



Research Park at Florida Atlantic

Strategic Plan 2026–2029:
Leveraging Florida Atlantic's R1 Excellence



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Introduction

In 2025 Florida Atlantic University successfully achieved **Carnegie R1 Very High Research Activity** status and the Certification for Community Engagement. With its contributions to the mission of the University, the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University enters a new era, alongside its primary partner.



The 2023–2025 plan focused on the Research Park contributing to the efforts to achieve these designations; the 2026–2029 cycle must focus on leveraging this elite status to commercialize breakthroughs, drive tangible economic impact and solidify the Park's identity as a premier global innovation hub. This plan prioritizes asset activation and deep university–industry integration.

The Research Park supports research and development with and at Florida Atlantic University and fosters economic development across Palm Beach and Broward counties (Fla. Stat. 159.701, Palm Beach County Ordinance 85–32 and Broward County Ordinance 85–60). To that end, the Research Park's target industries are those areas of research emphasis at Florida Atlantic University, including Neuroscience & Healthy Aging, Quantum Computing, Environmental, Ocean & Coastal Innovation, and National Defense and Autonomous Systems.

The Research Park at Florida Atlantic's work during 2026–2029 will be based on 3 strategic pillars:

1. Real estate asset consolidation & oversight of the uses in the Research Park
2. Ecosystem Activation and Placemaking
3. Research Park companies–Florida Atlantic University Synergies

Strategic Imperatives

Pillar 1:

Asset Consolidation

Goal: Direct the development of the physical assets – land and building – to ensure long-term alignment with the Florida Atlantic Research and Development Authority's statutory and ordained mission.

Pillar 2:

Ecosystem Activation & Placemaking

Goal: Transform the Research Park from a workplace into a destination for innovation that defines the regional identity.

Pillar 3:

Research Park & Industry-University Synergy

Goal: Bridge the Academic-Commercial Divide to increase IP commercialization and talent retention.

1

Asset Consolidation



Goal:

Direct the development of the physical assets – land and building – to ensure long-term alignment with the Florida Atlantic Research and Development Authority's statutory and ordained mission.

1.1

Acquisition of subleases

Action: Negotiate the restructuring of existing sublease and sub-sublease agreements covering the entire Research Park as opportunities arise.

Rationale: Direct control allows the Authority to direct development and immediate oversight of existing sub-sublease holders, in addition to the other sublease holders directly leasing from the Authority.

1.2

Strategic Oversight of Existing Sub-sublease and Building Assets

Action: Maintain rigorous recruitment and performance standards for the 438,000 square feet of office/lab space currently under long-term ground sublease and sub-sublease across both the Boca Raton and Deerfield Beach properties.

- Regularly review the Research Park Use Application, ensuring it asks the most pertinent questions and elicits accurate information that can be relied upon to meet the Authority's mission.
- Working closely with stakeholders such as Florida Atlantic University, FPL & 35 Mules, Select Florida, City of Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, Broward County and others, recruit mission-aligned users to activate the office and lab space to its greatest potential in research, development and commercialization.
- Perform and present diligence on applicant users to the Authority for compatibility with its statutory mission and financial viability, reputational risk and other considerations.
- With relevant Florida Atlantic faculty, engage each approved Research Park user in a formal, in-depth review each year to develop new collaborative opportunities with Florida Atlantic University.

1.2

Cont.

- Collect relevant performance data from each user at least twice per year to report to the Authority.
- Regularly analyze each user to find and suggest new links and opportunities.
- Press current sub-sublease holders to activate their land or release it. Active construction and use of the space for research and development is a high priority to activate the entire Research Park.

Rationale: Ensure tenant recruitment and performance aligns with the Authority's target industries.

2

Ecosystem Activation & Placemaking



Goal:

Transform the Research Park from a workplace into a destination for innovation that defines the regional identity.

2.1

Elevate Global Ventures to the pre-eminent university-affiliated soft landings program in Florida, optimizing the Innovation Cycle.

Action: Enhance Global Ventures from a provider of space to a high-interaction growth engine.

- Spin Global Ventures into its own entity to give maximum flexibility and freedom to operate in the best interests of the mission to recruit and scale technology-centric entrepreneurs into South Florida, with Florida Atlantic University as a competitive advantage.
- Continue to develop the incubation model to facilitate growth and the advance of technology in areas of research focus at Global Ventures.
- Collaborate with Florida Atlantic University's Entrepreneurship Institute to create an integrated innovation cycle for technology ventures.
- Collaborate with the City of Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, Florida Atlantic University, Select Florida and other stakeholders to recruit the best technology ventures to expand into South Florida, using Global Ventures as the soft landing.

Rationale: Stronger, growing technology ventures in areas of research emphasis will be natural long-term Research Park users and contributors to the Research Park's mission and economic vitality of South Florida.

2.2

Community of Innovation Event Series

Action: Increase high-profile, multidisciplinary anchor events that integrate the public, local government, and industry in addition to academic-industry seminars.

- Launch a "Boca Innovation Festival" or "R&D After Dark" series featuring live technology demos, arts-science crossovers, and high-level networking.
- Working with the City of Boca Raton, Broward County, Palm Beach County and Florida Atlantic University and other stakeholders, host small business development workshops and conferences.
- Working with stakeholders such as South Florida Tech Hub and BioFlorida, host regional industry events such as hackathons.
- Begin a conference for investors to get to know the South Florida technology promising companies from across the region, not only the Research Park and FAU's Entrepreneurship Institute ventures.

Rationale: Public value for R&D is built through place-based awareness.

2.3 Placemaking and Amenities

Action: Establish a central "Hub" or "Owls Burrow" featuring food, beverage, formal and informal meeting spaces to facilitate serendipitous interactions.

- Pursue opportunities for amenities that will support and encourage R&D activities in the Research Park. Evaluate the demand for complementary facilities that will enhance successful development of the Research Park, such as early childhood care and/or (pre-K) education facilities.

Rationale: Physical events and amenities are essential, but "placemaking" must be authentic. Simply adding food trucks is insufficient; the Research Park needs unique assets and "vibe" that distinguishes it from a standard office park.

3

Research Park & Industry-University Synergy



Goal:

**Bridge the Academic-
Commercial Divide to
increase IP
commercialization and
talent retention.**

3.1

The IP Commercialization Accelerator

Action: Partner with the FAU Office of Technology Development to identify existing and potential licensees of FAU's available technologies for expansion to the Research Park.

- Partner with the FAU Office of Technology Development to create a "Research-to-Market" pipeline to specifically engage Research Park tenants.
- Together, recruit potential licensees to engage Florida Atlantic University, building a relationship that could culminate in the licensee expanding or relocating to the Research Park.

Rationale: Successful strategic partnerships increase revenues, economic activity and job creation for ventures, the university and employees as well as contribute to the clustering of high-tech companies in the Research Park.

3.2 Faculty Integration

Action: Working with Florida Atlantic University's Division of Research and college deans, create incentives for faculty to work in closer collaboration with Research Park companies engaged in business in the university's areas of research emphasis.

- Increase the number of faculty members consulting for or embedded within Research Park companies.
- Invite faculty engaged with Research Park companies' events to showcase successful collaborations together.

Rationale: Greater engagement leads to a sense of ownership and responsibility by both faculty, students and companies. Greater engagement will lead to new IP and venture development.

3.3 Student Integration

Action: Working with the Florida Atlantic Division of Student Affairs, create and strengthen incentives for both companies and students to create and seek internships as a primary way to enhance the student experience and add creativity and energy to each company's performance.

- Ensure that each User in the Research Park is active in Handshake, in coordination with the Career Center, and regularly creating and hiring for internship roles as well as full time opportunities from the FAU community.
- With the Career Center, manage outreach to recent graduates of Florida Atlantic University to make career opportunities in the Research Park known to the alumni.
- Working with the FAU Alumni Association, host more alumni focused outreach and events.
- Encourage each Research Park company to attend at least one Career Fair per year and attend student showcase events on campus to experience the creativity and skill of their work.

Rationale: Greater engagement and familiarity with the student body will engender more opportunities for the students to contribute to the growth and success of the companies.

3.4

Bring More University Units into the Research Park

Action: Locate strategic units at the Research Park to advance R&D, commercialization and employment opportunities.

- Working with Florida Atlantic University, determine which units would be best suited to integrate with the business community while maintaining its university campus culture, expanding on existing assets such as the Simulation Center and Runway Building.
- Encourage closer collaboration between private sector tenants and the university, fostering opportunities for shared facilities.

Rationale: A more integrated Research Park creates more opportunities for spontaneous interactions, new collaborations and more impactful activities.



Proposed Key Performance Indicators (2026-2028)

Progress towards success will be presented to the Authority every six months and measured annually by the Authority using key performance indicators.

Real estate asset consolidation & oversight of uses

Pillar	Metric	Baseline (2023-2025)	2029 Target
1.2 Use Oversight	Performance data collected from each user, twice per year.	1 x year	100%



Ecosystem activation & placemaking

Category	Metric	Baseline (2023-2025)	2029 Target
2.1 Global Ventures success rate	Number of target industry Global Ventures companies graduating into the Research Park, Broward or Palm Beach counties	3	12
2.3 Placemaking	Addition of essential amenities	0	1
	Average attendance at non-academic community events	100	150
	Social media following	7,898	+30%
	Earned Media Value	\$3.5M	\$3m/year

Research Park & Industry-University Synergy.

Category	Metric	Baseline (2023-2025)	2029 Target
3. Research Park & University Synergy	Number of patents issued to Research Park companies/employees		132
	Number of FAU technologies licensed	0	2
	Number of interns & alumni employed	15 interns	100 alumni 50 interns/year
	Number of Memoranda of Understanding (FAU + Park Tenant)	2	6
	Number of faculty members actively collaborating with Park Tenants	5	15

