

**PARKS  
FOUNDATION  
OF MIAMI-DADE** 2014  
**CHANGING COMMUNITIES  
CHANGING LIVES**





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INTRODUCTION



PLACEMAKING

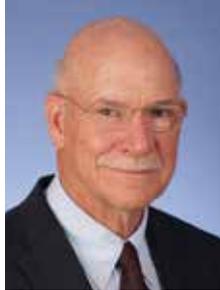


HEALTH  
& FITNESS



CONSERVATION  
& STEWARDSHIP

## Letter from the Board President



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade and I've had the pleasure of being a part of it since its founding in 2004. What motivated me, and still motivates me, is the important role that parks play in communities and individual lives.

For so many of our community's children, Parks are far more than just places to play and recreate. They are the home away from home and the classroom beyond school. On fields and courts, inside recreation centers and pools, along tracks and trails, we learn some of life's most important skills.

I was first introduced to organized football in a park, just a bicycle ride from my home. I can tell you that so much of the success I've enjoyed in my life can be attributed to the coaches and counselors who helped me grow up in parks.

We must continue to work towards protecting our parks, our open spaces, our lands, and recreational and sports programs for people of all ages and abilities. Convincing our elected officials to prioritize parks and programs should be one of our primary objectives for the coming year.

Donations to the Foundation have helped thousands of children learn to swim and hundreds more attend summer camp and afterschool programs. These programs offer a safe environment and opportunities to enjoy sports and the outdoors in our beautiful parks.

As this year closes, I look forward to the next 10 years, hopeful that our community and its parks will grow, prosper, and thrive.

My tenure as Board President comes to a close as I move to serve as the Board's Vice President, handing the reins to President-elect Raul Garcia.

I look forward to new and greater things in store for our Parks and the Parks Foundation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Dick Anderson**  
**President, Board of Directors**  
**Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade**

# Letter from the Director of Miami-Dade Parks



On the heels of winning the 2013 Florida Governor's Sterling Sustained Excellence Award, Miami-Dade Parks continues to focus its strategic business plan on the three pillars it offers the community: Placemaking, Conservation and Stewardship, and Health and Fitness.

In 2014, the Parks Foundation's most memorable achievement was the private/public partnership that allowed us to build and dedicate Gratigny Plateau Park, transforming an entire community with just one Park. With the Foundation's help and in partnership with WPLG Local 10, we saved one year in construction time and more than \$300,000, making this a model for future capital improvements in our Parks!

Two other major capital projects we completed include the Senior Center at Arcola Lakes Park and the expansion of the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Complex at Tropical Park. Arcola Lakes Senior Center is the first project designed specifically to complement the recreational needs of seniors, hosting exercise programs and community events weekly. We also opened the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Complex, an \$8.7 million expansion, adding two show rings for a total of 3.7 acres of covered exhibition arenas. In April this complex hosted the 7th annual Miami International Agriculture, Horse & Cattle Show.

Among the many programs offered by Miami-Dade Parks is Fit2Play™, a childhood obesity prevention afterschool program that annually serves approximately 2,100 low-income, urban children at thirty-five Miami-Dade

County Parks and seven special disability services Parks. After compiling and analyzing performance and biometric data collected from participants, we are proud to confirm what we have known all along-- Fit2Play™ works! Lowered blood pressure, maintaining and improving physical health and body weight are the outcomes of this immensely successful program.

We also broke ground on a new exhibit at one of our iconic Parks - Zoo Miami. Florida: Mission Everglades is one of the most significant exhibits that Zoo Miami will offer to the community, showcasing our community's fragile and important terrain and wildlife.

We've also moved forward on one of the most promising projects to transform South Florida--the Underline--the 10 miles of underutilized land beneath the Metrorail to be converted into a connection of trails and Park land from Dadeland Station to Brickell.

All of these projects, and others planned for the future, showcase how Parks impact communities and change lives. As Director of Miami-Dade Parks, I invite you to join us in this transformation and become a lifelong Park Champion.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Kardys". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

**Jack Kardys**  
**Director**  
**Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces**



## Board Members

Dick Anderson, President

Raul A. Garcia, Vice President

Maira Diaz-Giusti, Treasurer

James DiBernardo, Secretary

Karen Evans

Ivonne Fernandez

Tim Hardaway

Jack Kardys

Grant Miller

John Squitiero



## MIAMI-DADE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES...

- One of the largest park and public space systems in the nation
- The only metropolitan region bordered by two national parks
- 260 parks comprised of 12,825 acres of park land
- Maintains and manages an additional 21,617 acres of non-park sites as open spaces and conservation lands
- Miami-Dade County Parks include recreational facilities, beaches, regional and neighborhood parks, historic sites, botanical gardens, greenways, nature preserves, marinas, playgrounds, soccer fields, tennis courts, attractions and more.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARKS HAS A WORLD-CLASS VISION TO ENSURE THAT IT SERVES THE COMMUNITY AND THRIVES – NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.**

Parks enhance city life, connect us to nature, are a key economic driver, and give people of all ages and abilities recreation opportunities that nurture our physical and mental health.

Since 2007, County Parks' operating budget and staff have been cut. More than 400 positions have been lost, reducing Park hours and public access. There are currently tens of millions of dollars in unmet needs for park programs and infrastructure. The ongoing lack of adequate public funding and the corresponding decline in park conditions, programs and amenities, highlight the need for a non-profit organization that can foster support for parks.



**THE PARKS FOUNDATION OF MIAMI-DADE** works to align community needs and civic engagement with accountable County government management. Through our corporate partnerships, fundraising efforts, and membership campaigns, we support capital projects, scholarships for children to attend camp and take swimming lessons, programs for active older adults, and initiatives like Million Trees Miami that work to increase the shade canopy in Parks and along roadways.

These efforts acknowledge the public demand for beautiful Parks in a perpetually growing community. The Foundation also works to facilitate collaboration between residents and County government to raise the visibility of parks and recreation as a vital public service. Miami-Dade County Parks welcomes nearly 15 million citizens annually to its 260 parks and attractions.

Improving connectivity through trails and greenways, encouraging health and wellness activities in Parks, and stewarding Parks through sound management and conservation are the hallmarks of the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department.

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, with the help of community partners, is helping to change and improve communities through Parks.



As we review our accomplishments for 2014, Gratigny Plateau Park serves as the example of how parks improve communities through the three pillars of:

- **PLACEMAKING**
- **HEALTH AND FITNESS**
- **CONSERVATION & STEWARDSHIP**

Miami-Dade Parks improves our community through **Placemaking**, creating viable, desirable, and livable communities to benefit all people and implementing the Open Space Master Plan. **Health and Fitness** initiatives and programs lead citizens to improved health and wellness through parks, recreation and evidenced-based programs.

**Conservation & Stewardship** protects open space, connects children to nature, creates park stewards, and engages communities in conservation practices and education.



**Gratigny Plateau Park** is a prime example of how revitalizing parks and open spaces can help neighborhoods be active, play, and safely enjoy the outdoors, leading to healthier and happier lives.

## GRATIGNY PLATEAU PARK

After two years of fundraising, planning, and construction, an extreme park makeover at Gratigny Plateau Park was celebrated on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, with a community block party marking the grand opening of this vital neighborhood park. The block party featured live news casts from the ABC affiliate WPLG-Local 10 News team, fitness station demonstrations by Coca-Cola Troops for Fitness program, music and entertainment, and refreshments courtesy of Publix Supermarkets.

Designed to resemble a flower, Gratigny Plateau Park, located at 885 NW 117 Street, includes new walking paths, fitness stations, a toddler playground, benches, and a butterfly garden. The park is providing area residents with new opportunities for enjoying the outdoors and recreation. Since its opening, Gratigny Plateau Park offers patrons weekly fitness classes by Miami-Dade Parks' Troops for Fitness program.



Gratigny Plateau Park was made possible through a unique public-private sector partnership, spearheaded by Local 10 News, with the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, Miami-Dade Parks, EDSA, Miller Construction, and a host of corporate donors and local businesses. Estimated cost for construction is valued at \$600,000. Thanks to efforts of Commissioner Monestime, \$250,000 in funding from the Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program, Community Development Block Grant, and Parks Impact Fees were allocated to the project.

## PARTNERS

WPLG Local 10 News (ABC affiliate)

EDSA

Miller Construction Company

McLaughlin Engineering

J.D. Backhoe

East Coast Testing & Engineering

Woodland Construction

GO-TILT Construction

Right Way Plumbing

Cemex

Grounds Group

DeRose Design Consultants, Inc.

Landscape Architect Consultants, Inc.

Medallion Nurseries

Oly-Ola Edgings

Rep Services

MJM Structural

Wells Fargo

Shell Lumber

Atlantic Southern Paving & Sealcoating

Chuck's Backhoe

Quality Construction Performance

Vulcan Materials Company

H&R Paving

Walgreens

Romero Britto

Adonel Concrete

Carlson Fence Co.

Auction Company of America

The Miami Heat

Publix Super Markets

Macy's

Mandarin Oriental

Levinson Jewelers

A1A Sod

EMF Landscaping

Dixie Landscaping

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts



Walgreens, the nation's largest drug store chain, reinforced its commitment to community health and wellness with a \$5,000 donation towards outdoor exercise equipment at Gratigny Plateau Park. A check presentation was held at the Walgreens store located at 750 NW 119th Street on March 6, 2014.

*Photographed from left to right:* Parks Foundation Executive Director Vicky Mallette, WPLG Channel 10 Producer Mayte Padron, Walgreens Store Manager Dennis Welsch, Walgreens Store Manager/Community Leader Marie Boursiquot, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jean Monestime, District 2; Walgreens Community Leader Dan Espinosa, CauseMo Marketing President Rixys Alfonso, and Miami-Dade Parks Director Jack Kardys.



ARCOLA LAKES  
SENIOR CENTER

## THE UNDERLINE

The Greenlink is now The Underline. The underutilized land beneath the Metrorail, Miami-Dade County's above-ground transit line, runs from Dadeland South to Brickell Station and the Miami River. This land will be transformed into a ten-mile linear park and pedestrian and bicycling trail for the community. The Underline is the spine of a connected system of trails that are part of the Parks Open Space Master Plan. Miami-Dade Parks and Miami-Dade Transit, owners of the land, in partnership with the Friends of the Underline, a non-profit organization, have been working to plan this initiative and move the project forward. James Corner Field Operations, the same landscape-architecture firm that designed The High Line in New York City, was selected to design The Underline's Master Plan. Miami-Dade Parks will continue to manage the development of the Master Plan, projected to be completed in 2015.



## ARCOLA LAKES SENIOR CENTER



Arcola Lakes Park is now the home of a new 14,220 square-foot senior center. Dedicated in July, Arcola Lakes Senior Center is Miami-Dade Parks' first recreational facility specifically built for seniors and features recreational amenities designed for active older adults. The center hosts activities for free health and wellness programs for adults, ages 55 and over, in partnership with the Health Foundation of South Florida. The first group of enthusiastic participants included more than 650 seniors.

## GREAT PARK SUMMIT

The 2014 Great Park Summit presented by AvMed was held in April at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. The theme: *Parks and Public Spaces as Catalysts for Greener, Healthier, and More Economically Vibrant Communities*, attracted guest speakers including City of Philadelphia Deputy Mayor Michael DeBerardinis; National Recreation & Parks Association President Barbara Tulipane; Knight Foundation Community and National Initiatives Vice President Carol Coletta; Miami Foundation Programs Officer Stuart Kennedy;

New Orleans Director of Parks & Parkways Ann MacDonald; University of North Carolina Professor and Former National Park Services Deputy Director Mickey Fearn; and GirlTrek Founder and Director Vanessa Garrison.



## PARK(ING) DAY MIAMI 2014



Metered parking spaces throughout Downtown Miami were temporarily transformed into pop-up parks during PARK(ing) Day in September, calling attention to the need for more urban open spaces and the message that "Parks Build Community." Miami-Dade Parks joined the worldwide movement, in partnership with

Urban Impact Lab and the Miami Foundation, by hosting two of the eleven local pop-up park locations, featuring free interactive activities and refreshments.

## TRAILS AND GREENWAYS



The community vision is to build 500 miles of greenways and trails in Miami-Dade County for walking, biking, and running along scenic trails and greenways. Trails and greenways provide sustainable transportation alternatives; help reduce traffic congestion; create recreational opportunities; increase property values; protect natural resources; and encourage tourism and business

development. Our greenways, bike lanes and trails form an interconnected system throughout Miami-Dade County and its municipalities. Trails also strengthen our connections across county lines, from Broward to Monroe and from the Atlantic to the Everglades. At present, there are approximately 130 miles built with another 30 miles currently in development. Building and improving our Greenways, paths, trails, and bike lanes will encourage residents to enjoy the outdoors and have fun getting healthy and fit.

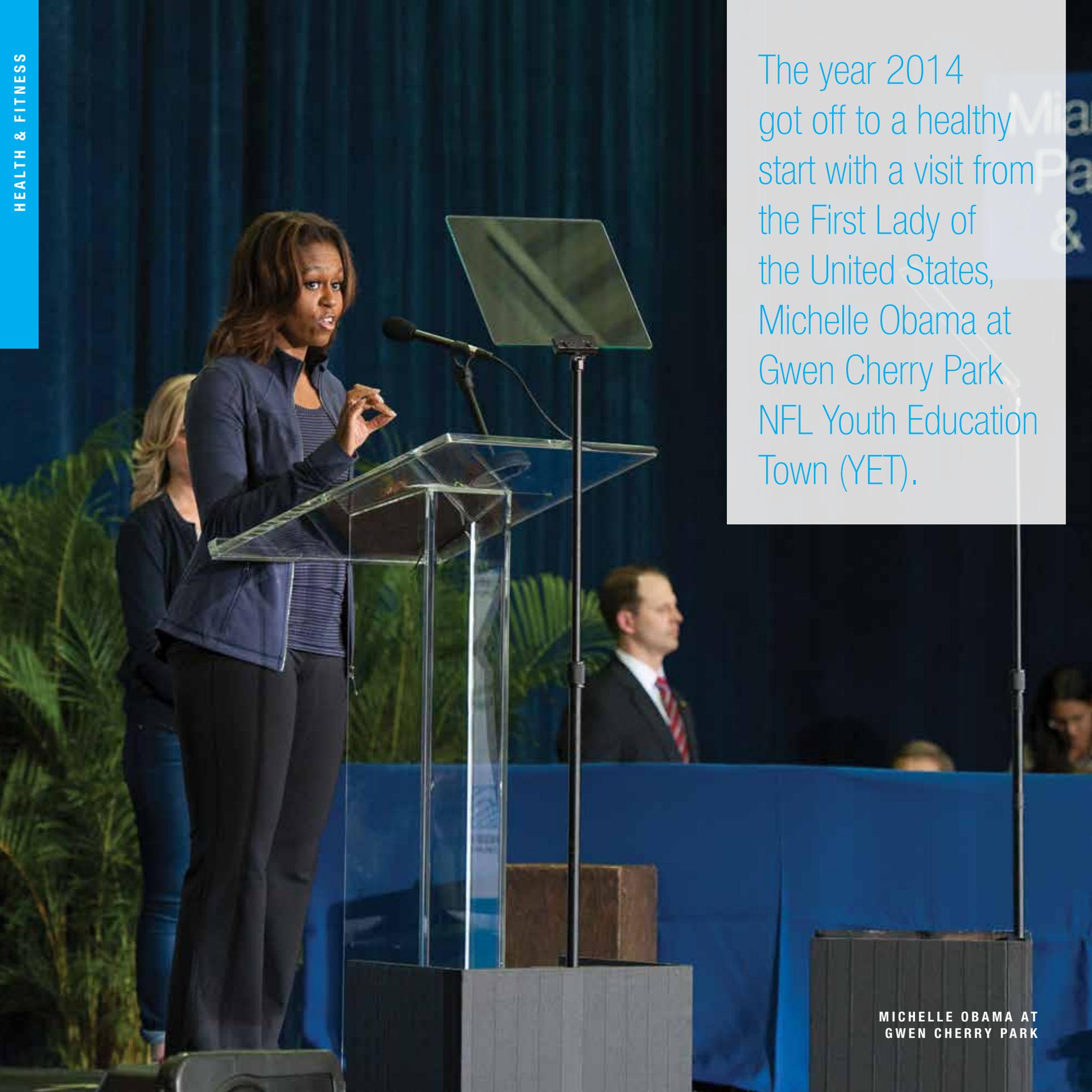
## ZOO MIAMI



Completed Sami Family Amphitheater canopy construction project



In May, Zoo Miami held a ground-breaking ceremony for its upcoming exhibit – *Florida: Mission Everglades*, which will highlight the unique flora and fauna of southern Florida and specifically Everglades National Park. Those in attendance included Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, Everglades National Park representatives, Zoological Society Board Members, Miami-Dade Parks' and Zoo Miami officials, and Zoo Miami mascots Kaz the rhino and Gigi the giraffe.



The year 2014 got off to a healthy start with a visit from the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama at Gwen Cherry Park NFL Youth Education Town (YET).



This visit by First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama celebrated the four-year anniversary of the health and fitness campaign, 'Let's Move,' and announced the expansion of free lunches to schools nationwide.

Amy Poehler, star of the television comedy sitcom "Parks and Recreation," NBC's "Today Show" news correspondent Jenna Bush, and "Extra" host Mario Lopez, joined the First Lady on her tour of the YET and joined Miami-Dade Parks' Fit2Play™ afterschool participants in an activity.

The First Lady enthusiastically endorsed Miami-Dade Parks' Fit2Play™ afterschool and summer camp program to encourage young people to improve their health and stay active.



### THE FIT2PLAY™ PROGRAM

Among the many programs offered by Miami-Dade Parks is Fit2Play™, a childhood obesity-prevention afterschool program that annually serves approximately 2,100 low-income, urban children at thirty-five Miami-Dade County Parks and seven special Disability Services Parks.

Developed with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and based on national standards, daily Fit2Play™ curriculum includes the following:

- Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids (SPARK), an evidenced-based, structured active recreation program focused on developing and improving motor skills, movement knowledge, social and personal skills;
- EmpowerMe4Life, a nutrition education curriculum grounded in the American Heart Association's scientific recommendations in promoting heart-healthy lifestyles.

In collaboration with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, registrants participate in a pre- and post-school year measurement battery (includes anthropometrics, blood pressure, fitness, and nutrition knowledge tests) to track progress. Results from the program published in scientific literature demonstrate that the overweight/obese group significantly decreased their BMI score and subscapular skinfold measurement while the normal weight group maintained a healthy weight.



Both weight groups significantly improved mean number of sit-ups, push-ups, and 400-meter run time. Mean health/wellness knowledge scores significantly improved for all participants. Similar results were found for children with disabilities. Based on these

impressive results, Fit2Play™ is now the gold standard park-based afterschool program model of the National Parks and Recreation Association.

Children participating in the program represent the best of our community in diversity and enthusiasm.

In partnership with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Fit2Play™ has produced evidence-based results that have been widely disseminated locally, nationally and internationally. Fit2Play™ is a low-cost, high-value solution to the nationwide obesity epidemic.

### FIT2PLAY™ SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

In 2014, fee reductions and scholarships assisted 1,346 children participating in Fit2Play™.

### FIT2PLAY™ FOR FAMILIES: RX 4HEALTH INITIATIVE

Rx 4Health is a health prescription program developed by Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department as an opportunity and treatment alternative for those who need to be more active.

Fit2Play™ Rx 4Health (Children) is a health prescription program for children between the ages of six and 14. After an office consultation with a child and parent, the pediatrician refers children who need to increase their physical activity to register for a Miami-Dade Parks' Fit2Play™ Afterschool program.

Fit2Play™ Rx 4Health (Adults) is a prescription program for adults. After an initial consultation with a physician, patients who need to increase their physical activity will be referred to register for, and participate in, a low-impact recreation program in a park and might include: Walk for Life, EnhanceFitness, Yoga, Zumba, and Tai Chi.

## WILD MORNING MILE AT ZOO MIAMI, PRESENTED BY AVMED



Miami-Dade Parks' Morning Mile® program kicked off the summer camp season in June with the Wild Morning Mile, presented by AvMed, at Zoo Miami. Open to Miami-Dade Parks' Fit2Play™ registered summer campers and their families and Miami-Dade County employees, Wild Morning Mile challenged participants

to take a walk on the wild side and get fit by participating in a one-mile scenic walk through Zoo Miami. Upon completion of the course, each walker received a necklace and collectible "paw print" charm. Participants later enjoyed a day at the Zoo for only \$5 as part of AvMed's sponsorship. The Morning Mile® program is a component of Miami-Dade Parks' Fit2Play™ Summer Camp, where children start their camp experience by walking or running one mile daily. For every five miles logged, participants receive a charm marking their achievement.

## SWIM FOR JENNY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2014, the Swim for Jenny Scholarship Fund awarded 975 scholarships to children to attend **Miami-Dade Parks' Learn-to-Swim Program**. The fund provides water safety information and beginner learn-to-swim



lessons to underserved children in Miami-Dade County at select Miami-Dade Parks pools. To date, 2,300 children received learn-to-swim scholarships, helping in the fight to prevent child drownings. Taught by Red Cross-certified instructors and offered at all Miami-Dade Parks' pools, **Miami-Dade Parks' Learn-to-Swim** program instructs children and adults of all abilities with learn-to-swim techniques and how to stay safe in and around water. In 2014, 11,092 people registered to learn to swim.

## LARRY LITTLE GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Larry Little Golf Tournament has generously supported the Swim for Jenny Scholarship Fund since 2012.

*Larry Little Check Presentation before the Board of County Commissioners*

## TROOPS FOR FITNESS PROGRAM

Miami-Dade Parks continues its successful partnership with Coca-Cola and the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) to hire military veterans to provide health and wellness programs at Parks.



## YOUTH SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

NBA champion and Miami Heat forward James Jones was the guest speaker at the **Breakfast of Champions**, held in April at PortMiami. Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez was joined by Miami-Dade County District 10 Commissioner, Senator Javier D. Souto and Parks Foundation President Dick Anderson, to address youth sports leaders from across South Florida.



The Youth Sports Championship Series (YSCS) is a year-round initiative that aims to build and support a strong foundation of organized youth sports and organized active play



through a series of sporting tournaments throughout Miami-Dade County. YSCS is an opportunity to not only promote a wide array of sports, but a chance to better engage our community's young people and realize the many benefits of sports.

YSCS tournaments also help to support scholarships for afterschool programs and sustainable youth sports programming through the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade's Fit2Play™ Scholarship Fund.



## BIKE305

BIKE305 is another great example of how the Miami-Dade County Parks and Open Space Master Plan continues to make strides in developing a more livable, healthy and sustainable Miami-Dade community. Bike305 supports the connectivity of

people and places through the County's bike pathways and promotes healthy lifestyles and wellness through physical activity, including cycling.

March is "BIKE305 Month" in Miami-Dade County. Residents are encouraged to cycle to work, school and other destinations as an alternative to driving on congested roadways. Cycling is a great way to exercise and see some of Miami-Dade's scenic sites along safe, protected paved bike trails throughout the county. Bike305 Month features bike-friendly activities, community bike rides, and signature events.

In 2014, Bike305 Month culminated in the signature Bike to Work Day, which drew hundreds of cyclists to join Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, mayors from local municipalities, sponsors, and Parks Foundation President Dick Anderson, to commute to work by bicycle or by combining public transportation and cycling.



## BUG VS. WILD

High school teens are making a difference in South Florida's landscape environment as they battle the invasive Air Potato Vine with a tiny, inconspicuous beetle named *Lilioceris cheni* or "Lili," for short. With a \$31,240 grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, students at TERRA Environmental Research Institute (TERRA) now have the first and only student-run, beetle-rearing lab in the nation, housed at TERRA for the bio-control of the Air Potato. TERRA students learn how to rear the Lili beetle and when they have enough specimens, the beetles are released into Kendall Indian Hammocks Park where they consume only the Air Potato and no other plant species. This project is a partnership between TERRA, Miami-Dade Parks' Natural Areas Management (NAM), and USDA Agricultural Research Service, Invasive Plant Research Laboratory. The Air Potato vine is a serious threat to South Florida's environment. These rapidly growing vines are 30-40 feet long and stifle native plants, destroy landscaping, and impact the natural eco-system. Results from this project are already evident at Kendall Indian Hammocks Park.



## NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT (NAM)

### Conservation Plan

Miami-Dade Parks' Natural Areas Management (NAM) division completed a Conservation Plan that establishes conservation initiatives to make Miami-Dade a more environmentally sustainable County. A comparison of the NRPA Task Force Recommendations and the GreenPrint Goals identified four focal goal areas: Leadership, Water/Energy, Environment, and Economy.



### Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ECISMA) Partnership

Through its partnership with the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, NAM has participated in invasive plant and animal surveying and removal.

### Deering Cutler Creek Rehydration Project

The Deering Cutler Creek Rehydration Project is successfully restoring 34 acres and pumping water in the historic Deering

wetland. To date, 35,645 acre-feet of water have been pumped into Cutler Creek – that's 11.62 billion gallons of water, enough water to fill 17,590 Olympic-sized pools or fill Sun Life Stadium 32 times.

## MILLION TREES MIAMI

Million Trees Miami, a Miami-Dade County Community Image Advisory Board initiative working to achieve a 30% tree-canopy cover for Miami, aims to plant one million trees by 2020. In 2014, the organization secured \$145,000 in grants to help assess existing canopy and plant more than 400 trees in underserved communities like Little Havana and Miami Gardens. Residents of these communities have asked for more trees to beautify and improve their neighborhood environment and promote physical activity. These efforts will help create a healthy and sustainable urban forest in Miami to achieve social, economic and environmental benefits. Grantors included: UPS, TD Bank, American Forests, Partners for Places, The Urban Sustainability Directors Network, and The Health Foundation of South Florida. Public-private partnerships like these are helping Miami-Dade County build a greener, more prosperous, and healthier community, while advancing GreenPrint, our community-wide sustainability plan.





### TD GREEN STREETS PLANTING

Leveraging a \$20,000 TD Green Streets Grant, volunteers from nearby communities, Citizens for a Better South Florida, and the Community Image Advisory Board (CIAB) completed a Million Trees Miami project at Northside Metrorail Station in May. The effort involved planting 20 new trees, painting benches, picking up litter, and installing new trash cans and signs at the site.

### SALLY HEYMAN TREE PLANTING AT HIGHLAND OAKS

Miami-Dade County District Four Commissioner, Sally A. Heyman, donated \$2,500 to Million Trees Miami to help beautify the gateway into Highland Oaks Park and nearby roadways, proving that a forest begins with one seed. Additional trees were secured through the Adopt-a-Tree program. During a tree-planting event with Commissioner Heyman, the donated trees were planted by neighbors and volunteers, including volunteers from Wells Fargo participating in the Wells Fargo Weekend of Service.



### CAMP OWAISSA BAUER TREE PLANTING

A donation of \$4,800 to the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade from Miami-Dade County District 8 Commissioner Lynda Bell provided 15 fruit trees to Camp Owaissa Bauer. The trees will enhance the experiential environment for Camp Owaissa Bauer campers. Commissioner Bell, Miami-Dade District 9 Commissioner Dennis Moss, and volunteers participated in the tree-planting event in November.

### STELLA MCCARTNEY HAULOVER BEACH PARK REFORESTATION TREE PLANTING

Renowned fashion designer Stella McCartney, daughter of former-Beatle and musician Paul McCartney, continued her commitment to greening Miami-Dade County by again donating 30 trees to the dog park at Haulover Beach Park. In partnership with BioPlanet USA, representatives from Stella McCartney's Bal Harbour store, Miami-Dade County District 4 Commissioner Sally A. Heyman and Community Image Advisory Board (CIAB) members hosted a tree-planting ceremony in May. Funds from merchandise sales at The Stella McCartney Bal Harbour store were used to purchase the trees. To date, more than 60 trees have been planted in Haulover Beach Park from store proceeds.



ZOO MIAMI



Critically endangered Jamaican Island Iguanas hatched.



Critically endangered Blue-billed Curassow hatched.

**TOCA EVENT DESIGN & PRODUCTION DONATES \$10,000 TO PARKS FOUNDATION OF MIAMI-DADE FOR SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade received a \$10,000 donation from TOCA Event Design & Production (TOCA) for Miami-Dade Parks' Sea Turtle Awareness and Conservation Program. A check presentation ceremony with representatives from TOCA, Miami-Dade Parks, and the Parks Foundation was held on the beach at Haulover Park & Marina.



**ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

Miami-Dade Parks has partnered with IBM and Honeywell to provide energy-saving measures in 34 parks to reduce water and electricity use. Parks is implementing an energy, water conservation and sustainability plan to focus on utility, operations and maintenance savings projected at \$1.8 million over the next three to five years.



**DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER: ECOART AND ENVIRONMENTAL ART ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM**

Funded through a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant, regional EcoArt and Environmental Art *Artist in Residence* Programs were established at the Deering Estate at Cutler, comprised of more than 100 indoor and outdoor site-specific eco and environmental works that explored the integrated relationship between people and the environment.

The show featured 27 literary artists, 61 visual artists, 122 performing artists, and a simulcast water dance conducted in over 99 cities nationwide.



**FOCUS ON PARKS**

'Focus on Parks' is helping teen youth in our community to connect to parks and other significant natural, historical and cultural locations in Miami-Dade County through photography and other creative expressions. Participants are provided digital cameras and photography instruction, as well as round-trip transportation, food, and beverages. Teens visit and photograph some of the County's most scenic destinations and natural landscapes, learning about the sites, plants and wildlife. Sessions are held over six-weeks and conclude with a Gallery Night showcasing the group's photos.



Organized and implemented by Parks Department volunteers, this successful program reaches youth with limited access and exposure to the natural environment. Partners in this effort include History Miami, staff at Everglades National Park, and staff at Florida State Parks.



GLOBAL YOUTH  
SERVICE DAY  
AT AMELIA  
EARHART PARK

Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade offers various partnership opportunities to companies and individuals interested in volunteering to make Miami-Dade County Parks more viable. Parks Foundation hosts four volunteer days – the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (January), Global Youth Service Day (April), National Day of Service and Remembrance (September), and National Public Lands Day (September), and offers tailor-made volunteer projects at Miami-Dade Parks throughout the year. Opportunities are also available for financial and in-kind contributions.



#### **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE AT JOSEPH DELANCY PARK, JANUARY 2014**

Hundreds of volunteers participated in a day of service to commemorate the civil rights movement and honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Sgt. Joseph Delancy/Richmond Park, on Saturday, January 18. The Miami Dolphins Special Teams driven by Chevy Program joined volunteers in remodeling a multi-purpose room at the park.

#### **WELLS FARGO HOSTS CORPORATE DAYS OF SERVICE AT MIAMI-DADE PARKS**

Wells Fargo hosted several corporate volunteer days at various Miami-Dade Parks including Amelia Earhart Park, Ruben Dario Park, and Highland Oaks Park, providing an opportunity for its employees to give back to the community through service. On consecutive Saturdays during the month of September 2014, Wells Fargo closed its branches at noon so that employees could take part in the day of service. Miami-Dade County Commissioner



Esteban Bovo, Jr., District 13, partnered with Miami-Dade Parks and Wells Fargo at Amelia Earhart Park by supplying paint and painting supplies.



#### **GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY AT AMELIA EARHART PARK, APRIL 2014**

More than 150 young people and their families participated in Global Youth Service Day sponsored by Delta Dental and Marlins Ayudan at Amelia Earhart Park in Miami on Saturday, April 12, 2014. Projects included beautifying the main entrance and five-acre dog park. More than 650 plants were planted and 300 trees were mulched. A fresh coat of paint was applied to picnic tables, dog agility equipment, and more.





### DENTAQUEST

DentaQuest teamed up with the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade in hosting corporate volunteer days of service projects at Parks throughout Miami-Dade County as part of the organization's Mission Month. Service projects began in September, when DentaQuest volunteers planted more than 1,000 sea oats at Crandon Park Beach's sand dunes.

DentaQuest CEO Fay Donohue joined volunteers and Miami-Dade Parks' Natural Areas managers and biologists for a clean-up day of service in October, at Crandon Park Bear Cut Preserve.



### FIU PANTHER DAY OF SERVICE

Florida International University students participated in a Panther Day of Service on Saturday, October 11, at Haulover Park and Marina. More than 300 students participated in various activities, including painting, planting and clean up. Projects like these help create long-lasting Park stewards among the County's youth and young adult populations.



Twelve women leaders were honored for their achievements in their respective fields during the 26th Annual *"In the Company of Women"* Awards Ceremony.



Presented by Macy's, the evening began with a networking reception with drinks and hors d'oeuvres, followed by an awards ceremony emceed by WPLG Channel 10 Meteorologist Betty Davis at the Coral Gables Country Club. Proceeds from the event support parks and parks programming, including the Women's Park and the Girls Empowerment and Mentoring (G.E.M.) Summer Arts Camp.



**The evenings' winners were:**

*Front row:* Betty Davis (MC), Wendy Kallergis, Linda Robinson, Valerie Riles, Judy Brown, Nilda Peragallo Montano

*Back row:* Angela Smith, Honorable Migna Sanchez-Llorens, Jacqueline Menendez, Marcia Fernandez-Morin, Debbie Frost for Thelma Hardison, Alyce Robertson, and Marie-Elsie Dowell.



**WOMEN'S PARK FIU ESSAY CONTEST**



Seven high school students were the proud winners of a 500-word essay writing contest on women and gender, organized through a joint effort between the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, the Women's Park, and Florida International University's (FIU) Center for Women's and Gender Studies. Cash awards were presented at a reception in their honor at Women's Park in May 2014.



**LOVE-IN PARTY IN THE PARK, MAY 2014**

Rock icon Eddie Money took top billing at Love-In Party in the Park, presented by Catholic Health Services, in May 2014 at Greynolds Park. The day-long outdoor festival and concert celebrating the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, featured back-to-back musical performances by local artists, including the Mojo Scoundrels, Mr. Nice Guy, and Blackstar, followed by Eddie Money. Party-goers also enjoyed classic cars, a costume contest, arts & crafts vendors, assorted food vendors, and more.





### BLUE WATER FISHING TOURNAMENT, PRESENTED BY WESTREC, MAY 2014

Amateur, professional, and junior anglers competed for a chance to win up to \$20,000 in cash prizes at the 11th Annual Blue Water Fishing Classic, presented by Westrec, in May. The tournament, which included a Captains Party and Awards Dinner, launched from all six Miami-Dade Parks' marinas. Sponsors of the tournament included Westrec Marinas, Shoreline Foundation, SeaTow, IAFF local 1403, Southeast Total Marine, Fastboats Marine Group, Captain Harry's Fishing Supply, Therapy IV, New Moon, Pay by Phone, Soccer

5 Foundation, Loggerhead Marina, Marini and Associates, PA Tax Attorneys, Boat Center, Kelley Fleet, and Black Point Ocean Grill. Net proceeds of the tournament supports Parks and Park programs.



### FOURTH OF JULY

Independence Day was celebrated at Black Point Park and Marina with a day at the park, culminating with a free waterfront fireworks show at 9 p.m. Sponsors included Publix Super Markets Charities, Miami-Dade County District Eight Commissioner Lynda Bell, the City of Cutler Bay, Black Point Ocean Grill, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Miami, Community Bank of Florida, Old Cutler Towne Center, Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske, Southland Mall, Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay, Sunstate Bank,

Black Point Yacht and Sailing Club, A&A Generators, Main Street Children's Dentistry & Orthodontics, Ellie Mills State Farm, and Cutler Bay Business Association.

### NOCHES TROPICALES

Noches Tropicales is a free evening concert series at Tropical Park, sponsored by Target. To kick off its 2014-2015 season, Noches Tropicales held a free Latin Music Gala Concert, sponsored by Target and Samsung, in October 2014 at Miami-Dade County Auditorium, featuring performances by American Grammy Award-winning music sensation Marlow Rosado and La Riqueña Band.



### RIBFEST, FALL 2014

Halloween candy was replaced by lip-smacking barbecue during Ribfest, the three-day outdoor barbecue festival and cook-off, Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2014, at Zoo Miami. National ribbers competed for "best of" in five categories, including best ribs, pork, beef brisket, chicken, and sauce. Patrons not only enjoyed great barbecue, but also Zoo Miami, live concerts, and more.



### CHECK PRESENTATION AT MARLINS PARK FOR MIRACLE LEAGUE

During a check presentation ceremony at the start of the Marlins vs. Braves game in September 2014 at Marlins Park, State Representative Jose Felix Diaz and the Marlins Foundation presented contributions to the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade for The Miracle League of Miami-Dade, a nationally recognized baseball program for children with special needs. During the 2014 Legislative Session in Tallahassee, State



Representative Diaz led the charge for \$150,000 to be allocated for the construction of a Miracle League field with the Miami Dade Parks Department. The Marlins Foundation contributed \$50,000 from proceeds from the Inaugural **Jack McKeon Marlins Celebrity Golf Classic** held earlier in the year at the Crandon Golf Course on Key Biscayne. The mission of The Miracle League is to provide children with developmental, intellectual, mental and/or physical challenges the opportunity to play baseball on special custom-designed rubber turf fields that accommodate wheelchairs and walkers.



### MACY'S HEART YOUR PARK PROGRAM



AD Barnes and Matheson Hammock Parks were selected for the "Heart Your Park" program, part of Macy's "Secret Garden" national campaign that aims to raise awareness and dollars for local parks across the country. Macy's Westland Mall, Miami International Mall, and Dadeland Mall customers were given the opportunity to donate \$1 or more at the register, with 100 percent of the donations benefitting AD Barnes Park or Matheson Hammock Park. To further spread the love, Macy's matched the total customer donation across all stores, dollar for dollar, bringing attention to these Heritage Parks.

Miami-Dade Parks received and administers \$23M in grants from Federal, State, and Local government agencies, as well as private foundations.



### LUDLAM TRAIL

The Florida Department of Transportation allocated \$3.4M for acquisition of Miami-Dade Parks' Ludlam Trail Project.

### BIKESAFE® PROGRAM AND SNAKE CREEK TRAIL

Miami-Dade Parks, in partnership with the University of Miami's Bike Safe® Program, was awarded \$330,000 from the Florida Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternative Grant for the implementation of UM's Bike Safe program at Miami-Dade Parks' summer camps. In addition, Parks was awarded \$300,000 to conduct a preliminary engineering study of the Snake Creek Underpass to enhance safety and connectivity.



### FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT

The Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) awarded approximately \$1M in grants for five marina projects.



### DANA AND CHRISTOPHER REEVE FOUNDATION GRANT

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade received a \$5,300 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation for the purchase of two adult hand-cycles and a recumbent bike to support Miami-Dade Parks Disability Services' Hand-cycling Program – *Hand-cycles for All*.

### FRPA CORPORATE SUPPORT AWARD



The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade was the recipient of the Florida Recreation and Park Association's (FRPA) Corporate Support Award for fundraising and development benefiting Miami-Dade Parks and parks programming. Parks Foundation Board President Dick Anderson was presented the award during FRPA's Annual Conference Awards Banquet, on Thursday, August 28, 2014, at the Hilton Orlando.

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade and Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces would like to thank the many partners who join with us each year to enhance, advocate, promote and celebrate the parks and open spaces that anchor our community. Every great community has a great parks system, and with your help we are working every day to create a more healthy, livable community for all.



### \$100,000+

Lennar Homes  
Marlins Foundation

### \$50,000+

Vivian "Kit" Keller

### \$25,000+

James Deering Danielson Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Alliance for a Healthier Generation  
AvMed  
Green Mobility Network  
IBM  
Larry Little's Gold Coast Summer Camp  
Macy's/Bloomingdales  
Miami-Dade County  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Rebeca Sosa, District Six  
Miguel Cabrera Foundation  
TOCA Events, LLC

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

AARP  
Carnival Cruise Lines  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Delta Dental  
Enterprise Holdings

Gold Coast Beverage Distributors  
IMG  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Barbara Jordan, District One  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Sally A. Heyman, District Four  
Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.  
Ryder Transportation Services  
Santa's Enchanted Forest  
Shoreline Foundation  
Walgreens  
Wells Fargo

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

AT&T  
Colgate Palmolive  
DentaQuest  
LAN Airlines  
Manny Miranda State Farm  
Joe A. Martinez  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Xavier L. Suarez, District Seven  
Soccer 5 Foundation  
The Miami Foundation  
This is for the Kids, Inc.

### \$500 - \$2,499

A&A Power Generators, LLC  
AECOM Tech  
Richard Anderson  
Baptist Health South Florida  
Bath Fitter

Daniel M. Bell  
Bulk Express  
Captain Harry Fishing Supply  
Coconut Grove Bank  
Community Bank  
Cutler Bay Business Association, Inc.  
Dental Care Alliance  
Downtown Development Authority  
Susan Ervin  
Karen Evans  
First Service Residential  
Friends of DCCFW, Inc.  
Health South Rehabilitation Hospital  
Health Foundation of South Florida  
Holland & Knight  
iTransport  
Jack Kardys  
Katz Barron Squitiero Faust  
Kiwanis Club of Kendall  
Loggerhead Club  
MAT Concessionaire, LLC  
Memorial Plan  
Mercedes Benz of Cutler Bay  
Miami Dade County Aviation  
Miami Dade Expressway Authority  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Lynda Bell, District Eight  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Dennis C. Moss, District Nine  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, District 12  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Esteban Bovo, Jr., District 13  
Milian Swain & Associates  
Minority Mobile System

Parsons Brinckerhoff Group  
PC2 Construction Services  
SeaTow  
South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center  
Southland Mall Properties, LLC  
Stephen Shelley  
SunTrust Foundation  
Super Nice STS  
The Fair  
The Realty Associates  
Theodore J. and Sharon Y. Sass  
Total Bank  
Tree House Wellness Center  
University of Miami  
URS Corporation  
Waste Management  
Weiss Serota Helfman

*Gifts received between  
Jan. 1, 2014 and Dec. 31, 2014.  
We apologize if we omitted your name.*



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