

Power of Parks

PARKS FOUNDATION OF MIAMI-DADE





PHOTO BY DEPUHL

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Placemaking



11

**Health and
Fitness**



20

Volunteers



23

**Special
Events**



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Message from the President

If you were to imagine a city that could have anything and everything you've ever wanted, would it include a place where people could safely and comfortably walk, bike and play? Would it have beautiful, tree-lined paths and fields where you could picnic and relax? Would it be your destination for family gatherings and recreation? If your answer is yes, then you understand the Power of Parks.

Parks have the power to transform people and places. Through attention, advocacy and action, we have the power to transform our community and our lives through a great park system.

The Parks Foundation continues its mission to create a healthier, more livable and sustainable community by ensuring the implementation of the Parks Open Space Master Plan and the development of outstanding year-round park and recreation programs for citizens of all ages and abilities. To do this we expanded the number of people that serve on our board, enhanced our membership program and focused on outreach efforts to

attract new friends and donors. To help conserve and beautify our parks, we host four signature service days each year where we roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty.

Become a Foundation member today at www.liveaparklife.org.

Join us in our efforts to sustain and grow Parks in this community.

Adopt a park, bike with us, walk with us, celebrate with us.

There is Power in Parks.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raul A. Garcia'.

Raul A. Garcia, CPA

President

Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
-Margaret Mead

Letter from the Director

As I enter the home stretch of a thirty-five year career with Parks, I can't help but reflect on the changes, challenges and triumphs the Department has experienced. Whether it was during my time as a young intern, a park manager or now as Director, my goal was and continues to be to ensure that our park system grows and remains equitable and accessible to every citizen in Miami-Dade County. With the support and commitment of the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, I am confident it will.

I am extremely proud of the strides and improvements we've made over the years. Last year in particular, our focus on encouraging a healthy lifestyle included the expansion of our afterschool and summer camp programming; the implementation of a Youth Enrichment Program for at-risk teens to provide enriched sports and mentoring; and maintaining year-round programs for nearly 6,000 active older adults.

Partnerships with institutions like the University of Miami School of Medicine and the Florida Department of Public Health confirm that our *Fiz2Play™* and similar evidence-based programs positively impact the lives of participants. Collaborating with sponsors like AvMed to host the Morning Mile at summer camps demonstrates our shared commitment to instill healthy behaviors at an early age.

As custodians of the County's 270 parks, 13,573 acres and additional 21,000 acres of conservation lands, the Department's commitment to conservation and stewardship is at the forefront. We rolled out recycling services at 86 parks, upgraded water conservation methods and implemented irrigation management systems to improve how we

use water. And we continue to expand opportunities to connect with nature by hiking or riding on a trail, kayaking or snorkeling at one of our beaches, and enjoying the great outdoors.

In 2015, we unveiled the Amelia Earhart Soccer Complex and the Tom Sawyer Play Island, a 7,500 square-foot playground offering kids an opportunity to experience their own adventures at Amelia Earhart Park. We dedicated Fitness Zone® areas, restored Tropical Park's Track and Field and unveiled a new football field and scoreboard at Ives Estates Park. We are working with partners to build linear parks like The Underline and the Ludlam Trail, and are connecting with homeowner associations and community-based organizations to activate and enrich neighborhood parks like Military Trail Park.

My love of parks will continue to grow. Thanks to the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade and its remarkable Board for sharing the incredible Power of Parks with everyone in this community.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Kardys". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jack Kardys
Director
Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces

The Power of Parks

We can all identify a park as a place of leisure or where to go when seeking some necessary 'down time.' But is 'powerful' a word that comes to mind when thinking about parks? It should be, because parks have the power to transform entire neighborhoods, improve the environment, reduce crime, raise property values and impact people's lives and their health.

The power of parks is evident in every thriving community, in every well-planned streetscape with broad sidewalks, tree-lined roads, and safe paths for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. It is evident in every neighborhood park, filled with residents playing a sport, strolling with their families, or walking their dog.

When people are outside enjoying nature, moving their bodies and living life, the power of parks is self-evident.

Parks touch everyone's lives.

Following the successful model used to build Gratigny Plateau Park, which transformed an entire community surrounding the small neighborhood park, the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade is focusing much of its fundraising efforts to support Miami-Dade Parks' plan to improve Arthur Woodard Park.

Arthur Woodard Park is a 2.2 acre, undeveloped neighborhood park, in District 2 between NW 12 Avenue and NW 99 Street, west of I-95, tucked inside the Twin Lakes neighborhood.

Improvements planned for the park include a walking path, shade trees, playground, fitness area, benches and a picnic shelter, as well as beautiful landscaping. There is currently \$450,000 that has been earmarked for these improvements but another \$300,000 is needed and will be raised through efforts spearheaded by the Foundation.

Once the park is completed, families will have their own park to walk to where they can exercise, play with their children, gather for a picnic and create lasting memories. Who says that parks are not 'powerful?' Just ask the residents of Twin Lakes.



Parks Facts 2015



270

PARKS



140

MILES OF GREENWAY
SYSTEM DEVELOPED



21

FITNESS ZONES



\$300M+

IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



21,617

ADDITIONAL NON-PARK LANDS

AREAS OF HIGH-LEVEL GREENNESS, SHOW:



49

fewer chronic
conditions/
1,000 residents



14%

risk
reduction
for diabetes



13%

risk
reduction for
hypertension



10%

risk reduction
for lipid
disorders



Placemaking

The Power of Parks: Placemaking -

Transforming Miami-Dade through Parks and Public Places. Completed 74 Capital Projects; awarded 42 Capital Projects.



Designed and built the \$4.6M Tropical Park Football Stadium and Track and Field.



Designed and built the \$3.9M Amelia Earhart Soccer Complex with field center, concession center and picnic area.



Hosted the first National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Innovation Lab, featuring Parks nationally-acclaimed work on Health and the Built Environment.



Hosted the 2015 Think Bike workshop, in partnership with the Dutch Embassy bicycle experts, MPO and Transit to design a multimodal corridor along The Underline.

Built and designed the \$500K Tom Sawyer's Play Island and Playground at Amelia Earhart Park.



Built and designed the \$1.22M Orange Bowl Field and Scoreboard at Ives Estates Park.



The Underline partnered with Miami-Dade Transit and Friends of The Underline to select New York design consulting firm James Corner Field Operations as the firm to develop the vision and Master Plan for The Underline, the 10-mile linear park underneath the Metrorail line.

Miami-Dade Parks successfully acquired **Special Taxing Districts** from the Public Works Department, and completed a thorough analysis of the program to ensure compliance with County ordinances and State statutes, improved procedures for rate-setting and strengthened its administrative oversight.

The **Causeway** division successfully implemented the State's "SunPass" system on the Rickenbacker Causeway, allowing drivers with an existing SunPass account to have access to the Key. Revenues increased by 20%.



Modera Colonnade Park is a perfect example of an urban park in a mixed-use area, following the principles of the Parks Open Space Master Plan. Built by the developers of Colonnade at Dadeland, LLC, as a part of the development of apartments at Modera at Colonnade, and designed in partnership with Miami-Dade Parks, the one-acre public park includes a playground, dog park, open play areas, shade canopies, landscaping and site furniture.



Health and Fitness

The Power of Parks: Health and Fitness -

impacting a person's health and wellness through access to parks, facilities, equipment, and evidenced-based programs conducted by certified health and wellness instructors.



Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension completed a Health and Nutrition program that included nearly 1,800 adults in families with limited resources (80% in poverty). These programs resulted in a 97% increase in healthful eating practices, 86% increase in food safety practices and a 60% increase in physical activity.



Coca-Cola Troops for Fitness, a health and wellness program led by military veterans, completed its second year. Total number of participants impacted by the fitness program: 20,169.





Total of 12,567 children received Learn-to-Swim lessons taught by American Red Cross-certified instructors at pools in Miami-Dade Parks. In addition, 980 children received Learn-to-Swim scholarships for free beginner swim and water safety classes.





Miami-Dade Parks' Fit2Play™ after-school programs provided 1,443 children, ages 6-14, with fully supervised activities focused on fitness, nutrition and wellness, while developing their appreciation of nature, science and the cultural arts. More than 650 children attended the Fit2Play™ after-school program for free or at a reduced rate.



Miami-Dade Parks' summer and seasonal camps provided 6,436 children, ages 6-14, with a wide range of diverse activities in its Fit2Play™ or specialized camp programs. All camps featured weekly field trips, Learn-to-Swim instruction and the annual "End-of-Summer Bash" at Tropical Park Equestrian Center – a fun outdoor field day with games, friendly sports competitions and lunch.

Hosted 11 Mayor's Championship sporting tournaments reaching 8,500 youth athletes who competed in tennis, swimming, football, golf, track & field and basketball.



The Active Older Adults program provided a variety of fitness programs and classes, including Enhance Fitness classes, yoga, Tai Chi, and boot-camp style outdoor fitness workouts to 455 older adults each month.



AvMed set up "charging stations" with a variety of whole fruits and healthy smoothie recipes at each Active Older Adult fitness site to help participants refuel after their workouts.



Healthy Choices Clinics by Walgreens provided 19 weekly health clinics at nine Active Older Adults park sites.



Conservation & Stewardship

The Power of Parks: Conservation & Stewardship -

protecting our natural areas, wildlife and open spaces, connecting people of all ages to nature, creating park stewards and engaging communities in conservation practices and education.



Million Trees Miami planted 24,232 trees in 2015, bringing the grand total to 214,361 trees planted since 2011.





In partnership with the Office of Historic Preservation, the Deering Estate completed both archeological and geologic surveys and assessments of the property, discovering new archeological sites ranging in era from Paleo to Pioneer; the Tequesta Midden, a known site, was determined to be a much larger habitation than previously recorded.



Beach operations removed 1,494.87 tons or 2,856,280 pounds of trash, and received an almost perfect cleanliness score by Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld, Chief Learning and Development Officer, Organization Development Performance Initiatives from the City of Miami Beach.

Implemented recycling services at 86 parks.



In 2015, the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program of the UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension Office, conducted 310 landscape assessments with single family homeowners and large commercial property owners to improve the water efficiency of their landscaping irrigation system through the Landscape Irrigation Evaluation and Rebate Program. The FYN program also conducted 113 educational workshops, presentations and outreach events on outdoor water conservation with 7,580 participants.

Upgraded the IBM SmartWater software and implemented the Rain Bird irrigation management software, to improve the monitoring of water usage, the ability to avoid leaks and to optimize athletic field watering.

As part of its national and international wildlife conservation work, Zoo Miami experienced the birth or hatching of 49 animals representing 11 endangered or critically endangered species of birds, reptiles and mammals.



The Deering Estate Foundation closed on the generous gift of Marta Weeks-Wulf's 8.75 acre property, expanding the Deering Estate's footprint as an international, cultural and ecological field station. Visiting academia and researchers now have access to resources for EEL conservation and research.



Volunteers

The Power of Parks: Volunteers

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade offers a variety of opportunities to individuals and companies interested in volunteering to help improve Miami-Dade County Parks. Four signature service days are hosted annually: the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (January), Global Youth Service Day (April), National Day of Service and Remembrance (September), and National Public Lands Day (September). Custom volunteer projects are also available throughout the year. We welcome financial and in-kind contributions.



With the support of AARP, Miami Dolphins Special Teams Driven by Chevy, Florida International University, Cabot Creamery and the Miami Dade College Institute for Civic Engagement and Democracy, volunteers spruced up Gwen Cherry Park during Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

In partnership with Marlins Ayudan and HandsOn Miami, children and teens made an environmental impact on the shores, trails and preserves at Crandon Park during Global Youth Service Day.



With the support of the Miami Dolphins Special Teams driven by Chevy and AARP Foundation, local students did their part during the National Day of Service at Arcola Park.



National Public Lands Day

Volunteers participated in the nationwide event dedicated to preserving and honoring park systems. Park sites included Arch Creek Park, Black Point Park, Crandon Park, Deering Estate, Greynolds Park, Highland Oaks Park, Homestead Bayfront Park, Kendall Indian Hammocks Park, Matheson Hammock Park and Pelican Harbor Marina. Park managers provided a brief presentation of the history and unique natural habitat for each park.

A musician with long blonde hair, wearing a black t-shirt and blue jeans, is performing on a stage. They are holding a guitar and have one hand raised in the air. A microphone on a stand is in front of them. The stage floor has some electronic equipment. In the background, a large crowd of people is watching the performance, and there are many green trees under a blue sky with some clouds. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, suggesting it's late afternoon or early evening.

Special Events

The Power of Parks: Special Events

Miami-Dade Parks and the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade host events that support parks throughout the year.



On March 5, 2015, the 27th Annual In the Company of Women Awards, presented by Macy's, honored some of South Florida's most influential women. Honorees ranged from an editorial cartoonist whose illustrations challenged a corrupt government, to a prestigious doctor who braved the Ebola front lines in Africa to treat those infected. Florida feminist and women's rights activist Roxcy O'Neal Bolton was presented with the key to the City of Coral Gables by Coral Gables Mayor Jim Cason.





Love-In Party in the Park, an outdoor music festival celebrating the '60s, '70s and '80s at Greynolds Park, celebrated its twelfth year with American music legends "The Family Stone" and "The Guess Who" performing before loyal fans at this annual event celebrating the history of this Miami-Dade Heritage park.

Miami-Dade Parks kicked off its free Noches Tropicales 2014-2015 concert season with a star-studded Latin Gala concert at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium on October 17. The Gala concert was led by American Grammy Award-winning music sensation Marlow Rosado and La Riqueña band. The gala event was sponsored by Target, the Knight Foundation, Samsung Galaxy, Bacardi, Publix Sabor, Coca-Cola and T-Mobile.

Noches Tropicales strives to bring free culturally diverse entertainment to everyone. The series has showcased more than 32 evening concerts at Tropical Park and more than 45,000 patrons have attended these since its inception in 2005.



Deering Estate exhibited more than \$350,000 in artwork and presented more than 250 artists - 12 contemporary and historic exhibits, nine concerts, three master classes, three poetry readings, teen theatre classes, Greater Miami Youth Symphony preparatory music class, One Minute Play Festival and hosted six playwrights as part of the Playwright Development Program, in partnership with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs.

A woman with dark hair and sunglasses is sitting on a red and green striped blanket on a green lawn. She is leaning against a large, light-colored tree trunk and reading a book. In the background, there is a large, two-story stone building with a red-tiled roof and a central tower. The building has arched windows and doorways, and a covered walkway on the ground floor. The sky is clear and blue.

Grants

The Power of Parks: Grants -

The Parks Department manages 61 Federal, State and local grants worth \$25,638,000.



National Recreation and Park Association and Disney's "Parks Build Community Grant" awarded \$20,000 to Goulds Park for a new community garden.



The Deering Estate received more than \$200,000 in grant funds, including a grant from the Everglades Foundation to establish a Statewide Field Study Program that uses nature centers and restoration sites as informal science education locations.



The UPS Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant to the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade and its Million Trees Miami Fund to plant shade-tree canopy at Amelia Earhart Bark Park. Volunteers from UPS Americas participated in an employee day of service at the park where they planted trees and joined in other beautification projects.





Financials

Financial Overview

PARKS FOUNDATION OF MIAMI-DADE, INC.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	2015	2014
	Total	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions	\$ 483,119	\$ 728,226
Investment income	(3,054)	1,915
	<u>480,065</u>	<u>730,141</u>
Special events	48,624	289,455
Less: Direct costs	(20,485)	(245,728)
	<u>28,139</u>	<u>43,727</u>
Net assets released from temporary restrictions	-	-
Total support and revenue	<u>508,204</u>	<u>773,868</u>
EXPENSES		
Program services	53,106	233,741
Fundraising	47,203	133,489
Management and general	187,324	71,547
Total expenses	<u>287,633</u>	<u>438,777</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	220,571	335,091
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING	<u>1,247,594</u>	<u>912,503</u>
NET ASSETS - ENDING	<u>\$ 1,468,165</u>	<u>\$ 1,247,594</u>

\$100,000+

Fontainebleau Place
Marlins Foundation

\$25,000 - \$50,000+

Miami-Dade County
UPS Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Macy's
National Recreation & Park Association

\$5,000 - \$9,999

AECOM
Alliance for a Healthier Generation
Commissioner Esteban Bovo, Jr.
Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava
IMG
Mack Cycle and Fitness
Manny Miranda Insurance Agency, Inc.
Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.
Santa's Enchanted Forest
The Grainger Foundation
The Miami Foundation
Waste Management

\$2,500 - \$4,999

AARP
Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro
Beckman Coutler Foundation
Robin and Barry Blaxberg
Calvary Chapel
Miami Dolphins Special Teams
Ocean Conservancy
Odebrecht Construction
Town of Cutler Bay
U.S. Soccer 5
Walgreens

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Alvarez & Marsal
Dick Anderson
Baptist Health South Florida
Coconut Grove Bank
Karen Evans
Ivonne Fernandez
Florida International University
Raul A. Garcia
Maira Diaz-Giusti
HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital
Commissioner Sally A. Heyman
Miami Hitches

Jack and Diane Kardys
Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay
Miami-Dade County Commission for Women
Miami-Dade Soccer League
John R. Squitiero
Thomas Trkla
University Baptist Church of Coral Gables

\$250 - \$999

Black Point Yacht and Sailing Club
Abbey Chase
Cutler Bay Business Association Inc.
Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson
Perri Lee Roberts & Steven Elias
Susan Ervin
Mick Gnaegy
Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan
Loggerhead Marina
Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce
Miami Dade College
Patrice Gillespie-Smith
Commissioner Rebeca Sosa
Patricia A. Tanski
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Alex and Antonio Valencia

*Gifts received between Jan. 1, 2015 and Dec. 31, 2015.
We apologize if we omitted your name.*



Partners



Board Members

Raul A. Garcia
President

Dick Anderson
Vice President

Maira Diaz-Giusti
Treasurer

James DiBernardo
Secretary

William R. “Rick”
Derrer

Karen Evans

Ivonne Fernandez

Jack Kardys

Jorge Luis Lopez

Lisa Martinez

Grant Miller

Norman C. Powell

Maria Lamas Shojaee

John Squitero

as of June 1, 2016



PHOTO BY DEPUHL

**THERE IS
MORE THAN
ONE WAY
TO BE SOCIAL
AT
PARKS**



@miamidadeparks



www.liveaparklife.org

PARKS FOUNDATION OF MIAMI-DADE 275 NW 2nd Street, Suite 546 • Miami, Florida 33128 • 305.755.7804