

OCTOBER 26, 2026

JOINT MEETING

Parks, Recreation, & Community Investment

Andrew Lukasik, Deputy City Manager

Briann Harms, Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District Executive Director

Greg Stevens, Recreation Services Director



Agenda

- Major City & District initiatives affecting parks, recreation, and community facilities.
- Current planning efforts and the City-District partnership.
- Work underway and areas where continued staff coordination is beneficial.
- Opportunity for Board and Council discussion.



ONE COMMUNITY

TWO GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

Decades of shared investment in parks and recreation.



City of Boca Raton

- Municipal government
- Five-member elected council
- Owns & operates numerous recreation assets
- Provides programs, staffing, services, and Recreation Services operations



Beach & Park District

- Independent special district
- Five-member elected board
- Service area extends beyond City limits
- Funds, owns and invests in significant recreation assets
- Funds operations for several City parks

Part I: How the City & District Work Together

A Partnership Built Over Decades

1990s



Sugar Sand Park

2010s



Countess
deHoernle Park

That history created a strong partnership — and multiple interlocal agreements with different terms, structures and administrative processes.

1980s



- Red Reef Park
- Patch Reef

2000s



- Swim and Racquet Center
- Ocean Strand

Today



North Park
Systemwide

Interlocal Agreements

HOW THE PARTNERSHIP GENERALLY WORKS

Recreation Services Dept.



- Operates and maintains
- Owns certain assets
- Programs many assets
- Provides staff & services

Interlocal Agreements



Define roles, responsibilities
& financial arrangements

Beach & Park District



- Invests
- Funds
- Owns certain assets
- Provides capital support

Individual agreements establish the details for each facility or service.

Interlocal Agreements

WHY REVIEW THE ILAS NOW?



The framework works — but it developed over decades.

- Agreements were adopted at different times and for different facilities.
- Budget, invoice and approval processes vary.
- Capital repair and replacement responsibilities are not always addressed consistently.
- Revenue treatment and cost-recovery provisions vary.
- Some provisions reflect circumstances that have changed over time.

Current Work:

Staff and legal counsel are reviewing opportunities to simplify, modernize and create greater consistency.

ILA COMPARISON AT A GLANCE

Agreement	Property / Context	District Role	City Role	Payment / Revenue Notes
Red Reef (1984)	City-owned	Funds O&M and capital	Operates / maintains	Quarterly O&M; monthly capital; revenue not specified
Patch Reef	District / County arrangement	Funds development and O&M	Operates / maintains	Quarterly cost-based billing; no express revenue offset
Sugar Sand (1993)	District-owned	Funds O&M; approves budget	Operates / maintains	Monthly / 30 days; no express revenue offset
Ocean Strand (1995)	District-owned	Funds O&M; directs scope	Operates / maintains	Monthly / 30 days
Swim & Racquet (2000)	District-owned	Funds O&M; approves budget	Operates / maintains	Monthly / 10 days; no express revenue offset
Don Estridge (2004)	School District-owned	Funds O&M; approves budget	Maintains / schedules	Monthly / 30 days; no express revenue offset
Gumbo Limbo (2013)	City-owned; Red Reef	Funds specified costs via Red Reef	Operates / maintains	Layered onto Red Reef agreement
Beach Renourishment (2017)	Program-based	50% of local share	Manages beach projects	Completion / fiscal-year billing; dredging monthly
Mizner Bark	City-owned	Funds O&M; no ILA	—	No written ILA identified
DeHoernle	City-owned	Funds Phase II, O&M, repairs	Operates / maintains	Monthly / 60 days; user-fee offset specified

KEY TAKEAWAY: A **longstanding partnership**, with varying budget, billing, revenue & capital provisions across agreements.

Interlocal Agreements

WHAT MODERNIZATION SHOULD ACCOMPLISH

The five questions every agreement should answer:

- 1. Who decides?** – Authority
- 2. Who does the work?** – Operations
- 3. Who pays?** – Financial Responsibility
- 4. Where does revenue go?** – Revenue/Cost Recovery
- 5. Who is accountable?** – Performance & Oversight

The goal is clarity, consistency & accountability – not changing the partnership for the sake of change.

Interlocal Agreements

ILA MODERNIZATION WORK UNDERWAY

- Inventory existing ILAs
- Compare key provisions
- Identify gaps and conflicts
- Develop framework
- Return when action is needed

Specific policy matters will return to the appropriate governing bodies when direction or approval is required.

- Ownership
- Operations
- Capital
- Maintenance
- Funding
- Revenue
- Administrative Process

Part II: What we are building & improving

Major Initiatives Across the System

NORTH PARK



CURRENT FOCUS:

- East-side park development underway
- Trails, playgrounds, dog park, fitness, pavilions, restrooms and supporting infrastructure
- Skate park and Pump Track
- Coordination with Jeffery Street improvements
- Future recreation opportunities

STATUS:

- Construction underway

NEXT STEPS:

- Permitting, infrastructure, and phased construction

CITY COORDINATION:

- Permits
- Jeffery Street interface work
- Utilities and infrastructure
- Future operational coordination

Major Initiatives Across the System

COMMUNITY ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM



- Renovation and transformation of the former Patch Reef Community Center into a dedicated Community Accessibility Program (CAP) Center.
- District funded capital improvements modernized the existing building and created specialized spaces to support adaptive recreation, sensory needs, and inclusive activities.
- Partnership between the District and City of Boca Raton Recreation Services, with the District providing facility improvements and program funding and the City overseeing programming, staffing, and daily operations.
- Expanded opportunities for individuals with disabilities and diverse abilities to participate in recreational, social, and enrichment programs.

Major Initiatives Across the System

REINVESTMENT IN EXISTING PARKS



Owned by District, operated by City

PATCH REEF PARK



- Pro shop renovations
- Tennis Court reconstruction
- Security Improvements

SUGAR SAND PARK



- Multisport rink shade structure
- Willow Theatre improvements
- Fuel Load Reduction
- Playground Resurfacing
- Trail Wayfinding Signage

SWIM & RACQUET CENTER



- Replacing the pedestrian bridge
- Lighting the last remaining 6 courts at the Racquet Center

*Owned & operated by City
funded by District*

DEHOERNLE PARK



- Phase II Design
- Construct additional athletic facilities and supporting infrastructure
- Partnership with City

As the system matures, the District's investment increasingly focuses on reinvestment, modernization, capacity, and long-term asset needs.

Major Initiatives Across the System

GOPHER TORTOISE PRESERVE



A \$700,000 grant-funded project that opened to the public on July 27, 2026. This project provides new ADA compliant walking trails, parking spaces and educational opportunities for residents.

Features include:

- 11.27 acres of Sand Pine Scrub habitat
- 1/4 mile nature trail (Sand Path)
- 900 feet of ADA accessible paths
- 6 parking spaces, including 1 ADA space
- 1 bike rack
- 1 Educational Kiosk

Major Initiatives Across the System

LAKE WYMAN PARK PLAYGROUND



A \$1.2 million split-funded (general fund/grant) project opening in late Oct. – early Nov. This project replaces aging equipment near the end of its useful life with new ADA compliant equipment and increases shade over the play areas.

Features include:

- New 10,000 sq ft ADA compliant playground including a 2–5 yr old play area and a 5–12 yr old play area.
- New safety surfacing
- (6) Large Shade structures
- Benches
- Fencing
- New sidewalks
- New Landscaping



Major Initiatives Across the System

GUMBO LIMBO NATURE CENTER PROJECTS



Recently completed the District-funded \$330,000 decking replacement project around the Nature center and opened to the public on Sept. 10.

Opening late 2026, “Wild Backyard” exhibit space.

There are several projects for **FY27** scheduled at Gumbo Limbo, including:

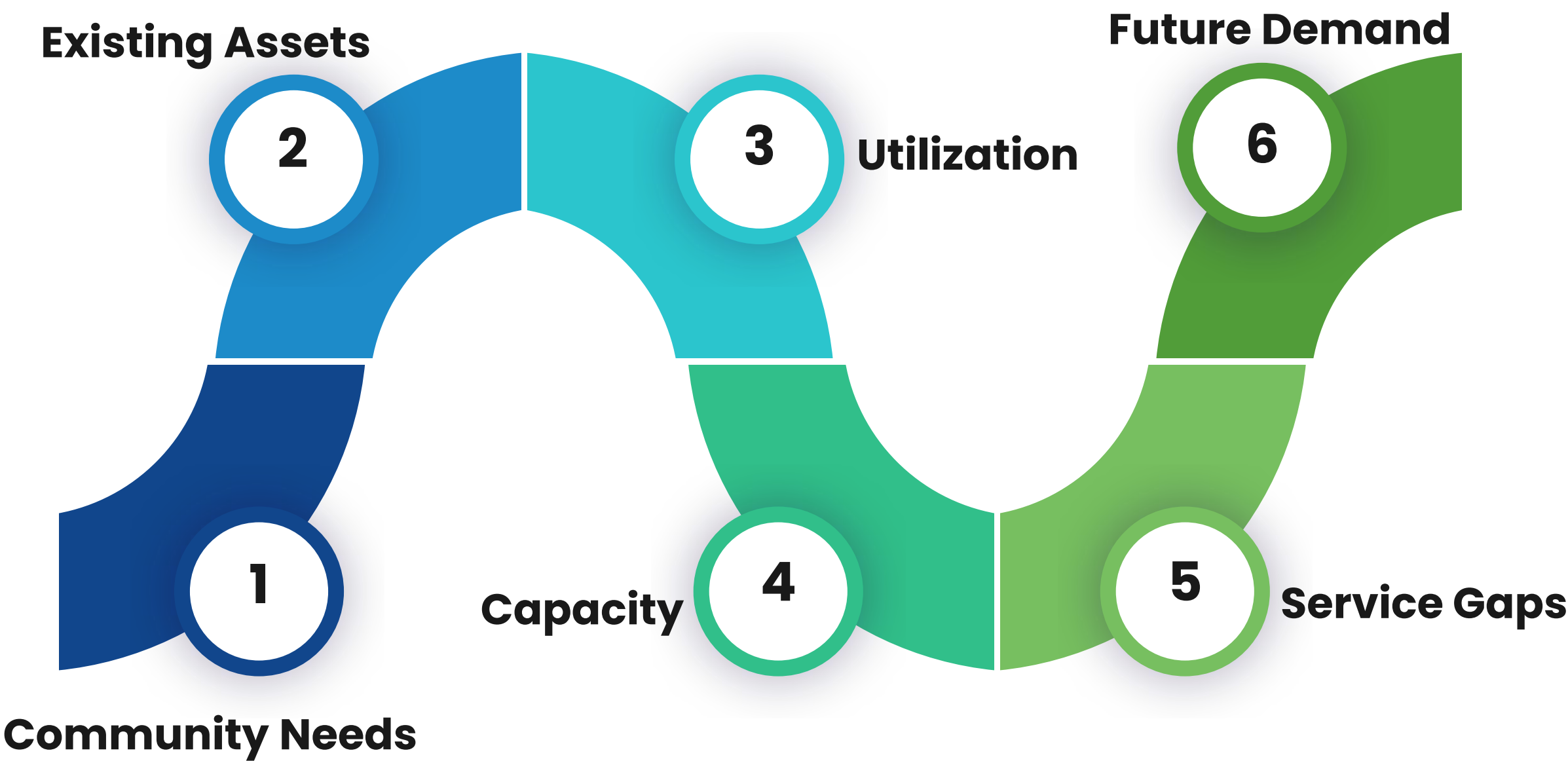
- **Design Accessible Pathways to Tanks, Viewing Areas** – This is to provide construction documents for new railings and ADA sidewalk improvements. District-funded \$75,000.
- **Construction ADA Accessible Pathways to Tanks and Viewing Areas** – District-funded \$450,000.
- **Aquarium Lighting** – Replacing existing aging lighting over the aquariums. Donation-funded \$175,000.
- **Concrete Spalling Repairs** – Repairing aged and damaged columns. District-funded \$200,000.
- **Window Replacements** – Replacing leaking windows with new Impact rated windows. District-funded \$250,000.

Part III: What does the system need next?

System Assessment & Master Planning

A common, data-driven understanding of community needs and system performance.

Before determining future investments, understand:



The assessment creates a **common factual foundation** for future capital investment, service delivery, policy analysis and implementation priorities.



Boca Forward is the City’s umbrella identity for the projects, plans, and priorities shaping our city's future.
Many initiatives. One City.

Recreation System Assessment

PHASE I: LISTEN, LEARN & ASSESS



COMMUNITY

- Statistically valid survey
- Demographics & trends
- Resident priorities
- Stakeholder engagement



SYSTEM

- Facility inventory
- Utilization & capacity
- Level of Service and Community Benchmarking
- Geographic access



NEEDS

- Unmet demand
- Service gaps
- Future demand
- Opportunities

Assessment should consider the full City **AND** District service area.

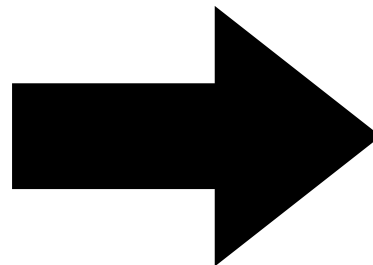
Recreation System Assessment

PHASE 2: FROM ASSESSMENT TO STRATEGY



Phase I: Understand

- What do residents need?
- What do we already have?
- How well is it being used?
- Where are the gaps?



Phase II: Plan & Implement

- Address documented gaps
- Identify future investments
- Prioritize reinvestment
- Address service & programming needs
- Establish implementation timeline

Separate site-specific planning efforts, including Memorial Park, can inform the broader system assessment.

Where we go from here...



Interlocal Agreements

Continue staff/legal review and development of modernization options.



Projects

Continue City–District coordination on major capital and operational initiatives.



System Assessment

Refine scope and proceed through each entity’s appropriate process.

Board & Council receive future updates and consider specific matters when action is required.



CITY OF
Boca Raton
RECREATION SERVICES

**Proudly working together for the future of
Boca Raton's Parks & Recreation System.**

Thank you!