



The Insider

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Official newsletter of the Town of Lake Park



THIS IS A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE LAKE PARK INSIDER. OCCASIONALLY WE WILL DEVOTE THE INSIDER TO FOCUS ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC AND PROVIDE MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT.

Waking Lake Park's Sleeping Giant

How a new focus on the waterfront could catapult Lake Park's economic growth



Travel up and down Palm Beach County's coastline and you will notice the majority of waterfront falls into two categories. The first category is private property, where the land is cut off from public access by mega mansions, tall condos or private boat docks. The second category is public beach, where miles of soft sands attract visitors from across the globe. But there is a third type of waterfront land here in Palm Beach County, and this type of land holds within it the potential to lift economies, boost small businesses, and generate the kind of tax revenues that most municipalities dream of to significantly benefit their residents' quality of life.

This third type of land is the public, municipal waterfront, and Lake Park is one of the few fortunate towns to have one. Time and time again, the smart redevelopment of a municipality's public waterfront has proven to be the spark that transformed its urban core, boosted economic growth, and created a welcoming public space for all residents to enjoy. To see an example, Lake Park residents need only to travel a few miles down I-95.

For decades, West Palm Beach's waterfront was isolated and cut off from its downtown. The city's huge public library loomed large in the middle of Clematis Street, serving as a manufactured divide blocking all views of the water from downtown. But 10 years ago, the library was removed, the entire waterfront opened up, and a new era of downtown activity began. In Tampa, there is a similar story as a renewed focus on redeveloping its waterfront is predicted to bring in \$13 billion in investment by 2022.

The Town of Lake Park's marina and waterfront contain the same economic potential, and it is potential that could soon be realized. The developers of the Nautilus 220 project are talking to the Town about redeveloping the Lake Shore Park area into a signature public space for everyone to enjoy. Activating Lake Park's waterfront holds out the potential for Lake Park to become Palm Beach County's newest waterfront hot spot, featuring dining, retail, open spaces and public parks, generating millions in new revenue for the Town. In addition, the redevelopment of the waterfront will supercharge the future growth of the downtown area as more visitors discover Lake Park and explore all it has to offer.

The Urban Land Institute, one of the world's most respected groups of urban land use experts has said "Cities seek a waterfront that is a place of public enjoyment. They want a waterfront where there is ample visual and physical public access - all day, all year - to both the water and the land. Cities also want a waterfront that serves more than one purpose: they want it to be a place to work and to live, as well as a place to play. In other words, they want a place that contributes to the quality of life in all of its aspects - economic, social, and cultural."

Imagine the possibilities of having all that right here in Lake Park!



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