

# Memorandum



**Date:** October 28, 2015

**To:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor 

**Subject:** Countywide Leisure Interests and Needs Assessment Report

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With the passage of the FY 2015-16 Budget, recreational programs for children and capital funding in our parks will be expanded in the coming year. This means the restoration and enhancement of programs and services that were affected during challenging budgetary times. The additional funding included in the coming year's budget is focused on children's programming, grounds maintenance, facility maintenance, and tree canopy restoration for the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS). Our increased investment in these programs and services responds directly to the feedback that we have received from residents.

Last year, PROS administered a countywide park, recreation and leisure interest survey. Approximately 8,000 surveys were completed of a random sampling of households across Miami-Dade County. The survey report (<http://www.miamidade.gov/parksmasterplan/library/community-leisure-survey.pdf>) will provide PROS with a comprehensive, statistically-valid measure of resident usage, satisfaction, needs, unmet needs, priorities, and other services and information that will assist in both short and long range decision-making in coordination with its strategic business plan. These results will serve as the basis of a broader needs assessment that will: help to pursue additional public and private revenue opportunities; identify collaborators and potential partners; plan facilities, programs and acquisitions; correlate connections between services provided and those being sought; and guide the implementation of our community's livability plan, the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The vision of the Miami-Dade County Open Space Master Plan is to provide residents and visitors with a seamless system of parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas connected by greenways, trails, and streets designed as linear parks.

I am proud of PROS for its accomplishments despite the fiscal challenges of the last few years and I look forward to the many great opportunities ahead.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jack Kardys, Director of PROS, at (305)755-7903.

Attachment

c: Michael Spring, Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor  
Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department