

# Memorandum



**Date:** July 26, 2022

**To:** Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*  
Mayor

**Subject:** Park Foundation Annual Report for 2021

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At the June 30, 2015, Board of County Commissioners (Board) meeting, the Board approved Resolution No. R-573-15 which approved the amended and restated agreement between the County and the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade Inc. One of the terms of the agreement is for the County to prepare an annual written report to the Board. The Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) has prepared this report in response to this directive.

If additional information is needed, please contact Maria I. Nardi, Director, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, at 305-755-7903.

Attachment A – Parks Foundation Annual Report 2021

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney  
Gerald K. Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney  
Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney  
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff  
Maria I. Nardi, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department  
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board  
Yinka Majekodunmi, CPA, Commission Auditor  
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs  
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator



**Parks Foundation**  
of Miami-Dade

## **2021 Annual Report**



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Dear Friends,

The last year has been an important year for parks. More community members and visitors have come to realize what parks mean to them. Our park system continues to be a place open to all to gather, to play, to enjoy the outdoors. Parks continue to be a place to be used as testing and vaccine sites as the pandemic continues affecting so many.

In Spring of 2021, Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's Thrive305 Countywide Resident Survey, the largest, most representative public issues-oriented survey in Miami-Dade history, published its results, after having collected input from a representative sample of county residents through both a digital outreach and canvassing strategy. Survey findings revealed parks and open spaces as among residents' top three priorities. As parks continue to take center stage and continue to be a priority for residents and visitors, we must commit more deeply to supporting them.

Whether parks are where you go to enjoy an ECO adventure, watch a sea turtle release, ride your bike, or play golf, there is something here for everyone. Young and old, rich or poor, parks are free and one of the only places where it's free to enter.

I encourage all of you reading this to get involved with parks by volunteering, donating, connecting the foundation to your company's giving program, remembering the foundation in your will, or simply by continuing to visit our parks. Serving thousands of children, families, seniors, and diverse cross-sections of community members year-round, parks are a vital resource for the community. Parks belong to everyone. Let's continue supporting them for this generation and those that follow.

With Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grace Bracamonte". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Grace Bracamonte  
Executive Director

Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade  
786-285-2109  
Grace.Bracamonte@liveaparklife.org



### **Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, Inc. Board Members (2021)**

**John Quick, President:** Attorney; Partner, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman; Chair, Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board

**Victor Dover, Vice President:** Urban Designer/Town Planner and Recipient, American Institute of Planners Fellowship Award (highest honor in the planning profession); Partner Dover, Kohl & Partners

**Jose Felix Diaz, Secretary:** Attorney; Partner, Ballard Partners; Former Florida House Representative; Board Member, National Recreation and Park Association

**William R. "Rick" Derrer, Treasurer:** Chief Operating Officer, Gulf Building; Chair, Miami-Dade County Small Business Enterprise Construction Advisory Board

**Caroline O'Connor:** COO, Miami Marlins

**Loren Parra:** Director of Public Affairs, The Miami Foundation

**Dr. Lenore Rodicio:** Senior Fellow, Aspen Institute

**Dwight Stephenson:** President, D. Stephenson Construction

### **Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee (PRCA)**

**Chairman:** Senator Javier D. Souto

**Vice Chairwoman:** Commissioner Eileen Higgins

**Members:** Senator Rene Garcia  
Commissioner Oliver Gilbert  
Commissioner Jean Monestime  
Commissioner Raquel Regalado



**Daniella Levine Cava**  
*Mayor*

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**José "Pepe" Díaz**  
*Chairman*

**Oliver G. Gilbert, III**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Oliver G. Gilbert, III**  
*District 1*

**Jean Monestime**  
*District 2*

**Keon Hardemon**  
*District 3*

**Sally A. Heyman**  
*District 4*

**Eileen Higgins**  
*District 5*

**Rebeca Sosa**  
*District 6*

**Raquel A. Regalado**  
*District 7*

**Danielle Cohen Higgins**  
*District 8*

**Kionne L. McGhee**  
*District 9*

**Senator Javier D. Souto**  
*District 10*

**Joe A. Martinez**  
*District 11*

**José "Pepe" Díaz**  
*District 12*

**Senator René García**  
*District 13*

**Harvey Ruvin**  
*Clerk of Courts*

**Pedro J. Garcia**  
*Property Appraiser*

**Geri Bonzon-Keenan**  
*County Attorney*



**Through the Power of Parks:  
Impacting Lives and Enhancing the Community**

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade was created in 2004 in support of the Building Better Communities Bond Issue when visionary community leaders acknowledged that additional private and public sector support is essential to maintain, expand, and sustain the needs of the rapidly growing community that relies on Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department for quality of life. Today, Miami-Dade County Parks is the nation's 3rd largest County park system and stewards of over 280 heritage, regional and neighborhood parks, 44 recreation centers, 19 public pools, 6 marinas, 17 miles of beaches, 5 golf courses, 3 campgrounds, and 13,800 acres of parks and natural areas, comprised of both passive and active parklands, and nature preserves.

The Parks Foundation remains committed to working closely with Miami-Dade County to foster a healthier, more livable and sustainable Miami-Dade by providing year-round support for park facilities and equitable access to parks programs for our community's residents, with a focus on children, special needs groups, and active older adults. Through our corporate partnerships, membership campaigns, and fundraising initiatives, we support capital projects, scholarships for children, including swimming lessons, after-school and summer camps, and other parks activities.



## Executive Summary

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, it is my pleasure to share our annual report for 2021. This report provides a snapshot of outstanding parks projects and programs we have been privileged to support over the past year. The partnership between the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade and Miami-Dade County advances a shared goal: to improve the health and overall quality of life for everyone through parks!

- In 2021, the Parks Foundation contributed **\$595,800** to Miami-Dade County Parks.
- Year 4 of a **\$1.8 million**, 5-year (2018-2023) award from The Children’s Trust, the largest grant ever awarded to the Parks Foundation, continued to support the expansion of Miami-Dade County Parks’ nationally acclaimed **Fit2Lead** parks program for high-risk youth. In 2021, with COVID-19 restrictions, including limited capacity guidelines still in place, this grant funded the participation of 45 teens who received job training and mentorship through the **Fit2Lead** program. One cohort at a time, the Fit2Lead program is turning out a new generation of leaders, mentors, and park champions.
- A **\$15,000** Batchelor Foundation grant to the Parks Foundation helped purchase new GPS trackers for the Sea Turtle Conservation Program.
- The Parks Foundation donated 20 reusable 55-gallon recycled rain barrels to the Arcola Lakes Park community - a contribution with the potential to supply these households with 26,000 gallons annually of non-chlorinated water for their gardens at no cost.
- The Foundation provided fiscal sponsorship to the Neat Streets Miami-Dade County board through its Million Trees Miami-Dade County and Keep Miami-Dade County Beautiful initiatives, receiving **\$150,000** in funding that increased Miami-Dade County’s tree canopy, and funded the planting of 4,117 trees, and the giveaways of 3,300 trees and 2,466 plants to Miami-Dade County residents.
- The Parks Foundation once again provided fiscal sponsorship to District 9’s Summer Youth Band Camp.

These accomplishments advance the mission of the foundation to mobilize dollars and advocacy in continued support Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces, and in this way, help improve and sustain the community’s recreational, health, educational, environmental, and cultural life. We are proud to provide these results.





**Parks Foundation**  
of Miami-Dade

## **2021 HIGHLIGHTS**

# Health & Fitness

## 2021 Highlights

### 2021 AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMER CAMP PARKS PROGRAMS

#### Fit2Lead

- In 2021 the Parks Foundation, in partnership with Miami-Dade County Parks and other community partners, continued the expansion of Miami-Dade Parks' nationally recognized **Fit2Lead Youth Development and Internship program**, funded by **Year 4** of the largest grant in Parks Foundation history, a **\$1.8 million, 5-year award (2018-2023)** from the Children's Trust. The evidence-based **Fit2Lead** intervention combats poverty, juvenile delinquency and encourages investment by local commerce back into the community – through parks programs! The expanded Fit2Lead model matches Miami-Dade County's most vulnerable high school students from the identified high-need communities of Goulds, Perrine and Richmond Heights with neighborhood businesses who serve as employers, community partners and mentors to the teens. It also facilitates yearlong academic support, social-emotional learning and skill-building in job coaching, the arts, sports and college readiness for these teens through their participation in Fit2Lead at Miami-Dade Parks.
- In 2021, with limited capacity restrictions in place due to COVID-19, **45** youth from high-risk populations within the county participated in the Fit2Lead program. This award-winning, evidence-based, mentoring and leadership parks program serves as a national model and its results are published in scientific journals. Research findings confirm a 31% reduction in juvenile arrests in zip codes where the program was implemented.
- Students participated in social emotional learning classes, art, creative writing, intermural sports, and academic support. Each school year, the interns participate in an end-of-the-year field trip to celebrate their accomplishments and continue to foster team building and community.
- One cohort at a time, the Fit2Lead program is turning out a new generation of leaders, mentors, and park champions.



# Health & Fitness

## 2021 Highlights

### Bike 305

The Parks Foundation partners with Miami-Dade County Mayor's Bike305 initiative and other community partners to help promote cycling as a way to connect people to communities through events and using the trails, paths and greenways that are all part of Miami-Dade County's parks system. Parks Foundation funding helps support Bike305's community events, including bike safety classes and teaching adults and children how to ride a bike.

Every March during Florida Bike Month, which has been designated "Bike305 Month," the Parks Foundation partners with Bike305 and Miami-Dade County Parks to host the signature event, "Bike to Work Day," which kicks off a calendar of cycling activities throughout March. Residents are asked to leave their car keys at home, and join the ride to reduce traffic congestion in Miami-Dade County and experience the stress-relieving health benefits of pedaling a bike. On March 5, 2021, over **200** participants joined a police-escorted 7.5-mile bike ride from Coral Gables to downtown Miami.

In 2021, Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade helped raise **\$7,600** for Bike305 programs.


MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES

Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, on behalf of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava celebrates and invites you to attend the

9TH ANNUAL

# BIKE 305

## Bike to Work Day



Arrive by bike and receive a FREE Bike305 Performance Shirt and a Bike Helmet while supplies last.




**Friday, March 5, 2021**

Assembly Begins at 7 a.m. University Metrorail Station

Bike Ride Begins at 8:15 a.m. Event and ride starts at the University Metrorail Station 5400 Ponce de Leon Blvd.

► Ride Distance: 7.6 miles Pace: Easy to Moderate

Sponsors

  AvMed 

To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in any Miami-Dade Parks sponsored program or meeting, contact Cecil Franks, 305.757.7647 or Cecil.Franks@miamidade.gov at least 7 days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).

# Conservation & Stewardship

## 2021 Highlights

### Improving Local Environmental Quality through Parks Community Engagement and Volunteerism

- The Parks Department's P.L.A.C.E. (Parks Leadership and Community Engagement) Program connects people and parks through volunteer service that enhances park facilities such as Crandon Beach, Gwen Cherry, Kendall Indian Hammocks, Seminole Wayside, Tropical, and others throughout the parks system. In addition to community and group volunteer engagement, P.L.A.C.E. also partners with the Parks Foundation by connecting with community partners who provide grant support to the Foundation to support volunteer programs in parks.
- In September 2021, the Parks Foundation partnered with Miami-Dade County Parks' University of Florida/IFAS division and the National Recreation and Park Association on a giveaway event which provided 20 reusable, recycled, 55-gallon rain barrels to neighbors of the Arcola Lakes Park community, giving residents a way to harvest free, non-chlorinated rainwater to use in watering their gardens. This contribution provides the potential to supply these households with a total of 26,000 gallons annually of free, non-chlorinated water for their gardens.





# Placemaking 2021 Highlights

## Tree Canopies

- In 2021, the Parks Foundation partnered with Miami-Dade County's **Neat Streets Miami-Dade County** board through its Million Trees Miami-Dade County and Keep Miami-Dade County Beautiful initiatives by serving as fiscal sponsor of **\$150,000** in grants awarded to the Foundation that increased Miami-Dade County's tree canopy.
- **Neat Streets Miami/Million Trees Miami** partnered with the Parks Foundation to lead community volunteer projects and other initiatives that planted 4,117 **new trees**, and the giveaways of **3,300 trees and 2,466 plants** to Miami-Dade County residents.
- These trees improve climate resilience and help attract businesses to Miami-Dade. It has been established that improving a community's tree canopy produces numerous benefits, from reducing summer peak temperatures to improving air quality to strengthening social ties among neighbors.
- Canopy trees enhance a community's resiliency by beautifying and greening resident commutes, pollution absorption, wind protection, noise pollution reduction and storm water retention.

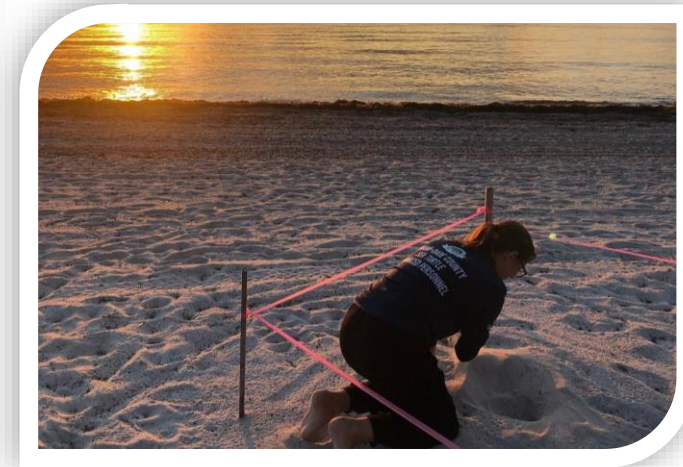
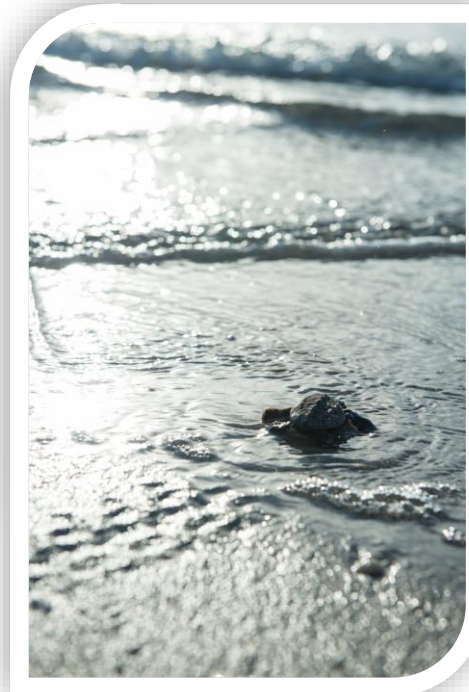


# Conservation & Stewardship

## 2021 Highlights

### Sea Turtle Conservation Program

- In 2021, the Parks Foundation secured a **\$15,000 grant from The Batchelor Foundation** for GPS trackers for the Sea Turtle Conservation Program.
- GPS trackers enhanced the Sea Turtle Conservation Program by providing real time data of all sea turtle activity throughout Miami-Dade County Beaches. The benefits of having a GPS tracking system includes the enhancements of conservation efforts by keeping nests safe, monitoring existing nests, and recording relocated nests. This system aids staff in easily finding nests, making the process of surveying and data collection more seamless, and providing the most accurate and invaluable data reflecting the current status of the sea turtle population in Miami-Dade County.
- In 2021 Miami-Dade Parks' Sea Turtle Conservation team educated 3,164 people and identified, marked, and protected 537 nests as part of a coordinated effort to promote the recovery and number of marine turtles, which is a recognized indicator of the health of our oceans (National Institute of Standards and Technology of the US Department of Commerce).



# Special Parks Events

## 2021 Highlights

### District 9 Band Camp

- In the summer of 2021, Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade once again partnered with Miami-Dade County Commission District 9 as fiscal sponsor of South Dade **Summer Youth Band Camp** with a total value of **\$21,800**.
- **31** Youth participated in the 5-week program, led by renowned retired FAMU Band Director Dr. Julian White
- Marching bands represent a natural element of football programs, many of which are located in communities struggling with gun violence and other high-risk behaviors in youth. The Summer Youth Band Camp, in existence since 2016, takes hundreds of young people off the streets and provides them with a positive environment to learn not only marching and music, but self-worth and useful life skills.



# Foundation Financials

Through the generosity of community residents, foundations, corporate partners, and its Board of Directors the Parks Foundation advances its mission to create a healthier, more livable and sustainable Miami-Dade community by ensuring the implementation of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan and the development of year-round equitable and accessible recreation programs for all, with a focus on children, active older adults and people with disabilities.

<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,108,000
Grants receivable	20,692
Accounts receivable, net	23,182
Prepaid expenses	<u>23,500</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,175,374</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>116,436</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>	
Cash restricted for pass through and agency funds	<u>195,708</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,487,518</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 16,662
Fiscal agency and pass-through funds	195,708
Deferred revenue	<u>77,000</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>289,370</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>289,370</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Net assets without donor restrictions	776,136
Net assets with donor restrictions	<u>422,012</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>1,198,148</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,487,518</u></b>

\*Official 2021 audited financials are pending as of this report's publication

Consistent with national fundraising standards referred to in Section 4(a) of the amended and restated agreement between Miami-Dade County and the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, Inc. approved by Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners Resolution No. R-573-15, and the requirements of Chapter 496 of the Florida Statutes, the Foundation provides the Parks Director an annual report that includes audited financial statements complying with OMB Circular A-133; Form 990 including all attachments as filed with the Internal Revenue Service; and a financial report form as filed with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, pursuant to the requirements of Florida Statutes Section 496.407.



## Message from the President

This past year has been a banner one for the Parks Foundation. We helped support expanded parks programming throughout our County, such as the nationally recognized Fit2Lead program. While we are happy with the results we brought to Miami-Dade County in 2021, we understand that there is still much work to be done to continue strengthening and growing our parks system.

Over the past few years, we as a community have come to understand better the importance of our parks and open spaces. While a strong Parks System has been traditionally recognized as instrumental for better individual health whether through recreational activities or outdoor passive pursuits, our community as a whole is beginning to comprehend the importance of parks beyond individual health. We see evidence around the country of how a strong investment in parks strengthens community engagement, resulting in a reduction in crime and easing the burden on our public safety officers. Similarly, there is evidence that a strong Parks System can stimulate and grow the local economy, something local leaders often cite as key to this county's future. An investment in our Parks System is vital to see that through to fruition. A more robust and well-funded Parks System will bring additional corporate investments and jobs while also attracting new industry leaders to Miami-Dade. In fact, a recent survey from Area Development Magazine found that 75% of corporate executives rated quality of life investments, such as parks, to be important when deciding where to locate their business. Whatever the benefit, it is clear that parks are a key component of our infrastructure, are necessary investments in our community, and are tools for further growing our local economy. We as residents of Miami-Dade stand to benefit as a result.

Parks have been here for us and remain vital for our future growth. Regardless of your age, race, gender, or religion, our parks will welcome you with open arms and have a deep impact on your quality of life. While true before the pandemic, this has been even more apparent lately. We ask that you please join your award-winning Parks System and the Parks Foundation to ensure that our parks and open spaces remain and expand for future generations.

Sincerely,



John J. Quick  
President  
Board of Directors  
Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, Inc.