



CONNECT ² PROTECT



CONNECTING TO SEWER PROTECTS YOUR PROPERTY, HEALTH, AND BISCAYNE BAY!

Miami-Dade County's **Connect 2 Protect** is a multi-year, countywide program that provides sanitary sewer service to residents with septic tank systems. Approximately 9,000 septic systems are vulnerable to compromise or failure under current groundwater conditions. As sea-level rise increases, this number will grow to approximately 13,500 by 2040. Compromised and failing septic systems can pose public health risks, cause negative impacts on private properties, and on our natural resources including Biscayne Bay. This program addresses septic tank systems impacted by high ground water levels, which are increasing due to climate-induced sea level rise. When groundwater interacts with these systems, it can reduce their treatment efficiency, causing failures that result in the introduction of nutrients and bacteria through sewage backups into homes and businesses, floodwaters, and waterways. These instances lead to public health exposures and environmental impacts including algal blooms and fish kills.

Ojus Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project – Background information

The conversion of septic tank systems to the County's sanitary sewer infrastructure is a long-term effort and one that will take numerous funding models. Property owners within Ojus Sanitary Sewer Expansion area agreed to voluntarily assess themselves the cost to establish and connect their properties to the sanitary sewer system using a "Special Benefit Area" designation for a 30-year period through their property tax bills. The Ojus community is bounded by NE 186 -188 Streets to the north, the Florida East Coast Railroad to the east, the Oleta River to the west and NE 179 Street to the south. The Ojus Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project will be managed by the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) as part of its Connect 2 Protect program and will ultimately convert 107 properties to County sewer infrastructure.

Project benefits

By connecting to County sanitary sewer infrastructure, properties located within the Ojus Sanitary Sewer Expansion area, which is designated as an "urban area district" will have the ability to maximize land use and zoning potential that are designed to facilitate a more livable community through a mix of commercial and residential uses that promote transit and walkability. It will also provide potential financial benefits to property owners in addition to generating a positive economic impact for Miami-Dade County.

- Miami-Dade County, in partnership with the Ojus community, have pursued an innovative approach to sewer extension through the establishment of a Special Benefit Area, which is a financing tool used to fund the installation of sewer infrastructure into the community through special assessments placed on the project owner's property tax bills.
- This is a viable funding model that can be duplicated and implemented for additional communities within Miami-Dade County. The Ojus Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project will result in the construction of a sewer main, laterals, a pump station and force main to serve an area that had no previous County wastewater infrastructure in place.
- Construction begins in late Summer 2022 and lasts for approximately one year. Once completed, 107 parcels will have been converted from septic tank systems and added to County sewer infrastructure.
- Once this infrastructure is installed, additional adjacent/abutting properties would eventually be able to be connected to County service and further decreasing dependence on septic tank systems.
- Connecting these properties to County infrastructure will reduce the introduction of nutrients and bacteria to the Oleta River, which is a tributary of Biscayne Bay.

How can you help?

Check 2 Protect

The conversion of systems is not a short-term effort. That is why we are prioritizing where our investments will have the greatest environment impact. Fully addressing this issue and expanding infrastructure will take time. Property owners can contribute to the well-being of their communities and the environment by committing to Check 2 Protect their septic tank systems while waiting to connect. Proper maintenance of your septic system will add years to its service life, keep problems at bay and save you money. For tips on how to Check 2 Protect your septic system and to find a permitted service professional, visit the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources' Septic System Care page at: <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/economy/environment/septic-system-care.page>

Connect with us by taking the C2P Survey!

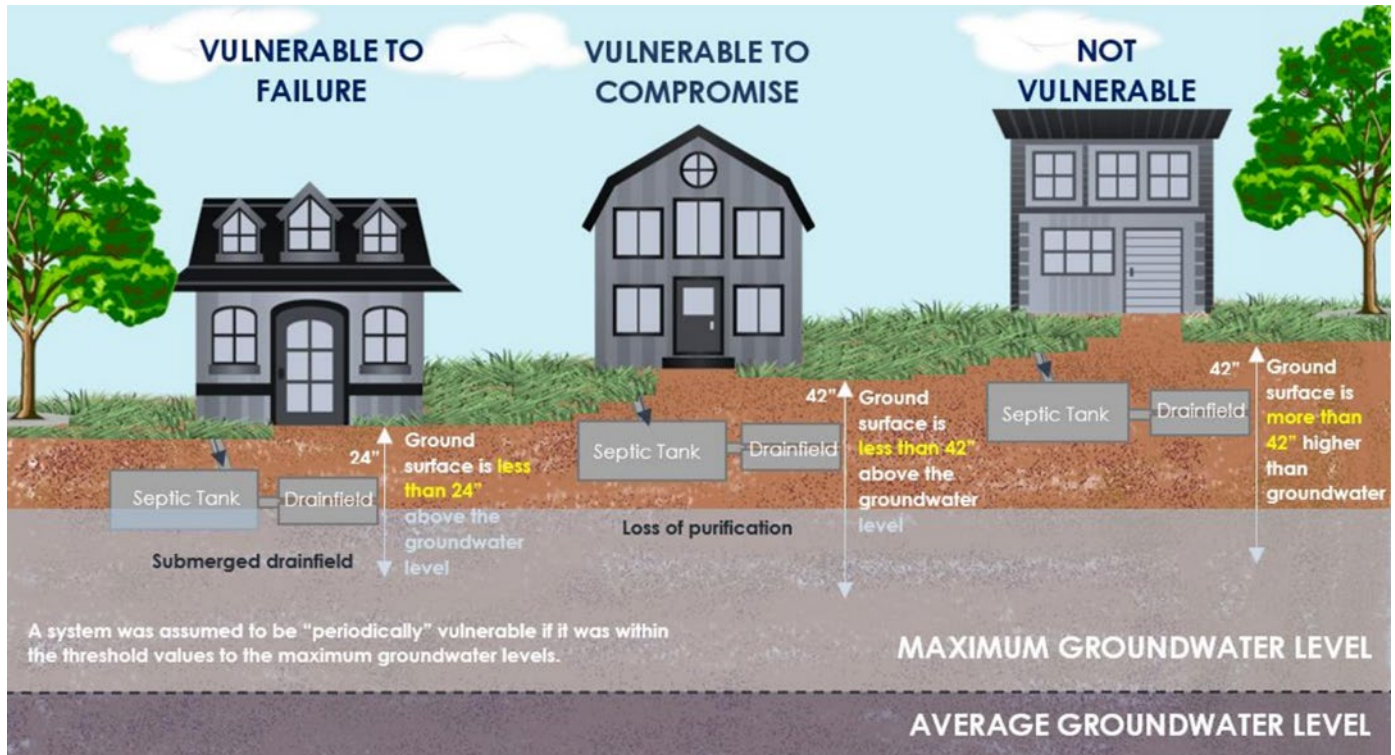
We want to hear from you to improve our planning as we develop new projects by taking the C2P survey at: miamidade.gov/connect2protect



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Estimated Properties within Miami-Dade County unserved by Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure

Category	Estimated Number of Parcels
Total Parcels on Septic systems within Miami Dade County	120,000
- Parcels on Septic systems Outside of UDB ¹	5,000
- Parcels on Septic systems within Volume Sewer Customer Areas ²	12,000
Parcels on Septic systems within WASD Service Area	103,000