In 2010, the Miami River Commission (MRC) advanced the Miami River’s status as a major artery in the heart of Miami and its greater community of neighborhoods. The public and private sectors are partners with the MRC in creating a river of many uses, including international shipping terminals, historic homes and neighborhoods, tugboat yards, waterfront parks, recreational marinas and boatyards, commercial fishing businesses, condos, restaurants and public riverwalks.

Yet the MRC’s priorities, while essentially unchanged from last year, are growing in urgency. The first priority is to finish implementation of the Miami River Greenway Action Plan. Our biggest waterway mission is the Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project. Not only is this tributary Florida’s most polluted body of water; its buildup of sediment is making it less navigable than ever, threatening water-dependent businesses.

continued next page
The revival continues

To make the river more people-friendly, the Miami River Commission (MRC) is working to complete the remaining two-thirds of the river’s 10-mile Greenway system, and create an environmentally responsible storm-water system to halt the spread of pollutants into the river.

The river has come a long way since the MRC’s creation in 1998. In that time, the riverfront has grown safer, cleaner and friendlier, fortified by community spirit and involvement. That spirit spurred the completion of the river’s Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup in 2008. Community spirit counts as much as ever today.

**THE RIVERFRONT COMMUNITY HAS GROWN** in South Florida’s worst slowdown in more than 70 years. Individuals and young families, many of them renters, are filling more than 7,000 new apartments and condos along the river, creating downtown Miami’s most vibrant street life in years. Six riverfront restaurants opened in 2010: Waxy O’Connors, Zuma, River Lounge, Area 31, Graziano’s and Jamón Jamón Jamón. That brings the total number of restaurants along the river to 15. In addition, 11 restaurants are constructed and available for tenants, and three are planned.

Challenging economic times are ideal for harnessing strong community spirit to plan a bright future for the Miami River. We thank all those who have brought us this far and those who are working together as one voice for the river.

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**Testimonials**

“We are grateful to the Miami River Commission, which was extremely helpful and supportive of the efforts to open Campeones Recreational Boatyard, located on the Seybold Canal. Now we have plans to expand our marine industrial business to a second location directly on the Miami River and create even more jobs in the process.”

– Mario Hernandez
Owner of Campeones Recreational Boatyard

“As a Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) board member, I turned to the Miami River Commission for the strong and active support necessary to secure the local cost-shares to make the Miami Circle’s public riverwalk. This successful partnership resulted in five cost-share partner contributions to open the Miami Circle public park. In addition, the Miami River Commission has been an effective leader in ongoing efforts to finish the planned 10-mile Miami River Greenway.”

– Spencer Crowley
FIND Board Member

“When the public riverwalk beneath the Brickell Bridge’s north shore needed attention adjacent to the new Epic Residences and Hotel, we contacted the Miami River Commission (MRC). After quickly conducting a public site visit, the MRC funded volunteers who painted and picked up the area. Furthermore, the MRC staff’s persistent advocacy led the public sector to repair broken lights along this section of the public pathway. Today, this section of the riverwalk is vastly improved due to the MRC’s positive initiatives, which riverfront residents and visitors sincerely appreciate.”

– Joseph Bier
Executive Manager, Epic Residences

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**Miami River Greenway and Stormwater System Improvement Funding as of December 2010**

- Total Budget $67.6 Million

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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* Private developers along the river have built publicly-accessible riverwalks on their properties.
While no one can doubt that the Miami River has changed for the better in the last 10 years, our focus is riveted on our three major goals: a people-friendly river, environmental remediation, and smart growth.

**FOR A PEOPLE-FRIENDLY RIVER,** greenways are essential. They bind a community together and link it to its history. On Saturday, April 2, we invite you to meet friends, sample the river community’s offerings and support the river at the 15th annual Miami Riverday in Lummus Park.

The big Greenway news for 2010 came at the end of the year with the completion of the public riverwalk at the Miami Circle Park, a national historic landmark. This Tequesta settlement is the earliest evidence of human habitation in South Florida, carbon-dated 2,000 years old.

For this, we can thank the five cost-share partners: the Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND), the State of Florida, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), the City of Miami, and the Downtown Development Authority.

We still need plenty of help, from both the public and private sectors, to complete the other two-thirds of the 10-mile Greenway. The City of Miami has $7.6 million and the county $7 million of previously awarded funding which needs to be expended.

The MRC also found, in its advisory capacity as the river’s watchdog, that some private developers had blocked or constricted Greenway access by establishing structures and other impediments directly on the Greenway. This got the attention of the City of Miami and its Waterfront Advisory Board, both of which will work with the MRC and landowners through 2011 to bring properties into compliance.

The City of Miami finished plans in 2010 for another nearly one-mile section of the Greenway, scheduled for construction in 2011.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION** of the state’s two most polluted bodies of water, Wagner Creek and the Seybold Canal, are matters of public safety and the survival of waterfront businesses. Dioxins and contaminants, which the city and state are obliged to remove, infect the waterways. Sediment buildup makes navigation ever more difficult, straining marine industrial businesses.

The City of Miami has $1.35 million available for construction of the estimated $20 million project, and is seeking the remaining $18.65 million from federal funding sources, the State of Florida, FIND, SFWMD and Miami-Dade County.

Environmental regulatory agencies have substantially completed the numerous permits for this work, and we support the city’s efforts to secure the funding needed to conduct this urgent project.

**SMART GROWTH** is another keystone for the river’s future. The City of Miami in 2010 affirmed the MRC’s vision of a mixed-use river where one can live, work and play. We are gratified that the American Institute of Architects (AIA) chose the Miami River corridor as its “planning laboratory” at its annual meeting in June. The AIA supported the MRC’s determination to balance the high-density downtown with lower-density residential and mixed use in the center and marine industrial businesses generating jobs primarily in the upper and middle river.

**THANK YOUs** are due for more than 1,000 volunteers who participated in a host of events, for riverfront improvement, cleanup, landscaping and collaborative art.

The Miami River Voluntary Improvement Program (VIP), headed by MRC member Jay Carmichael, an attorney and retired Coast Guard Rear Admiral, got results. Half a dozen derelict vessels and two collapsed docks were removed and two deteriorated seawalls were replaced.

While it is impossible to list so many worthy individuals by name, the MRC owes thanks to Congress, and federal public agencies; the State of Florida; the South Florida Water Management District; FIND; Miami-Dade County and private sector representatives. The City of Miami, Mayor Tomás Regalado and the city staff deserve particular thanks and credit in 2010 for their support of the MRC’s efforts.

– Eric Buermann, Chair, Miami River Commission

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**Awards**

**“PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION”** for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events – City of Miami, 2010

**“BEST OF MIAMI – BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE”** awarded to Eric Buermann and Brett Bibeau – Miami Today, 2008

**“AWARD OF MERIT”** awarded to the MRC for its Multimodal Transportation Plan – American Planning Association, 2007

**“THE NEWSMAKER”** awarded to MRC Chair Eric Buermann – Miami Today, 2007

**“BEST BACKSTAGE LEADER”** awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau who was then included in the “Book of Leaders” – Miami Today, 2007

**MIAMI IMAGE AWARD OF 2006** awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau – Realtor Association of Greater Miami and the Beaches

**“BEST OF MIAMI – IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE”** awarded to former MRC Chair Irela Bague – Miami Today, 2006

**“THE ACHIEVER – MIAMI RIVER’S RENAISSANCE MAN”** awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau – Miami Today, 2006

**“COMMUNITY STEWARD AWARD”** awarded to MRC–1,000 Friends of Florida, 2005

**“BEST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION”** awarded to MRC – Miami Today, 2004

**“MOST POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT”** for the Miami River Greenway, Urban Environment League, 2004

**EXCELLENCE AWARD** for the Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan, American Landscape Architects, 2003
GREENWAYS REMAINED FRONT AND CENTER on the Miami River Commission's (MRC) agenda in 2010. The City of Miami has yet to spend the $7.6 million previously awarded, and the county has not spent the remaining $7 million for Greenways approved by voters. That means $14.6 million is ready to be spent. The MRC is supporting efforts to complete the 10-mile, publicly-accessible pathway featuring trees, parks, benches, decorative lighting, historic markers, way-finding signage and art in public places.

The Greenway project has many purposes. Not only does it help the economy and create jobs. It also helps the environment by providing trees, improving stormwater drainage, creating a safe place for bicycles and pedestrians and greatly enhancing the community's quality of life.

The biggest event was the completion of the public riverwalk at the Miami Circle, a designated National Historic Landmark on the river's south bank near its mouth. The riverwalk will allow true public access to the site of the earliest known human habitation in South Florida. The riverwalk’s completion followed replacement of the Miami Circle’s collapsed seawall the year before. Cost-shares for the walkway came from the State of Florida, the Florida Inland Navigational District, the South Florida Water Management District, the City of Miami and the Miami Downtown Development Authority.

In 2010, the City of Miami asked MRC staff for assistance in preparing a grant application to fund a new section of the Miami River Greenway. The application resulted in a $1 million federal grant awarded to the city to construct the Greenway on the south shore from the Miami Circle to the South Miami Avenue Bridge, with the funding scheduled for release in fiscal year 2013-2014.

As of late 2010, more than 3.25 miles of the Greenways — or roughly a third - have either been completed or are under construction, some through the help of local government, some through private developers. The Miami River Greenway has fully funded and nearly completed construction documents for nearly one-mile of new Greenway sections scheduled for construction in 2011, and an additional mile slated for 2012. That will leave an estimated 4.75-miles of greenway needing funding, design and construction.

IN 2010 MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMPLETED DESIGN and is now preparing requests for proposal for construction bids for the publicly-accessible riverwalks at the following sites, using the remaining $7 million approved by the voters in the county’s 2003 general obligation bond issue:

• North shore between NW Third and NW Fourth Streets;
• North shore beneath South Miami Avenue Bridge;
• North shore beneath Metrorail;
• South shore beneath Metrorail;
• South shore beneath Metromover;
• South shore beneath SW Second Avenue Bridge.

THE CITY OF MIAMI IS PREPARING GREENWAY construction at the following sites, using $7.6 million in previously approved federal grants awarded to the City of Miami to construct the Miami River Greenway:

• North River Drive from NW Seventh to NW 12th Avenues, scheduled to begin construction in early 2011;
• South Shore from Metrorail to South Miami Avenue Bridge, estimated to start construction in 2011;
• South River Drive from NW First Street to the NW Fifth Street Bridge, scheduled to begin construction in 2011;
• South River Drive from the NW Fifth Street Bridge to NW Seventh Street, scheduled to begin construction in January 2012;
• Lummus Park area, including North River Drive from NW Second to NW Third streets, construction scheduled for 2012;
• South River Drive from NW 10th to NW 12th Avenues, construction planned in 2012;
• North River Drive from Fifth Street Bridge to NW Sixth Avenue, construction estimated in 2012;
• South Shore from the Miami Circle to the South Miami Avenue Bridge, estimated fiscal year 2013-2014.

MRC is continuing to coordinate and cosponsor volunteer cleanup and beautification on the river with Hands on Miami, the University of Miami, Florida International University, Miami-Dade Coastal Cleanup and other groups. The MRC continues to meet with the City of Miami administration regarding the needs for additional maintenance, security and special events, which are critical to ensure the greenway’s success and longevity after completion.

For a partial list of participants and to learn how you can participate and contribute, see the Get Involved! section.
The working group's primary task remains the maintenance dredging and environmental cleanup of Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal, deemed the most polluted bodies of water in the State of Florida. The commercial fishing businesses and recreational boatyards in the area can only navigate this shallow tributary at high tide, and will be put out of business if this tributary is not maintenance-dredged. Water-dependent business owners are reporting the shallowest depths ever, and are losing critical time in rinsing off dioxins and other contaminants on boats before they can safely start working on them.

Once again, the MRC is pleased to report that the City of Miami renewed its three-year contract for the Scavenger 2000 Water Decontamination vessel, which collects floatable debris and decontaminates 10,000-15,000 gallons of river water per minute, injecting a minimum of 150,000 liters of oxygen per hour. It doubles as a sprayer for cleaning the shoreline and putting out fires. DERM's water quality testing results reported a decrease in contaminants along the river since the Scavenger commenced service in 2001.

The MRC installed the “Don't Pollute – Drains to River” stencils along the riverwalk beside drains to remind the public of the connection between the stormwater system and the river flow.

These improvements are recommended in the Miami River Commission’s Miami River Basin Water Quality Improvement Report available at www.miamirivercommission.org, along with quarterly agency implementation progress reports. Those agencies include the City of Miami, the Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resources Management and the Water and Sewer Department, the South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
In 2010, the City of Miami unanimously adopted a strengthened Port of Miami River sub-element in the City’s adopted Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan, accepted by the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs, to encourage marine-industrial businesses.

**IN MAY 2010, THE MIAMI 21 ZONING**

Code went into effect, including the areas of the river in the City of Miami. Miami 21 was an outcome of the movement against urban sprawl and for rejuvenation of urban centers to make them more livable. It is also the outcome of “smart growth” and “new urbanism” movements, which take advantage of different modes of transportation, pedestrian-friendly urban centers and compact building design. For more information, see www.miami21.org

The MRC is moving forward with the award-winning Miami River Corridor Multimodal Transportation Plan, which in part recommends waterborne freight, commuter and recreational transportation. The proposed water bus system could connect the Miami Marlins Stadium, Miami Intermodal Center (both scheduled for opening in 2012), downtown, riverfront parks and restaurants, the American Airlines Arena, South Beach, Coconut Grove and Museum Park, among other destinations. Doing so would reduce vehicular traffic, carbon emissions, gas consumption and therefore improve air quality.

With the economic slowdown, construction has been completed on 7,078 new residential units, the last of them finished in 2009. As of December 2010, 7,284 more residential units have received preliminary approval. Recession, tightened credit and a continued overhang in condo supply make river-area construction unlikely in 2011. In the meantime, renters and some owners are filling vacant units in the Miami River, lower Biscayne, downtown and Brickell corridors, with a noticeable increase in after-hours street life in the lower river area.

**REPLACEMENT OF THE NW FIFTH STREET BRIDGE**

The NW Fifth Street Bridge was completed in spring 2010, thereby removing a longtime navigation hazard. The Tamiami Bridge, over the Tamiami Canal just west of 27th Avenue, still awaits full funding. The SW First Street Bridge, slated for replacement in 2017, is undergoing a PD&E study.

Along the upper river, Miami-Dade County in October 2010 continued a public planning process and hosted a public planning charrette for the “Palmer Lake Study,” for the area bounded by the Miami River on the east, Tamiami Canal on the south, NW 36th Street on the north and 42nd Avenue on the west. The Miami River Commission serves on the steering committee, in which the public and area business owners are encouraged to participate. The MRC’s recommendations include:

- Replacing the Tamiami swing bridge;
- Dredging the Tamiami Canal, home to numerous recreational boatyards, including Bertram Yachts;
- Construction of the on-road Miami River Greenway;
- Multimodal connectivity linking the Port of Miami River, Miami International Airport, the Port of Miami, adjacent rail lines and highways;
- Waterborne transportation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>City of Miami adopts “A Vision for Miami’s 21st Century Parks &amp; Public Spaces” recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>MRC hosts Greenways summit</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>City Bicycle Master Plan adopted recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Construction of publicly-accessible riverwalk at Miami Circle Park and Ivy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Construction of publicly-accessible riverwalk at Miami Circle Park and Ivy</td>
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WHILE THE DREDGING EFFORTS NOW FOCUS ON Wagner Creek and the Seybold Canal, the MRC is still dealing with unfinished business from the $89-million Miami River Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup completed in November 2008.

The MRC is still seeking non-guaranteed reimbursements from the Army Corps of Engineers for the extra $21 million for the dredging and environmental cleanup project advanced in 2007-2008 by the local project sponsors: Florida Legislature ($15 million), South Florida Water Management District ($3 million) and Florida Inland Navigational District ($3 million).

In 2010, the Army Corps of Engineers rejected the contractors’ change-orders, which allows for the formal close-out of the project and possible distribution of non-guaranteed reimbursements. The MRC is hopeful that the issue will be resolved soon.

IN 2010, DISASTERS IN NEARBY HAITI, including the January earthquake, the cholera epidemic and continuing recovery from hurricanes, underscored the Miami River’s importance not only as a trade center, but as a lifeline. Ships sailing from the Miami River carried food, medicine, clothing and appliances to ports including Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haitien and Port-de-Paix, among others. Some of these goods were shipped as in-kind donations from the Miami River’s shipping terminals.

But for Port-au-Prince, these are among more than 100 shallow-draft ports around the Caribbean served by the Miami River, which provides a unique niche North American trade partner for such ports that cannot accommodate the massive deep-draft vessels operating through the Port of Miami.

This trade is not only important for the local economy, but for the health of Miami’s neighbors throughout the Caribbean.

The Miami River Corridor Multimodal Transportation Plan includes a major recommendation to alleviate downtown truck traffic by implementing “short-sea shipping” operations linking the Port of Miami with the Upper River. There, they would link with other modes of transportation: rail, road and air, thereby reducing downtown truck traffic.

Near the river corridor’s western terminus near the Miami International Airport, the Miami Intermodal Center is moving toward completion in three stages, with a rental car facility opened in 2010, the MIA Mover scheduled to open in September 2011 and the Miami Central Station in spring 2012.

The MRC is encouraging the City of Miami to make the river a Federal “Recovery Zone”, entitling it to low-interest bonds for infrastructure improvements to attract new and expanding job-generating businesses.

The Miami River Commission invites groups and individuals from the community to get involved in improving our working river, and the private sector to help us as sponsors of events. To learn more about what you can do, check our website at www.miamirivercommission.org for updates. You can also call us at 305-644-0544, or email us at miamiriver@bellsouth.net. We’re at 1407 NW Seventh Street, Suite D.

The Miami River Commission coordinated work with 1,000 volunteers of all ages and walks of life to create parks and greenways along the river through a series of monthly volunteer Miami River beautification events. The MRC is thankful to our growing list of sponsors, partially listed below, who contributed volunteers, supplies and money to the “greening” of the river.

The 15th annual free Miami Riverday Festival is scheduled April 2, 2011, at Lummus Park from 11 am-4 pm. The 14th annual festival held April 10, 2010, featured river boat tours, live music, environmental education, marine expo, historic re-enactors, children’s activities and much more.

All MRC and subcommittee meetings are publicly noticed. Public participation is encouraged. The full MRC meets on the first Monday of every month at noon, usually at the meeting room to the right of the MRC headquarters.

The Miami River Commission thanks volunteer event sponsors:
Mega yacht heading to sea after being serviced on the Miami River.