

STAFF REPORT REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DATE: November 4, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Leisure Services

TITLE:

Park Ranger Program

SUMMARY:

The City of Lake Worth Beach is proposing the establishment of a Park Ranger Division to improve public safety, enhance community engagement, and provide consistent education and enforcement at City parks, including Bryant Park, Beach Complex, Sunset Ridge Park, and Howard Park.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

On July 28, 2025 during the Lake Worth Beach City Commission Budget Workshop #1B, the Commission directed staff to determine options for a Park Ranger program. On August 21, 2025 options were presented for a PBSO permitted deputy model, a PBSO contracted deputy and a staff model. The commission allocated \$500,000 in the general fund as a placeholder until staff could bring forward a Park Ranger program and implementation plan.

Using a staff model, the Park Ranger Division will be a new division in the Leisure Services department reporting to the Director of Leisure Services. It will be led by a Park Ranger Manager, supported by three full-time and two part-time rangers. Full-time Rangers will work five 8-hour shifts weekly, while part-time rangers will provide evening and weekend coverage to ensure consistent presence. Initial implementation costs are estimated at \$352,146 for wages and benefits. Another \$66,000 for materials and contractual expenses including mountain bikes, uniforms, certifications and credentialing, outreach & marketing, and other start-up expenses, leaving a residual balance of \$81,854 for adjustments identified at the 180-day review.

A phased implementation model would include in the first 45 days establishing program goals, developing job descriptions, and setting uniform standards. This phase would conclude with conducting recruitment and hiring of the Park Ranger Manager, beginning the procurement of mountain bikes and uniform design selections.

During the first 90 days, the Park Ranger Manager would formulate operational plans for the Ranger team, review ordinances for implementation, finalize the code citation book, schedule code FACE training, begin hiring of full-time and part-time rangers, and establish community partnerships.

In the first 120-150 days, the Park Ranger Manager would complete training, certification, and onboarding of staff, initiate education and enforcement patrols in staged intervals, conduct outreach events, and host a kickoff event to introduce the program to the community.

At the 180 day mark, Leisure Services will present to the Commission with the state of the program, lessons learned, implementation progress, and education/enforcement patrol updates.

A budget amendment will be brought forward in January 2026 with the updated budget allocation.

DIRECTION:

Direct staff on how to proceed with and implement the Park Ranger Program including the allocation of funds.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Fiscal Impact Analysis
Presentation

FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Inflows/Revenues					
Appropriated (Budgeted)	0	0	0	0	0
Program Income	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	0	0	0	0	0
In Kind	0	0	0	0	0
Outflows/Expenditures					
Appropriated (Budgeted)	\$500,000	0	0	0	0
Operating	0	0	0	0	0
Capital	0	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact (If not budgeted)	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Addn'l Full-Time Employee Positions	0	0	0	0	0

Budgeted but not allocated to Leisure Fiscal Impact:		
	Revenue Source	Expenditure
Department	Police	Recreation
Division	Administration	Community Programs
GL Description	Other Contractual Services	Various
GL Account Number	001-3010-521-34-50	001-8061-572-12-10/34-50/51/1052-90 etc(Various)
Project Number	N/A	N/A
Requested Funds	\$500,000	\$500,000
Remaining Balance	N/A	N/A