


Miami River Commission

Annual Report 2013



In 2013, the Miami River Greenway continued construction, featuring a public pedestrian & bicycle pathway, landscaping, decorative lights, way-finding signage, historic markers, informational kiosks, benches, art installations, and other amenities. This year another 5 sections of the Greenway were constructed by the private and public sectors. In 2014, another 3 fully funded and designed sections of the Greenway will be built, finishing more than half of the planned 10-mile public Miami River Greenway.

The Miami River Commission (MRC) thanks the Florida Inland Navigation District and the City of Miami for appropriating another \$2 million for the Wagner Creek & Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project in 2013. The fully permitted project now has \$5.4 million appropriated. Efforts continue to identify the remaining funding balance for this long awaited project, which will significantly improve the economy and natural environment.

COVER: Mixed-use Miami River's Point Park, historic Spring Garden neighborhood, boatyards, International shipping terminal, and Seybold Canal (on right) in the "Middle River".



HORACIO
STUART
AGUIRRE

Chair's Report

The historic Miami River's epic story is entering its next intriguing chapter. Over a decade ago the Miami River Commission (MRC) adopted an award winning strategic plan. The plan recommended supporting the "Middle" and "Upper" Miami River's job generating marine industrial businesses, which 10-years ago were struggling to operate on a shallowed federal navigable channel. After heroic efforts, the Miami River's first-ever Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project was successfully undertaken from 2003-2008. This dredging significantly improved navigation for international shipping vessels and recreational yachts. Today the restored Port of Miami River has new international shipping terminals, recreational boatyards, marinas, is part of the expanded Enterprise Business Zone, the new Free Trade Zone, and was protected by the public whom overwhelmingly voted to approve the "Working Waterfront" State Constitutional Amendment.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN RECOMMENDED the large, vacant and contaminated parcels in the "Lower" Miami River's urban core be developed into mixed-income residential projects with public riverwalks. Today those sites have been environmentally remediated, and now feature over 7,000 new affordable, workforce, and luxury residential units, with the celebrated public Miami

River Greenway. In addition, the plan recommended the "Middle" Miami River's low-density neighborhoods be preserved. Today homeowner's in the River's historic Spring Garden, Lummus Park, Grove Park, and Durham Park neighborhoods are taking pride and improving their residences to enhance the "Miami River experience."

TEN YEARS AGO THE PLAN recommended more public access and green spaces along the Miami River in order to become a destination landscape, featuring special events to further attract residents and tourists alike. Since then, over half of the 10-mile public Miami River Greenway has been constructed, including new Parks such as the Miami Circle, a designated National Historic Landmark. In 2013, the public Riverwalk was the location of the 17th Annual Miami Riverday festival, Annual Ironman Triathlon, Annual ING Marathon, Annual Orange Bowl Paddle Championship, 5th Annual Downtown Riverwalk Festival, and the 2nd Annual Miami River Art Fair featuring renowned international artists during Art Basel week. The strategic plan recommended more restaurants along the public Miami River Greenway and a decade later there are 13 new restaurants operating along the Greenway, for an increased total of 17 wonderful culinary experiences to choose from.

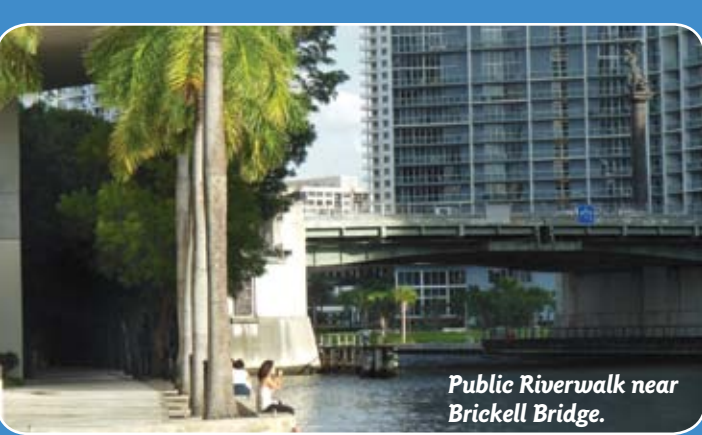
THE MRC THANKS the strong private – public partnership which brought the success of the Miami River's previous chapter to fruition, including the Dade Congressional Delegation, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Inland Navigation District, Florida Legislature, Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami.

ALTHOUGH GREAT PROGRESS has been made, there is still much work to be done including finishing the Miami River Greenway, the Seybold Canal and Wagner Creek Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project, and further revitalization of the marine industries to name a few. Therefore we invite you to join us in writing the Miami River's next exciting chapter.

*Horacio Stuart Aguirre
Chairman,
Miami River Commission*

Awards

- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION"** for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events – City of Miami, 2013
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- "BEST OF MIAMI 2011 – TURNING GREEN"** awarded to MRC member Sandy Batchelor – Miami Today
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2011 – VISIONARY"** awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau – Miami Today
- "SUSTAINABLE SOUTH FLORIDA AWARDS, GREEN EDUCATION & OUTREACH AWARD" 2011 FINALIST** – Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION"** for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events – City of Miami, 2010
- "BEST OF MIAMI – BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE"** awarded to Eric Buermann and Brett Bibeau – Miami Today, 2008
- "AWARD OF MERIT"** awarded to the MRC for its Multimodal Transportation Plan – American Planning Association, 2007
- "THE NEWSMAKER"** awarded to MRC Chair Eric Buermann – Miami Today, 2007
- "BEST BACKSTAGE LEADER"** awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau who was then included in the "Book of Leaders" – Miami Today, 2007
- MIAMI IMAGE AWARD OF 2006** awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau – Realtor Association of Greater Miami and the Beaches
- "BEST OF MIAMI – IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE"** awarded to former MRC Chair Irela Bagué – Miami Today, 2006
- "THE ACHIEVER – MIAMI RIVER'S RENAISSANCE MAN"** awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau – Miami Today, 2006
- "COMMUNITY STEWARD AWARD"** awarded to MRC–1,000 Friends of Florida, 2005
- "BEST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION"** awarded to MRC – Miami Today, 2004
- "MOST POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT"** for the Miami River Greenway, Urban Environment League, 2004
- EXCELLENCE AWARD** for the Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan, American Landscape Architects, 2003



Public Riverwalk near Brickell Bridge.



City of Miami's fire rescue vessel, 5th ST Metromover station, "Brickell on the River" and "City Center" under construction.



Mixed use "Flagler on the River" under construction.



International shipping terminals in the "Upper" River.



Hurricane Cove Marina & Boatyard, under new ownership and management, Durham Park neighborhood, Terrazas River Park Village, River Oaks Marina & Tower, Sewell Park and Miami Marlins Ballpark.

“ Testimonials

“As a taxpayer and homeowner directly on the Seybold Canal, I have attended numerous Miami River Commission public meetings and sincerely appreciate the MRC’s persistent efforts to bring the Seybold Canal and Wagner Creek Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project to fruition. I hope the City of Miami and State of Florida dredge the toxic contaminants, including dioxin, from their waterway in the near future.”
Charlie Hand, Seybold Canal Resident

“The Miami River Commission (MRC) has been very helpful and supportive of our efforts to open a new riverfront restaurant, “Seasalt and Pepper”. From helping the City with new landscaping along the public Miami River Greenway, to arranging maintenance of the storm water system, the effective MRC is always willing and able to assist.”
Carlos Miranda, Co-Owner, Seasalt and Pepper

“We have noted that the Miami River Commission works tirelessly to maintain the public realm in the best possible condition”
Jose Luis Feriera de Melo, Developer of Mixed-Use “Flagler on the River”



Subcommittee Reports

MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY *Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair*

THE MRC THANKS THE CITY OF MIAMI, which in 2013 nearly finished construction of two sections of the public Greenway's south shore from the NW 5 ST Bridge to NW 12 Ave Bridge. In addition, the City has sufficient funds to construct the Riverwalk in the Health District (north shore, west of NW 12 Ave) and from the Miami Circle to South Miami Ave. Bridge, both of which will be designed and permitted in 2014.

THE MRC THANKS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, which in 2013 nearly completed construction of 4 sections of the public Riverwalk on the south shore at the 5 ST Metro-Mover Station and 2 Ave. Bridge, and along the north shore adjacent to Lummus Park and South Miami Ave. Bridge. In addition, the voter approved funding will be used to construct the designed public riverwalk beneath Metro-Rail on the Miami River's north and south shores in 2014.

THE MRC APPRECIATES THE MUTUAL EFFORTS to implement the *Miami River Greenway Action Plan*, and the cost shares provided to date from multiple public and private funding sources including Congress, Florida Department of Transportation, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Inland Navigation District, City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, Downtown Development Authority, and numerous private sector developments.

STORM WATER *Sallye Jude, Chair*

THE ANTIQUATED STORMWATER SYSTEM is the leading source of pollution into the Miami River. The Miami River water basin includes a 69- square-mile area of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the State of Florida. All storm water from this area drains into the Miami River through over one hundred outfalls. The Storm Water subcommittee's highest priority is the City of Miami's Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project. The project is fully permitted, and the MRC thanks FIND and the City of Miami for appropriating \$5.4 million for the project. The MRC supports the City's efforts to secure the remaining funding needed to construct the long awaited and widely supported project, which will improve the environment and economy. In addition, the MRC supports efforts to implement the action items identified in the *2010 Wagner Creek Walk the Waterbody Identification (WBID)*, and the *Miami River Basin Water Quality Improvement Report*. In 2013, monthly water quality testing indicated significantly improved results in the Miami River.

URBAN INFILL *James Murley, Chair*

THE MRC'S URBAN INFILL SUBCOMMITTEE continued efforts to assist implementing various adopted and award-winning plans, including the *Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan*, *Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan*, *Miami River Greenway Action Plan* and others, all available for downloading at www.miamirivercommission.org.



Public riverwalk in Jose Marti Park.



Miami River's mouth, public riverwalks and Downtown residences.

VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

(VIP) identifies and encourages riverfront parcels to address issues such as illegal dumping, which are potentially detrimental to the Miami River, the environmental quality of the river, the river's attraction as a destination for recreation and businesses. In 2013 alone, the MRC's efforts resulted in the removal of a sanitary sewer overflow, 16 Beautification volunteer events, cleanup of illegal dumping, invasive species removal, several sections of the Miami River Greenway, streetlights, unclogging storm water drains, and the removal of Park's public boat ramp, removal of debris to navigation, filling a sinkhole, and more. The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, the MRC, FIND, FDOT, private sector, and over a thousand volunteers for their hard work in making Miami River improvements to fruition.

UPPER RIVER

Shipping and Marine Industrial Zone: Center of the river's trade and industry.
The Miami Intermodal Center links rail, air, freight, transit, pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

MIDDLE RIVER

Residential / Mixed Use Zone: Center of the river's residential and marine-industrial business.



MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY'S TIMELINE

1897

Henry Flagler opens six-story Royal Palm Hotel, including first greenway

1972

Parks For People bond issue passed by voters, funds portions of the Miami River Greenway

1980s

Miami River Greenway section constructed along north shore from Biscayne Bay to NW 2 Avenue

1998

Florida Legislature creates Miami River Commission as a watchdog, advocate and clearinghouse for the river. Miami Circle site discovered

2000

Florida Legislature passes Miami River Improvement Act

2001

In partnership with the Trust for Public Land, the MRC, City of Miami and Miami-Dade County unanimously approve Miami River Greenway Action Plan

2002

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2003

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

PLAN Jay Carmichael, Chair

PRIMARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Encourages public and private sector to address various riverfront issues complementary to operations on the River, and the continuation for residents, tourists and visitors. Along the Miami River "VIP" project, the removal of a derelict vessel, stopping of illegal activities, 16 Miami River Greenway events featuring removal of graffiti, cleaning of the species, and graffiti along the Miami River, repairing Riverwalk water drains, reopening Curtis Park, removing a floating hazard and filling a sinkhole on the Riverwalk, etc. Dade County, City of Miami, Miami-Dade Water Utility, and the estimated over two million people who have benefited from their hard work bringing these improvements to the River.



Scavenger 2000 Water De-Contamination Vessel keeping the Miami River clean.

MIDDLE RIVER

Zone: Includes historic neighborhoods, residential businesses, parks, etc.

LOWER RIVER

Downtown Zone: Urban, high-density residential, offices, commercial businesses. Riverwalks link historic landmarks and parks along river.



Map © 2001 Richard Troutner. All rights reserved.

2002

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2004

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2006

City of Miami adopts "A Vision for Miami's 21st Century Parks & Public Spaces" recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • MRC hosts Greenways summit • Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2007

Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan created by Metropolitan Planning Organization and MRC recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • Greenway construction continues

2008

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2009

City Bicycle Master Plan adopted recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed and additional sections funded and designed for construction in 2010-2011

2010-2013

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2003

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2005

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed



MIRA USA, UM and FIU volunteers beautifying the Miami River Greenway.

Get Involved!

The Miami River Commission invites groups and individuals from the community to get involved in improving our working river, and the private sector to help us as sponsors of events. To learn more about what you can do, visit our website at www.miamirivercommission.org for updates. You can also call us at 305-644-0544, or email us at miamiriver@bellsouth.net. We're at 1407 NW 7th Street, Suite D.

The Miami River Commission thanks the over 2,000 volunteers of all ages and walks of life who created parks and greenways along the river through a series of monthly volunteer Miami River beautification events. The MRC is thankful to our growing list of sponsors, partially listed at right, who contributed volunteers, supplies and funding to the "greening" of the river.

The 18th Annual Miami Riverday Festival is scheduled April 5, 2014, at Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive. Just like the 17th annual festival, held April 6, 2013, Miami Riverday features free river boat tours, live music, paddleboard races, environmental education, marine expo, historic re-enactors, children's activities and much more.

All MRC and subcommittee meetings are publicly noticed. Public participation is encouraged. The full MRC meets on the first Monday of every month at noon, usually at the conference room to the right of the MRC office.

MRC thanks volunteers and sponsors:

- South Florida Water Management District**
- Miami-Dade County**
- City of Miami**
- Downtown Development Authority**
- MIRA USA**
- University of Miami**
- Florida International University**
- BlueCross/BlueShield**
- Florida Wood Recycling**
- Miami Dolphins**
- Miami Marlins**
- Miami Seaquarium**
- Florida Drawbridge**



Antillean Marine's "Habib Express," the largest and fastest international shipping vessel operating from the Miami River.

Miami River Commission Members

Learn more about the river's history, view records of our meetings, see all our major reports on our web site at www.miamirivercommission.org a great resource for what's happening on and near the river.

Public Riverwalk at Miami Circle Park, funded by the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, Downtown Development Authority, South Florida Water Management District and the State of Florida.

Chair: HORACIO STUART AGUIRRE

Representative from environmental or civic organization appointed by the Governor

Vice Chair: JAY CARMICHAEL, Esq.

Member-at-Large appointed by the Governor

Florida Gov. RICK SCOTT

Designee: Ms. Patricia "Patty" Harris

State Rep. EDDY GONZALEZ

Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation

Designee: Rep. Jose Javier Rodriguez

Mayor CARLOS GIMENEZ

Miami-Dade County Mayor

Designee: Mr. Frank Balzebre

Mayor TOMÁS REGALADO

Mayor of the City of Miami

Commissioner BRUNO BARREIRO

Miami-Dade County Commissioner

Designee: Ms. Marlene Avalo

Commissioner FRANK CAROLLO

City of Miami Commissioner

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ-RUNDLE, Esq.

Miami-Dade State Attorney

Designee: Gary Winston, Esq.

Mr. DANIEL O'KEEFE

South Florida Water Management Designee: Ms. SANDY BATCHELOR

Mr. RICHARD DUBIN

Chair, Miami River Marine Group

Designee: Mr. ORIN BLACK

Ms. ALYCE ROBERTSON

Downtown Development Authority

Designee: Mr. JAVIER BETANCOURT

Mr. BARRY JOHNSON

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

Designee: Ms. MEGAN KELLY

Dr. ERNEST MARTIN

Neighborhood Representative appointed by the City of Miami Commission

Designee: Mr. THOMAS KIMEN III

Ms. SALLYE JUDE

Neighborhood Representative appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission

Designee: Ms. JANE CAPORELLI

MR. PHIL EVERINGHAM

Designee of: ED SWAKON, Chair of Marine Council

Ms. SARA C. BABUN

Member-at-Large appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission

Designee: Mr. CHRISTIAN LARACH

Mr. MANNY PRIEGUEZ

Member-at-Large appointed by the City of Miami Commission

Ex-Officio Members:

CONGRESSWOMAN ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Designee: Ms. DEBBIE ZIMMERMAN

CAPT. CHRIS SCRABA, USCG

Captain of the Port of Miami

MANAGING DIRECTOR: Mr. BRETT BIBEAU

DESIGNED BY: Toni Kirkland Graphics

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