

Proposed Revisions to Miami-Dade County's Manatee Protection Plan

June 5, 2025



Miami-Dade County

Regulatory and Economic Resources

Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM)



Housekeeping

A copy of this presentation is available at <https://www.miamidade.gov/environment/manatee-protection.asp>

If you would like a tracked version of the draft document, please email dermMPP@miamidade.gov.

For attendees:

At the end of this presentation there will be a public comment period. If you wish to speak, please fill out a comment card.



Meeting Agenda

June 5, 2025

- Welcome
- History of the MPP
- Overview of Proposed Revisions
- Next Steps
- Public Comment Period
- Closing Remarks



Manatee Protection Plans

What is a Manatee Protection Plan?

A comprehensive planning document that addresses the long-term protection of the Florida manatee through law enforcement, education, boat facility siting, and habitat protection initiatives on a county-wide basis.

Marine Facility Siting Criteria – Key Component of a MPP

The Marine Facility Siting Criteria is intended to direct new boat slips to areas where the risk of boat and manatee interaction is relatively low and discourage new boat slips in areas of relatively high risk.



History of Miami-Dade County's MPP

Florida Governor directs 13 key counties to develop MPPs

1989

Miami-Dade Manatee Protection Plan Review Committee (MPPRC) established

2007

FWC provides comments on MPPRC recommendations

2010

Proposed revisions to the MPP submitted to BCC Committee.

Item withdrawn and RER directed to informally submit to FWC and USFWS

2014

1995/1996

MDC's MPP approved and implemented

2009

MPPRC concludes and publishes recommendations on suggested revisions to the MPP

2011

County hosts a public workshop on proposed revisions

2014 – present

Continued coordination with FWC and USFWS on proposed revisions

Highlights of the Proposed 2025 MPP

Developed based on the MPPRC recommendations and incorporating modifications and additional revisions suggested by FWC and USFWS, for consideration as the basis of a formal request to both FWC and USFWS. These recommendations include:

- Expanded definition section and updated background information
- Clarification and revision of the definition of an “existing facility” that may rebuild, renovate, or make repairs within essential manatee habitat.
- Development of detailed procedures for evaluating the transfer of legal but unused slips.
- Revise current marine facility siting guidelines for portions of the County



Change in Existing Facility Definition

1995 Definition – An existing facility as one which was in use on October 28, 1984 or later, and if constructed after 1980, must have appropriate DERM permits. Facilities that have not been in use at any time since October 28, 1984 are not considered existing and are considered a new facility.

Proposed 2025 Definition – An existing boat facility is one which is operating with all required authorizations and is currently producing boat traffic, or has recently produced boat traffic in the past five years that is still affecting manatees. Facilities that have all required local, state, and federal permits, authorizations and approvals that are still valid, but not yet built, may also be considered existing.



Slip Transfer Overview

Establishes criteria to evaluate requests for the transfer of legal slips from existing marine facilities. The criteria include the following:

- Must result in a permanent reduction of slips at the donor site.
- Type and frequency of vessel use associated with the donor slips must be equivalent to the type and frequency of use at the receiving site.
- Donor site must meet the definition of an existing marine facility and be in an area designated by the MPP as essential habitat.
- Slips may only be transferred to a site that is a less sensitive/equivalent manatee habitat within the same tributary or geographic area.
- Only slips in compliance with all required environmental and land use approvals are eligible for transfer.
- Not all existing slips can be transferred away from a given donor site.
- Recipient site must obtain all federal, state, and local approvals for the proposed work and operations required for transfer.
- Restrictive covenants must be recorded on the donor and recipient sites memorializing the transfer.

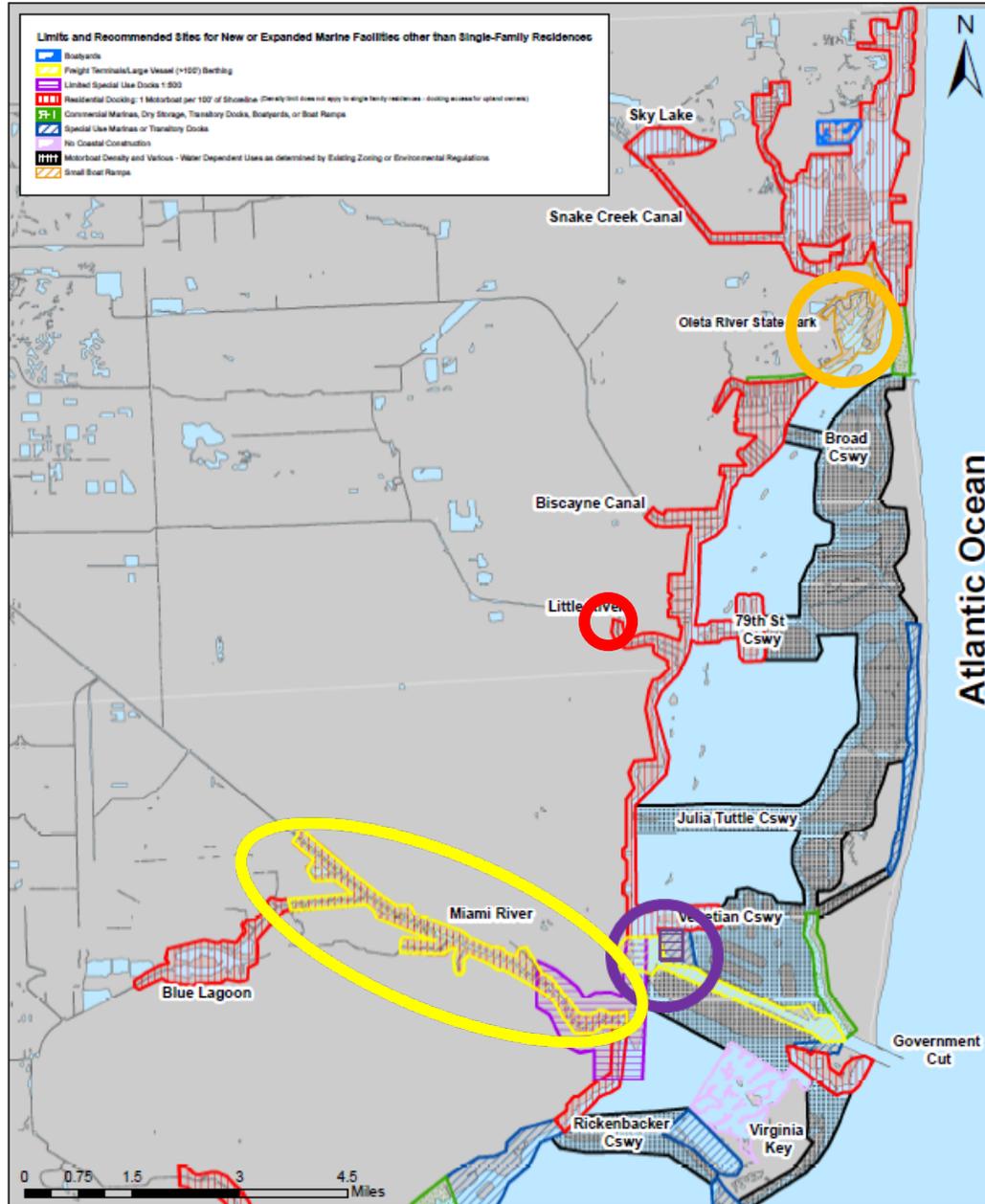
Revisions to the Marine Facility Siting Map



The siting map identifies the most appropriate locations and slip densities for boat facility development.

Recommendations within the Marine Facility Siting Criteria are based upon an evaluation of manatee protection needs, potential natural resource impacts, and zoning and future land use compatibility.

The following slides provide an overview of the revisions proposed in the 2025 MPP draft.



Marine Facility Siting

FIU / Oleta State Park area

- 1995 MPP: Residential Docking
- Proposed: Small Boat Ramps

Little River (downstream of the S-27 structure to Biscayne Blvd)

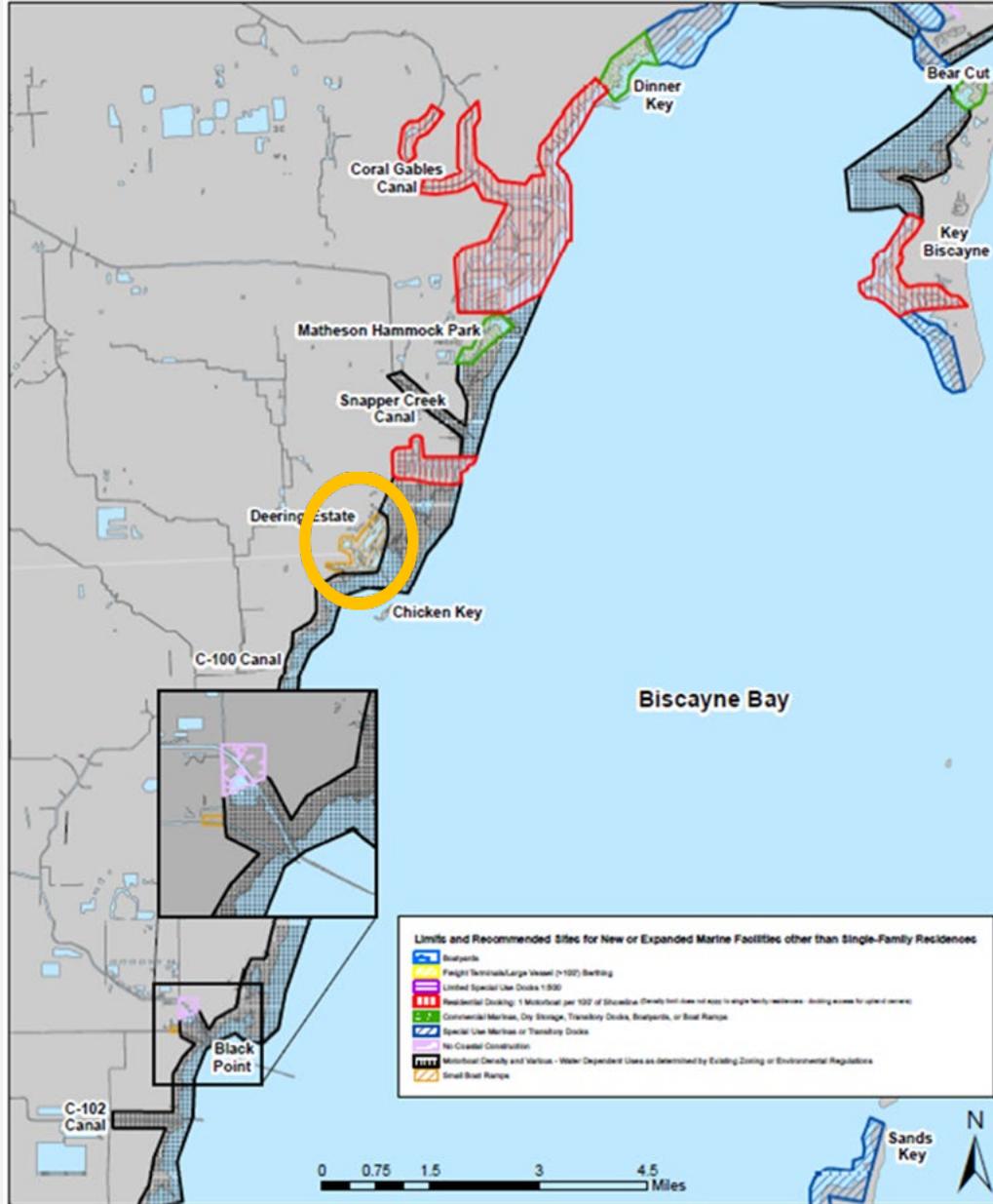
- 1995 MPP: Density determined by Zoning/Environmental Regulations
- Proposed: Residential Docking

I-395 Bridge and Watson Island area

- 1995 MPP: Freight Terminals and Special Use
- Proposed: Addition of Limited Special Use

Miami River

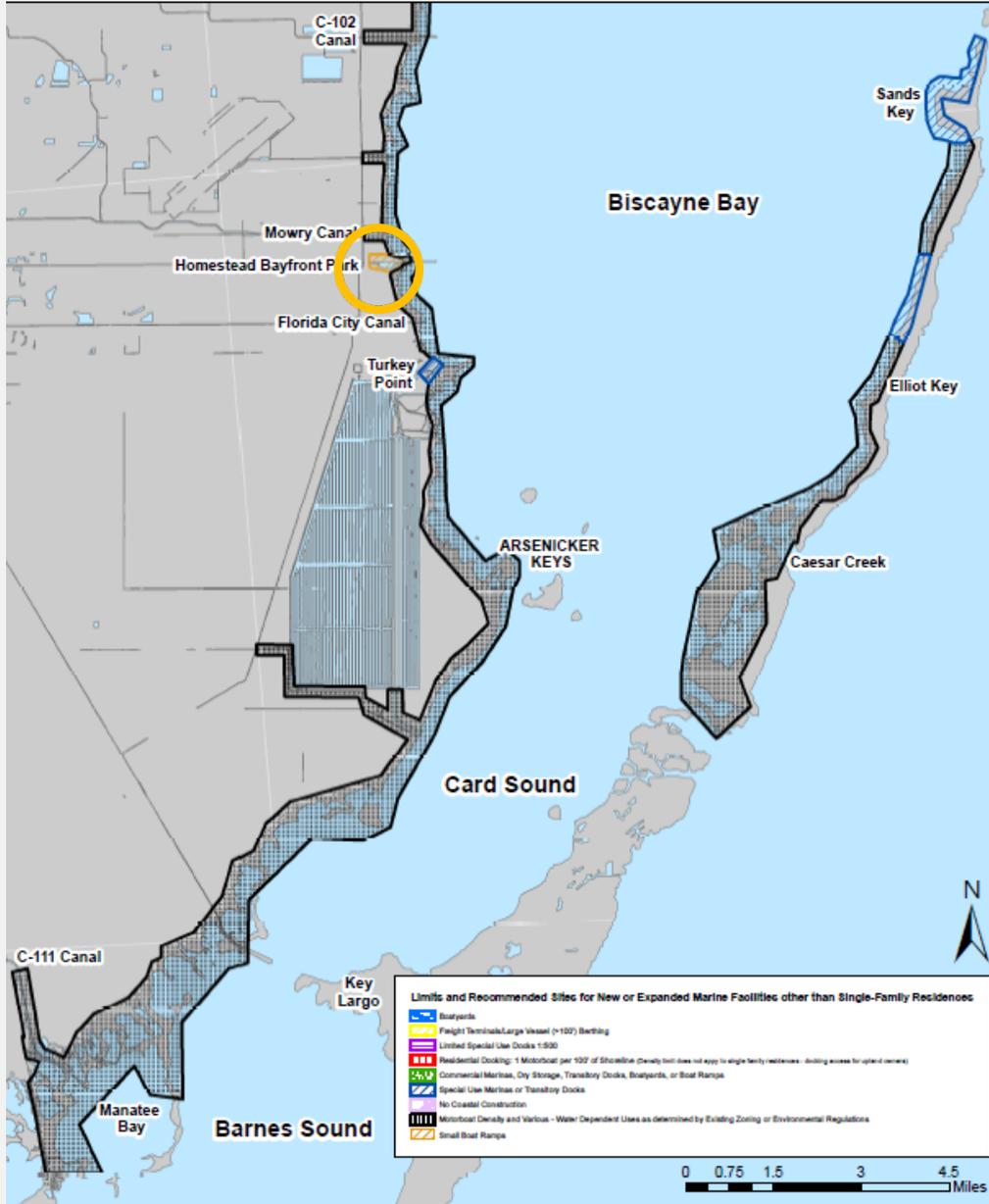
- 1995 MPP: Residential Docking and Limited Special Use (southern portion)
- Proposed: Clarification of Freight Terminals



Marine Facility Siting

Chapman Bay / Deering Bay area

- 1995 MPP: Residential Docking
- Proposed: Small Boat Ramps



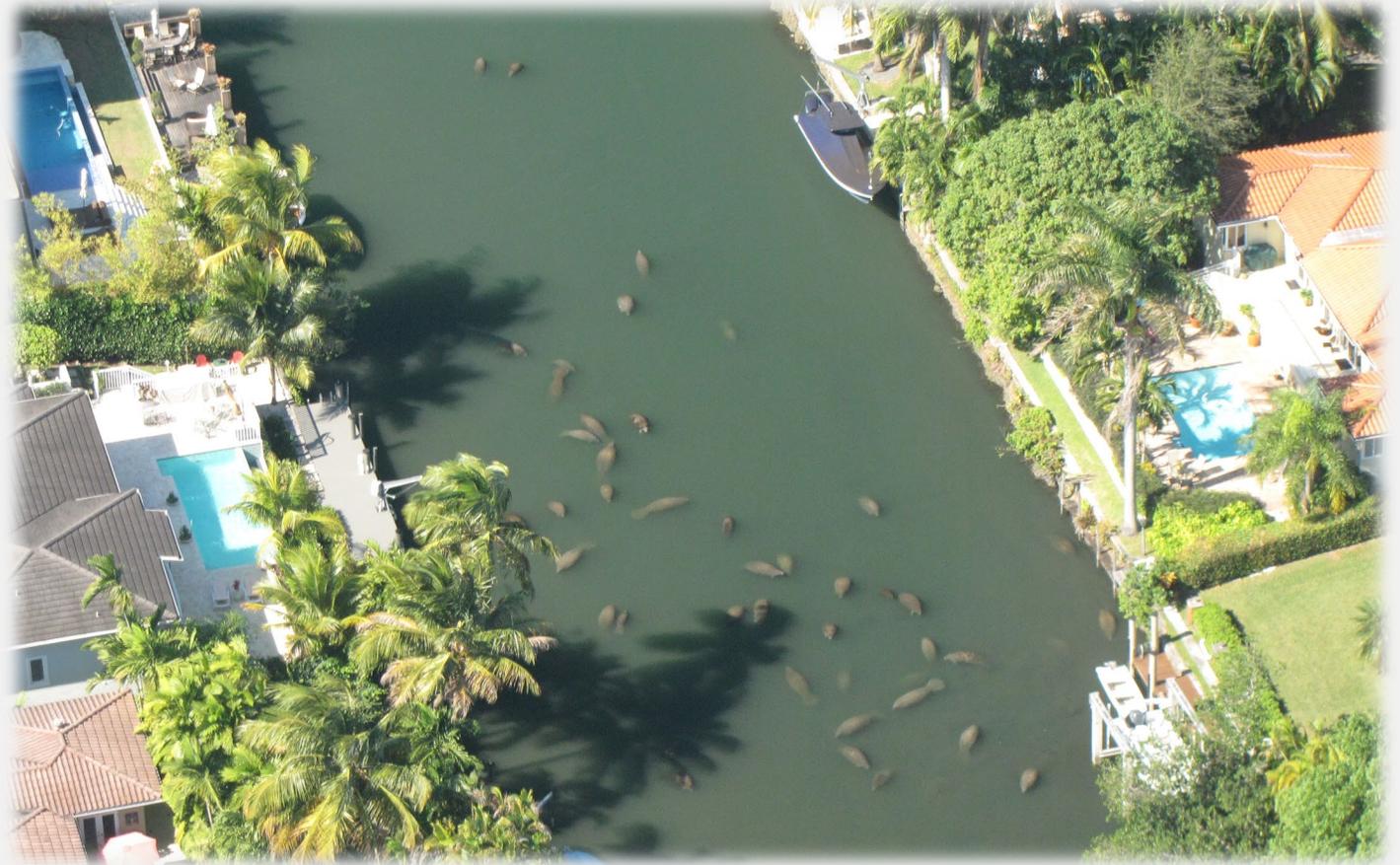
Marine Facility Siting

Homestead Bayfront Park / Convey Point

- 1995 MPP: Density determined by Zoning/Environmental Regulations
- Proposed: Small Boat Ramps

Next Steps

- Review of public comments
- Preparation of the item to be heard before the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners
- Formal transmittal to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service





Initial Feedback

Existing Marine Facility

- 1984 date in 1995 MPP was to account for Hurricane Andrew
- Five year rolling date proposed in 2025

Little River (Between the S-27 structure and Biscayne Blvd)

- Proposed designation is more protective than existing designation

Small Boat Ramp

- Definition will be added to definition section of the plan
- Proposed designations are the same as those included in the item heard before the BCC Committee in 2014



Public Comment Period

When your name is called, please approach the podium and state your name and affiliation.

You will have two minutes.

2 Minute
Limit

Thank you for attending this presentation.

A draft of the 2025 MPP is available at
[https://www.miamidade.gov/environment/manate
e-protection.asp](https://www.miamidade.gov/environment/manate-e-protection.asp)

Public comment and questions will be
accepted until July 5th
and can be submitted via email to
dermMPP@miamidade.gov