



Parks Foundation
of Miami-Dade

2020 Annual Report

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Message from the President

As we look back on one of the more challenging years in recent memory, Miami-Dade County's parks and open spaces are undoubtedly at the forefront of all that happened to our community in 2020. As the only place where people could meet socially, exercise, or spend valuable solitary time communing with nature during the pandemic, our parks allowed us to maintain some sense of normalcy during a turbulent and hectic year.

At the beginning of the pandemic, parks were the only places available to our community for any sort of mental or physical release. Highlighting the importance of our open spaces is that the County's Parks Department was the first government service to open and welcome back residents and visitors alike after initial COVID-19 closures. Parks employees were essential workers and first responders, overseeing the implementation of safety protocols at our park facilities, managing and staffing food distributions and COVID-19 testing sites. The dedication of Miami-Dade Parks staff allowed us to enjoy time communing with nature, see our family and friends in a safe outdoor setting, and our children to get outside and experience the world beyond a computer screen while safely social distancing.

Miami-Dade County's parks system is also an economic driver for our community. The relatively recent emphasis on quality of life by expanding corporations (even before the pandemic) underscored the importance that parks play in attracting and keeping key businesses in our community and thereby expanding our economic and industrial footprint. By expanding parks' footprint and reach, whether through pocket parks, linear parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, or larger regional parks, we will be able to create greater community connectivity to further enhance our quality of life. Make no mistake, Miami-Dade County Parks Department will be amongst the key factors in helping to shrink the growing wealth gap in Miami-Dade County. The Parks Foundation has continued its efforts to support all residents of Miami-Dade through efforts such as (1) expanding the nationally acclaimed Fit2Lead parks program for high-risk youth, including supporting increased jobs internship programming; (2) partnering with organizations like the NFL to bring much needed refurbishment and improvements to Miami-Dade County Parks that expanded equitable access to sports programming on new ballfields and facilities. Such programming funded by the Parks Foundation is a vital component of Miami-Dade County's plan to provide more opportunities and equal access to those opportunities. As a result, it is more important than ever that we continue to support our parks system and look to grow and expand it in the future.

In 2021, I invite you to continue exploring Miami-Dade County parks. Go beyond those in your neighborhood to see all there is to offer. We have a world-class parks system which is studied and emulated by others worldwide. However, none of this would be possible without the leadership of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, especially Senator Javier Souto, who chairs the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee and has led the development of Miami-Dade County's world class parks system! We are also deeply appreciative to our community partners, and especially involved residents: our park champions! I truly hope that we will continue to make 2021 the year of parks!

Sincerely,



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

Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, Inc. Board Members (December 2020)

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, Panza Maurer Law Firm; 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)

Jack Kardys: Chair, Board of Directors, National Recreation and Park Association; former President, Florida Recreation and Park Association; former Director, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

Lisa Martinez: President, LM Genuine Solutions

Caroline O’Connor: COO, Miami Marlins

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 Chairman: Commissioner Jean Monestime

Members: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Commissioner Eileen Higgins
Commissioner Xavier Suarez



Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Audrey M. Edmonson
Chairwoman

Rebeca Sosa
Vice Chairwoman

Barbara J. Jordan
District 1

Jean Monestime
District 2

Audrey M. Edmonson
District 3

Sally A. Heyman
District 4

Eileen Higgins
District 5

Rebeca Sosa
District 6

Xavier L. Suarez
District 7

Daniella Levine Cava
District 8

Dennis C. Moss
District 9

Senator Javier D. Souto
District 10

Joe A. Martinez
District 11

José "Pepe" Díaz
District 12

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
District 13

Harvey Ruvin
Clerk of Courts

Pedro J. Garcia
Property Appraiser

Abigail Price-Williams
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 Parks is the nation's 3rd largest park system and stewards of over 275 heritage, regional and neighborhood parks, 40 recreation centers, 19 public pools, 6 marinas, 17 miles of beaches, 5 golf courses, 3 campgrounds, over 13,800 acres of passive and active parklands, and an additional 26,000 acres of natural areas.

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 2020. 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 2020 the Foundation contributed **\$1,170,000** to Miami-Dade County Parks.
- Year 3 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 2020, with COVID-19 restrictions, including limited capacity guidelines in place, this grant funded the participation of 55 teens who received job training and mentorship through the **Fit2Lead** program.
- A **\$25,000** AvMed grant to the Foundation helped build a new fitness zone at Sugarwood Park.
- The Foundation provided fiscal sponsorship to the Neat Streets Miami/Million Trees Miami initiative, receiving **\$79,725** in funding that increased Miami-Dade County's tree canopy, and planted or gave away over 6,600 new trees and plants.
- The Parks Foundation received **\$600,000** from the Super Bowl committee to build two new artificial sport turf fields in celebration of 2020's Super Bowl LIV.
- The Parks Foundation received the second **\$25,000** in NFL Green funding, part of a total **\$50,000** Legacy Project which implemented green conservation projects throughout Miami-Dade County Parks' beaches, parks, and natural areas in celebration of 2020's Super Bowl LIV.

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

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Health & Fitness

2020 Highlights

2020 AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMER CAMP PARKS PROGRAMS

Fit2Lead and Youth Sports Development

- In 2020 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 3** 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 2020, with limited capacity restrictions in place due to COVID-19, 55 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.
- The Parks Foundation co-sponsored "Champions Celebration: The Miami-Dade Parks Student Athletes Showcase" at Marlins Park on Feb. 8, 2020. Miami-Dade Parks' youth sports development participants were recognized for their leadership and sportsmanship, followed by the opportunity for the children and families to meet their favorite Marlins players, play interactive games, and enjoy fireworks at Miami Marlins Fan Fest.



Health & Fitness 2019 Highlights

Fitness Zones

- Throughout Miami-Dade County parks, Fitness Zones provide free and equitable accessible to fitness equipment for all residents. These fitness zones have been funded by Miami-Dade County in partnership with the Parks Foundation, TD Bank, Av Med, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, and the Trust of Public Land.
- Fitness Zones are comprised of exercise equipment permanently placed in a select area of a park designed for exercise, which make it easier for residents of all ages, backgrounds, and from all neighborhoods across the parks system to include a fitness regimen in their daily routine to stem off heart disease, obesity and other ailments, as well to live an overall healthy lifestyle.
- In 2020, the Parks Foundation partnered with AV Med to contribute \$25,000 for a new fitness zone at Sugarwood Park.



[Photo courtesy of the Trust for Public Land]



[Photos courtesy of Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department]

Health & Fitness

2020 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 6, 2020, **200** participants joined a police-escorted 7.5-mile bike ride from Coral Gables to downtown Miami.

In 2020, Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade helped raise **over \$5,000** for **Bike305** programs.

Conservation & Stewardship

2020 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.
- On January 25, 2020, 50 volunteers from AvMed participated in a park cleanup and beautification project at Sugarwood Park ahead of opening of a new fitness zone at the park, funded by the Parks Foundation through a \$25,000 Av Med grant.
- In January 2020, the Parks Foundation sponsored a giveaway of 20 reusable rain barrels to neighbors of the Arcola Lakes Park community, providing residents with a way to harvest free, non-chlorinated rainwater to use in watering their gardens. The Foundation partnered with parks staff on this event, as well as with the University of Florida IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension Office and the National Recreation and Park Association, which funded the effort: one of numerous educational activities that increase residents' conservation awareness.



Conservation & Stewardship

2020 Highlights

NFL Green Environmental Initiative

- 2020 saw the return of the NFL Super Bowl to Miami accompanied by *NFL Green*, the NFL's sustainability platform. In partnership with Verizon and the Super Bowl Host Committee, the program aims to reduce Super Bowl events' environmental impact and leave a Green Legacy in host communities. The Parks Foundation, the NFL, and Miami-Dade Parks partnered on a community greening projects series across the county in the months leading up to Super Bowl LIV.
- In the week preceding the big game, **Superbowl LIV Green Week** moved into high gear across Miami-Dade, as the **\$25,000** funding awarded to the Parks Foundation by NFL Green and leveraged into a \$50,000 NFL Legacy Initiative funded events such as those described below.
- On January 14, 2020, Miami-Dade Parks, with support from the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee, Verizon Green Team, and the Parks Foundation, completed a natural area restoration and Parks for Pollinator project at A.D. Barnes Park Leisure Access Center, which operates parks programs for adults with disabilities. The project engaged 47 volunteers, including 20 adults with disabilities. Thirty-four (34) trees and shrubs were planted, three (3) new Parks for Pollinator Gardens were established (including 24 pollinator plants), and 10 native ferns were replanted.
- On January 17, 2020, with support from the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee, Verizon Green Team, and the Parks Foundation, Miami-Dade Parks led 114 volunteers in planting 20 new and curated specimens of citrus grove plants in raised planter boxes along a new aesthetically pleasing pathway at Redland Fruit and Spice Park. Volunteers also weeded herb gardens, mulched existing trees, and removed invasive plants throughout the park.



Placemaking 2020 Highlights

New Synthetic Turf Sport Fields for Miami-Dade Youth Sports Programs

The Parks Foundation partnered with the NFL's initiative to enhance and improve its Super Bowl host communities. A \$600,000 NFL donation to the Parks Foundation supported the construction of two new multi-sport turf fields at Gwen Cherry Park and Goulds Park.



Placemaking

2020 Highlights

Tree Canopies

- In 2020, the Parks Foundation partnered with Miami-Dade County's **Neat Streets Miami/Million Trees Miami** by serving as fiscal sponsor of **\$79,725** in grants awarded to the Foundation that increased tree canopy throughout Miami-Dade County.
- **Neat Streets Miami/Million Trees Miami** partnered with the Parks Foundation to lead 25 community volunteer projects and other initiatives that planted over **2,550 new trees**, installed over **3,600 plants** in Miami-Dade County, and gave away over **525 free trees** to 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.
- Trees increase property values and job performance and satisfaction, while reducing energy costs. Research has shown the presence of trees can help reduce crime in a neighborhood.
- Canopy trees enhance a community's resiliency by beautifying and greening resident commutes, pollution absorption, wind protection, noise pollution reduction and storm water retention.



Special Parks Events 2020 Highlights

Movie & Music Nights in the Park

- The Foundation partners with Commission District Offices, as requested by Commissioners, to support *Movie Nights in the Park* and *Music Nights in the Park* where families can get together and enjoy a free “Theatre Under the Stars” and other memorable experiences, including the annual *Black Heritage Festival* and other community and family events in parks, including Haulover Park, Lake Stevens Park, Oak Grove, and North Trail Park, for a total value of **\$12,832** in 2020.



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.

Statement of Financial Position*

December 31, 2020

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 1,303,708
Accounts receivable	\$ 46,692
Investments	<u>\$ 116,435</u>
Total current assets	\$ 1,466,835

LIABILITIES

Fiscal sponsorship funds	<u>\$ 239,119</u>
Total liabilities	\$ 239,119

Net Assets

Total net assets	\$ 1,041,865
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,280,984

Statement of Activities REVENUE

Donations	\$ 111,903
Grants	\$ 925,449
Sponsorships	\$ 56,000
Investment Income	<u>\$ 18,239</u>
Total	\$ 1,111,591

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 914,162
General Support	<u>\$ 89,177</u>
Total	\$ 1,003,339

*Official 2020 audited financials are pending

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.



Dear Friends,

As I write this I look back at this unprecedented year and time that no one expected. This past year has been trying for everyone; parents and families, those who lost their jobs, those who lost loved ones, and for so many who have had to endure an exceedingly difficult year.

Parks have steadfastly supported so many. They have remained constant and present, supporting our community in various ways. They are COVID-19 testing sites, food distribution venues, and a place to gather, safely for everyone. They continue to provide a place for families, friends, and everyone, of all income levels, rich and poor, to gather safely. They continue to be a place of inclusion.

I offer you a challenge. Please embrace your local park by supporting them through volunteering for cleanup, donating to the foundation, 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 ensure they remain for future generations to use.

With Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Bracamonte'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G' and a long, sweeping underline.

Grace Bracamonte
Executive Director