



Miami River Commission

Annual Report

2014



IN 2014, exciting new private sector developments were planned along the mixed-use Miami River District, including high-density residential, hotels, and a low-density self-standing restaurant all featuring additional sections of the public riverwalk and waterborne transportation in Miami's downtown "Lower River", major new retail in the "Middle River", a new modern marina in the marine industrial "Upper River", and more. New riverfront residents, tourists, and job generating businesses will continue to fuel the hot fire which is molding the Miami River District into a special and unique destination landscape.



The Miami River Commission (MRC) thanks the State of Florida for appropriating \$150,000 to continue providing needed services along the historic Miami River, in addition to a cost share for the now fully funded and permitted Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project, which will commence construction in 2015.



Seasalt and Pepper



Historic Miami River Hotel's beautiful pool, landscaping and cottages designated on the National Historic Register.



Point Park, 5th Street Bridge, commercial fishing, 5th Street Bridge Marina and associated marine industrial businesses.



TESTIMONIALS

“As a decade-long resident of the Miami River District, I have repeatedly witnessed the direct, positive impact the Miami River Commission has on our community. The NeoLofts Condominium Association’s over 200 residents and taxpayers applaud the Miami River Commission’s beautification of the area, and its tireless efforts to attract new job generating businesses, increase public green spaces, and create a more family and pedestrian-friendly district.”

David Stephen Hope, President, Neo Lofts Condominium Association

“The Epic West Condominium Association’s 342 residents are very appreciative of the effective Miami River Commission which helps us by providing crews along the connecting public Riverwalk beneath FDOT’s Brickell Bridge to pick-up litter, paint over graffiti, etc. We look forward to a continuation of our strong relationship with the Miami River Commission and the many projects and initiatives it undertakes on behalf of our residents.”

Joseph Bier, Executive Manager Epic Residences

“When the Riverfront Condominium Association’s over 1,500 residents wanted the iconic multi-colored lights repaired on the Metro-Rail Bridge, we contacted the Miami River Commission which successfully advocated for Miami-Dade County to commence repairs on their ‘Art in Public Places’ installation, starting in 2015.”

**Troy Taylor
Vice-President Riverfront Condominium Association & President Mint on the River Condominium Association**





**HORACIO
STUART
AGUIRRE**

Chair's Report

THE MIAMI RIVER IS THE BIRTHPLACE of our incredible community, evidenced from the Tequesta Indian's 2,000 year old Miami Circle (a designated National Historic Landmark), to Mary Brickell, Julia Tuttle and Henry Flagler. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to report that the historic mixed-use Miami River is alive and thriving! Life on the river and the Miami River District is strong, and getting stronger every day.

Monthly tested water samples indicate that river's water quality has improved with the recent maintenance dredging of the 15-foot deep federal navigable channel. The navigable river is used daily by international shipping vessels, yachts, manatees, turtles and other marine life. The Miami River's shorelines feature public riverwalks, beautiful lush city parks, over 7,000 new residential units (additional 4,600 recently planned units), major hotels (additional 3 planned hotels), 17 operating restaurants (additional 20 planned restaurants), 16 historic sites and jobs-generating marine industrial businesses. Marine businesses operating along the "Port of Miami River" continue to expand in numbers and operations that include international shipping terminals that provide vital international trade to our neighbors in the Caribbean, recreational boatyards, marinas, commercial fishing, tug boat basins, and more.

THE MIAMI RIVER IS THE AORTA in the heart of the City of Miami, and its beautiful multi-cultural neighborhoods include Downtown, Little Havana, Spring Garden, Overtown, Grove Park, Allapattah, Durham Park. The Miami River's nine major public parks offer the public every type of recreation including a boat ramp, kayak and paddleboard launch, pools, playgrounds, barbeques and picnic tables, basketball, tennis and racquetball courts, baseball diamonds, football stadium, track, weights, gymnasiums, community centers, riverwalks for running, walking, biking and fishing, and even historic sites such as the 1844 Fort Dallas, and the oldest standing home in Miami-Dade County, the 1856 Wagner Homestead. Some of the areas most enjoyable dining is found on the banks of the Miami River.

THE MIAMI RIVER COMMISSION EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the South Florida Water Management District for previously appropriating \$250,000 per year for the past decade for the Commission's vital projects. The Commission also thanks the following Fiscal Year 2015 funding providers: State of Florida (\$150,000), Miami-Dade County (\$35,000), City of Miami (\$30,000), and private sector advertisers in the MRC's 12th Annual Miami River Map and Guide, 4th Annual Miami River Calendar, and 19th Annual Miami Riverday. This funding allows the broad based Commission to continue its positive work partnering with the public and private sectors to bring significant improvements to the Miami River District. The MRC thanks the City of Miami, Florida Inland Navigation District, and State of Florida for providing full funding for the fully permitted, long awaited and widely supported Wagener Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project. This dredging project will eliminate a substantial amount of undesirable materials at the bottom of the only remaining contaminated portion of the water basin. It will further benefit the natural environment and local economy and businesses on the banks of this tributary. The project will commence in 2015.

MANY HAVE PLAYED A KEY ROLE in bringing these results to you. It has been a true Team Effort. Among those is one who served and never sought recognition and as she moves on to other ventures and opportunities, we pause to recognize Megan Kelly, whose volunteer service on the Miami River Commission for over a decade has left a significant memory of accomplishment.

I close by affirming that the Miami River remains a critical part of our County and City's present and future. I invite you to bring your friends and loved ones to the Miami River District to enjoy the "River Experience," offering all, regardless of your individual interests, age, gender, race, or income level, something special to enjoy.

Horacio Stuart Aguirre
Chairman, Miami River Commission

Awards

- "BEST OF MIAMI 2014-UNsung HERO"** awarded to MRC Member Ernie Martin-Miami Today
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION"** for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events- City of Miami, 2013
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- "BEST OF MIAMI 2011 - TURNING GREEN"** awarded to MRC member Sandy Batchelor -Miami Today
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2011-VISIONARY"** awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau -Miami Today
- "SUSTAINABLE SOUTH FLORIDA AWARDS, GREEN EDUCATION & OUTREACH AWARD" 2011 FINALIST** -Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
- "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

Subcommittee Reports

MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY *Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair*

IN 2014, THE MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY continued construction, featuring a public pedestrian & bicycle pathway, landscaping, decorative lights, way-finding signage, historic markers, informational kiosks, benches, art installations, and other amenities. In 2015, another 6 fully funded and designed sections of the Riverwalk will be built by the public and private sectors. Over half of the 10-mile public Miami River Greenway has been constructed.

The MRC appreciates the mutual efforts to implement the *Miami River Greenway Action Plan*, and the cost shares provided to date from multiple public and private funding sources including Congress, Florida Department of Transportation, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Inland Navigation District, City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, Downtown Development Authority, and numerous private sector developments.

IN 2014, THE PUBLIC RIVERWALK was the location of the 18th Annual Miami Riverday festival, Annual Ironman Triathlon, Annual ING Marathon, 6th Annual Downtown Riverwalk Festival, and the 3rd Annual Miami River Art Fair, which featured renowned international artists during Art Basel week.

MRC thanks the State of Florida, Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, DDA, and the private sector for providing

funding to assist and support needed maintenance of the public Miami River Greenway, many sections of which are owned by the State, County and City.

STORM WATER *Sallye Jude, Chair*

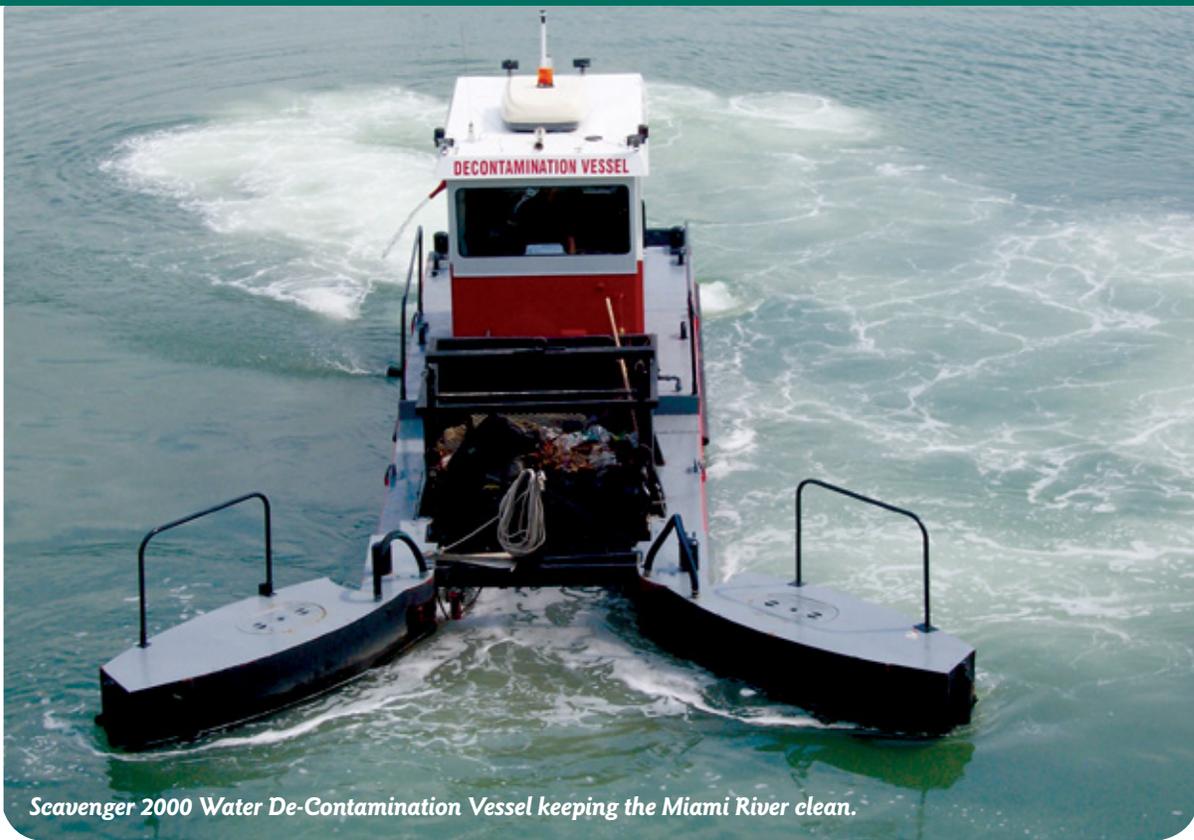
THE ANTIQUATED STORMWATER SYSTEM is the leading source of pollution into the Miami River. The Miami River water basin includes a 69-square-mile area of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the State of Florida. All storm water from this area drains into the Miami River through over one hundred outfalls. The Storm Water subcommittee's highest priority is the City of Miami's fully funded and permitted Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project. The MRC thanks the City of Miami, FIND and the State of Florida for appropriating \$20 million for the project. This long awaited and widely supported project, will start construction in 2015 and improve the environment and economy. In 2014, monthly water quality testing indicated significantly improved results in the Miami River.

URBAN INFILL *James Murley, Chair*

THE MRC'S URBAN INFILL SUBCOMMITTEE continued efforts to assist implementing various adopted and award-winning plans, including the *Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan*, *Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan*, *Miami River Greenway Action Plan* and others, all available for downloading at www.miamirivercommission.org.

New public Riverwalk section leading into Lummus Park, co-funded by the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND).





Scavenger 2000 Water De-Contamination Vessel keeping the Miami River clean.

VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT

Jay Carmichael, Chair

THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTA

identifies and encourages riverfront parcels to address which are potentially detrimental to the Miami River, the environmental quality of the River's attraction as a destination for residents and businesses. In 2014 alone, the program resulted in the removal of 3 tons of trash from the River Greenway Beautification Program featuring removal of illegal dumping and graffiti along several sections, repairing Riverwalk lights, cleaning storm drains, removing a float, etc. The MRC thanks Miami Circle, FIND, FDOT, private citizens and volunteers for their hard work and improvements to fruition.

UPPER RIVER

MIDDLE RIVER

Shipping and Marine Industrial Zone: Center of the river's trade and industry.
The Miami Intermodal Center links rail, air, freight, transit, pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Residential / Mixed Use Zone
marine-industrial



MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY'S TIMELINE

1897

Henry Flagler opens six-story Royal Palm Hotel, including first greenway

1910

Lummus Park created on Miami River

1972

Parks For People bond issue passed by voters, funds portions of the Miami River Greenway

1980s

Miami River Greenway section constructed along north shore from Biscayne Bay to NW 2 Avenue

1998

Florida Legislature creates Miami River Commission as a watchdog, advocate and clearinghouse for the river. Miami Circle site discovered

2000

Florida Legislature passes Miami River Improvement Act

2001

In partnership with the Trust for Public Land, the MRC, City of Miami and Miami-Dade County unanimously approve Miami River Greenway Action Plan

2002

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2003

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

PLAN

RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (VIP)

public and private sector address various riverfront issues from environmental to operations on the quality of the River, and the recreation for residents, tourists and visitors. One, the Miami River “VIP” includes 13 derelict vessels, 21 Miami River cleanup volunteer events, 100 tons of trash dumping, invasive species, and the restoration of sections of the Miami River, including unclogging storm water drains posing hazard to navigation in Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, private sector, and the fantastic work bringing these River



Recreational yacht slowing navigating through the downtown “lower river”, passing the “Riverwalk” Metro-Mover Station, riverfront offices and residences.

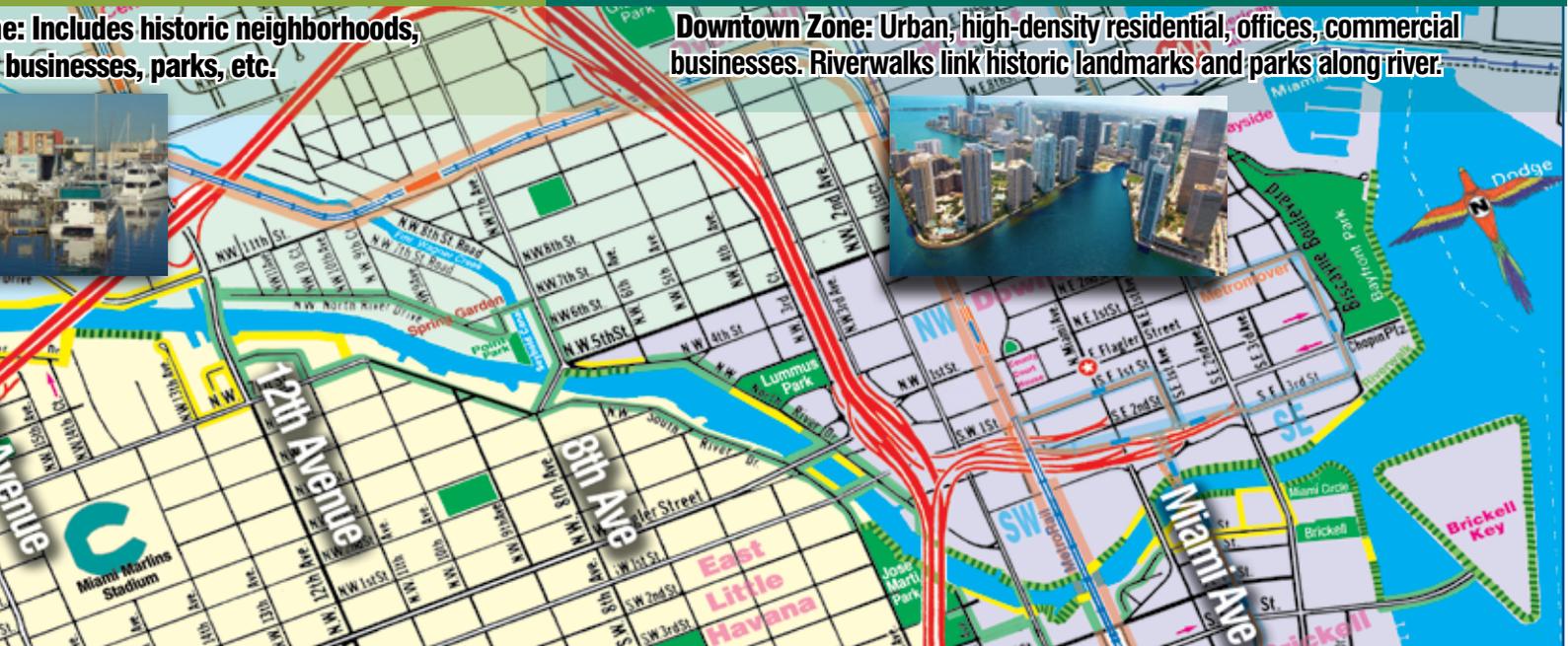
UPPER RIVER

Includes historic neighborhoods, businesses, parks, etc.



LOWER RIVER

Downtown Zone: Urban, high-density residential, offices, commercial businesses. Riverwalks link historic landmarks and parks along river.



Map © 2001 Richard Troutner. All rights reserved.

2002

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2003

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2004

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2005

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2006

City of Miami adopts “A Vision for Miami’s 21st Century Parks & Public Spaces” recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • MRC hosts Greenways summit • Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2007

Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan created by Metropolitan Planning Organization and MRC recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • Greenway construction continues

2008

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2009

City Bicycle Master Plan adopted recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed and additional sections funded and designed for construction in 2010-2011

2010-2014

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed



MIRA USA, UM and FIU volunteers beautifying the Miami River Greenway.

Get Involved!

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, visit our website at www.miamirivercommission.org for updates.

The Miami River Commission thanks all of the incredible volunteers of all ages and walks of life who planted, painted murals, picked up litter, removed invasive plants and spread recycled mulch along the riverwalk through 21 volunteer beautification events in 2014. The MRC is thankful to our growing list of sponsors, partially listed at right, who contributed volunteers, supplies and funding to the “greening” of the river.

The 19th Annual Miami Riverday Festival is scheduled April 11, 2015, in Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive. Just like the 18th annual festival, held April 5, 2014, Miami Riverday features free 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 conference room to the right of the MRC office.

MRC thanks volunteers and sponsors:

- [State of Florida](#)
- [South Florida Water Management District](#)
- [Miami-Dade County](#)
- [City of Miami](#)
- [Downtown Development Authority](#)
- [MIRA USA](#)
- [University of Miami](#)
- [Hands On Miami](#)
- [Florida International University](#)
- [Miami Dade College](#)
- [Florida Wood Recycling](#)
- [AON Risk Solutions Miami](#)
- [Miami Marlins](#)



International shipping vessels being towed along the Miami River’s maintenance dredged federal navigable channel.

Learn more about the Miami River's past, present and future, view reports, plans, public meeting minutes, agendas and more at the informative www.miamirivercommission.org

Excellent Miami River restaurants from left to right: Seasalt and Pepper, Casablanca Seafood Bar & Grill, Garcia's Seafood Grille & Fish Market.

Miami River Commission Members

Chair: HORACIO STUART AGUIRRE
Representative from environmental or civic organization appointed by the Governor

Vice Chair: JAY CARMICHAEL, Esq.
Member-at-Large appointed by the Governor

Florida Gov. RICK SCOTT
Designee: Ms. Patricia "Patty" Harris

Senator ANITERE FLORES
Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation
Designee: Rep. JOSE JAVIER RODRIGUEZ

Mayor CARLOS GIMENEZ
Miami-Dade County Mayor
Designee: Mr. FRANK BALZEBRE

Mayor TOMÁS REGALADO
Mayor of the City of Miami

Commissioner BRUNO BARREIRO
Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Designee: Ms. MARLENE AVALO

Commissioner FRANK CAROLLO
City of Miami Commissioner

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ-RUNDLE, Esq.
Miami-Dade State Attorney
Designee: GARY WINSTON, Esq.

Mr. DANIEL O'KEEFE
South Florida Water Management
Designee: Ms. SANDY BATCHELOR

Mr. BRUCE BROWN
Chair, Miami River Marine Group
Designee: Mr. RICHARD DUBIN

Ms. ALYCE ROBERTSON
Downtown Development Authority
Designee: Mr. JAVIER BETANCOURT

Mr. BARRY JOHNSON
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Designee: Ms. SANDY O'NEIL

Dr. ERNEST MARTIN
Neighborhood Representative appointed by the City of Miami Commission
Designee: Mr. THOMAS KIMEN III

Ms. SALLYE JUDE
Neighborhood Representative appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission
Designee: Ms. JANE CAPORELLI

Mr. PHIL EVERINGHAM
Designee of: ED SWAKON, Chair of Marine Council

Ms. SARA C. BABUN
Member-at-Large appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission

Mr. MANNY PRIEGUEZ
Member-at-Large appointed by the City of Miami Commission

Ex-Officio Members:

CONGRESSWOMAN ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Designee: MS. DEBBIE ZIMMERMAN

CAPTAIN AUSTIN J. GOULD
United States Coast Guard
Captain of the Port of Miami

Managing Director: **Mr. BRETT BIBEAU**

Designed by: Toni Kirkland Graphics

MIAMI RIVER COMMISSION

c/o Robert King High
1407 NW 7 St., Suite D,
Miami, FL 33125
Ph: 305-644-0544
Fax 305-642-1136
www.miamirivercommission.org