In 2013, 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 5 sections of the Greenway were constructed by the private and public sectors. In 2014, another 3 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 another $2 million for the Wagner Creek & Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project in 2013. The fully permitted project now has $5.4 million appropriated. Efforts continue to identify the remaining funding balance for this long awaited project, which will significantly improve the economy and natural environment.

COVER: Mixed-use Miami River’s Point Park, historic Spring Garden neighborhood, boatyards, International shipping terminal, and Seybold Canal (on right) in the “Middle River”.
The historic 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 shallow 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 who 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 2013, the public Riverwalk was the location of the 17th Annual Miami Riverday festival, Annual Ironman Triathlon, Annual ING Marathon, Annual Orange Bowl Paddle Championship, 5th Annual Downtown Riverwalk Festival, and the 2nd Annual Miami River Art Fair featuring 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 13 new restaurants operating along the Greenway, for an increased total of 17 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
Testimonials

“As a taxpayer and homeowner directly on the Seybold Canal, I have attended numerous Miami River Commission public meetings and sincerely appreciate the MRC’s persistent efforts to bring the Seybold Canal and Wagner Creek Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project to fruition. I hope the City of Miami and State of Florida dredge the toxic contaminants, including dioxin, from their waterway in the near future.”
Charlie Hand, Seybold Canal Resident

“The Miami River Commission (MRC) has been very helpful and supportive of our efforts to open a new riverfront restaurant, “Seasalt and Pepper”. From helping the City with new landscaping along the public Miami River Greenway, to arranging maintenance of the storm water system, the effective MRC is always willing and able to assist.”
Carlos Miranda, Co-Owner, Seasalt and Pepper

“We have noted that the Miami River Commission works tirelessly to maintain the public realm in the best possible condition”
Jose Luis Feriera de Melo, Developer of Mixed-Use “Flagler on the River”

Testimonials
MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY  Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair

THE MRC THANKS THE CITY OF MIAMI, which in 2013 nearly finished construction of two sections of the public Greenway's south shore from the NW 5 ST Bridge to NW 12 Ave Bridge. 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 2014.

THE MRC THANKS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, which in 2013 nearly completed 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 in 2014.

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 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 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 $5.4 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, which will improve the environment and economy. 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, 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 Multimodal Transportation Plan, Miami River Greenway Action Plan and others, all available for downloading at www.miamirivercommission.org.
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

1998
Florida Legislature passes Miami River Improvement Act

2000
In partnership with the Trust for Public Land, the MRC, City of Miami and Miami-Dade County unanimously approve Miami River Greenway Action Plan

2001
Sections of the Lower River Greenway constructed

2003
Sections of the Upper River Greenway constructed
MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY’S TIMELINE

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, and the attraction for residents, tourists and businesses. In 2013 alone, the Miami River “VIP” resulted in the removal of a derelict vessel, stopping a sanitary sewer overflow, 16 Miami River Greenway Beautification volunteer events featuring removal of illegal dumping, invasive species, and graffiti along the river, repairing Riverwalk water drains, reopening Curtis Park’s public boat ramp, removing a floating hazard, etc. Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, private sector, and the estimated over two thousand volunteers for their hard work bringing these improvements to fruition.

Scavenger 2000 Water De-Contamination Vessel keeping the Miami River clean.
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. You can also call us at 305-644-0544, or email us at miamiriver@bellsouth.net. We’re at 1407 NW 7th Street, Suite D.

The Miami River Commission thanks the over 2,000 volunteers of all ages and walks of life who created parks and greenways along the river through a series of monthly volunteer Miami River beautification events. 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 18th Annual Miami Riverday Festival is scheduled April 5, 2014, at Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive. Just like the 17th annual festival, held April 6, 2013, Miami Riverday features free river boat tours, live music, paddleboard races, 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:

South Florida Water Management District
Miami-Dade County
City of Miami
Downtown Development Authority
MIRA USA
University of Miami
Florida International University
BlueCross/BlueShield
Florida Wood Recycling
Miami Dolphins
Miami Marlins
Miami Seaquarium
Florida Drawbridge
Public Riverwalk at Miami Circle Park, funded by the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, Downtown Development Authority, South Florida Water Management District and the State of Florida.

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.