In 2012, 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. This year another 4 sections of the Greenway were constructed by the private and public sectors. In 2013, another 6 fully funded and designed sections of the Greenway will be built, finishing more than half of the planned 10-mile public Miami River Greenway.

The Miami River Commission (MRC) thanks the Florida Inland Navigation District and the City of Miami for appropriating $1.7 million for the Wagner Creek & Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project in 2012. The fully permitted project now has $3.4 million appropriated. Efforts continue to identify the remaining funding balance for this long awaited project, which will significantly improve the economy and natural environment.
The recently renovated Casa-blanca Seafood Bar and Grill is grateful for the hard work conducted during the Miami River Commission’s coordinated and funded Miami River Greenway beautification events. Frequent wonderful plantings, painting, and cleaning up makes the Miami River more attractive for customers and employees.”
Lazaro Sanchez, Casablanca Seafood Bar & Grill

“When Garcia’s Seafood Grille and Fish Market needed more parking, the Miami River Commission secured funding from the Miami Parking Authority, and vacant land from Miami-Dade County, to create a nearby public paid parking lot, which opened this year. As business owners, the Garcia family sincerely appreciates the Miami River Commission’s support and dedication.”
Luis Garcia, Garcia’s Seafood Grille and Fish Market

“As a homeowner in the beautiful Spring Garden historic district, the Miami River Commission is an excellent resource, from hosting the fun, educational and free Miami Riverday festival, to helping communicate with the appropriate public sector contacts to address needs in the neighborhood.”
Eileen Broton, Spring Garden Homeowner and Resident
historical Miami River's epic story is entering its next intriguing chapter. Over a decade ago the Miami River Commission (MRC) adopted an award-winning strategic plan. The plan recommended supporting the "Middle" and "Upper" Miami River's job generating marine industrial businesses, which 10-years ago were struggling to operate on a shallowed federal navigable channel. After heroic efforts, the Miami River's first-ever Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project was successfully undertaken from 2003-2008. This dredging significantly improved navigation for international shipping vessels and recreational yachts. Today the restored Port of Miami River has new international shipping terminals, recreational boatyards, marinas, is part of the expanded Enterprise Business Zone, the new Free Trade Zone, and was protected by the public whom overwhelmingly voted to approve the "Working Waterfront" State Constitutional Amendment.

**THE STRATEGIC PLAN RECOMMENDED** the large, vacant and contaminated parcels in the "Lower" Miami River's urban core be developed into mixed-income residential projects with public riverwalks. Today those sites have been environmentally remediated, and now feature over 7,000 new affordable, workforce, and luxury residential units, with the celebrated public Miami River Greenway. In addition, the plan recommended the "Middle" Miami River's low-density neighborhoods be preserved. Today homeowner's in the River's historic Spring Garden, Lummus Park, Grove Park, and Durham Park neighborhoods are taking pride and improving their residences to enhance the "Miami River experience."

**TEN YEARS AGO THE PLAN** recommended more public access and green spaces along the Miami River in order to become a destination landscape, featuring special events to further attract residents and tourists alike. Since then, over half of the 10-mile public Miami River Greenway has been constructed, including new Parks such as the Miami Circle, a designated National Historic Landmark. In 2012, the public Riverwalk was the location of the 17th Annual Miami Riverday festival, Annual Ironman Triathlon, Annual ING Marathon, 4th Annual Downtown Riverwalk Festival, monthly Miami River Art Walks, and the 1st Annual Miami River Art Fair, which featured over 500 renowned international artists during Art Basel week. The strategic plan recommended more restaurants along the public Miami River Greenway and a decade later there are 11 new restaurants operating along the Greenway, for an increased total of 15 wonderful culinary experiences to choose from.

**THE MRC THANKS** the strong private-public partnership which brought the success of the Miami River's previous chapter to fruition, including the Dade Congressional Delegation, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Inland Navigation District, Florida Legislature, Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami.

**ALTHOUGH GREAT PROGRESS** has been made, there is still much work to be done including finishing the Miami River Greenway, the Seybold Canal and Wagner Creek Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project, and further revitalization of the marine industries to name a few. Therefore we invite you to join us in writing the Miami River's next exciting chapter.

*Horacio Stuart Aguirre  Chairman, Miami River Commission*
MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY

Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair

THE MRC THANKS THE CITY OF MIAMI, which in 2012 nearly finished construction of three sections of the public Greenway in Spring Garden, East Little Havana, and Brickell West. In 2013, the City will construct three more sections of the fully funded and designed public Miami River Greenway’s south shore from the NW 5 ST Bridge to NW 12 Ave Bridge, and the north shore’s Lummus Park. In addition, the City has sufficient funds to construct the Riverwalk in the Health District (north shore, west of NW 12 Ave) and from the Miami Circle to South Miami Ave. Bridge, both of which will be designed and permitted in 2013.

The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, which in 2013 will commence construction of 4 sections of the public Riverwalk on the south shore at the 5 ST Metro-Mover Station and 2 Ave. Bridge, and along the north shore adjacent to Lummus Park and South Miami Ave. Bridge. In addition, the voter approved funding will be used to construct the designed public riverwalk beneath Metro-Rail on the Miami River’s north and south shores.

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.

STORM WATER

Sallye Jude, Chair

THE ANTIQUATED STORM-WATER 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 Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project. The project is fully permitted, and the MRC thanks FIND and the City of Miami for appropriating $3.4 million for the project. The MRC supports the City’s efforts to secure the remaining funding needed to construct the long awaited and widely supported project. In addition, the MRC supports efforts to implement the action items identified in the 2010 Wagner Creek Walk the Waterbody Identification (WBID), and the Miami River Basin Water Quality Improvement Report. In 2013, agencies will conduct a Walk the Waterbody Identification (WBID) for the Miami River in order to create a plan to achieve the State’s new water quality goal (TMDL).

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 Multimodal Transportation Plan, Miami River Greenway Action Plan and others, all available for downloading at www.miamirivercommission.org.
THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (VIP) identifies and encourages riverfront parcels to address 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 2012 alone, the Miami River “VIP” resulted in the removal of 2 derelict vessels, stopping a fuel leak, 16 Miami River Greenway Beautification volunteer events featuring removal of illegal dumping, invasive species, and graffiti along several sections of the Miami River, repairing street light installations, unclogging storm water drains, and marine patrol increased enforcement of the idle / no wake speed zone. Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, State of Florida, private sector, and the estimated one thousand volunteers for their hard work bringing these River improvements to fruition.

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
VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP) identifies and encourages public and private sector riverfront parcels to address various riverfront issues detrimental to operations on the River, and the attraction for residents, tourists and commerce. The Miami River “VIP” resulted in the removal of 2 derelict vessels, stopping illegal Greenway Beautification activities, removal of illegal dumping, along several sections of the River, and volunteers for their hard work. The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, FIND, FDOT, private sector, and volunteers for their hard work bringing these River improvements to fruition.

**Miami River Greenway’s Timeline**

- **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

- **2010-2012**
  - Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
Learn more about the river’s history, view records of our meetings, see all our major reports on our web site at www.miamirivercommission.org a great resource for what’s happening on and near the river.

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