

Miami River Commission Annual Report 2021



In 2021 evidence of the continuing revitalization of the Miami River District was found in construction of another 7 sections of the public Miami River Greenway at the Miami River Special Area Plan featuring 1,670 residential units, “Aston Martin Residences” featuring 384 residential units, “Baccarat Residences” featuring 400 residential units, a riverfront restaurant in Little Havana, the 1st Street Bridge, and the expansion of Fern Isle Park. In addition, renovations finished at Apex Marine Boatyard, commenced at Norseman Boatyard, will commence at Hurricane Cove Marina & Boatyard in 2022 and the City of Miami installed a new playground in Sewell Park.



HORACIO
STUART
AGUIRRE

Chair's Report

KEEPING THE BALANCE of uses along the historic mixed-use Miami River District is amongst the most important and challenging successes of the Miami River Commission. The proof is in the numbers. The Miami River's shorelines feature public riverwalks, 9 major parks, over 12,600 new residential units (additional 5,960 approved units), 5 major hotels (additional 5 planned hotels with 1,200 new rooms), 25 operating restaurants (additional 22 planned restaurants), 16 historic sites, 25 boatyards and marinas, over a dozen International Shipping Terminals, and other job-generating marine industrial businesses operating along "Port Miami River". International Shipping Terminals provide vital international trade to our neighbors in the Caribbean and Central America. Recreational boatyards, marinas, commercial fishing and tug boat basins are highly active. The river is used daily by international shipping vessels, yachts, manatees, dolphins, marlins, and other marine life. This critical balance of uses makes the beautiful Miami River the ideal place to live, work and play in the heart of the City of Miami.

THE MIAMI RIVER DISTRICT features wonderful multi-cultural neighborhoods in Downtown, Little Havana, Spring Garden, Overtown, Grove Park, Allapattah, Durham Park, etc. The Miami River District's nine major parks offer every type of recreation including a boat ramp, kayak and paddleboard launch, pools, new playgrounds, barbecues, picnic tables, basketball,

tennis and racquetball courts, baseball diamonds, football stadium, track, weights, gym, community centers, riverwalks for running, walking, biking and fishing, and historic sites such as the 2,000 year old Miami Circle, 1844 Fort Dallas, and the oldest standing home in Miami-Dade County, the 1856 Wagner Homestead.

THE MRC THANKS THE FOLLOWING Fiscal Year 2022 funding providers: Miami-Dade County (\$200,000), City of Miami (\$50,000), and private sector advertisers in the MRC's 19th Annual Miami River Map and Guide and the 11th Annual Miami River Calendar. This funding allows the broad based MRC to continue its work partnering with the public and private sectors to bring significant improvements to the Miami River District. In addition, the MRC thanks board member Manny Prieguez for his years of volunteer service. The MRC welcomes our newest volunteer board member James Murley, Chief Resilience Officer, Miami Dade County.

I INVITE YOU TO BRING family and friends to the Miami River District and enjoy the experience. The Miami River Commission promises that regardless of your individual interests, age, gender, race, or income level, you will find something special to enjoy.

Horacio Stuart Aguirre
Chairman, Miami River Commission

Awards

- "BEST OF MIAMI 2016" awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau –Miami Today
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2015" awarded to MRC Urban Infill Subcommittee Chairman Jim Murley –Miami Today
- "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
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION" for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events – City of Miami, 2012
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION" for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events – City of Miami, 2011
- "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



Aston Martin Residences under construction, featuring the public riverwalk.



In 2021 construction commenced on a new restaurant featuring the public riverwalk in Little Havana.



Miami River Special Area Plan commences.

TESTIMONIALS

“The City of Miami is proud to have seven major parks along the public Miami River Greenway, featuring temporary boat dockage, a public boat ramp, kayak launch, pools, playgrounds, gymnasium, community centers, basketball, tennis, baseball and football fields, track, barbecues, and more. The City is thankful for the partnership with the Miami River Commission (MRC), which hires a professional company and brings volunteers to assist in the maintenance of the fabulous riverfront parks. In addition, the City appreciates the MRC for securing grant funding to improve the Miami River.”

– **Barbie Hernandez, City of Miami Parks Recreation Director**

“The 5th ST Marina is happy to break ground in 2022 on a new riverfront restaurant featuring the public Riverwalk. I sincerely appreciate my close 23 year relationship with the Miami River Commission which has brought significant positive changes to the Miami River District, and supported the 5th ST Marina adding a secondary accessory gymnasium and restaurant. In addition we are excited about the significant expansion of the Norseman Boatyard.”

– **Orin Black, 5th Street Marina**

“Hardesty Hanover’s staff are proud to have designed several important Miami River replacement bridges over the past 15 years, including the 1st Street, 12 Avenue, 5th Street and Tamiami Bridges. We are currently designing the replacement rail bridge and are initiating the Project Development and Environment Study for the replacement of the NW 17 Ave Bridge. It has been a pleasure coordinating with the Miami River Commission, which advocates for the needs of pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles, vessels, aesthetics, and the natural environment.”

– **Mike Sileno, Hardesty Hanover**

“My love for the historic Miami River has grown since opening Kiki’s River 3 years ago, and I’m excited to be working on opening additional riverfront restaurants. I appreciate the Miami River Commission’s strong support for the mixed-use Miami River District, for example contracting the Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel, pressure washing the public Miami River Greenway, landscaping, painting over graffiti, picking up litter, and more. The Miami River Commission has an important understanding of the Miami River’s past, present, and future.”

– **Roman Jones, Kiki’s River**

Subcommittee Reports

MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY **Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair**

IN 2021 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 2021, another 7 sections of the public Riverwalk were under construction by the private and public sectors. Over 6.8 miles of the public Miami River Greenway have been constructed, with an additional planned 3.2 miles to complete.

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, State of Florida, 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.

The MRC thanks the City of Miami and its residents for voting to include the Miami River Greenway in the approved Miami Forever Bond Issue, redevelopment of the “Miami Riverside Center,” and “The Wharf”.

STORMWATER **Sallye Jude, Chair**

THE 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 stormwater from this area drains into the Miami River through over one hundred outfalls. The Miami River Commission appreciates Commissioner Eileen Higgins and the Board of County Commissioners for renewing \$140,000 for the Scavenger Water Decontamination vessel’s services in the Miami River. In addition to removing floating debris and hazards to navigation, the Scavenger Vessel significantly improves water quality by decontaminating 600,000 gallons of water per hour and injecting 150,000 liters of oxygen per hour into 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-

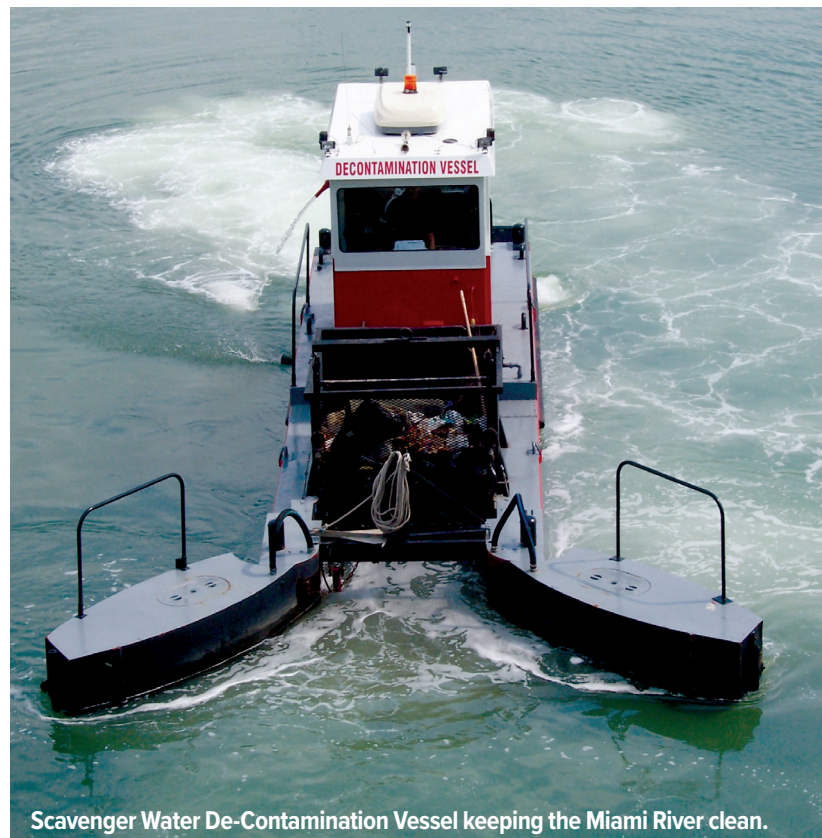
Modal Transportation Plan, Miami River Greenway Action Plan and others, all available for downloading at www.miamirivercommission.org.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE

Philip Everingham, Chair

IN 2021, CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED at “Aston Martin Residences” featuring 381 residential units and public riverwalk. In addition, construction commenced at the Miami River Special Area Plan commenced 1,670 residential units, “Baccarat Residences” featuring 400 residential units and a new riverfront restaurant all featuring the public riverwalk.

RMK Merrill-Stevens recently completed an amazing \$35 million modernization featuring new ship lifts, seawall, and office building. In addition, the important job generating marine industry on Port Miami River is improving with recently completed significant improvements at Apex Marine Boatyard, a sizeable expansion of Norseman Boatyard and Hurricane Cove Marina and Boatyard’s new dockmaster and marine retail building commencing construction soon. Therefore the Miami River District is ripe with mixed-use economic development, commerce and jobs.



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



Antillean Marine international shipping vessel.

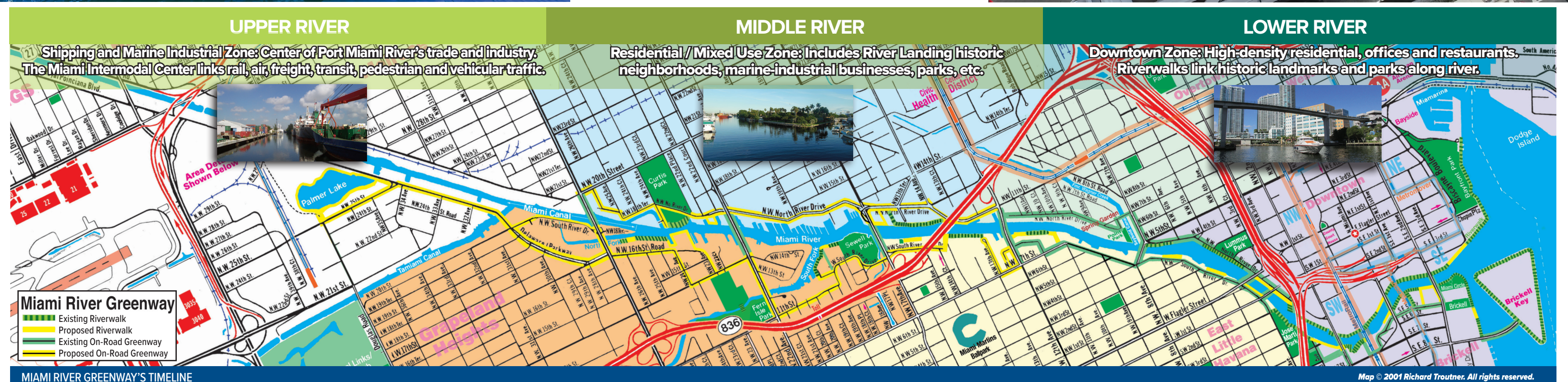
VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

(VIP) identifies and encourages public and private sector riverfront parcels to address various riverfront issues which are potentially detrimental to operations on the River, the environmental quality of the River, and the River's attraction as a destination for residents, tourists and businesses. In 2021 alone, the Miami River "VIP" resulted in 15 Miami River Greenway Beautification volunteer events featuring plantings, removal of illegal dumping, invasive species, and graffiti along several sections of the Miami River, removing derelict vessels, repairing Riverwalk lights, unclogging stormwater drains, removing a floating hazard to navigation and oil sheen, found and corrected sources of contamination etc. The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, FIND, FDOT, private sector, and the fantastic volunteers for their hard work bringing these River improvements to fruition.



RMK Merrill-Stevens historic shipyard recently completed significant renovations including a new seawall, new sheds, new shiplift, etc.



Year	Event
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	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
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
2010-2021	Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed and additional sections funded and designed for construction in 2010-2011

Get Involved!

The Miami River Commission invites groups and individuals from the community to get involved in improving your Miami River District, 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 and picked up litter along the riverwalk during 15 volunteer beautification events in 2021. The MRC is thankful for all of the “Your Miami River Cleanup” sponsors, who contributed volunteers, supplies and funding to the “greening” of the river, and removed an estimated 275,000 pounds of garbage.

All MRC and subcommittee meetings are publicly noticed. Public participation is encouraged.



Miami River Commission Members

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

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

Florida Governor: RON DeSANTIS
Designee: Ms. Patricia "Patty" Harris

Mr. LUIS GARCIA
Member-at-Large Appointed by the Governor-
Designee: Mr. John Michael Cornell

Senator ANA MARIA RODRIGUEZ
Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation
Designee: Senator Ileana Garcia

Mayor DANIELA LEVINE CAVA
Mayor of Miami-Dade County
Designee: Mr. James Murley

Mayor FRANCIS X. SUAREZ
Mayor of the City of Miami
Designee: Ms. Megan Kelly

Commissioner EILEEN HIGGINS
Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Designee: Ms. Nancy Jackson

Commissioner ALEX DIAZ de la PORTILLA
City of Miami Commissioner
Designee: Mr. Alex Barrera

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ-RUNDLE, Esq.
Miami-Dade State Attorney
Designee: Mr. David Maer, Esq.

Mr. CHAUNCEY GOSS
Chair, South Florida Water Management District
Designee: Mr. Scott Wagner, Esq.

Mr. BRUCE BROWN
Chair, Miami River Marine Group
Designee: Mr. Richard Dubin

Ms. CHRISTINA CRESPI
Downtown Development Authority
Designee: Mr. Neal Schafers

Mr. ALFRED SANCHEZ
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: Mr. Mike Simpson

Mr. PHILIP EVERINGHAM
Designee of: Michael Karcher,
Chair of Marine Council

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

Member-at-Large appointed by the
City of Miami Commission

Ex-Officio Members:

**CONGRESSWOMAN
MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR**

CAPTAIN JO-ANN BURDIAN
United States Coast Guard
Captain of the Port of Miami

**Managing Director:
Mr. BRETT BIBEAU**

Designed by: Toni Kirkland LLC

MIAMI RIVER COMMISSION

c/o Robert King High
1407 NW 7 ST, Suite 2
Miami, FL 33125
Ph: 305-644-0544

www.miamirivercommission.org