

STAFF REPORT SPECIAL MEETING

AGENDA DATE: March 3, 2026

DEPARTMENT: Community Sustainability & Leisure
Services

TITLE:

Resolution No. 05-2026 – approving the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan

SUMMARY:

The proposed resolution approves the City of Lake Worth Beach Open Space and Recreation Master Plan as an advisory policy document. The Master Plan was developed through extensive community engagement and technical analysis and provides a long-term strategic framework to guide future planning, programming, and investment in the City's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities. Adoption of the resolution affirms the City Commission's vision and policy direction without amending the Comprehensive Plan or the Land Development Regulations.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

The purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan is to establish a strategic framework that enhances quality of life for residents of all ages, supports physical and mental well-being, strengthens community identity, and promotes environmental benefits such as increased tree canopy and improved air quality. The Master Plan also positions the City to pursue future funding opportunities and informs long-term capital planning decisions.

The City initiated preparation of its first Open Space and Recreation Master Plan in February 2024. The proposed Master Plan is the result of extensive community engagement and technical analysis and is intended to serve as a long-term, advisory strategic framework for guiding future improvements to the City's open space and recreation programs, facilities, and investments. Adoption of the Master Plan by resolution affirms the City Commission's policy direction and vision but does not amend the Comprehensive Plan or the Land Development Regulations.

The Master Plan highlights the many benefits of investing in parks and open space, including enhanced quality of life for residents of all ages, improved physical and mental health, strengthened community identity, increased property values, and environmental benefits such as improved air quality and expanded tree canopy. The Master Plan is organized into six chapters:

- Introduction – Establishes goals, historical and cultural context, urban character, and recreational trends, including increased demand for diverse recreation and the growing popularity of activities such as pickleball.
- Existing Conditions – Analyzes demographics, population projections, and recreational demand; evaluates Level of Service; reviews Leisure Services Department operations; inventories City parks and facilities; and documents a tree inventory and canopy analysis identifying 6,562 trees on City-owned parcels and City-managed rights-of-way.
- Proactive Public Participation Program (4Ps) – Documents extensive outreach efforts, including surveys, stakeholder interviews, public meetings, event-based engagement, and design open houses, with more than 400 resident survey responses.
- Conceptual Park Designs – Presents conceptual designs for Northwest Park and Bryant Park, developed based on community input and identifying preferred amenities and design priorities.
- Final Remarks – Outlines implementation considerations, prioritization strategies, potential funding sources, and integration with the City's Capital Improvement Program.
- Appendices – Includes supporting documentation related to participation trends, tree canopy analysis, and technical data.

Because the proposed master plan is advisory in nature and does not amend or implement the City's Comprehensive Plan or Land Development Regulations, review by the Local Planning Agency is not required under Chapter 163, Florida Statutes. The proposed Master Plan was discussed at a joint Planning and Zoning Board/Historic Resources Preservation Board workshop on April 16, 2025. Updates were subsequently provided

to the Planning and Zoning Board on November 5, 2025, and to the Historic Resources Preservation Board on November 12, 2025, at their duly noticed meetings.

MOTION:

Move to approve/disapprove Resolution No. 05-2026 – approving the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Resolution 05-2026
Open Space and Recreation Master Plan
CoLWB Master Park Address List