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Miami-Dade County libraries, museums, beaches and parks provide key cultural and educational services, as well as recreational opportunities, to people of all ages. The County is home to Metrozoo, the new Carnival Center for the Performing Arts and historical sites such as the Charles Deering Estate.

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To meet the growing demand for recreational facilities the Parks Department is expediting the installation of new and better recreational facilities.

- Last year, [11,373](#) children attended [summer camp programs](#), a 10 percent increase from the previous year. The Parks Department offers activities such as sports, fitness and health, arts and culture, swimming lessons, nature, and leisure access programs.
- The [Cultural Affairs Department's](#) Culture Shock Program provided 1,818 eligible students with affordable access to cultural events and performances -- an increase of 17 percent over last year.

Highlights

- Miami-Dade County maintained approximately 5.2 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents over the last three years. As the population grows, the County is meeting the challenge of providing sufficient park land for residents.
- The [Park and Recreation Department](#) completed 39 projects including new or improved park facilities, a giraffe feeding station at Metrozoo, recreation centers at two neighborhood parks, new ball fields and walkway expansions at parks.
- The [Golden Glades Branch Library](#), the first of 10 new libraries scheduled to be constructed by the year 2011, opened in late 2006. Other new branches in the works are International Mall, Kendall Lakes, Opa-Locka, Pinecrest, Sunset and Virrick Park.
- Construction of the [Carnival Center](#) for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami was completed. During its first six months of operation, the Center hosted hundreds of performances, artists from six continents, and at least six world premieres for more than 200,000 patrons including thousands of children. More than 2,000 temporary parking spaces are in place and plans to construct two new parking garages are in the works.

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