



City of Indian Rocks Beach

1507 Bay Palm Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida 33785
www.indian-rocks-beach.com

City of IRB Provides Context on Paid Parking and Community Investment

Indian Rocks Beach, FL — The City of Indian Rocks Beach appreciates the continued engagement and feedback from neighbors regarding the discussion around paid parking at beach access points and the Pinellas County parking lot that has been a paid parking lot for many years. Community input is valued, and transparency remains a priority as these conversations continue.

Recent coverage, including a Channel 8 news story, referenced a projected \$100,000 revenue increase associated with paid parking. This estimate reflects a rate adjustment at the Pinellas County parking lot, where fees will increase from \$2.50 to \$4.50. It is important to note that implementing a paid parking program also requires the City to assume additional operational, logistical, and financial responsibilities.

Any revenue generated through paid parking from spaces at both the beach access points and the Pinellas County parking lot is intended to be reinvested directly into stormwater management and infrastructure projects. Indian Rocks Beach faces significant stormwater and resiliency challenges that must be addressed to protect the beach, neighborhoods, and overall quality of life. These investments are essential to the long-term vitality and resilience of the community.

As a small coastal city, Indian Rocks Beach must carefully consider how critical infrastructure is funded. Many communities rely on dedicated stormwater fees or special taxes assessed to residents. Indian Rocks Beach has intentionally chosen not to pursue those options, reflecting community preferences. As a result, alternative funding sources—such as paid parking—have been discussed to help meet these ongoing needs without placing additional financial burdens on residents.

The goal of this program is preservation, not transformation. Paid parking is not intended to commercialize beach access or to view neighbors, local or visiting, as an inconvenience. Rather, it is one potential tool to help ensure that Indian Rocks Beach remains a special, accessible, and well-maintained place for generations to come.

City leaders recognize that changes affecting beach access can feel personal and, at times, unwelcome. Those concerns are valid and are being heard. As discussions move forward, the City remains committed to balancing accessibility and fairness with the long-term health and sustainability of the community.

Indian Rocks Beach values its neighbors and hopes the beach continues to be a place people choose to enjoy and cherish. The City thanks everyone who has taken the time to share their perspectives and remain engaged in shaping the future of Indian Rocks Beach.

We would like our neighbors to note that there has been no date set for the implementation of the pilot program.

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727-595-2517

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