In 2018 voters overwhelmingly approved another section of the public riverwalk to be constructed by the private sector at no cost to the taxpayers. Recent successes in the Miami River District include construction along another 4 sections of the public Miami River Greenway at “River Landing” featuring 420,000 square feet of retail and 506 residential units, at “One River Point” featuring 402 residential units, 20 hotel rooms and rooftop restaurant, at “Aston Martin Residences” featuring 384 residential units, and at “Miami River Walk” featuring 698 residential units. In addition, renovations are under construction at RMK Merrill-Stevens Boatyard, including a new seawall new infrastructure and a new ship lift.

The Miami River Commission approved the following plans in 2018:

• Mixed-use redevelopment of the “Miami Riverside Center” featuring the public riverwalk, residential, office, retail and riverfront restaurants

• Mixed-use redevelopment featuring public riverwalk, a new hotel, residential, retail and riverfront restaurants

• Mixed-use redevelopment on a vacant site in East Little Havana, featuring the public riverwalk, hotel and a riverfront restaurant.
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 8,612 new residential units (additional 6,757 approved units), 5 major hotels (additional 5 planned hotels with 1,200 new rooms), 21 operating restaurants (additional 23 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 multicultural 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, barbeques, picnic tables, a boat ramp, kayak and paddleboard launch, 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 2019 funding providers: Miami-Dade County ($200,000), City of Miami ($50,000), and private sector advertisers in the MRC’s 16th Annual Miami River Map and Guide, 8th Annual Miami River Calendar, and 23rd Annual Miami Riverday. 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 long standing board members and Miami River Champions Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, County Commissioner Bruno Barreiro, Daniel O’Keefe, and Roselvic Noguera for their years of volunteer service. The MRC welcomes our newest volunteer board members Governor Ron DeSantis, South Florida Water Management District Chairman Federico Fernandez, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, and City of Miami Commissioner Wifredo “Willy” Gort.

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 Bagué – 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
It has been my honor and privilege to serve as a volunteer Miami River Commission board member for the past twenty years. In partnership with the public and private sectors, our team successfully completed major maintenance dredging and environmental cleanup projects in the Miami River, Seybold Canal, Wagner Creek, constructed 6.5 miles of the public Miami River Greenway, and made new riverfront parks.”
- Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

“I’m very proud to have helped create the Miami River Commission when I was a State Legislator, and then volunteered as a board member for the past over 18 years as a County Commissioner. The Miami River Commission has a proven track record for improving the natural environment, generating jobs, and supporting the mixed-use Miami River District towards achieving its full potential.”
- Bruno Barreiro

“Rails-to-Trails Conservancy strongly supports the Miami River Commission and its dedication to protecting and enhancing the river. Together, with the City of Miami, Mr. Bibeau and the Commission have quietly pieced together 65 percent of the planned 10-mile greenway along the river. The riverwalk is at the front-line of sea level rise efforts, active transportation, economic development and an important component of the Miami Loop. We appreciate our partnership and shared commitment to enhancing Miami through trails and stewardship.”
- Keith Laughlin, President, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

“I thank the Miami River Commission and the residents of the City of Miami for overwhelmingly voting to approve the mixed-use redevelopment of the Miami Riverside Center, featuring the public Riverwalk, residential, retail, riverfront restaurants, and new income for the City of Miami. The Miami River Commission provided an excellent and fair public forum for the development team, City of Miami, and general public to communicate and plan the best possible project, which directly benefits the entire community.”
- David Adler, President, Adler Group
MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY  Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair

IN 2018 THE MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY continued construction, featuring a public pedestrian & bicycle pathway, landscaping, decorative lights, wayfinding signage, historic markers, informational kiosks, benches, art installations, and other amenities. In 2018, another 4 sections of the public Riverwalk were under construction by the private sector. Over 6.5 miles of the public Miami River Greenway has been constructed, with an additional planned 3.5 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, and the redevelopment of the “Miami Riverside Center.”

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, Mayor Carlos Giménez and the Board of County Commissioners for appropriating $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 2018, CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED at River Landing featuring 420,000 square feet of retail, 506 residential units, and the public riverwalk, construction continued at Aston Martin Residences featuring 384 residential units and the public riverwalk, construction commenced at Miami River Walk Apartments featuring 698 units and the public riverwalk, and renovations are under construction at RMK Merrill-Stevens shipyard, featuring a new seawall, and new ship lift. In addition, the MRC favorably received FDOT’s “Miami River Freight Improvement Plan”. Therefore the Miami River District is ripe with mixed-use economic development, commerce and jobs.
Residential / Mixed Use Zone: Includes historic neighborhoods, marine-industrial businesses, parks, etc.

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

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

2007
Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2008
Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2010
Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2018
Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2020
Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Frank Balzebre, Chair

THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN identifies and encourages riverfront parcels to address which are potentially detrimental to the River, the environmental quality of the River's attraction as a destination for residents, tourists and businesses. In 2018 alone resulted in 23 major Miami River Greenway volunteer events featuring picking up debris, invasive species, sections of the Miami River Greenway, repairing Riverwalk lights, unblocking storm drains, removing a floating hazard, and corrected sources of contamination. MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, FDOT, private sector, and the hard work bringing these River improvements to fruition.

UPPER 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: Includes historic neighborhoods, marine-industrial businesses, parks, etc.

MID RIVER

Existing Riverwalk
Proposed Riverwalk
Existing On-Road Greenway
Proposed On-Road Greenway

VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Frank Balzebre, Chair

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 2018 alone, the Miami River "VIP" resulted in 23 major Miami River Greenway Beautification volunteer events featuring plantings, removal of illegal dumping, invasive species, sections of the Miami River Greenway, repairing Riverwalk lights, unblocking storm drains, removing a floating hazard, and corrected sources of contamination etc. The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, FIND, FDOT, private sector, and the hard work bringing these River improvements to fruition.
Downtown Zone: Urban, high-density residential, offices, commercial businesses. Riverwalks link historic landmarks and parks along river.

Residential / Mixed Use Zone: Includes historic neighborhoods, marine-industrial businesses, parks, etc.

MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY'S TIMELINE

2002 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
2003 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
2004 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
2005 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
2006 Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan created by Metropolitan Planning Organization and MRC recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • Greenway construction continues
2007 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
2008 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
2009 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed
2010-2018 Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

MOUTH 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.

MOUTH OF THE MIAMI RIVER INCLUDING THE PUBLIC RIVERWALK IN MIAMI CIRCLE PARK, A DESIGNATED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK.
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, painted murals, picked up litter, removed invasive plants and spread recycled mulch along the riverwalk during 23 major volunteer beautification events in 2018. 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 23rd Annual Miami Riverday festival is scheduled April 6, 2019, in Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive. Just like the 22nd annual festival, held April 7, 2018, 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 usually meets on the first Monday of the month at noon, in the conference room at 1407 NW 7 Street.

MRC thanks volunteers and sponsors:

State of Florida
Miami-Dade County
City of Miami
Downtown Development Authority
One River Point
Miami Dolphins
Miami Marlins
University of Miami
Hands On Miami
Florida International University
Florida Wood Recycling
Florida Drawbridge
Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Leadership Miami
Country Day High School
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