

Miami-Dade ParkLife

INSPIRING YOU TO LIVE A PARK LIFE

FALL 2016



Matheson Hammock Park

Escape to Paradise

AT-RISK KIDS EARN PAYCHECK AND LIFE SKILLS
BIDDING GOODBYE TO PARKS DIRECTOR JACK KARDYS
DISCOVER PARKS' HIDDEN TREASURES

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FALL 2016



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FIT2LEAD

Improving The Future Of At-Risk Youths

New innovative program gets teens off the streets and working.

“We’re dropping like flies.” That’s the way 15 year old JK (name is being withheld) describes what is happening to his generation of peers and the friends who are being shot and killed at the hands of teens just like him.

Since 2006, 316 children and teens have been killed by gunfire; more than two thirds were between 17 and 19 years old. It is a chronic problem that the Miami-Dade Parks Department’s Fit2Lead initiative hopes to change.

The Fit2Lead program is giving pre-teens and teens the opportunity to learn life skills, gain work experience and have a chance at a real future. It’s one of Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez’ priorities and is supported by his office through a \$3M grant.

Housed within Fit2Lead is the Youth Enrichment and Sports (Y.E.S.) program for 12-14 year olds, and the

Park Internship Program for 15-17 year olds. Both provide intentional and explicit opportunities for at-risk youth and a place where they can practice their social and emotional skills through recreational activities and workshops.

Caitlin Alfonso, who holds a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice and a master’s degree in Social Work, is the Fit2Lead program coordinator.

“These kids are really impacted by violence,” she shared. “I’m already seeing positive changes in behaviors through their involvement in the program. Perhaps in the early weeks they didn’t take their roles seriously, but as soon as they received their first paychecks they realized the importance of the program and their role in it.”

For some teens, earning that first paycheck validated them as being more than a target. For others, those



As part of the program, interns work on homework assignments.



Interns doing their part at the park.

earnings helped pay household expenses. JK used some of his money to celebrate his mom on Mother's Day. "I also want to save for a trip to Orlando, too," he declared.

Fit2Lead is a collaboration between Miami-Dade Parks, the Department of Juvenile Services and local universities. Juvenile Services Division Director of Operations Cathy Burgos believes that Fit2Lead is important in reaching and helping these kids break the cycle of violence.

"Our hope is that it inspires them to seek out other options when making decisions. Through the program they are being exposed to something different and learning from productive adults who are instilling in them that they have something to lose."

"Our hope is that it inspires them to seek out other options when making decisions."

Cathy Burgos, Department of Juvenile Services

Interns who have three strikes against them are removed from the program.

Teens are referred to the program through Juvenile Services, school counselors or even their peers. All applicants must pass a background check and drug test. Right now, the program is offered in Gwen Cherry and Goulds Parks and is almost at capacity with 87 interns.

"What's unique about this program is that we give 15 year olds a job that pays, but also enrichment classes that give them life skills that they may not get at home," Alonso said. "The teens are assigned to shadow a park's staff member, with whom they work and learn. The enrichment time is when they come together as a group in a classroom setting."

Recreation Leader Wayne Silvestro, who works with the 12-14 year olds in the Y.E.S. program, recognizes that just giving the kids a place where they are safe and protected is a big step.

"If the kid is in our parks, he/she is off the streets," Silvestro shared. "Being in the program teaches them alternatives to fighting." The curriculum Silvestro follows includes team building activities, problem solving opportunities and



Y.E.S. participants show off their artwork.



It was a friendly game of basketball for these interns.

the time to express themselves through journaling. "These younger kids may not be out there involved in the violence, but they have been affected by it, because they know someone who has been. This program allows them to be kids and gives them a time to just enjoy themselves."

Both programs follow the school year calendar, but interns are able to work during summer camp until the new school year starts.

This first round of young people are helping to fine-tune the program as it moves into its second year this fall. However, the goal remains the same: keep the kids safe and help them to fulfill their dreams.

JK's dream is to play high school and college football and maybe even work for the County. Through Fit2Lead he has the opportunity to do so and Alfonso is going to make sure of it.

"Every kid deserves the chance, and we should all stop saying, 'This is not my problem.' Fit2Lead is going to be their chance," she said. 🍀



Proven Results for Better Health

Teaching kids that fitness is fun and so is eating healthy!

With physical education and recess being reduced or even eliminated from school, the ever-present lure of technology, safety concerns and the challenges of planning wholesome and nourishing meals, the effort to stay healthy can seem like a swim upstream for some Miami-Dade parents and their children.

Miami-Dade Parks' Fit2Play™ afterschool program serves to remove these obstacles, and is a national model for programs of its kind in its proven ability to significantly improve kids' health, wellness and fitness.

Fit2Play has been designed in partnership with the University of Miami (UM) School of Medicine to combat the epidemic of childhood obesity. In the UM clinics, a full one-third of patients and one-half of ethnic minority kids are at an unhealthy weight. Being overweight during childhood is associated with a wide range of negative physical and psychological outcomes. The consequences are impossible to ignore.

"If we don't do these things now, these kids are going to die before their parents," said Eric Hansen, manager of recreation and programming development for Miami-Dade Parks. "It's a reminder that we need creative and practical ways to tackle weight problems."



Making fitness fun is at the core of the Fit2Play™ program.

Fit2Play incorporates the evidence-based best practices of SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and is recognized as the only program researched by the National Institutes of Health that improves outcomes for activity levels in class and away from school, physical fitness, sport skills, enjoyment of physical education and academic achievement.

But what sets Fit2Play apart from every other program of its kind in the nation?

Hansen explains, "The difference between us and them is our relationship with the University of Miami, and the data that we collect and track on all of our kids. No one else does what we do in terms of that relationship. We can take it a step further and say we have the data that proves their blood pressure improved from beginning to end."

The program conducts physical fitness tests and takes biometric measures at the beginning and the end of the school year. The data collected tells the story of the program's success.

About 40 percent of the kids start out at an unhealthy weight. What is striking is the frequency with which even normal weight kids are entering the program with high blood pressure. "This is scary," commented Sarah Messiah, Ph.D., research associate professor of pediatrics.

The results are remarkable. They include a substantial decrease in body mass index (BMI) for obese kids, and in blood pressure for all weight groups. There is also a significant improvement in knowledge about nutrition and healthy lifestyle behavior.

"Here we've got five separate groups of kids over five school years and we have the same effect every single year. Academics don't even have that type of data," says Messiah.

What makes Fit2Play successful is that the kids are engaging in play, not drill. One of the daily components of the program draws from a selection of 800 recreational activities that serve as non-traditional alternatives to the program's classic sports component. "We rotate these activities every day so it stays fresh and new, and that's why the kids love it," says Messiah.

While Fit2Play's physical impact alone is noteworthy, the potential it has to restore the mind, heart and soul of a child is a compelling part of its overall value.

Messiah notes, "Kids are under more stress these days than ever before. Often younger kids don't know how to articulate it, and it expresses itself in their behavior."

"Teachers wonder why the kids are acting up in class. Not only do they settle down after playing outdoors, but they're more focused, because their bodies have released endorphins. All those neurotransmitter chemicals increase attention and memory, so they're better learners as a result."

At its heart, Fit2Play is the fruit of love and concern for the next generation. Parents want to give their children the best quality of life possible. What should not be forgotten is that an invaluable part of that is simply giving them the daily opportunity to do what they love.

Matthew Hughes, Miami-Dade Parks Health and Wellness Coordinator, has a unique perspective on recreation. He teaches Introduction to Leisure, Recreation and Sport Management at Florida International University.

"I found in my research that people who are happy de-



Warm-ups and stretching get kids ready for exercise.

fine themselves by what they do in recreation, by what their passion is," Hughes shared. I don't think kids get the opportunity to find their identity in school anymore. I think that's what we've provided, to find that place outside of school."

To find out how your child can participate in Fit2Play call 305.755.5460. 🍀

Morning Mile Starts the Day Right

Five years ago, Chelsey and Moises Sanchez were overweight and leading sedentary lives. That was until their father enrolled them in Miami-Dade Parks' Fit2Play summer camp at Hammocks Community Park. One of the key components of the camp is AvMed-sponsored Morning Mile[®], an opportunity for campers to begin each day by walking or running one mile. The kids soon began losing weight and quickly found themselves looking forward to their morning run. Today, they enjoy a healthier lifestyle and a love for running.

AvMed and Morning Mile Founder Fitz Koehler celebrated the five-year partnership with Miami-Dade Parks and the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade during this year's End-of-Summer Bash. Miami-Dade County Commissioner Javier Souto was joined by representatives from AvMed, Miami-Dade Parks, the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade and Fitz Koehler who led more than 1,000 summer campers in a warm-up, followed by a one mile walk or run around the field.

"From the very first day, we knew this was something special for the kids and our collaboration with Miami-Dade County has made it even better," said AvMed Chief Marketing Officer James M. Repp. "It's more than a fun-run. It teaches children early in life about the importance of keeping fit and leading a healthy lifestyle through nutrition, physical activity and prevention."

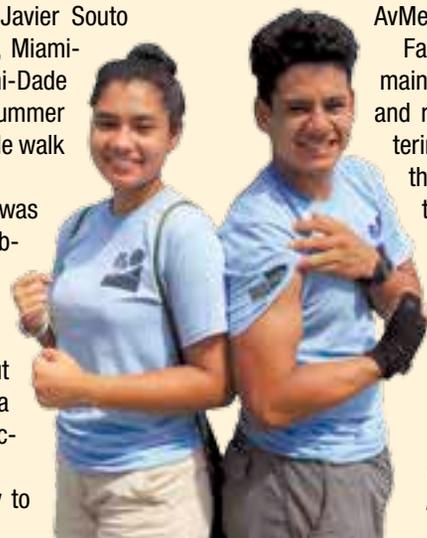
The Morning Mile was created as a way to

introduce daily walking or running to children at schools across the nation. It was first introduced in South Florida at Miami-Dade Parks' summer camps, thanks to AvMed's sponsorship. For every five miles completed, children collect a sneaker charm. Over the past five years, more than 13,000 children have logged more than 325,000 miles. That's the same as walking from here to the moon and then some!

"Successful public-private partnerships, like longtime partner AvMed, help us to provide quality and affordable recreational programs that impact children's lives," said Raul Garcia, president of the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade. "It's my hope that more businesses in Miami-Dade will follow in the footsteps of AvMed and support our community's kids."

Fast forward five years and the siblings have each maintained their weight loss and now enjoy sports and running almost daily. Moises, now 17 and entering his senior year in high school, made it onto the varsity cross country team and plans to do the ROTC program in college. Chelsey, now 16, plays soccer for her school's team, and continues to apply the lessons learned in nutrition as well. Both are now volunteers at the very same park and summer camp that got them started on their path to fitness and where they feel right at home. 🍀

Chelsey and Moises Sanchez lost weight and became healthier while having fun too.



A Lifetime of Parks

Jack Kardys

From park intern to manager and finally to department director, Jack Kardys says so long, but not goodbye!

Jack Kardys' destiny was clearly written in the stars. You can say that his name is synonymous with the place in which he grew up and spent his entire 36-year career – PARKS. As he prepares to leave this place he calls home, Kardys explains how his life experiences led him through his vocation – because his career has been just that, a calling that sprung up from his childhood.

His introduction to Parks happened early in life while playing sports as a child. He started playing recreational baseball, football and soccer, and continued playing soccer throughout his college years.

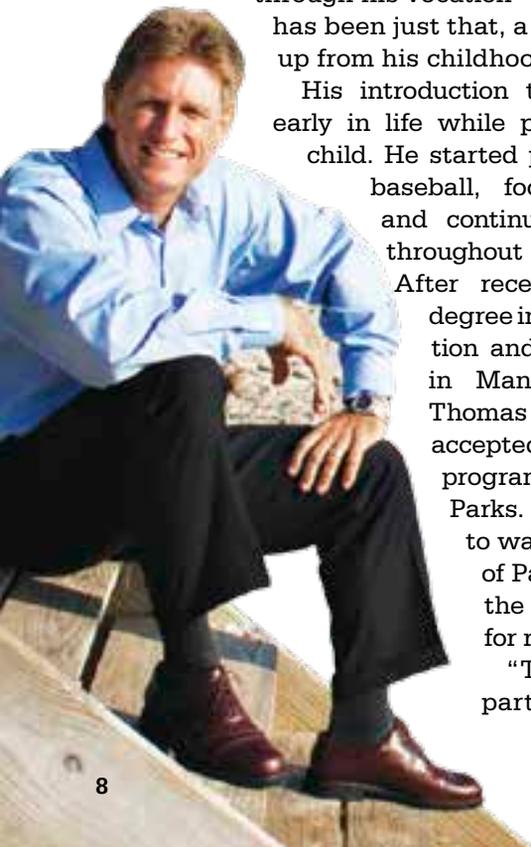
After receiving a bachelor's degree in Sports Administration and a master's degree in Management from St. Thomas University, he was accepted into an internship program at Miami-Dade Parks. Like a duck takes to water, so was his love of Parks and everything the department stands for right from the start.

“There is no other department in the county

that's had the good fortune of having an employee who not only grew up playing sports in the park system but has spent 36-plus years working for Parks. This is a testament to an extraordinary legacy of stewardship, commitment to public service, comradery, collaboration, and a 'get-it-done' kind of attitude that is equal to none! Jack's great legacy was built on the shoulders of decades of Parks pioneers like A.D. Barnes, Bill Bird and Dr. Chuck Pezoldt reminding us that we are to lead by example,” said Maria Nardi, assistant director of Planning and Research.

Three significant and defining moments in history would firmly anchor Kardys onto his career path with the department. The first of these was the response to the 1980 race riots, where he witnessed first-hand how recreation and athletics improved the quality of life for the people in Liberty City, specifically through a program called Partners for Youth. Working on this project also provided a chance meeting with former Chairman of Eastern Airlines/NASA Pilot: Frank Borman, who spearheaded the efforts. Kardys witnessed how parks on a local level would rise to the occasion and serve the community. This experience cemented the importance of high quality after-school programs, athletics and recreation in unifying a community.

The second moment happened when he had the opportunity to work on a nationally syndicated ABC program called “Superstars,” a sports competition show where elite athletes from various sports compet-





Kardys receives a National Association of Counties (NACo) achievement award in 1991 with Bill Bird, one of his mentors.



In 2008, Kardys with retired Parks Director Bill Bird, celebrate the renaming of the marina in honor of Bird.

ed in athletic events, similar to a decathlon. The athlete with the most points was the champion. The show introduced him to a broader audience and showed him how sports played in a world-class setting like Crandon Park affected people on a national stage.

The third defining experience, would be his involvement in helping to set accreditation standards for universities offering degrees in Parks and Recreation Management. With Dr. Pezoldt's guidance, Kardys was an integral part of the team that led that effort.

His mentors

His primary role model was Dr. Chuck Pezoldt. "He had extraordinary discipline to influence others to become winners," Kardys recalls. "It was this rigor under Chuck's leadership that Miami-Dade Parks became the first nationally accredited agency in the country serving more than 500,000 people."

Bill Bird, another important mentor, by contrast was a landscape architect, who had that essence of negotiating power. "Bird could make great deals, was an 'ideas' man, and was very well liked by his colleagues and peers."

Kardys felt lucky to have witnessed these two Parks icons at work within the Miami-Dade Parks administration team. These "phenomenal mentors," as he describes them, combined the best of both worlds, showing him two different methods to manage a Parks system.

Pezoldt, considered the brains behind the Parks operations division, assigned Kardys to work at Haulover Park. His 10-year tenure at Haulover taught him the importance of how to pick a great team. Pezoldt expected all park managers to build a relationship with community members and local business leaders, and to inform them on all amenities and programs that Parks had to offer. "He told me that he stationed me at Haulover because of my good business sense and abilities to activate a park with public and business interests," Kardys recalled.

Kardys considered civic engagement presentations as one of the most enjoyable parts of his job, while at Haulover. The sales pitch was 'come to us, we can handle any kind of event or activity.' However, being the classic over-achiever that he is and thriving on challenges, he made more than a dozen presentations when he was only expected to do a couple each year.

These presentations at various council and chambers of commerce meetings further developed his strengths as a master of civic and business engagement which set the stage and prepared him for his future role as director of the department.

In the same way that Kardys had mentors throughout his career, he has and continues to be a great mentor to many others in the organization.

"Working with Jack as his deputy for the last five years has been a tremendous learning experience for



Kardys and local officials cut the ribbon on the opening of a new neighborhood park.



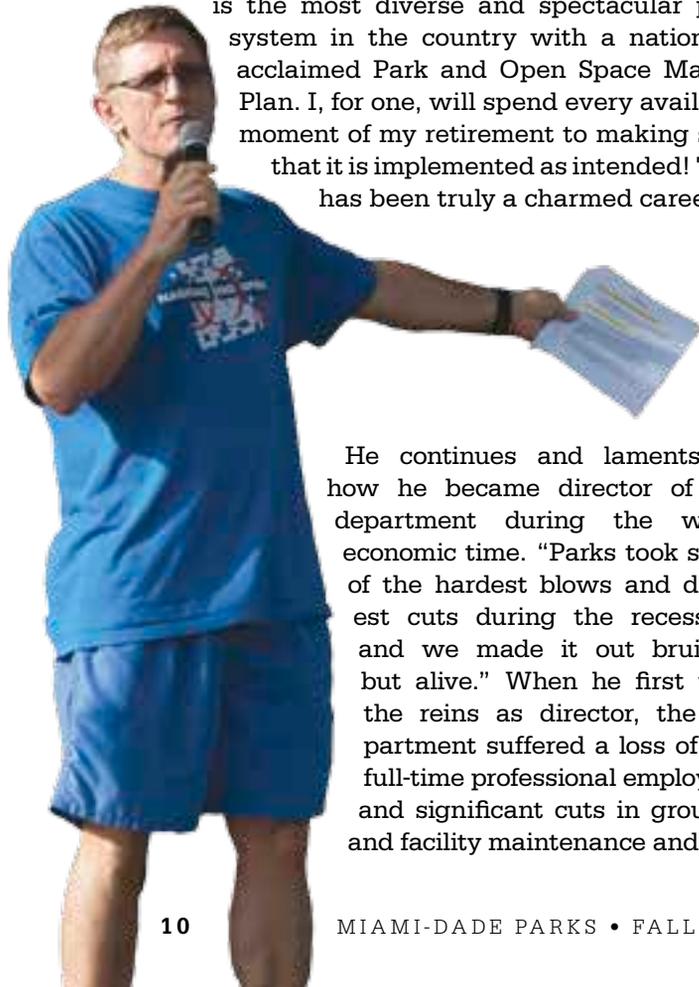
Morning Mile founder Fitz Koehler and Kardys warm up with the kids during the 2014 "Wild Morning Mile" at Zoo Miami.



Officials and kids join in a ribbon-cutting for the opening of a new park.

me," said Deputy Director George Navarrete. "Jack is truly a leader in the industry and has been a great mentor to me and other senior staff."

When asked what he most enjoyed or what most satisfied him about Parks, Kardys beamed, sharing: "I l-o-v-e every blade of grass and every human being that has ever worked for this organization to the depths of my soul. This has been my life's work for 36 years! This is the most diverse and spectacular park system in the country with a nationally acclaimed Park and Open Space Master Plan. I, for one, will spend every available moment of my retirement to making sure that it is implemented as intended! This has been truly a charmed career."



He continues and laments on how he became director of the department during the worst economic time. "Parks took some of the hardest blows and deepest cuts during the recession, and we made it out bruised, but alive." When he first took the reins as director, the department suffered a loss of 427 full-time professional employees and significant cuts in grounds and facility maintenance and rec-

reational programs. He rallied his amazing staff to keep it afloat and eventually grew the organization, acquiring new divisions and services, including the Right of Ways, the UF Miami-Dade Agriculture Extension, 1,091 Special Taxing Districts, Causeways, Neat Streets Miami, Million Trees Miami and others.

"I think our mayor believes in us, especially in our ability to handle people," Kardys says with a chuckle. "Parks are improving our health and well-being and making this community stronger." Parks has all the accolades to prove itself. Under Kardys' leadership, it is a Florida Sterling Award-winning organization and is a national role model for "best practices" which other Parks departments can imitate. "Despite the many cuts in funding, Parks refined its game and yet, I sit here, scratch my head and think – man there's so much more to do!" His words make you wonder, is he really retiring? Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez said of Kardys, "Jack and I share the vision of improving the quality of life in Miami-Dade County, and that is exactly what he has accomplished through his many years of public service and as Parks Director. Our parks have certainly shaped the lives of families and children in our community, including mine."

After retirement

Kardys asserts that he will continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and as Past-President of the Florida Recreation and Park Association (FRPA). He will continue to work locally, become civically active for Parks as a private citizen and will focus his energy towards building the county's greenway and trail system, Eco Zones, critical public-private partnerships in regional and Heritage parks, and mentoring a new generation of park professionals.



Kardys (center) and Commissioner Sally Heyman with members of the Grand Funk Railroad at the 2013 "Love-In Party in the Park."



Kardys and his daughter enjoy Greynolds Park and its annual "Love-In" music festival.

He also plans on actively helping the South Florida Parks Coalition's 34 municipal parks departments to work together with the County to form a seamless park system unlike any in the country.

But, his number one priority is to find a way to make the park system in Miami-Dade department financially independent and secure through a sustainable funding source that will endure for decades to come. "Never do I want others that come after me to have to deal with the hardships we had to deal with. I want to help get Parks a dedicated funding source and will not have finished my work until I find a way to make the Open Space Master Plan a reality for Miami-Dade County," he declared.

He also looks forward to some fishing, hiking, a little reading, travelling with his wife and family, and some writing in his spare time, of course!

Kardys' advice to future Park leaders

"Keep the vision elevated. Set the bar just high enough to give your stomach butterflies. If the vision doesn't scare you even just a little, you set the bar too low. If you set the goals and vision in the right place, and commu-



Former County Mayor Carlos Alvarez (left) and Former County Manager George Burgess, present Kardys with the prestigious Sterling Award.



Kardys, helping to plant trees at a park, has never been afraid to get his hands dirty.

nicate it with passion, sincerity and a rigorous sense of urgency it will always keep the organization moving forward towards the next rung in the ladder." Kardys is driven by author Henry Miller's thoughts on what makes an effective leader. Kardys says, "It assures us that a clear vision communicated as a shared value will guarantee the commitment from not only everyone in your organization but also the customers you serve."

He also wants us "to remember to love each other, and create and nurture those relationships that we foster here in the workplace. You have to talk to people and talk to them regularly. But even more importantly you have to listen to them, not only their words, but what they are really saying. For leaders, it is not so much what you say but how you make people feel that gets the best results."

Kardys may not always have the opportunity to voice his thoughts, but he appreciates every single employee that works

in the department, and it's obvious his employees feel the same way.

Jack Kardys, you have left a legacy that will endure. You will be missed, and NEVER forgotten. 🍀



Matheson Hammock Park

An Oasis in Our Backyard

Matheson Hammock Park is one of seven Miami-Dade Parks that is designated a Heritage Park. This special designation recognizes the important role these parks play in the cultural, historical and recreational history of Miami-Dade.

It's late fall. The weather is just starting to turn slightly cooler for South Florida and there's a wonderful breeze; the perfect conditions for a bike ride. I mount my bike to my car and set off for what I consider to be the best spot to start or end a bike ride: Matheson Hammock Park. In the late '80s, my friend Richard introduced me to Matheson Hammock Park - his favorite park. He was surprised I hadn't been there before since it is the oldest park in South Florida. The first time he took me there, we started our bike ride at the entrance to the mangroves, where the bike path begins. As we pedaled off, I remember thinking



that I was in paradise. I couldn't believe how beautiful it was to ride through the mangrove forest, within sight of the bay and where the top of the trees formed a majestic canopy that dropped the temperature at least 10 degrees, even in the dead of summer. That was the moment I was hooked. Matheson Hammock immediately became my favorite place in all of South Florida, where I would return many decades later.

Matheson Hammock Park is one of Miami-Dade Parks' Heritage Parks. It opened in 1930 under the first Parks Director A.D. "Doug" Barnes and was designed by renowned landscape architect William Lyman Phillip. In 1930, William J. Matheson and his son Hugh donated approximately 85 acres of tropical hardwood hammock forest off Old Cutler Road to what was then called Dade County, to be used and maintained perpetually as a botanical garden. This 85-acre tract of land, originally referred to as Matheson Botanical Hammock, was the County's first public park.

In 1934-35, the county purchased an additional 420 acres of mangroves and hammock lands adjacent to the park, increasing its size to more than 500 acres, with a



mile of frontage on Biscayne Bay. In 1936, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crews were assigned to Matheson Hammock and began to develop the Bayfront park area. Buildings and a picnic shelter were meticulously constructed out of coral stone rock and limestone. Without the use of the inexpensive and skilled labor force under the state and federal assistance programs, it would have been impossible to build the miles of carefully hewn coral stone walls and the native stone building which stand in perfect condition to this day.

Throughout the years, an additional 120 acres were acquired by various means. Today, Matheson Hammock Park and Marina spans 620 acres. In addition to one of Miami-Dade County's most popular marinas, it features an atoll pool sought out by countless families, a bike path, a picnic area with historic tiki huts, a coral rock picnic shelter, natural areas, a wading beach where you can launch a kayak or canoe or go wade fishing, and an on-leash dog park, and the original coral rock buildings that have withstood hurricanes and the test of time.

I spoke with Matheson Hammock's current park manager James "Mike" McCrink who, as a native Miamian,





The atoll pool (above) is the perfect spot for cooling off. The al fresco dining area at the Red Fish Grill (below) is a culinary delight and feast for the eyes. The marina fish station (below right) is perfect for prepping your fresh catch of the day.

has his own personal history with the park. He grew up going to Matheson Hammock Park and recalls how his stay-at-home mom would bring him and his brother and two sisters several times a week. They would play in the water and sand at the atoll pool, or they would have family picnics or lunch at the concession stand. It was fortuitous that so many decades later he would become the park manager at the very park where he grew up in, and which he holds fond memories of.

"It's not a job for me," he admitted. "It feels more like home. This is where I came as a child and where I launched my first boat when I was 17. Not much has changed here. Even the toll booth operator, Larry, is the same attendant from when I first started boating and fishing in my teens."

One obvious difference from when it first opened is the presence of the concession and restaurant that is housed in one of the beautiful coral stone buildings. The Red Fish Grill is one of South Florida's most noted fine dining restaurants. Chris Klaic, its managing partner, has been running it since



1996. "Diners are invited to sit inside the historic coral rock building or go outside and enjoy the magnificent view of the atoll pool and Biscayne Bay while they enjoy an exceptional meal," he said. The restaurant serves fresh seafood, pasta, chicken, and steak nightly, except Mondays. Red Fish Grill also runs the outdoor snack bar offering casual lunch food daily to beach and park-goers.

Earlier this year, Red Fish Grill was featured in Forbes magazine as one of the "100 Best 'Al Fresco' Dining Restaurants in America for 2016," an accolade they have won more than once. The winners were compiled from more than five million restaurant reviews submitted by verified OpenTable diners who rated more than 20,000 restaurants in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Its outstanding and creative "Floribbean" cuisine, exceptional service, and water's-edge dining earned them a winning spot with OpenTable diners in the U.S. They've also been listed as Best Waterfront Restaurant.

This past July, Red Fish Grill was featured on the



Food Channel and Cooking Channel's Beach Bites with Katie Lee, which highlighted the preparation of Red Fish Grill's signature dish Corona® Lime Ceviche. Renowned chefs have also visited Red Fish Grill as part of the South Beach Food and Wine Festival. Among them, Emeril Lagasse, Todd English, Cyndi Hudson and Chef Allen joined Red Fish Grill kitchen staff in a big cook-out overlooking the Bay.

Red Fish Grill was also featured in the film *Something About Mary* with Matt Dillon and Cameron Diaz, as well as Sydney Pollock's *Random Hearts* starring Harrison Ford and Kristin Scott Thomas.

The restaurant's exquisite menu and award-winning cuisine, along with its beautiful views, has made it a favorite for weddings, celebrations, and corporate outings. October through May is their high season, so make reservations early to ensure a table. Red Fish Grill is a must-see when visiting Matheson Hammock Park. For more information, visit www.redfishgrill.net.

If you're into adventure water sports or want to learn, look no further than Matheson Hammock's

Adventure Sports Miami, where you can kiteboard, paddleboard, or rent canoes and kayaks and explore the Bay. America Adventure Sports Miami provides lessons on kiteboarding, stand-up paddleboarding, yoga paddleboarding, and kayaking. Lessons are hourly and are open to people of all ages.

Adventure Sports Miami is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit www.adventuresportsmiami.com

If you've always wanted to sail, or drive a power boat on the open waters, then the professionals at Castle Harbor Boating School can show you the ropes with classes for all levels and ages. They teach sailing and power boating and are the only organization that teaches how to master a power boat on the open water in all of South Florida. Taking their class helps to lower your insurance costs.

The school opened in 1949 as Castle Harbor Sailing School at Dinner Key and then moved to Matheson Hammock Park. They changed their name to Castle Harbor Boating School after they grew and began offering other programs. They offer sailing



summer camps and are also the only organization to offer a five-day power boat summer camp for children ages 10-16. Upon completion of the power boat summer camp, the children take the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's written test and receive the certification for power boat drivers under age 23.

Castle Harbor also rents sailboats and power boats and offers a boat ownership program, where you can rent out your sailboat or power boat to offset its cost. For the past 45 years, they have hosted a sailing race every Saturday for experienced and beginner sailors. The cost to race is \$50. Visit their website for more information: www.castleharbor.com/sailing-school-miami.shtml

Once you've mastered the power boat and own your own boat, you'll need a place to launch or store your boat. Boaters are all too familiar with Matheson Hammock's marina, which is one of South Florida's most popular marinas. The marina features a bait and tackle shop, fuel dock, vessel staging area, 10 boat ramps, two fish stations, wet slips, boat trailer parking, picnic tables, restrooms, and boat cleaning stations. Matheson Hammock Marina is consistently awarded the Clean Marina designation by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.



Take to the water on kayaks or boards.

Matheson Hammock Park is a truly unforgettable destination. Whether you want to take a bike ride through the mangroves, look for a great restaurant, or go for a swim, Matheson has it all. Experience its heritage. 🍂

The writer, Edith Torres not only loves Matheson Hammock Park, but she is a proud member of the Miami-Dade Parks Communications and Marketing Unit where she gets to live and work a park life!

Deering Harvester Day

Sunday, October 9

10 am to 4 pm

Celebrate the fall harvest and enjoy a history-oriented family day at the Deering Estate! Enjoy old fashioned family activities, such as bocce ball and croquet, and take family photos next to the vintage International Harvester Truck and other locations on-site.

Free with Estate admission: \$12 for adults and \$7 for children (ages 4-14).



DEERING ESTATE

16701 SW 72nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33157

305-235-1668

DeeringEstate.org



Practice Safely at the Range

For gun enthusiasts or beginners the Trail Glades Range offers a safe environment to practice their shooting skills.

Tucked deep inside western Miami-Dade County, far away from high rises and traffic congestion, is the Trail Glades Range; a safe place for sport shooting enthusiasts to practice their skills and brush up on safety techniques.

“Trail Glades is a centrally-located outdoor range open to everyone,” Range Master Horacio Quintero boasted. “Not only is shooting outside more challenging, it can help improve technique. It’s also much better for your health to practice outside in the fresh air. We are fortunate to have a facility like this in our community.”

Trail Glades Range is open to both beginner and seasoned shooters. The main range has the capacity to host 68 shooters and offers both pistol and rifle target practice. There are also wobble trap, American skeet and international skeet practice areas. In addition, they offer to law enforcement and other top-level security groups the opportunity to practice tactical maneuvers in a private space. On any given day, you may even see past and present Olympic champions training there. First-timer Richard Pronesti, whose brother is a range regular, didn’t know what to expect. “This was a huge surprise for me,” he said. “I am impressed with the professionalism and all the safety measures in place. I get why my brother comes here.”

“We invite everyone to come out and learn how to properly use a firearm,” Quintero said. “Understanding how to properly use a gun and how to regard it is the first step in helping to alleviate any fears or anxiety.”

“I tell people all the time that a gun is not as dangerous as a chainsaw: when you know how to use it!”



Quintero explained. And the first order of business for first-time range visitors is to learn the rules. The range mandates that all new shooters take a 30-minute safety course – a shooting etiquette-type class on what is and is not permissible on the firing

line. “Safety is absolutely our number one priority – there is no room for error,” Quintero exclaimed. “If someone is doing something outside our protocols we might yell at them to ‘stop and hold’ – the line is not the place to be polite. Lives are at stake.”

The sport of shooting has been around for hundreds of years. Shooting clubs were formed as a men-only activity back in the 13th and 14th centuries. Since then, the sport has evolved and includes a junior division for kids ages 10-18, and women’s clubs. The National Rifle Association reports that more and more Americans over age 65 are heading out to shooting ranges to learn how to handle a firearm. 🍀

Track & Thrill



On the lookout to try something new and exciting?
Get on your board or bike and soar!

While Amelia Earhart Park is a popular place to walk your dog, or take your kids to play in Tom Sawyer's Play Island (a giant fort playground), or ride a pony or enjoy a hayride or pet the animals at the Farm Village, it has become the place for those who need more thrills and chills! If you are ready to push yourself to the limit, Amelia Earhart Park is the place to be. You now can enjoy wakeboarding at the Miami Watersports Complex, mountain biking through trails, and experience the thrilling all-wheels 'pumptrack,' the park's newest feature.

Officially named SBSX Skills Park for Bikes, Boards and Scooters, the state-of-the-art modular pump track is the latest exciting activity in recreation for the residents and visitors of Miami-Dade County.

"A pumptrack, as opposed to a skate park, is an amazing amenity for the community and the park," said Jonathan Straus, who manages and co-founded the SBSX Skill Park at Amelia Earhart Park. "It provides a space where skaters, long boarders, inline skaters, bicyclists and scooters can all share a space and terrain together."

Built by Velosolutions, a leader in pumptrack designs, the sports amenity allows riders to ride the humps in a pumping motion with their upper and lower body, using gravity to move around the track.

Located at the mouth of the park's Mountain Bike Trails, directly across the lake from the Miami Watersports Complex, the pumptrack provides trained and

certified instructors who monitor the track to give pointers and suggestions to all riders. They also offer group and private lessons to those who are beginners and need to learn the basics. There are three tracks set up. One for beginners and two for intermediate and advanced riders that accommodates head-to-head racing.

"This is our first location at a Miami-Dade Park and second location in the county," said Straus. "We are currently on a one-year agreement at this park and hoping to secure a long-term agreement next year, so we can build a bigger and better pumptrack than the one we have in Brooklyn, which is quite impressive."

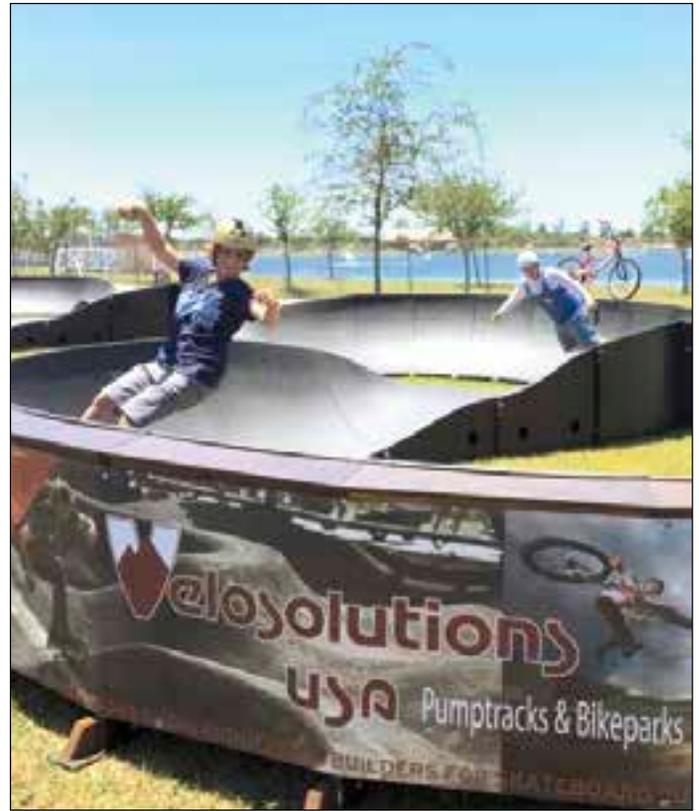
The SBSX Skills Park currently operates on weekends, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through the summer, the schedule changes to seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to sundown.

It costs \$20 for a one hour session. A helmet and board or scooter rental is included in the price. People have to bring their own bikes to ride or can rent one at the nearby Mountain Bike Trails. There is also an option to purchase a 'monthly unlimited membership' for \$85.

"It's fun for the whole family," said Strauss. "We've had beginner riders on the track from as young as four, my own daughter's age, to 68 years old."

Amelia Earhart Park is located at 401 E. 65th Street, Hialeah. For more information about the SBSX Pumptrack Skills Park visit www.skateboardsupercross.com or call 786-529-8187. 🍌





Practice your pop-a-wheelies and hang ten at the state-of-the art all-wheels pump track located at Amelia Earhart Park.

Don't let this unwanted guest get under your skin.

Protect yourself from mosquito bites and the diseases they may carry. Stop mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home or business.



DRAIN & COVER

DRAIN STANDING WATER: Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.

DISCARD: Old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.

EMPTY AND CLEAN: Birdbaths and pets' water bowls at least once or twice a week.

PROTECT: Boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.

MAINTAIN: Water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER YOUR SKIN WITH CLOTHING: If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.

REPELLENT: Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months.

COVER DOORS AND WINDOWS WITH SCREENS: Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

www.miamidade.gov/mosquito or call 311



You Too Can Learn to Play GOLF

You don't have to be a pro to play on our courses – just have the 'drive' to want to try!

These days everyone has a bucket list. Why not add to yours: Learn to play golf! If trying to hit a tiny white ball across a field of greens hundreds of yards long seems daunting, Miami-Dade Parks wants to help you conquer your fears and change your perception of the game.

Sure, pros like Tiger Woods make the game look easy and the score keeping is a bit funny: birdie, bogey and par, but once you are out on the

course hitting a few balls, walking, talking and enjoying the day, you realize the experience is what matters. Golf is one of those sporting activities that can be played throughout your lifetime while instilling many life lessons in the process. In fact, you will find learning golf can be a life-changing, positive experience that increases your overall health! You can even make some lifelong friends in the process.

The sport of golf originated in

Scotland around 1497, although some say it traces back to China in the Song Dynasty 960-1297. What we do know is that the sport is full of tradition. The first 18-hole course in the United States was in the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, Illinois, in 1893. Today, Miami-Dade Parks operates four 18-hole courses, two nine-hole golf courses, and one mini golf course.

Miami-Dade Parks' golf courses are an experience that allows you to escape the stress of daily routines, all while enjoying one of the most beautiful settings South Florida has to offer. If your day-to-day life keeps you from spending quality time with friends or family, you can spend the day golfing together where you can reconnect. You will find close friendships or even business relationships are often nurtured on the golf course.

If you are a beginner to the sport, 18 holes may sound a bit intimidating, but with two nine-hole courses available – Greynolds and Briar Bay – to help you get started, you can try out the game with less time commitment. The nine-hole courses consist of mostly par 3 holes that are half the distance and take half the time of a normal golf round. The driving ranges,



Day or night, take a lesson or practice your swing at one of our courses.

You're never too young to learn to play golf!

"Golf is great for children as young as one and a half all the way up through their teen years because it incorporates important values and behaviors for living that are inherent in the game. The game requires the player to handle mental, emotional and physical challenges all at the same time while in a non-contact environment," Country Club of Miami Golf Pro Larry Levow, shared. "Children who exhibit appropriate behaviors in golf will play better and be rewarded with better shots and lower scores. Not only will young people learn patience and good manners, but they'll also learn about concentration and discipline. Our golf courses offer golf camps throughout the summer and Snag Golf during the school year. By teaching your kids to golf, you're introducing them to a sport they may be able to play for the rest of their lives."

Maybe your child has a natural talent for golf. Tiger Woods started playing at just two years old! 🏌️



Getting young golfers on the course has many benefits and special programs offered throughout the year.

putting greens, chipping areas, and even a short course are part of the grounds' practice areas and are the perfect place to help you perfect your game. Most Miami-Dade Parks' golf courses offer lit driving ranges which are open until 9 p.m.

For North Dade resident Jacky Shepard, the courses at the Country Club of Miami, situated inside her community are the "closest things to lessons in nature and peace."

"The residents who live in the homes and townhomes along the

golf courses get to enjoy the songs of the courting mockingbirds who make the Country Club of Miami their home in November, in the spring you will see the red-breasted woodpeckers perched inside the old trees, the big gray egrets and large white herons patrol the canals and on moonlit nights the Osprey fly from tree top to tree top looking for unlucky fish," she explained. "The owls and red hawks compete for slowest lizards and the like – it's a beautiful wildlife menagerie!"

Country Club of Miami courses also serve as an extension of a neighborhood or community park.

"The golf courses are the only stretch of green park between an overcrowded, densely populated area and I-75; they provide a peaceful stop-off from the rat race of busy living," Shepard shared. "Golfers can recreate without breaking the bank and go home refreshed and recharged. As dawn breaks and dusk sets, many residents can be seen walking the paths and taking in the splendid views from every hole on these Robert Trent Jones designed courses."

Miami-Dade Parks' golf courses are public courses, but with the country club-style vibe and exceptional service one expects from a private club. If you've never played golf before, you can even take lessons with a PGA professional who will help you learn the rules and give you tips on how to avoid the frustration that sometimes happens with the challenges of the game.

Don't wait another minute. Experience the game once and for all and scratch it off your bucket list! 🏌️

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Miami-Based Golfer Takes Home First PGA Tour Win!

Danny Burger, a former junior champion and public course player, won the 59th playing of the FedEx St. Jude Classic back in June. Burger began his young career playing at the Crandon Golf Course in Key Biscayne. Congratulations, Danny!



Water Wisely



Conserve, save money and protect our natural resources for a more sustainable South Florida.

Water, water, everywhere! Miami-Dade County has its fair share of soggy moments. If you have a yard, these soggy times may be enhanced by your home's irrigation system, especially during those not-so-rare instances when an irrigation system turns on while it is raining. Those damp landscape encounters are where the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) program team likes to step in to dry things out a bit. As part of the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service in Miami-Dade County, the FYN program educates homeowners and property managers about how to maintain a healthy, sustainable landscape for South Florida through the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Principles. The FYN program partnered with Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) in 2007 to increase the promotion of outdoor water conservation through various outreach and educational components.

Even though South Florida is typically a water-rich region, population growth and development, sea-level rise, and the potential for drought (yes, it does happen down here), all pose a threat to the freshwater supply we get from the Biscayne Aquifer. Conservation makes sense, and wasting drinkable water seems silly, right? According to the EPA, as much as 50 percent of the

water used in the landscape is wasted from inefficient watering methods and systems (EPA WaterSense, 2016). Conserving water in the landscape can be easy, by just knowing the proper plant material and the water needs for your yard. Through the partnership with WASD, the FYN program educates Miami-Dade County residents on FFL plants and landscape water usage through rain barrel and water conservation workshops and presentations, as well as outreach events for local community and municipal groups.

Landscape Irrigation Rebate and Evaluation Program

To reach residents and property managers with automatic irrigation systems, the Landscape Irrigation Rebate and Evaluation Program (LIERP) was created. The LIERP offers rebates to single-family homeowners and large property managers who upgrade or retrofit their irrigation systems to be more water efficient. Under the FYN program, the Urban Conservation Unit (UCU) works with residents and property managers who participate in the LIERP to transform their landscapes into sub-tropical, Florida-Friendly oases that maintain conservative water usage based on their plant water needs. The UCU conducts site visits to the

Every drop counts! Rotary nozzles apply water to the landscape at a slower rate.





Using a rain gauge for collecting and measuring rainfall can help you determine whether you need to run your irrigation system. One inch a week is all you need!

properties that qualify for the program to assess their landscape and irrigation system, and provide expert advice on how best to retrofit their yard and system to a water savvy status. During site visits, the UCU crew is looking for various water-wasting opportunities, like leaks, broken sprinklers, uneven water distribution, system design, and sprinkler overspray onto sidewalks or driveways. Single-family homeowners can participate in the LIERP for five years, with a maximum available rebate of up to \$500 per year, while large properties can receive a one-time rebate of up to \$2,850 and an EPA WaterSense certified weather-based irrigation controller. The Landscape Irrigation Evaluation and Rebate Program has issued more than 1,150 rebates and has contributed to the overall cumulative water savings of 14.14 million gallons per day in Miami-Dade County.

Connie Hull, property manager for the Key Biscayne Retail Condo on Key Biscayne, knows its value first-hand. Prior to entering the LIERP, the property's irrigation system suffered from multiple leaks, broken sprinklers, and no active rain or weather sensor to shut it off. The condo had a quarterly water bill of \$7,000 and was consuming 926,840 gallons of water per year, which is almost seven times the amount that an average family of four household uses in a year, according to the EPA (EPA WaterSense, 2016). After installing a weather-based (smart) irrigation controller, repairing leaks and arranging for a more uniform water distribution, the Key Biscayne Retail Condo's water consumption was down to 70,778 gallons per year.

"The representatives from UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension were extremely helpful and very knowledgeable about irrigation, landscaping and water usage," Hull shared. "While the UCU team and



Jesus Lomeli (Left) and Morgan Hopkins (right) review information collected during an irrigation assessment and discuss options and possible retrofits.



The Urban Conservation Unit truck visits neighborhoods—be on the lookout in yours!

program were great, the best part was the ultimate savings on our water bill."

According to Hull, the Key Biscayne Retail Condo property is now averaging a \$300-350 quarterly water bill, approximately 95% less than the price of their water bill prior to entering the Landscape Irrigation Evaluation and Rebate Program.

It takes a village (or a county) to protect our beautiful South Florida environment and all of the natural resources that it provides. Our Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program team is here to help lead this charge in Miami-Dade County by continuously educating residents on how to conserve water and create a sustainable, Florida-Friendly landscape.

Keep an eye out, we are coming to a neighborhood near you!

For more information, contact Morgan Hopkins at morganehopkins@ufl.edu. 📧

The **University of Florida/Miami-Dade County Extension** is the liaison between research conducted by scientists at the University of Florida and other universities and our local community. Housed inside the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Department, the Extension office focuses on educational outreach through a variety of methods.

off the beaten path

EXPLORING PARKS

Park Holds Kendall Area's Oldest Surviving House

It may not be the same way that Dorothy's Kansas farmhouse landed in Oz, but you will find the oldest surviving house in Miami-Dade's east Kendall area sitting pretty, just three blocks away from its original homestead, smack dab in the middle of Continental Park, an 18-acre community park located at 10000 SW 82nd Avenue.

The park is the proud keeper of a piece of Miami-Dade history. The one-story wood frame Dice House, built in 1917, was designated an historic site by the Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation Board in 1989. The house, once located at 9840 SW 77th Avenue in Kendall, is the former residence of David Brandly Dice, Kendall's unofficial first mayor, who also owned and operated a Kendall Feed and Supply near the old Florida East Coast railroad tracks.

In 2005, its then owners Bernardo and Beartiz Junco donated the house to the county. The house was then moved to the park and was renovated with the support of the Dade Heritage Trust, the Parks department, and former county commissioner Katy Sorenson.

The restored Dice House opened to the public at its new home at Continental Park on August 18, 2006.

Though modernized with air-conditioning, restrooms and a kitchen area that has a microwave and refrigerator, the tiny home still retains its old world charm with a front porch and assorted early 20th century wood furnishings that include a roll-top desk, a mail sorting table, a player piano, a church bench and rocking chairs.

Today, the Dice House is popular venue for community meetings, classes and bridal or baby showers (weekends only). Currently, Miami-Dade Parks' Active Older Adults program operates onsite Monday



Consider the Dice House for your next special event.

through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Miami Firm Body holds a yoga class there Monday through Thursday, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"There are a lot of people who contact us about renting space for a community meeting and when given the option of either the Community Center or the Dice House, 99 percent of them opt for the Dice House," said Park Manager Joe Fernandez. "The fact that it's an historic house seems to be the factor that wins their hearts over, and they often comment on how thankful they are that the Parks department maintains this gem of their hometown's history."

Stately shade trees and newly added flowering Geigers and Live Oaks dot the beautiful and serene park landscape. There are also a variety of recreational amenities to enjoy, including a picnic shelter, a walking path, a Community Center, a Tennis Center with eight lighted tennis courts, a basketball court and three baseball fields with batting cages. The park is also a hub for Miami-Dade Parks' Fit2Play™ After-School and Summer Camp programs.

Call 305-274-9666 or visit www.miamidade.gov/parks/continental.asp for more information.

Seaside Kite-Flying at Haulover Beach Park

Use the wind to unwind and reconnect, where the birdies fly!

The song "Let's Go Fly a Kite," written by composer-brothers Richard and Robert Sherman and popularized by the 1964 Disney movie musical "Mary Poppins," never rang so true as it does today for patrons of the renowned Skyward Kites Shop and their ever-popular kiting events and celebrations, held on the kite field at Haulover Beach Park.

"We have dozens of regulars of all ages that come out every day of the week, from all over the tri-county area, just to fly a kite," said Skyward Kites Shop owner Dan Ward. "And thousands of kite-loving visitors from around the world show up for our annual kite festivals and kite-building workshops. In past years, we've had representatives from China, Colombia, Jamaica and Peru representing the traditional kite of their country, and some from as far away as Egypt and Japan."

The beach park is recognized as one of the best places for people to fly kites in South Florida. The open space and fresh ocean breezes have made it the ideal location for Skyward Kites for more than 24 years. It boasts the largest selection of kites, windsocks and wind spinners in Miami.

This is not your typical day at the park. Discover the gems within Miami-Dade Parks' vast system of amenities and attractions.



It's time to go fly a kite. Enjoy this year's Kittoberfest kite festival.

Inspired by the joy of the kite-flying days of his youth, and believing in the philosophy 'Do what you love,' Ward is a man who truly loves his job. It's the place he gets to help others experience and learn how to fly kites.

"Kiting is a great way for families to bond and create memories," said Ward. "And the simple things in life, like a family day out at the beach and kite-flying, don't cost a lot, but the experiences are priceless."

Ward proudly stands in the mix of kites of all colors, shapes, sizes and themes that are always soaring in the skies over Haulover Beach Park.

However, the daily display pales in comparison to the annual Kittoberfest kite festival, the premiere event of the season. This year's Kittoberfest takes place on Sunday, October 23, from noon to 5 p.m. That's when the big guns come out: the amazing 'monster kites' have everyone snapping pictures of this visual feast! Expect to see the colossal 100-foot squid, the 30-foot dragon, the 30-foot scuba man, the 30-foot "Nemo" fish, the 150-foot flying rainbow, and many others. This family-style event attracts thousands who come out for the free kiting activities, such as kite-building classes, kite-flying demonstrations and all sorts of kite competitions. Included in the mix are live music and other entertainment, kids' face painting, bounce houses and food truck vendors. Admission is free and parking is \$7 per car.

The kite competitions are another big hit at Kittoberfest, which welcomes participants of all ages and of all kite aficionado levels. Experienced kite enthusiasts are always on hand to assist novice kite flyers. Prize categories for the kite competitions run the gambit from the highest-flying and most unusual kites to the best homemade kite and the kite with the longest tail. There are no limits to a kite's size or type. Traditional kites of

other countries are welcome, as a way to celebrate the unique cultural diversity of South Florida.

If you don't have a kite to fly for the event you can make one at the event for free or purchase one from the Kite Shop for as little as \$5, in any shape or size, from diamond and delta to Para-foil and box variety. Call 305-893-0906 for more information.

Paddle Up

Simply put: kayak fishing is fishing from a kayak. But with the breathtaking scenery of offshore views, communing with nature, and gliding on the water, there is nothing simple about it!

While kayaking is a popular open water activity, adding fishing to your excursion can make it even more exhilarating! Miami EcoAdventures™ kayak fishing excursions are designed to allow novice and seasoned kayakers an opportunity to experience shallow, calm waters and a unique marine ecosystem. Parks' professional tour guides will help you select the right fishing gear and instruct you on how to paddle, and are available during the excursion to help you catch a big one!

A kayak fishing tour will have you paddling along Key Biscayne as you make your way past an ancient fossilized reef and into the serene mangrove forests. As you kayak along the shores of a land that is 2,000 years old, a place where the Tequesta Native American tribes and pirates came to shore, you may come across a nurse shark, sting ray and a variety of local birds. Most tours are two to three miles long and last about two-and-a-half hours. Maybe it's time you tried it for yourself!

Check the calendar of events on the following pages for adventures on and off the water, call Miami EcoAdventures™ at 305-666-5885 or visit www.miamidade.gov/ecoadventures/home.asp. 🍷



"I once caught a fish this big!" Try your luck at kayak fishing.

parkscalendar

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

October

October 1

Discovering @Deering: "World Habitat Day"

Discover science, conservation, art and more!
For kids ages 6-14.

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; \$15

Deering Estate, 16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

October 1, 8 & 29

Introduction to Archery

Learn about the origins and history of archery as both a sport and tool for survival in this hands-on seminar. After the lesson, take some practice shots at a target to test your new skills. Bring comfortable shoes and sun protection.

10 a.m. - noon; \$8 per person

A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park Nature Center

3401 SW 72 Ave.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com



October 1, 8, 16 & 22

EcoAction Day

Connect with nature and get down and dirty at one of our monthly volunteer days! Join our naturalists in restoring the park and its natural areas with projects that include weed/invasive exotic vegetation removal, planting, mulching, and garbage clean-up. Bring comfortable closed-toe shoes, insect repellent, work gloves, small hand tools and sun protection. Long shirts/pants, water, hats



and sunglasses are highly recommended.

9 a.m. – noon

Bill Sadowski Park Nature Center

17555 SW 79 Ave.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

October 1, 8, 22 & 29

Key Biscayne Kayak Adventure

Let our naturalists take you on a journey along the shores of a land that has witnessed the comings and goings of man for over 2,000 years, from the Tequesta Indian tribes to the pirates that shipwrecked offshore. Paddle over sea-grass beds and sand flats as you make your way past an ancient fossilized reef and into the serene mangrove forests. Bring plenty of drinking water (at least one quart), closed-toe shoes and sun protection.

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.; \$30 per person

Crandon Park Nature Center

4000 Crandon Blvd.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

October 2

ZooRun5K and ZooKidsDash

Come for a race; stay for a zoo adventure!

6:15 a.m.; \$45 per person – cash only

Zoo Miami

12400 SW 152 Street

305-255-5551

<http://zoomiami.org/Run>

October 2

Canoe Tour

Take a sunrise canoe tour across Biscayne

Bay! Visit Chicken Key, a seven-acre mangrove island and bird rookery, approximately one mile off-shore. Look for marine wildlife such as manatees, sea turtles and numerous bird species. Bring closed-toe shoes, comfortable clothing and water. Hats and sunscreen are recommended. Space is limited. Reservations required.

7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

\$30 adults; \$20 children ages 9-14

Deering Estate, 16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

October 2, & 9

Sea Kayak & Snorkel Adventure

Kayak on the beautiful, shallow waters of Key Biscayne and explore the protected areas of the Bear Cut Preserve where land meets the sea. Join us as we paddle past the sea-grass beds to a 2,000 year-old fossil reef to snorkel and observe the tropical fish, spotted eagle rays, sea stars and coastal birds that share this fragile and unique environment. Bring plenty of drinking water, closed-toe shoes and sun protection.

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; \$60 per person

Crandon Park Nature Center

4000 Crandon Blvd.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

October 2 & 23

Matheson Hammock Mangrove Adventure

Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Biscayne Bay as you travel with your naturalist guide through the mangrove forest and discover a world filled with brown pelicans, osprey, great blue herons, nurse sharks, sting rays, and more. Trip meets at the Matheson Hammock Park Wading Beach. Bring plenty of drinking water, closed-toe shoes and sun protection.

10 a.m. - noon; \$30 per person

Matheson Hammock Park Wading Beach

9610 Old Cutler Rd.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

To find out more, call 311, visit www.miamidade.gov/parks or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.   

October 3

Mini-Camp "Out of the Blue"

The Deering Estate offers a mini-camp for students off from school on teacher planning days.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Before care available:

7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.; \$38 per day

**Deering Estate,
16701 SW 72 Ave.**

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org



October 3 & 12

Camp Black Bear: One-Day Nature Camp

Let your child explore the wild side of the parks in this nature-based camp packed with fun and educational programming. Campers will perform scientific experiments, go on environmental fieldtrips and engage in athletic activities in the great outdoors while under the safety of our staff's supervision. Please bring drinking water, comfortable closed-toe shoes, lunch, and sun protection.

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\$35 per person (ages 6-14)

**A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave., 305-666-5885**

**Greynolds Park Boat House
17530 W Dixie Hwy., 305-666-5885
www.miamiecoadventures.com**

October 3 & 12

Camp Manatee: One-Day Nature Camp

Let your child explore the wild side of the parks in this nature-based camp packed with fun and educational programming. Campers will perform scientific experiments, go on environmental fieldtrips and engage in athletic

activities in the great outdoors while under the safety of our staff's supervision. Please bring drinking water, comfortable closed-toe shoes, lunch, and sun protection.

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\$35 per person (ages 6-14)

**Greynolds Park Boat House
17530 W Dixie Hwy.**

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

October 7, 21, 22 & 29

Campfire & Night Walk

Take a night-time stroll into some of the various natural ecosystems of South Florida alongside a naturalist guide and discover the marvelous nocturnal life of the park at dusk. Experience the sights and sounds of Eastern Screech Owls, raccoons, night spiders and other nocturnal natives. Bring comfortable closed-toe shoes, insect repellent, and a flashlight. Feel free to bring your own marshmallows to roast on our campfire following the walk.

7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.; \$6 per person

**Bill Sadowski Park Nature Center
17555 SW 79 Ave.**

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

October 8

Bird Walk

The Deering Estate is part of the Biscayne Bay IBA (Important Bird Area) and is recognized as a globally important habitat for the conservation of bird populations. Search for some of the Deering Estate's estimated 170 species of resident and migratory birds. Watch for ibises, herons, egrets and other shorebirds in and around the shallow coastal waters.

7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; \$15 per person

**Deering Estate, 16701 SW 72 Ave.
305-235-1668**

www.deeringestate.org

October 9

Deering Harvester Day

Celebrate the fall harvest and enjoy a history-oriented family day at the Deering Estate! Take family photos next to the vintage International Harvester Truck & other locations, tour the

historic house and celebrate the harvest.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Free with Estate admission: \$12 for adults
& \$7 for children (ages 4-14)**

Deering Estate, 16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

October 9

Oleta River Canoe Tour

Amidst the hustle and bustle of Miami, the Oleta River is an unchanged beacon for wildlife. Relive the river's historic past with park naturalists as you explore the transition of ecosystems in this natural haven for wading birds, osprey, fish and the endangered manatee.

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; \$30 per person

East Greynolds Park

16913 Biscayne Blvd.

www.miamiecoadventures.com



October 12

Mini-Camp "Sprout"

The Deering Estate offers a mini-camp for students off from school on teacher planning days.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Before care available:

7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.; \$38 per day

Deering Estate, 16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

October 12

Nite Hike & Campfire

Walking down the tropical hardwood hammock trail at dusk gives a whole new meaning to the exploration of the Deering Estate's natural areas. Explore the woods and its wildlife as it comes to life at night. Visit the Tequesta burial mound and learn facts about the Tequesta Indians. Listen for Great Horned Owls

parkscalendar

PROGRAMS & EVENTS



and Eastern Screech-Owls along the way. After the Nite Hike, gather around a crackling fire by the bay for complementary s'mores!

7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; \$15 per person

Deering Estate
16701 SW 72 Ave.
305-235-1668
www.deeringestate.org

October 13

Free Lecture

In partnership with the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, the Deering Estate presents a monthly lecture highlighting unique and interesting connections to our past.

7 p.m., Free & open to the public.

Deering Estate
16701 SW 72 Ave.
305-235-1668
www.deeringestate.org

October 13 & 27

Historic Ghost Tour

Step into the past, as you explore the stories of the Deering Estate's previous inhabitants and paranormal visitors. Hear about sightings and investigate with actual paranormal investigators. Walk the paths of Native Americans, Miami's early pioneers, and even Charles Deering himself! Closed-toe shoes are recommended. Bring a flashlight and mosquito repellent. Tour may contain mature subject matter.

8 p.m. - 10 p.m.; \$30 per person

Deering Estate
16701 SW 72 Ave.
305-235-1668
www.deeringestate.org

October 14

Sunset Kayak Adventure

Experience the sunrise from your kayak and watch the world awaken as you paddle through Crandon Park alongside a naturalist guide. Discover the shorebirds and other ocean life while admiring the tranquil scenery of the early morning amidst the mangroves.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.; \$30 per person

Crandon Park Marina
4000 Crandon Blvd.
305-666-5885
www.miamiecoadventures.com



October 14 & 15

Vamos a Pescar Family Fishing Camp

Bring your family along to this two-day event in partnership with Vamos a Pescar™ and leave with a freshwater fishing license for each participant. The knowledge required for ethical angling and the fishing gear provided is yours to keep.

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Friday

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday

\$10 per person
Bill Sadowski Park Nature Center
17555 SW 79 Ave., 305-666-5885
www.miamiecoadventures.com

October 15

Wine on Harvest Moon

Now in its 15th year, Wine on Harvest Moon, presented by South Motors BMW, caters to South Florida's connoisseurs of fine wines and delicious foods by bringing fine wine, food and art together under the Harvest Moon. Each year

the event explores a different wine region of the world. This year we celebrate the diversity of cultures and flavors of South Africa!

7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

\$150 per person/Deering Estate Foundation Members
\$175 per person/general admission
Deering Estate
16701 SW 72 Ave.
305-235-1668
www.deeringestate.org

October 15

Rain Barrel Workshop at Growfest

Learn how to conserve water in your landscape, perk up your plant and reduce storm-water runoff. Register on Eventbrite: "Rain Barrel Workshop at GrowFest! 2016"

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\$8 advance admission/\$10 at the door, free for children 12 and under. Military families free at VetTix.org
Fruit and Spice Park
24807 SW 187 Ave. 305-247-5725
www.fruitandspicepark.org

October 15 & 16

GrowFest at Fruit & Spice Park

This educational event is perfect for teachers who would like to grow their own classroom gardens. Learn how to grow winter vegetables.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fruit & Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
305-247-5727
www.redlandgrowfest.com

October 16 & November 11

Moonlight Canoe Tour

Take a moonlight canoe tour across Biscayne Bay and enjoy a campfire and s'mores on Chicken Key! Space is limited. Reservations required.

7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., \$40 adults (age 18+)

Deering Estate
16701 SW 72 Ave.
305-235-1668
www.deeringestate.org

To find out more, call 311, visit www.miamidade.gov/parks or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.   

October 19

Exhibit Evening Fall Fine Art

With contemporary inspirations from South African art and its legacy, co-curators Rosie Gordon-Wallace of Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator and Kim Yantis of Deering Estate selected works from local and international artists to reflect the “Eleven Voices” of South Africa.

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.; FREE & open to the public

Exhibit on display from

October 3 – November 20, 2016

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org



October 21

Deering Spookover

Experience the Deering Estate overnight when the lights are out! A group of volunteer paranormal investigators will take guests to the most active locations on the Estate where you can investigate and attempt communication with the spirits that roam houses and main grounds. Equipment used to detect spectral presences – such as pendulums, dowsing rods, EMF meters, voice recorders and cameras are welcome! This is not a sleepover—we investigate all night, so dress comfortably (closed-toe shoes, long pants and comfortable shirt), bring a flashlight, mosquito repellent and any equipment you wish to use. Light snacks and refreshments are served. Tour may contain mature subject matter.

10 p.m. - 2:30 a.m.; \$65 per person

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

October 28

South Florida Chapter of the American Liszt Society Piano Recital

The South Florida Chapter of the American Liszt Society and Deering Estate present a piano recital by world-renowned pianist Kemal Gekic.

7:30 p.m. Meet-the-Artists Reception

8 p.m. Concert

\$20 adults & \$12 seniors and students

(K-12 & college with student I.D.)

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

November

November 4, 11, 17, 18 & 25

Campfire & Night Walk

Take a night-time stroll into some of the various ecosystems of South Florida alongside a naturalist guide and discover the marvelous nocturnal life of the park at dusk. Experience the sights and sounds of Eastern Screech Owls, raccoons, night spiders and other nocturnal natives. Feel free to bring your own marshmallows to roast on our campfire following the walk.

7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.; \$6 per person

Bill Sadowski Park Nature Center

17555 SW 79 Ave., 305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

November 5 & 26

Introduction to Archery

Learn about the origins and history of archery as both a sport and tool for survival in this educational and hands-on seminar before being instructed on proper technique. After the lesson, take some practice shots at a target to test your new skills. Bring comfortable shoes and sun protection.

10 a.m. - noon; \$8 per person

A.D. “Doug” Barnes Park Nature Center

3401 SW 72 Ave.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com



November 5

Discovering @Deering “America Recycles Day”

Discover science, conservation, art and more!

For kids ages 6-14.

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; \$15 per person

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

November 5, 19, 20 & 26

EcoAction Day

Connect with nature and get down and dirty at one of our monthly volunteer days! Bring comfortable closed-toe shoes, insect repellent, work gloves, small hand tools and sun protection. Long shirts/pants, water, hats and sunglasses are highly recommended.

9 a.m. – noon

Bill Sadowski Park Nature Center

17555 SW 79 Ave.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

November 5 & 6

Key Biscayne Kayak Adventure

Let our naturalists take you on a journey along the shores of a land that has witnessed the comings and goings of man for over 2,000 years, from the Tequesta tribes to the pirates that shipwrecked offshore. Paddle over seagrass beds and sand flats as you make your way past an ancient fossilized reef and into the serene mangrove forests.

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.; \$30 per person

Crandon Park Nature Center

4000 Crandon Blvd.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

parkscalendar

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

November 8

Mini-Camp "Green Revolution"

The Deering Estate offers a mini-camp for students off from school on teacher planning days.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Before care available: 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.

\$38 per day

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org



November 8 & 23

Camp Black Bear: One-Day Nature Camp

Let your child explore the wild side of the parks in this nature-based camp packed with fun and educational programming. Campers will perform scientific experiments, go on environmental field trips and engage in athletic activities in the great outdoors while under the safety of our staff's supervision. Please bring drinking water, comfortable closed-toe shoes, lunch and sun protection.

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\$35 per person (ages 6-14)

A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park Nature Center

3401 SW 72 Ave.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

November 8 & 23

Camp Manatee: One-Day Nature Camp

Let your child explore the wild side of the parks in this nature-based camp packed with fun and educational programming. Campers

will perform scientific experiments, go on environmental fieldtrips and engage in athletic activities in the great outdoors while under the safety of our staff's supervision.

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\$35 per person (ages 6-14)

Greynolds Park Boat House

17530 W Dixie Hwy.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

November 9

Nite Hike, Campfire & Flag Retirement Ceremony

Visitors can explore the natural areas and see wildlife at night! Enjoy a guided tour of the tropical hardwood hammock trail and listen for Great Horned Owls and Eastern Screech-Owls along the way. After the Nite Hike, gather under the stars around a campfire by the bay and enjoy complementary s'mores! This month's night hike will be accompanied by a flag retirement ceremony.

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. \$15 per person. Free to military personnel and veterans with ID & Deering Estate Foundation Members.

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

November 10

Free Lecture

In partnership with the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, the Deering Estate presents a monthly lecture highlighting unique and interesting connections to our past.

7 p.m., Free & open to the public

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

November 12

Bird Walk

The Deering Estate is part of the Biscayne Bay IBA (Important Bird Area) and is recognized as a

globally important habitat for the conservation of bird populations. Search for some of the Deering Estate's estimated 170 resident and migratory bird species. Watch for ibises, herons, egrets and other shorebirds in and around the shallow coastal waters.

7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; \$15 per person

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org



November 13

Canoe Tour

Take a sunrise canoe tour across Biscayne Bay! Visit Chicken Key, a seven-acre mangrove island and bird rookery, approximately one mile off-shore. Look for marine wildlife such as manatees, sea turtles and numerous bird species. Space is limited. Reservations required.

7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

\$30 adults; \$20 children (ages 9-14)

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

November 14

Moonrise Photography

Exciting Deering Estate program where you can take moonrise photos of Biscayne Bay! You must register and pay in advance.

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.; \$35 per person

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

To find out more, call 311, visit www.miamidade.gov/parks or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.   

November 15

ArtCare Conservation Series

Rustin Levenson will discuss her book, "Seeing Through Paintings" (Yale University Press).

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Free & open to the public with a suggested donation to Deering's Coins for Conservation Program.

Deering Estate
16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

November 18

Historic Ghost Tour

Step into the past, as you explore the stories of the Deering Estate's previous inhabitants and paranormal visitors. Hear about sightings and investigate with actual paranormal investigators. Walk the paths of Native Ameri-

cans, early pioneers, and Charles Deering himself! Closed-toe shoes recommended. Bring flashlight and mosquito repellent. Tour may contain mature subject matter.

8 p.m. – 10 p.m.; \$30 per person

Deering Estate,
16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

November 19

Matheson Hammock Mangrove Adventure

Immerse yourself in the remarkable beauty of the Biscayne Bay as you travel with your naturalist guide through the mangrove forest (the world's only salt-water trees) and discover a world filled with brown pelicans, osprey, great blue herons, nurse sharks, sting rays and more. This is one adventure you'll never

forget! Bring plenty of drinking water, closed-toe shoes and sun protection.

10 a.m. – noon; \$30 per person

Matheson Hammock Park Wading Beach
9610 Old Cutler Rd.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

November 19

Deering Goes to the Birds

Explore the Estate's Natural Areas and go on a bird walk led by local birding experts and enthusiasts. Participate in hands-on activities and programs. Bring a picnic lunch. For ages 4 & older.

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; \$7 per person

Deering Estate,
16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

Improve Your Game with the GPS-Enabled YAMA TRACK App

Miami-Dade County Parks has teamed up with Yamaha to make your great golfing experience even better. The free YamaTrack app offers a detailed interactive map of our courses from tee to green and all points in between. Features include distance to bunkers or hazards to better your chances at shooting a lower score.



Download the app for iPhone or Android devices and book your tee time with us at golfmiamidade.com.



HIT^{the}CLUB!



parkscalendar

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

November 19 & 20

Sunset Kayak Adventure

Experience the sunrise from your kayak and watch the world awaken as you paddle through Crandon Park alongside a naturalist guide. Discover the shorebirds and other ocean life while admiring the tranquil scenery of the early morning amidst the mangroves.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.; \$30 per person

Crandon Park Marina

4000 Crandon Blvd.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com



November 20

Sunrise Photography

The Deering Estate offers an exciting program where you can take sunrise photos of Biscayne Bay! This is a two-hour program dependent on the time of sunrise for each specified date. The price also includes admission to the Estate during our regular hours on the day of the photo shoot. You must register and pay in advance.

5:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.; \$20

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

December

December 2

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Kick-off the holiday season at the Deering Estate! Enjoy musical entertainment throughout

the historic houses and courtyard. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available. Ballroom tree and ballroom decorations generously sponsored by the 100 Ladies of Deering.

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

\$12 for adults & \$7 for children (ages 4-14)

Free for Deering Estate

Foundation members

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

December 2

Noches Tropicales™

Noches Tropicales™ brings communities closer together through the presentation of culturally diverse entertainment that is free and enjoyable for families. Enjoy the sounds of Pepe Montes y su Conjunto - an outstanding young artist and music producer who uses different international music genres and plays different instruments to create a unique sound

8 p.m.

Tropical Park, 7900 SW 40 St.

305-553-3161

December 2 & 3

Campfire & Night Walk

Take a night-time stroll into some of the various natural ecosystems of South Florida alongside a naturalist guide and discover the marvelous nocturnal life of the park at dusk. Bring comfortable closed-toe shoes, insect repellent and a flashlight. Feel free to bring your own marshmallows to roast on our campfire following the walk.

7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m., \$6 per person

Bill Sadowski Park Nature Center

17555 SW 79 Ave.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

December 3

Sunset Kayak Adventure

Experience the sunrise from your kayak and watch the world awaken as you paddle



through Crandon Park alongside a naturalist guide. Discover the shorebirds and other ocean life while admiring the tranquil scenery of the early morning amidst the mangroves.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.; \$30 per person

Crandon Park Marina,

4000 Crandon Blvd.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

December 3 & 10

EcoAction Day

Connect with nature and get down and dirty at one of our monthly volunteer days! Join our naturalists in restoring the park and its natural areas with projects that include weed/invasive exotic vegetation removal, planting, mulching, and garbage clean-up. Bring comfortable closed-toe shoes, insect repellent, work gloves, small hand tools and sun protection. Long shirts/pants, water, hats and sunglasses are highly recommended.

9 a.m. - noon

Bill Sadowski Park Nature Center

17555 SW 79 Ave.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com



To find out more, call 311, visit www.miamidade.gov/parks or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.   

December 4

Santa Paws at the Park

Bring your family pet (dogs & cats only) for holiday photos with Santa! Pet adoptions (for a reduced fee) will also be available onsite from Miami-Dade County Animal Services' HOPE Express mobile pet adoption trailer. Photos available for an additional fee; free photos for pets adopted that day. Must bring pets on leash or in carriers. Only service animals are permitted on the Main Estate grounds.

3:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Free & open to the public; photos for an additional fee.
Deering Estate Visitor Center
16701 SW 72 Ave.
305-235-1668
www.deeringestate.org

December 3

Introduction to Archery

Learn about the origins and history of archery as both a sport and tool for survival in this educational and hands-on seminar before being instructed on proper technique. After the lesson, take some practice shots at a target to test your new skills. Bring comfortable shoes and sun protection.

10 a.m. - noon; \$8 per person

A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
305-666-5885
www.miamiecoadventures.com

December 9

Creatures of the Night

Learn about the mysteries of the night and see what lurks around the park when the lights go out! Our naturalists will guide you



through the park nature trails in search of its nocturnal residents including Eastern Screech Owls, raccoons, night spiders and more. Bring comfortable closed-toe shoes, insect repellent and a flashlight.

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.; \$4 per person
Greynolds Park Boat House
17530 W Dixie Hwy.
305-666-5885
www.miamiecoadventures.com

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There's a new way you can continue to support and conserve parks and parks' programming. The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade is now on **AmazonSmile**. Each time you make an eligible purchase on **AmazonSmile** at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-0924393>, Amazon will donate 0.5% to the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, for the conservation and preservation of Miami-Dade County's Parks System.

parkscalendar

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

December 9

Campfire & Owl Walk

Enjoy an evening of discovery in the world of owls! Start the night with a presentation all about these nocturnal birds before entering the nature trails with a guide to search for them. See the park after dark and encounter other nocturnal natives such as raccoons and night spiders. Bring comfortable closed-toe shoes, insect repellent and a flashlight. Feel free to bring your own marshmallows to roast on our campfire following the walk.

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; \$6 per person

Bill Sadowski Park Nature Center

17555 SW 79 Ave.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com



December 10

Key Biscayne Kayak Adventure

Let our naturalists take you on a journey along the shores of a land that has witnessed the comings and goings of man for over 2,000 years, from Tequesta Indian tribes to pirates that shipwrecked offshore. Paddle over sea-grass beds and sand flats as you make your way past an ancient fossilized reef and into the serene mangrove forests. Bring plenty of drinking water (at least one quart), closed-toe shoes and sun protection.

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

\$30 per person

Crandon Park Nature Center

4000 Crandon Blvd.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

December 10, 17

Storytime & Photos with Santa

Santa Claus is coming to town and he's visiting the Estate! Enjoy storytime with Santa's elves and photos with Santa inside the historic Stone House Ballroom. Children can also participate in holiday arts & crafts activities. Limited seating available.

10 a.m. - noon

Free with Estate admission: \$12 for adults & \$7 for children (ages 4-14); Free for Deering Estate Foundation members.

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

December 10

Bird Walk

The Deering Estate is part of the Biscayne Bay IBA (Important Bird Area) and is recognized as a globally important habitat for the conservation of bird populations. Search for some of the Deering Estate's estimated 170 residents and migratory bird species.

7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; \$15 per person

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

December 11

Oleta River Canoe Tour

The Oleta River is an unchanged beacon for wildlife. Relive the river's historic past with park naturalists as you explore the transition of ecosystems in this natural haven for wading birds,



osprey, fish and the endangered manatee.

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; \$30 per person

East Greynolds Park

16913 Biscayne Blvd.

305-666-5885

www.miamiecoadventures.com

December 14

Holiday Lights at Deering

Enjoy a historic holiday evening stroll through signature holiday decorating collaborations, an expanded museum furnishing collection and beautiful nighttime views of Biscayne Bay.

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

\$7 ages 4 & older; Free for Deering Estate Foundation members.

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

December 14

Nite Hike & Campfire

Walking down the tropical hardwood hammock trail at dusk exploring Deering Estate's natural areas. Explore the woods and its wildlife as it comes to life at night. Visit the Tequesta burial mound and learn facts about the Tequesta Indians. After the Nite Hike, gather by the bay for complementary s'mores!

7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; \$15 per person

Deering Estate

16701 SW 72 Ave.

305-235-1668

www.deeringestate.org

December 16 & 17

Vamos a Pescar Family Fishing Camp

Bring your family along to this two-day event in partnership with Vamos a Pescar™ and leave with a freshwater fishing license for each participant. The knowledge required for ethical angling and the fishing gear provided is yours to keep.

Friday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To find out more, call 311, visit www.miamidade.gov/parks or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.   

\$10 per person
Bill Sadowski Park Nature Center
17555 SW 79 Ave.
305-666-5885
www.miamiecoadventures.com

December 17

Storytime and Photos with Santa

Enjoy storytime with Santa's elves and photos with Santa inside the historic Stone House Ballroom. Children can also participate in holiday arts & crafts activities. Limited seating available.

10 a.m. – noon

Free with Estate admission: \$12 for adults & \$7 for children (ages 4-14); Free for Deering Estate Foundation members.

Deering Estate
16701 SW 72 Ave.
305-235-1668
www.deeringestate.org

December 17

Matheson Hammock Mangrove Adventure

Immerse yourself in the remarkable beauty of Biscayne Bay as you travel with your naturalist guide through the mangrove forest (the world's only salt-water trees) and discover a world filled with brown pelicans, osprey, great blue herons, nurse sharks, sting rays and more.

10 a.m. – noon; \$30 per person
Matheson Hammock Park Wading Beach
9610 Old Cutler Rd.
305-666-5885
www.miamiecoadventures.com

December 18

Sunrise Photography "Solstice"

A solstice occurs twice each year as the sun reaches its highest or lowest excursion relative to the celestial equator on the celestial sphere. In December it will be at its southern-

most reach. Price includes admission to the Estate during our regular hours. You must register and pay in advance.

6 a.m. – 8 a.m.; \$20 per person
Deering Estate
16701 SW 72 Ave.
305-235-1668
www.deeringestate.org

December 18

Holiday Bay Cruise

Enjoy a relaxing bay cruise aboard the "Pelican Island Skipper," a 45-foot Corinthian catamaran. Boat departs from the Deering Estate and explores the waters of Biscayne Bay.

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
\$35 per person
Deering Estate
16701 SW 72 Ave.
305-235-1668
www.deeringestate.org

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade would like to thank

ASSOCIATED SWIMMING POOL INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA (ASPI)



for their generous donation of \$16,000 to the Learn-to-Swim Scholarship Fund, to provide children with free beginner learn-to-swim lessons at 14 Miami-Dade County pools.

One Road Share It Safely

The Local Action Team advocates for safer people and safer streets.

While South Florida leads the nation in having the most beautiful beaches, and is a top tourist destination, we also hold the title of being the nation's fourth deadliest area for cyclists and pedestrians in the country. Every time a tragic crash happens, a debate breaks out about cyclists' safety on Miami-Dade County's streets.

To be sure, distracted driving is a contributing factor in these deaths. But in Miami, creating strategies on how bikes, pedestrians and cars can safely share the road has become a matter of life and death.

Last September, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, District 9, appointed 22 community leaders to the Local Action Team for Safer People, Safer Streets to tackle this issue as part of USDOT Secretary Foxx's Mayors Challenge. The initiative included seven challenge areas recognized as proven safety improvements.

Working with partners like the Miami-Dade Police,



Patricia Nicholas from Urban Health Solutions explains the Safe Streets approach to Miami-Dade Police Major Hector Llevat and Captain Adolfo Roiz.

the Department of Health, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Jackson Hospital's Trauma Center, the Health Foundation of South Florida, local mayors, and key administrators, the Local Action Team helped to develop an Action Plan for Miami-Dade County.

Plan goals include:

- Adopting a "Vision Zero" policy that sets the goal of zero pedestrian and bicycle deaths.
- Making texting while driving a primary offense to help increase enforcement.
- Realizing the County's Greenway Master plan of building 500 miles of connected bike trails.
- Facilitating a culture shift that emphasizes moving people over moving cars
- Creating a Safety Innovation program using technology to overcome barriers
- Developing "Complete Streets" guidelines to help engineers and planners design roads for all modes
- Launching a Miami-specific education and enforcement campaign so motorists know and respect the rules of the road.

In June, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners adopted this plan. Already, County and State agencies are aligning resources to ensure its implementation. If you want safer streets and places to bike, take a look at the plan and ask your community to consider adopting it: www.miamidade.gov/neatstreets/library/safer-people-safer-streets/local-action-plan.pdf

Many cycling and pedestrian deaths can be prevented by adopting a complete, safe streets approach county-wide, as recommended in the Local Action Plan. Miami-Dade residents deserve to walk and bike in an environment where it is not only easy, but safe for everyone to get around. 🍃

A promotional banner for the 2016 election. It features a blue background with several American flags. The text is white and blue. It includes the slogan "BE informed. BE involved." and a logo that says "BE ELECTION READY". The Miami-Dade County logo is also present.

Stay in **Your Lane**

New barriers make it easier for cyclists and drivers to share the road.

If you've driven through Key Biscayne lately you've probably noticed a strip of green pavement with white, diagonal striping to the right of the travel lane. You also might sense that there's better separation between you and the cyclists riding on the green paint. The visual barrier and clear distinction of where cyclists can ride on Crandon Boulevard is part of a plan to make cyclists safer and drivers more comfortable sharing the road with them in Miami-Dade County.

While it may be obvious that a dedicated bike lane benefits the recreational and commuter cyclists, having a separated green bike lane helps drivers, too!

"I used to work on Key Biscayne and would get nervous that I was driving too close to the bicyclists. But now that there is a barrier between me and riders I feel more confident," Miami-Dade Parks Community Outreach Manager Fanny Navarro shared. "It's amazing what this lane does to your driving experience!"

In fact, the green bike lanes have become a 'teachable' opportunity, even for children.

"I tell my mom not to drive on the green part," Navarro's daughter, Alana declared. "I think it's cool to watch them ride on the green part while we are driving next to them."

What may not be easily recognizable is that the bike lane helps to create a seamless, accessible park system that connects users wherever they are.

Jack Kardys, Parks Director

As for cyclists, not only are the green bike lanes a great improvement over the former pavement lanes, which were only separated by a white, narrow stripe, but the new wide striping has bumps that physically and audibly alert drivers that they're crossing over into the bike lane. An added feature is the solar-powered lighting imbedded in the striping, making the bike lane visible from dusk to dawn to both cyclists and drivers.

"What may not be easily recognizable is that the bike lane helps to create a seamless, accessible park system that connects users wherever they are," Parks Director Jack Kardys shared. "This interconnected bike lane makes for a more livable sustainable community and creates a park system where a street's character is defined



by its role in the community rather than its function. This new bike lane gives users a safer park experience."

Strava, a mobile application and website that records activities and routes widely used by cyclists, lists the Rickenbacker Causeway, along with Crandon Boulevard, as the most popular cycling route in Miami-Dade County.

It's easy to see why: the spectacular vista of Biscayne Bay, the backdrop of the Miami skyline, and Crandon Park's lush tropical vegetation make the route to the Village of Key Biscayne a cyclist's paradise! Plus, the William Powell Bridge offers a real 'hill' challenge for those seeking a mountain-like experience.

Local cyclists, like long-time Key Biscayne resident and bike commuter John Hoffman, have been raving about the newly improved, separated, green bike lanes. "There is no doubt that as I ride, and even when I drive, I am safer," he shared. Everglades Bicycle Club executive board member & cyclist Pat Massey sums up the cycling community's reaction to the green bike lanes: "Thank you Miami-Dade County and Mayor Gimenez for listening to cyclists and making these kinds of improvements so that we can enjoy what we love to do."

Plans are in the works to extend the green lanes to include the entire stretch of causeway, and Village of Key Biscayne Mayor Mayra Pena-Lindsay is looking into ways to continue the bike lanes through the Village.

For information on cycling events and rides throughout the County, visit www.bike305.com. 🍷

The Power of Parks

Help change the landscape of your community by showing your support.

Parks are important landmarks in communities. They help to define a city, like the way Central Park defines New York, Millennium Park characterizes Chicago, or Golden State Park describes San Francisco. What these cities knew early on was that not only do these parks transform their city's skyline, but they also provide real value and a return on investment. Parks provide affordable places to recreate, the trees and greens in parks help to absorb carbon in the atmosphere, and having a park in or near your home can raise its property value.

The measurable economic value of a city with a well-designed and well-maintained network of parks is reflected in the strength of its economy, the condition of its environment and the health of its residents and communities.

But, for Miami-Dade County's park system, which year after year has suffered slashes to funding, maintaining its 270 parks and planning for the city's population growth and future development is under real threat.

The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, a non-profit 501c3 organization, was created to help raise awareness about the importance of parks and to spearhead funding efforts to offset deficits for the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department. It is a necessary entity in both good times and lean times.

The Parks Foundation board of directors is a voice for the department, along with civic, social and community leaders and advocates for parks and open spaces. With so many demands on government dollars – from police to corrections to transportation – parks are often last on the list for improvements and expansion. Yet 70% of the



public want more parks, more open spaces and more programs in parks.

The Parks Foundation is committed to raising funds for the things government won't, like providing swimming scholarships for children who can't afford lessons. Miami-Dade has the highest rate of drowning in the state for children under the age of six. By offering learn-to-swim scholarships to children who are most at-risk for drowning, we help save lives. The Foundation also provides after-school and summer camp scholarships so that children and teens have a safe and fun place to gather. Since 2006, 316 children and teens have been killed by gunfire; more than two-thirds were between 17 and 19 years old. Without free after-school and summer program options for underprivileged youth, these young people are at risk of being hurt or killed. The Foundation also works to fund projects that enhance our parks through conservation and preservation efforts.

Your participation – funding a scholarship, purchasing a Parks Foundation membership, joining our email list, and asking our elected officials to be the voice for Parks – is the key to our success.

On Thursday, November 17, 2016 (the Thursday right before Thanksgiving), the Miami Foundation will host Give Miami Day, the 24-hour online giving day for many of South Florida's charities. The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade is once again participating and is counting on your support to keep Parks fully funded in Miami-Dade County. Won't you join our cause? You can donate to the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade at www.givemiamiday.org anytime on the 17th, beginning at midnight and ending at 11:59 p.m. that evening.

Thank you for being one of our champions. 🍀



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