commission who then directed the Planning Board to review community request for larger permanent signs and develop recommendations for consideration.

#### **SP 13: GIS Inventory of Built Assets**

Description: Expand the use of the Town's existing Geographic Information System (GIS) software (ESRI) and Global Positioning System (GPS) tools to establish a comprehensive inventory of all built assets, enabling improved maintenance, enhanced operational planning, and more proactive lifecycle management. This initiative will support data-driven decision-making, streamline field operations, and ensure accurate, real-time information is available to staff responsible for infrastructure, utilities, public safety, and facilities management.

Progress: None.

#### **SP 14: Financial Management Systems**

Description: The Finance Department in partnership with the Manager's Office is updating the town's investment policy and the 5-year Financial Forecast Model.

Progress: Ongoing. Revised model to be developed for May 2026 incorporating legislative and economic changes (e.g. property taxes.)

#### **SP 15: Electric Vehicle Protocols (*Fire Safety*)**

Description: In response to the increasing use of electric vehicles and other battery-powered modes of transport, the Town Commission has tasked the Fire Department, in collaboration with Condominium Associations, with developing fire safety guidelines for vehicle charging and rechargeable battery storage. These guidelines will aim to ensure safe practices and reduce fire risks within the community. The guidelines will be accompanied by a public outreach campaign.

Progress: Guidelines developed by Highlands Place Condominium and Vice Mayor Stern and will be used as template for other groups. Outreach pending.

#### **SP 16: Preferred Employer Program**

Description: The Town Manager's Office, in collaboration with the Town Commission, will design and implement a comprehensive compensation, workplace, and benefits program. This initiative aims to attract and retain high-quality employees who excel in teamwork and are committed to delivering exceptional municipal services and public safety.

Progress: Ongoing with annual budget. Year 2 of the multi-year process complete and will be evaluated annually with 5-Year Financial Forecast and budget process.

#### **SP 17: GIS Inventory of Built Assets**

Description: Expand the use of the Town's existing Geographic Information System (GIS) software (ESRI) and Global Positioning System (GPS) tools to establish a

comprehensive inventory of all built assets, enabling improved maintenance, enhanced operational planning, and more proactive lifecycle management. This initiative will support data-driven decision-making, streamline field operations, and ensure accurate, real-time information is available to staff responsible for infrastructure, utilities, public safety, and facilities management.

Progress: None.

#### **SP 18: A1A Right-of-Way Beautification Project**

Description: The Town Commission has expressed interest in evaluating the landscape conditions of the A1A Right-of-Way following the completion of the reconstruction and resurfacing of the State Road. This evaluation aims to assess whether landscaping applications are necessary or beneficial to enhance the aesthetics and functionality of the greenspace within the right-of-way.

Progress: No progress.

#### **SP 19: Waterfront Seawall/Dock Clarification**

Description: Review the existing Town Code provisions governing hardscape walkways installed adjacent to seawalls, docks, or the Intracoastal shoreline. Recent applications have identified potential unintended limitations within current language—specifically the phrase “whichever is further landward”—which may restrict the ability of property owners to construct safe, continuous walkways to the true edge of their waterfront land. This may affect not only properties with traditional seawalls but also direct Intracoastal lots with natural shoreline conditions.

Progress: None.

#### **SP 20: Dune Restoration & Management**

Description: The Town Commission assigned the Natural Resource Preservation Advisory Board (NRPAB) to work with staff to educate the public on the importance of dune restoration and management.

Progress: The updated the 2013 Beach Feasibility Study completed. Natural Resource Advisory Board educating the public on the results. Successful public engagement at town events and breakfast event.

#### **SP 21: Intracoastal Waterway (*Speed Control*)**

Description: Community concerns exist regarding the safety of the intracoastal waterway, and the town needs to take an active role in its management.

Progress: Ongoing. The Marine Unit of the Police Department started in March of 2022 to improve boater safety by enforcing existing speeds, educating boaters, and heightening intracoastal presence. The police department will collect data and information that can be utilized by all stakeholders in the future to lower speeds and wakes in the intracoastal. The town will continue to meet with our neighboring communities and stakeholders to form partnerships to manage this critical resource.

#### **SP 22: Zoning District Evaluation (*Density*)**

Description: The Town Commission has directed to the Planning Board to commence a public review process of the permitted zoning densities of each zoning district within the town to see if it is appropriate to revise to preserve town character, accommodate redevelopment and protect property values.

Progress: The Planning Board has commenced its discussion of the public engagement process. The Commission has suspended further review pending Milani Park Project and “Live Local” legislative modifications. No other progress.

**SP 23: Evaluate Ordinance Development Process**

Description: Consider reviewing the current ordinance development procedure to ensure it is the most efficient and effective means of addressing community problems and challenges and engages the residents.

Progress: Town Commission discussed and directed review by all advisory boards on November 4, 2025. Advisory Board reviews to be scheduled through 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY 2026.

**SP 24: Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Regulations**

Description: Community concern has surfaced over the continued use of gas-powered leaf blowers within the community based on noise, pollution, and personal health.

Progress: No progress.