

THANK YOU, JACK, AND THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO IMPROVE OUR PARKS SYSTEM.

LET ME START BY WELCOMING ALL OF YOU...

AND LET ME THANK THE ELECTED OFFICIALS HERE WITH US TONIGHT, ESPECIALLY MY FELLOW MAYORS.

YOUR LEADERSHIP IS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF BUILDING LIVABLE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES.

AND THAT'S WHY WE ARE ALL HERE THIS EVENING.

THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE GARDENS THAT SURROUND US IS THE VISION OF DAVID FAIRCHILD...

WHO ALONG WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS, WORKED TIRELESSLY TO BRING THE IDEA OF THIS GARDEN TO LIFE.

BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY DID BACK IN THE 1930S, WE CAN ENJOY THIS GARDEN TODAY.

SO THIS IS A FITTING EXAMPLE OF THE COOPERATION AND CONNECTIONS WE NEED TO TRANSFORM OUR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WE ALL WANT
DON'T JUST MAGICALLY APPEAR...

IT TAKES THE WORK OF ALL OF US, TOGETHER, TO
MAKE THEM HAPPEN.

THE GREAT PARK SUMMIT MAYORS' RECEPTION IS
ALL ABOUT MAKING THESE CONNECTIONS:

ELECTED LEADERS, PARK ADVOCATES, BUSINESS
PEOPLE, AND PARK AND URBAN PLANNING
EXPERTS...

WE'RE ALL HERE FOR A CONVERSATION ON HOW
TO BEST CONNECT OUR PARKS, OUR CULTURAL
AREAS...

AND ALL OF THE BEAUTIFUL PUBLIC PLACES OUR
CITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE TO OFFER.

PARKS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF EVERY GREAT
COMMUNITY.

AND WHILE WE THINK OF PARKS AS "GREEN,"
PARKS ARE GREEN IN ANOTHER WAY.

GREAT PARKS ARE KEY ECONOMIC DRIVERS IN A
COMPETITIVE ECONOMY.

PARK TOURISM GENERATES \$1.4 BILLION ANNUALLY IN REVENUE TO MIAMI DADE COUNTY.

AND OVER 10,000 JOBS ARE GENERATED FROM PARK AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES, TWO-THIRDS OF WHICH ARE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES NOT ONLY IMPROVE OUR BOTTOM LINE...

BUT THEY IMPROVE OUR HEALTH, LIFESTYLE, AND THE OVERALL APPEARANCE AND ATTRACTION OF OUR COMMUNITY.

OUR AIM IS TO WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE WORLD CLASS SHARED PUBLIC SPACES.

LET ME BRIEFLY SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE CONNECTIONS WE ARE MAKING TO GET US THERE:

JUST THIS MORNING, I ACTUALLY GOT ON MY BIKE AND LED A BIKE TO WORK RALLY TO DEMONSTRATE THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO DRIVING TO WORK IN A CAR.

THIS IS PART OF BIKE 305, A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WITH COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY...

TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELLNESS THROUGH CYCLING, AND SHOWCASING OUR 130 MILES OF BIKE TRAILS.

AS PART OF AN ONGOING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND...

WE HAVE INSTALLED FREE AND EASY-TO-USE OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT, WITH MORE INSTALLATIONS ON THE WAY.

WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI UHEALTH SYSTEM...

OFFERING SAFE, STRUCTURED AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING TO KEEP CHILDREN FIT AND TEACH THEM HEALTHY EATING HABITS.

IN FACT, FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA WAS HERE IN FEBRUARY...

AND SHE SHOWCASED OUR COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE NATIONAL EPIDEMIC OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND CHILD SAFETY ISSUES.

THROUGH THE NEWLY LAUNCHED YOUTH SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES, WE'RE PROMOTING THE MULTIPLE BENEFITS OF ORGANIZED YOUTH SPORTS.

WE HAVE A WIDE SERIES OF SPORTING EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR 2014...

WHERE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WILL COMPETE FOR THE MAYOR'S CUP IN SEVERAL SPORTS.

JUST THIS PAST WEEKEND, IN FACT, RIGHT BEFORE THE MEN'S SINGLES FINALS...

I STOOD AT CENTER COURT DURING THE SONY TENNIS TOURNAMENT TO AWARD THE WINNERS OF THE MAYOR'S CUP IN TENNIS TO OUR YOUNG FUTURE TENNIS STARS.

AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE YOUNG ATHLETES THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THEIR TALENTS.

THROUGH ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES, MY GOAL IS TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY THE HEALTHIEST COUNTY IN FLORIDA...

GIVING ALL OUR VISITORS AND RESIDENTS, REGARDLESS OF AGE, THE GREATEST NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY THE BEST POSSIBLE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

ALL OF THIS HAPPENS THROUGH GREAT PARTNERSHIPS.

THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN IS MUCH BIGGER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL PARK OR CITY.

THE MASTER PLAN IS OUR BLUEPRINT...

A SHARED VISION AIMED AT CONNECTING ALL THE GREAT OUTDOOR SPACES IN OUR COMMUNITY...

SO THAT OUR RESIDENTS CAN MOVE SEAMLESSLY FROM PLACE TO PLACE, AND ENJOY THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF OUR SURROUNDINGS.

THERE'S STILL MUCH MORE TO DO, AND SO MANY WAYS IN WHICH TO WORK TOGETHER.

BUT I AM HAPPY YOU ARE HERE WITH US TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

PLEASE ENJOY THE REST OF THE EVENING...

AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THIS YEAR'S GREAT PARKS SUMMIT.

THANK YOU!

