



MEMORANDUM DATE: April 9, 2025

AGENDA DATE: April 16, 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Planning and Zoning Board / Historic Resources Preservation Board

RE: **Open Space and Recreation Master Plan**

FROM: Nilsa Zacarias, Director of Planning, Chen Moore and Associates (CMA)
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Background

In 2018, the City of Lake Worth Beach adopted its Comprehensive Plan, including Recreation Element with Policy 7.1.1.3, stating, "*The City shall encourage the preparation of a Master Plan for Recreation and Open Space to assess existing facilities, future needs, and proposed programs.*" This policy laid the foundation for the development of the current Open Space and Recreation Master Plan (the Plan).

On January 16, 2024, the City Commission approved the initiation of the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan. The goal of the subject plan includes:

- Assess current and future recreational needs
- Provide guidance, policy direction, and budget for future improvements

The Master Plan report will provide a background of the City and outline the goals for the subject plan. It includes an analysis of the City's demographics and examines both national and local recreational trends. The Plan also assesses the existing Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Regulations (LDRs), and evaluates the operations and programming of the Department of Leisure Services.

Additionally, the Plan provides an inventory of open spaces and recreational facilities, assesses the City's recreational level of service, and includes a tree inventory along with an analysis of canopy coverage on City properties.

A key component of the Plan is the extensive proactive public participation program (4Ps), which gathers input from the community and stakeholders. Based on these engagements, the Plan presents conceptual designs, funding options, prioritization strategies, and recommendations for the City's current and future population.

Public Engagement

Public engagement is paramount to the success of the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan. To gather valuable feedback on existing open space, recreational programming, and facilities, the project team participated in various City-initiated events and stakeholder meetings. Below is a list of the community engagement initiatives attended between February 2024 and April 2025:

- Street Painting Festival

- Field Day (Ages 6-13)
- Neighborhood Association President Council (NAPC) - 1st and 2nd Meeting
- Haitian Heritage event
- Meetings with focus group
- Back to School Bash
- Design Outreach Events with Neighborhood in proximity to Bryant/South Bryant Park & Northwest Park

Community Survey

As part of the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan, the project team prepared a 24-question community survey, available from February 12, 2024, to September 9, 2024. The subject survey was offered in three languages—English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole— and it was promoted on the City website and City events attended by the project team. At the beginning of the Plan, branding was created and applied on posters and business cards featuring QR codes linked to the surveys. At the conclusion of the community survey, we gathered a total of 448 completed responses (virtual and physical copies).

Conceptual Designs

On October 28, 2024, the CMA team hosted a design open house for Northwest Park at the Haitian Peniel Baptist Church in Lake Worth Beach. The event brought together residents from the Vernon Heights, Lake Cove, and Sunset Ridge neighborhoods. It was organized into three segments: an introduction to the project, a visioning exercise where attendees shared their likes, challenges, and ideas for the park's future over the next 5, 10, and over 10 years. The event also included presentations by the attendees and hands-on park conceptual designs.

Based on the community's input, the project team prepared conceptual designs for the Northwest Park, implementing a three-phase approach as follows:

- Phase 1 (0 - 5 years)
- Phase 2 (6 - 10 years)
- Phase 3 (10 + years)

On November 25, 2024, the CMA team hosted a design open house for Bryant Park and South Bryant Park at the Compass LGBTQ Community Center. This structure of the subject event mirrored the previous open house, consisting of three segments: an introduction to the project, a visioning exercise where attendees shared their likes, challenges, and ideas for the park's future over the next 5, 10, and over 10 years. The event also included presentations by the attendees and hands-on park conceptual designs.

Currently, the project team is in the process of preparing the report of the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan, which will be reviewed by the City staff. The proposed Master Plan will serve as a roadmap for future improvements to the City's recreational programming and facilities, while also providing an opportunity to seek funding for upcoming initiatives.