



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

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3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Shawn Hamilton**  
Secretary

March 25, 2024

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor of Florida  
Plaza Level 01, The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation  
Chair: Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez  
3800 NW 115th Avenue, Suite 1112  
Doral, FL 33178

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava  
111 N.W. 1st Street, 29th Floor  
Miami, Florida 33128

Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners  
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 250  
Miami, Florida 33128

Mayor Francis X. Suarez  
3500 Pan American Drive  
Miami, FL 33133


Miami City Commission  
3500 Pan American Dr.  
Miami, Florida 33133

Dear Governor DeSantis, Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade County Commissioners, Mayor Francis X. Suarez and Miami City Commissioners:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Ecosystem Restoration is pleased to submit the Biscayne Bay Commission Semiannual Report per Section 163.11(7), F.S. Consistent with statute, this report is made available on the department's website as well as Miami-Dade County's website.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Adam Blalock at (850) 245-2031.

Respectfully,

 Digitally signed by  
Shawn Hamilton  
Date: 2024.03.25  
10:06:29 -04'00'

Shawn Hamilton

Secretary

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Enclosure

cc: Adam Blalock, Deputy Secretary of Ecosystem Restoration,  
DEP Brett Tubbs, Director of Legislative Affairs, DEP



# **BISCAYNE BAY COMMISSION**

## **Semiannual Report**

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**March 2024**

**PROTECTING FLORIDA TOGETHER**

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## ABOUT THE BISCAYNE BAY COMMISSION

On June 3, 2021, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis took a major step forward in protecting vital natural resources within Biscayne Bay through the creation of the Biscayne Bay Commission.

While Biscayne Bay is protected in its entirety by either a national park or state aquatic preserve, it faces global, regional and local stressors, including sea level rise, impaired water quality, habitat loss and human activity that conflicts with resource protection.

As required by statute, the Biscayne Bay Commission developed a strategic plan and compiled an associated financial plan in partnership with local agencies.

Commission meetings provide a forum for exchange and serve as a clearinghouse for public information on all plans, programs and projects being conducted.

A copy of all meeting agendas, minutes, recordings and additional materials including past reports can be found online on [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/BiscayneBayCommission](https://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/BiscayneBayCommission). This Semiannual Report is made available to describe the accomplishments of the commission and each member agency and the status of each pending task. This includes:

- Summary of any meetings since the last submitted Semiannual Report.
- Attachment A – Project Tracker: Update by the commission and member agencies of all projects and tasks designed to improve Biscayne Bay. This document is a living Excel document updated as new information is available and reported by member entities. Information on the spreadsheet primarily includes project name, description, project type and project status.
- Attachment B – Financial Plan: Copy of the consolidated financial plan through 2023, inclusive of any necessary updates. An updated 2024 financial plan update will be available in the next semiannual report.
- Attachment C – Biscayne Bay Commission Strategic Plan: A strategic plan was approved by the commission on January 19, 2024, and includes strategies for three strategic goals including enhancing water quality monitoring, improving communication and outreach and addressing sources of nutrients and ecosystem restoration needs.

***The commission shall submit a semiannual report describing the accomplishments of the commission and each member agency, as well as the status of each pending task, to the Miami City Commission, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, the mayor of Miami, the mayor of Miami-Dade County, the Governor and the chair of the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation. The report shall also be available on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Miami-Dade County websites.***

***Section 163.11(7), Florida Statutes***

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commission members, and the statutory composition established in law, are presented in Table 1, below.

Table 1. Biscayne Bay Commission member composition per established legislation.

Section 163.11, F.S., Appointment Requirements	Commission Member	Position Title
1. One member appointed by the Governor.	Noah Valenstein	Commission Chair; Founder, Brightwater Strategies
2. Three members of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, appointed by the board.	Micky Steinberg	Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 4
	Kevin Cabrera	Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 6
	Danielle Cohen Higgins	Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 8
3. One member of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities who resides within the boundaries of a city that borders Biscayne Bay, nominated by the league and appointed by the secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. To the extent practicable, the league must nominate a member from each city that borders Biscayne Bay on a rotating basis.	Tim Meerbott	Mayor, Town of Cutler Bay, representing the League of Cities
4. One member of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board who resides in Miami-Dade County, appointed by the board.	Scott Wagner	South Florida Water Management District
5. One representative of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, appointed by the agency's secretary.	Adam Blalock	Commission Vice-Chair; Deputy Secretary of Ecosystems Restoration
6. One representative of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, appointed by the commission.	Dr. Thomas Reinert	South Regional Director
7. One representative of the Florida Inland Navigation District, appointed by the district.	Spencer Crowley	Florida Inland Navigation District, representing Miami-Dade County

## MEETINGS SINCE THE LAST SEMIANNUAL REPORT

Approved meeting agenda, minutes and recording will be posted when available to: [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/BiscayneBayCommission](https://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/BiscayneBayCommission).

### Sept. 7, 2023

The Biscayne Bay Commission held its seventh meeting on Sept. 7, 2023, at Florida International University's Biscayne Bay Campus and via GoTo Webinar. The meeting welcomed approximately 110 total participants (105 online registrants, 85 actual online attendees) to hear presentations, discussion and public comment.

This meeting started with a welcome, introductions and approval of past meeting minutes. Presentations included Florida's Coral Reef Water Quality Data Compilation, Analysis and Decision Support, presented by Dr. Luke McEachron of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC); an Overview of Miami-Dade County's Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board 2022 Annual Report, presented by Irela Bague of Miami-Dade County (MDC); and, a review of the initial draft development of the Biscayne Bay Commission Strategic Plan, presented by Mollie Sinnott of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). These presentations were followed by public comment, commission discussion and closing remarks.

### Jan. 19, 2024

The Biscayne Bay Commission held its eighth meeting on Jan. 19, 2024, at the Cutler Bay Town Hall City Council Chambers and via GoTo Webinar. The meeting welcomed approximately 100 total participants (84 online registrants, 63 actual online attendees) to hear presentations, discussion and public comment.

This meeting started with a welcome, introductions and approval of past meeting minutes. Presentations included a Biscayne Bay Economic Study Update, presented by Grace Johns of Hazen and Sawyer; an Overview of Biscayne Bay Grant Program Awards, presented by Joanna Walczak of DEP; Member Projects Updates, presented by member entity representatives including FWC, South Florida Water Management District, and MDC; and, a review of the Biscayne Bay Commission Strategic Plan final draft, presented by Mollie (Sinnott) Cordo of DEP. These presentations were followed by public comment, commission discussion and closing remarks.

## STATUS OF PENDING TASKS

Prior to the commission's inaugural meeting, initial steps were taken to make progress on the six tasks outlined below, taken from the establishing legislation. The commission has and will continue to discuss these tasks and how to address each at upcoming meetings. Tasks include:

- a. Consolidate existing plans, programs and proposals, including the recommendations outlined in the [June 2020 Biscayne Bay Task Force report](#), into a coordinated strategic plan for improvement of Biscayne Bay and the surrounding areas, addressing environmental, economic, social, recreational and aesthetic issues.
  - Each commission member is tasked with bringing policy, ordinance and project ideas to future meetings for discussion.
  - The commission discussed looking at the project lists provided by the MDC Watershed Advisory Board and determining where there is an overlap to bolster protection of Biscayne Bay.

- The commission used the six categories listed in the June 2020 Biscayne Bay Task Force report to inspire discussion around developing a new strategic plan for Biscayne Bay.
  - Development of a draft Strategic Plan was initially discussed at the April 2023 commission meeting.
  - An initial draft of the Strategic Plan was presented to the commission at the September 2023 meeting. During this meeting, the commission reviewed the proposed goals, objectives, and strategies and provided comments. Additional feedback was solicited from the member entities and their representatives after the meeting, and all comments were incorporated as appropriate.
  - A final draft version of the Biscayne Bay Commission Strategic Plan was presented to the commission at the January 2024 meeting. The commission approved the plan with only 2 minor edits. The Biscayne Bay Strategic Plan is included here as Attachment C and is published [online](#).
- b. Prepare a consolidated financial plan using the projected financial resources available from the different jurisdictional agencies. The commission will monitor the progress of each element of the plan and revise the plan regularly.
- A suggestion was made at the inaugural meeting for member agencies to coordinate their lobbying efforts to make their individual requests more effective. Members with lobbyists will follow up.
  - With direction from the commission, member agencies have developed a consolidated financial plan by listing the financial resources each member agency has available to bear on future Biscayne Bay priority projects. The consolidated financial report for the 2022-2023 fiscal year is included here as Attachment B.
  - An updated financial report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year will be provided in the next semiannual report.
- c. Provide technical assistance and support as needed to help implement each element of the strategic and financial plans.
- DEP's Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration provides technical support and data regarding Biscayne Bay impairments, water quality hot spot maps and analyses by basin.
  - The commission requested that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) provide information regarding the agency's plans to address sea level rise along the causeways transiting Biscayne Bay and discussion of ways to build resilience (e.g., living shorelines) and restoration (e.g., improved water flow). In 2022, House Bill 7053 (Chapter 2022-089, Laws of Florida) was passed by the Legislature and the Governor signed the bill into law, requiring FDOT to submit a resilient action plan by June 30, 2023, that could help inform this topic. This topic is being explored for a future meeting.
  - During the September 2023 meeting, commissioners requested a stronger emphasis on habitat restoration in the draft strategic plan. The final version of the Biscayne Bay Commission Strategic Plan includes a goal that directly addresses sources of nutrients and ecosystem restoration needs. This goal includes objectives and strategies relevant to habitat improvement in Biscayne Bay.
- d. Work in consultation with the U.S. Department of the Interior.
- No updates to report. See previous January 2022 Semiannual Report.
- e. Provide a forum for exchange of information.

- Commission meetings are public forums conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. Members of the public may provide written and oral comments during the meeting or email comments after the meeting to [BiscayneBayCommission@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:BiscayneBayCommission@FloridaDEP.gov).
- Coordination with the MDC Watershed Advisory Board:
  - MDC's Chief Bay Officer is invited to provide an overview/update from the board at the MDC Watershed Advisory Board. Updates are available on the Biscayne Bay webpage. DEP also furnishes meeting summaries. In addition, the commission discussed these two groups magnifying awareness of the issue at hand and amplifying the potential for environmental change by using the same talking points for projects where all levels of government aggregate actions focus on one basin. Talking points will be co-developed once priority projects have been selected.
- f. Act as a clearinghouse for public information.
  - The Biscayne Bay Commission [website](#) serves as a clearinghouse of information on the bay and the commission.
  - This and future reports as well as meeting agenda, minutes and recording will be posted online.

The Biscayne Bay Commission will continue to meet regularly, with the next meeting tentatively planned for April 2024.



# Attachment A - Project Tracker

March 2024 Biscayne Bay Commission Semiannual Report

Lead Entity	Partners	Unique Project ID	Project Name	Project Description	February 2024 Semiannual Update	Project Type	Project Status
Coral Gables, City of		BB038	Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Goals	Identified sustainability and climate resiliency as a top priority in 2021. Allocated more than \$6 million to a sea-level rise mitigation fund and expects to set aside \$100 million by 2040.		Governance	Completed
Coral Gables, City of		BB037	Fertilizer Ordinance	Adopted the Florida Friendly Fertilizer Ordinance.		Ordinance	Ongoing
Coral Gables, City of	Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	BB012	Coral Gables Waterway / Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements - Construction	Project will construct baffles and replace existing solid pipes with exfiltration trenches to treat and redirect stormwater runoff into an underground porous limestone layer.		Stormwater	Planned
Coral Gables, City of	Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	BB013	King's Bay Septic-to-Sewer Conversion	Project proposes removal of approximately 150 septic tanks that currently receive sewer flows from the King's Bay community.		Septic-to-Sewer	Planned
Cutler Bay, City of		BB030	Land Acquisition	Purchased 8.45 acres of buffer land for conservation purposes adjacent to Biscayne Bay restoration projects.		Land Acquisition	Completed
Cutler Bay, City of	South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)	BB031	Wetland Restoration Adjacent to BBCW	Working to restore a 53-acre wetland adjacent to Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands in partnership with SFWMD.		Hydrologic Restoration	Ongoing
Cutler Bay, City of		BB126	Stormwater Management	Rated FEMA CRS Class 4 for improving town's ability to mitigate potential flooding. \$4 million set aside for stormwater management.	Rated FEMA CRS Class 4 for improving town's ability to mitigate potential flooding. \$4 million set aside for stormwater management.	Stormwater	Updated
Cutler Bay, City of		BB127	Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Footprints	Taken an active role in preventing incompatible development that would conflict with restoration plans, including purchasing land and passing resolutions to protect the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project and Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration footprints.	Taken an active role in preventing incompatible development that would conflict with restoration plans, including purchasing land and passing resolutions to protect the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project and Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration footprints.	Natural System Restoration	Updated
Cutler Bay, City of		BB128	Environmentally Endangered Lands Program	Replenishing funding for the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program.	Replenishing funding for the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program	Funding	Updated
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB043	Oleta River State Park Seagrass Restoration	Oleta River State Park has performed 2.3 acres of seagrass restoration. At this time a benthic survey report is on file including the collected data in tabular format and a GIS map for visual representation of the existing seagrass resources within the project area.		Natural System Restoration	Completed
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB044	Oleta River State Park Septic Abatement	Three park facilities have been taken off septic and connected to sewer.		Septic-to-Sewer	Completed
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB041	Turbidity Criterion	The Water Quality Standards Section has proposed revised turbidity criterion language as part of the department's triennial review of the water quality standards. The proposed revised turbidity criterion would provide additional protections for corals and coral habitats.	DEP has developed additional proposed language to clarify the definition of hardbottom community and provide additional detail regarding the IWR assessment of waters where the new proposed turbidity criterion would apply.	Data Collection and Evaluation	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB042	Water Quality Analysis	The Department, through the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve (BBAP) and the Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration (DEAR) provide technical and analytical support in response to significant Biscayne Bay seagrass losses. DEAR staff also participate in Biscayne Bay fish kill and algal bloom response coordination calls. BBAP has a data sonde network in the Miami River, with two more sites in the river along with three data sonde sites in the Little River watershed and a site at the Dilido pilings. With the current data sonde network, BBAP has attained the largest continuously monitoring network by an aquatic preserve in the state. BBAP additionally has monthly water quality bottle grab sampling of 24 sites for tracking of 39 nutrients, septic tracers, pharmaceuticals, herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.	BBAP expanded its data sonde network into the Miami River, establishing two more sites along with the three existing data sonde sites in the Little River watershed. BBAP additionally has monthly water quality bottle grab sampling of 24 sites for tracking of 39 nutrients, septic tracers, pharmaceuticals, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides.	Data Collection and Evaluation	Ongoing

# Attachment A - Project Tracker

Lead Entity	Partners	Unique Project ID	Project Name	Project Description	February 2024 Semiannual Update	Project Type	Project Status
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	FWC	BB045	Oleta River State Park Mangrove Restoration	Restore two remnant mangrove systems in the park. These wetlands were impounded within the landscape during large-scale dredging and filling associated with coastal development in the 1950s and have been stressed due to failure of hydrologic connections to tidal flow. This project proposes to improve the function of the two die-off areas, totaling 26.7 acres of mangrove habitat, by reestablishing tidal flow through the maintenance or replacement of culverts.	Ongoing	Hydrologic Restoration	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB046	Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Beach Cleanup	Over 4,000 volunteers have participated in coastal cleanups in 2021, removing tons of marine debris from the shorelines.	Ongoing	Marine Debris	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB047	Barnacle Historic State Park Stormwater Runoff and Erosion Plan	The park's citizen support organization (CSO) hired a landscape architect to create a stormwater runoff and erosion plan. The Barnacle is now working with the Florida Park Service Bureau of Design and Construction and the city of Miami on permitting.	The engineering consultant filed a City of Miami Special Permit Exception application on behalf of The Barnacle State Historic Park in January. It is currently awaiting review by the City's Planning Department.	Stormwater	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB048	State Park Education	Florida's state parks, including Oleta River, Bill Brags Cape Florida, and Barnacle Historic State Parks maintain stewardship of the state park lands, which includes public education.	Ongoing by the way of park staff and volunteers	Education	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB049	State Park Litter and Marine Debris Removal	Florida's state parks, including Oleta River, Bill Brags Cape Florida, and Barnacle Historic State Parks maintain stewardship of the state park lands, which includes litter and marine debris removal.	Ongoing by the way of park staff and volunteers	Marine Debris	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB050	State Park Invasive Plant Management	Florida's state parks, including Oleta River, Bill Brags Cape Florida, and Barnacle Historic State Parks maintain stewardship of the state park lands, which includes invasive removal.	Ongoing	Natural System Restoration	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB051	Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Litter and Marine Debris Removal	Assistance in derelict vessel reporting and illegal crab pot removals during the FWC 2021 crab pot closure assisted the restoration of submerged lands, while the bay's islands were targeted through three major efforts. BBAP continued its decades-long history of hosting an International Coastal Cleanup site, which has removed 1,000 pounds of marine debris. Secondly, BBAP's Adopt-an-Island Program saw 16 cleanups from its adopters, who removed almost 2,000 pounds of debris from the bay's islands. This past fall, BBAP initiated a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris grant funded contract to remove Hurricane Irma debris from 13 of BBAP's islands. Six islands have been cleaned with the removal of almost 10 tons of debris with the remaining seven to be completed in early 2022.	BBAP is activity removing marine debris from the bay through a combinations of programs, including their Adopt and island program, volunteer based island and mangrove clean ups, and a NOAA grant to remove larger items left from Irma	Marine Debris	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB052	Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve's Rookery Island Bird Monitoring Program	BBAP established the only island-based bird count, BBAP's Rookery Island Bird Monitoring Program.	BBAP does monthly bird rookery monitoring on the Morningside islands and Bird Key.	Data Collection and Evaluation	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	FWCC	BB054	Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Response	Efforts include coral rescue, intervention experiments, coral restoration trials, coral disease monitoring, strategic sampling and laboratory analyses, and data management.		Data Collection and Evaluation	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB053	Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Sponge Propagation Project	A water quality restoration project achieved via sponge propagation will provide examples of water quality benefits from expanding the ecosystem services of a group of species that currently exist in the bay and provide benefits to other protected species, such as seagrasses and corals. This project, the first of its kind in Biscayne Bay, will be executed without disturbing seagrass habitat by utilizing existing bay resources and salvaging sponges removed during construction projects.	BBAP's sponge program is in the building stages and is working on determining the best methods for propagation and attachment. Once finished the program will produce a viable method to propagate sponges through the bay to increase water quality and store sponges during marine construction projects.	Natural System Restoration	Ongoing

# Attachment A - Project Tracker

Lead Entity	Partners	Unique Project ID	Project Name	Project Description	February 2024 Semiannual Update	Project Type	Project Status
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB133	Coral Protection and Restoration (CPR) Program	CPR within DEP's office of Resilience and Coastal Protection administers state funds appropriated for the protection and restoration of Florida's Coral Reef, including the reduction of local stressors like land-based sources of pollution. In FY 2020-21, \$10 million in grant funding was awarded to Miami-Dade County to support identification of pollution hotspots; construction solutions leading to reduced stormwater and wastewater related nutrient inputs to surface waters of the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, and biological restoration in support of protecting Florida's Coral Reef.	CPR within DEP's office of Resilience and Coastal Protection administers state funds appropriated for the protection and restoration of Florida's Coral Reef, including the reduction of local stressors like land-based sources of pollution. In FY 2020-21, \$10 million in grant funding was awarded to Miami-Dade County to support identification of pollution hotspots; construction solutions leading to reduced stormwater and wastewater related nutrient inputs to surface waters of the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, and biological restoration in support of protecting Florida's Coral Reef.	Funding	Updated
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB134	Oleta River State Park Exotic Plant Removal and Intracoastal Cleanup	The park's citizen support organization (CSO) facilitates native plantings and provides educational programs and events together with park staff and partners.	The park's citizen support organization (CSO) facilitates native plantings and provides educational programs and events together with park staff and partners.	Education	Updated
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	FWC	BB135	Oleta River State Park Resource Management Project	Oleta River State Park has started a resource management project on one of the main bike trails removing approximately 28.5 acres of invasive Australian pines and other invasive exotic plant species. The area will be mulched and replanted with native species to provide a diversity of plant life, and an increased abundance of food resources that will increase native wildlife utilization of the park.	Ongoing	Natural System Restoration	Updated
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB136	Barnacle Historic State Park Annual Discussion	Annual discussion with district biologists to identify the park's natural and cultural resource needs and goals.	Park Manager met with district biologists on in mid-February 2023 to review annual progress and update needs and goals.	Natural System Restoration	Updated
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB137	Barnacle State Park Volunteer Workdays	Hosted several volunteer workdays.	Volunteer workdays are ongoing with focus on shoreline litter removal and exotic plant removal.	Education	Updated
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB138	Barnacle State Park Mangrove Maintenance Trimming Needs	Worked with DEP and the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources Division of Environmental Management on mangrove maintenance trimming needs.	Three of four mangrove maintenance cuts completed to plan approved by Miami-Dade County RER, two in 2022 and one in 2023.	Natural System Restoration	Updated
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB139	Barnacle State Park Exotics Removal	Continued work on exotics removal by Rangers.	Exotic plant species removal by park personnel and volunteers continues at least once per week.	Natural System Restoration	Updated
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB140	Barnacle State Park Litter Removal	Park staff routinely remove litter that floats on the tide, disposing to landfills.	Shoreline and mangrove litter removal by park personnel and volunteers continues daily.	Natural System Restoration	Updated
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)		BB141	Barnacle State Park Iguana Removal	Friends organization assisted with iguana removal efforts.	Contractor succeeded in removing few iguanas, all small juveniles.	Natural System Restoration	Updated
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	Miami River Fund Inc.		Stormwater Management of Miami River Basin Project	Includes use of the following technologies: The Scavenger Water Decontamination vessel, private sector vacuum trucks, street sweeper truck services and manual removal of debris and invasive species from curbs, gutters and shorelines to improve water quality of the Miami River.		Stormwater	Completed
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	Key Biscayne, Village of		Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project	This project will install green infrastructure along the right-of-way of a flood prone corridor along West Heather Drive from Allendale to Palmwood. This project will test materials, designs, and configurations of green infrastructure to inform the design of the system Village-wide. The Village will test water samples to determine the degree to which green infrastructure like bioswales, porous materials, and native plants improves water quality discharging through outfalls into Biscayne Bay.		Stormwater	Ongoing
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	North Miami, City of		Septic to Sewer Conversion	This project aims to convert 153 septic systems to the City of North Miami's wastewater system.		Septic-to-Sewer	Planned

# Attachment A - Project Tracker

Lead Entity	Partners	Unique Project ID	Project Name	Project Description	February 2024 Semiannual Update	Project Type	Project Status
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	Miami Springs, City of		Oakwood Drive Stormwater and Road Improvements	The project includes a range of best management practices, such as the construction of exfiltration trenches, catch basins, a nutrient separating baffle box, and a pump station. The project aims to improve water quality by capturing debris and storing runoff to minimize nutrient leaching into the C6- Miami Canal, which discharges to Biscayne Bay.		Stormwater	Planned
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	Coral Gables, City of		Sanitary Sewer Coastal Rehabilitation Phase 1	City to rehabilitate approximately 30,000 L.F. of gravity sewer and associated manholes by performing cement grouting, slip lining, cured-in-place pipe, pipe bursting, and point (spot) repair or minor pipe replacement. This will help to reduce leakage of wastewater out of the sewer system that occurs due to cracked or damaged pipes and manholes.		Stormwater	Completed
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	Miami - Dade County (MDC)		Phase 3 - Continued Implementation of Biscayne Bay Task Force Recommendations	Phase 3- Identification of pollution hotspots, construction solutions leading to reduced nutrient inputs to surface waters of Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, and biological restoration in support of protecting Florida's Coral Reef.		Septic-to-Sewer	Ongoing
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)	BB154	Everglades Ecosystem Restoration	As phase 2 of the CERP process, the NPS provides hydrological and ecological impact analysis on proposed alternatives to ensure adequate freshwater quality, timing and duration for, the coastal wetlands and subtidal areas, including mangrove and seagrass areas, of Biscayne Bay, Biscayne National Park, Manatee Bay, Card Sound and Barnes Sound.	Team collaborates with ACE and SFMD to model second round of alternatives	Programmatic	Updated
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)	Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study	BB155		Teamed with Miami Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study promoting the use of nature-based features (e.g., mangrove restoration and living shorelines).	Teamed with Miami Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study promoting the use of nature-based features (e.g., mangrove restoration and living shorelines).	Programmatic	Updated
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	BB156	South Atlantic Coastal Study	Teamed with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the South Atlantic Coastal Study.	Teamed with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the South Atlantic Coastal Study.	Programmatic	Updated
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)	Miami Waterkeeper	BB157	Biscayne Bay Science Coordination	Miami Waterkeeper is on schedule for completing the following tasks by March 2024: increasing scientific coordination around Biscayne Bay, producing targeted outreach toolkits for major environmental concerns, conducting water quality sampling, and enhancing pollution response capacity.	Miami Waterkeeper is on schedule for completing the following tasks by March 2024: increasing scientific coordination around Biscayne Bay, producing targeted outreach toolkits for major environmental concerns, conducting water quality sampling, and enhancing pollution response capacity.	Programmatic	Updated
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)		BB158	Bill Sadowski Virginia Key Critical Wildlife Area	FWC staff monitor and maintain the Bill Sadowski Virginia Key Critical Wildlife Area, which protects approximately 700 acres of foraging habitat for shorebirds, wading birds, manatees and other marine life. It includes a no entry zone to ensure manatee and seagrass protection.	FWC staff monitor and maintain the Bill Sadowski Virginia Key Critical Wildlife Area, which protects approximately 700 acres of foraging habitat for shorebirds, wading birds, manatees and other marine life. It includes a no entry zone to ensure manatee and seagrass protection.	Programmatic	Ongoing
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)		BB159	Manatee rescue and carcass salvage	FWC has multiple statewide or regional programs that intersect with Biscayne Bay including the manatee rescue and carcass salvage program.	FWC has multiple statewide or regional programs that intersect with Biscayne Bay including the manatee rescue and carcass salvage program.	Programmatic	Ongoing
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)		BB160	Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network	FWC has multiple statewide or regional programs that intersect with Biscayne Bay including the sea turtle stranding and salvage network program.	FWC has multiple statewide or regional programs that intersect with Biscayne Bay including the sea turtle stranding and salvage network program.	Programmatic	Ongoing
Biscayne National Park (BNP)		BB161	National Fish and Wildlife Program	Early detection rapid response efforts and lionfish removal programs.	Biscayne National Park staff annually remove lionfish from the park and adjacent FKNMS.	Programmatic	Ongoing
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)		BB162	Artificial Reef Program	Providing annual financial grants to local governments and others for new reef construction and monitoring.	Providing annual financial grants to local governments and others for new reef construction and monitoring.	Programmatic	Updated
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)		BB163	Office of Boating and Waterways Waterway Markers	Oversees and coordinates statewide regulatory waterway markers. Waterway markers are routinely surveyed for accuracy and damage. Missing, damaged or incorrect signage is reported to the FWC toll free number or website.	Oversees and coordinates statewide regulatory waterway markers. Waterway markers are routinely surveyed for accuracy and damage. Missing, damaged or incorrect signage is reported to the FWC toll free number or website.	Programmatic	Ongoing

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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)	Biscayne National Park	BB164	Office of Boating and Waterways Derelict Vessel Removal Program	The Derelict Vessel (DV) Removal Program provides a means for counties and municipalities to apply for grant funds to remove vessels from their communities' waters. More information on the grants can be found at the FWD Derelict Vessel Removal Grant Program. FWC grant funds helped close 45 DV cases, with 41 currently open in Miami-Dade County. Most DV cases are in Biscayne Bay or attached waterways.	The Derelict Vessel Removal Program provides a means for counties and municipalities to apply for grant funds to remove vessels from their communities' waters. More information on the grants can be found at the FWD Derelict Vessel Removal Grant Program. FWC grant funds helped close 45 DV cases, with 41 currently open in Miami-Dade County. Most DV cases are in Biscayne Bay or attached waterways. (2023) FWC contracted and administered a derelict vessel contract, that removed and disposed of more than 12 abandoned migrant vessels from BNP boundaries.	Programmatic	Ongoing
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)	Biscayne National Park	BB166	Fisheries Dependent Monitoring	FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute monitors fisheries catches through angler interviews (recreational) and at fish houses (commercial). Biscayne National Park (BISC) monitors recreational fisheries catches through angler creel interviews.	Standardized sampling continues. (2023) Three creel interns will be interviewing anglers from Black Point and Homestead Bayfront MDC county marinas, to evaluate compliance of special FWC fishing regulations within the national park and to evaluate angler satisfaction.	Programmatic	Ongoing
Biscayne National Park (BNP)	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	BB167	BNP Fisheries Monitoring	NOAA and BNP are monitoring size and abundance for a suite of selected marine fisheries species, with a goal to increase the size and abundance of these species by 20% relative to the baseline, through park-specific management changes. Monitoring is conducted via Reef-Fish Visual Census (RVC) techniques.	This year planning has started between the FWC, BISC, and another NPS program, the South Florida and Caribbean inventory and Monitoring Network (SFCN).	Programmatic	Ongoing
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC)		BB055	Boating and Resource Citations and Warnings	FWC's Division of Law Enforcement patrols, protects and preserves Florida's natural environment, with officers constantly "in the woods and on the water." FWC law enforcement has a strong presence on the waters of Biscayne Bay.	Citations pending	Programmatic	Ongoing
Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)		BB056		The Waterway Assistance Program is a grant program established by the Florida Legislature and the District for the purpose of financially cooperating with local governments to alleviate problems associated with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and associated waterways within the District. Waterway related projects must be located on natural, navigable waterways within the District. Eligible waterway related projects include navigation channel dredging, channel markers, navigation signs or buoys, boat ramps, docking facilities, fishing & viewing piers, waterfront boardwalks, inlet management, environmental education, law enforcement equipment, boating safety programs, beach re-nourishment, dredge material management, environmental mitigation, and shoreline stabilization.		Programmatic	Ongoing
Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)	Multiple	BB060	Small-Scale Derelict Vessel Removal Program	Derelict Vessels in District waterways can cause navigation safety and environment problems. The District provides assistance funding up to \$50,000 per county per year to assist other governments with derelict vessel removal projects.		Marine Debris	Ongoing
Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)	Miami-Dade County	BB061	Waterfront Recreational Access Plan	In 2018, FIND awarded Miami-Dade County a \$100,000 grant to develop a master plan for public access to county waterways. The plan's purpose is to "provide an interconnected blue ways system with improved public access and recreational opportunities to Biscayne Bay and Miami-Dade County's waterways in order to encourage residents and visitors to enjoy, responsibly use and protect these unique natural ecosystems." When complete, the access plan will provide local, state and regional governmental interests with a roadmap to increase public access to the bay.		Governance	Ongoing

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Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)		BB062	Flood Shoal and Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) Channel at Haulover Inlet	The Bal Harbor Shore Protection project includes 90,000 CY obtained from dredging and approximately 110,000 CY from truck haul. Material will be placed on the beach between R-27 and R-31.3. Out of the 90,000 CY being dredged, approximately 25% will be dredged from the Bakers Haulover reach of the Intracoastal Waterway. This material is located within a problematic flood shoal that is north of the inlet. The removal of this material from the flood shoal has multiple benefits. First, material removal from the flood shoal will act as advance maintenance, lessening the shoaling that would be expected to be deposited into the IWW. Second, the dredging of material from the IWW and placement on the beach is a prime example of beneficial use, removing material at the benefit of one project to benefit another.		Natural System Restoration	Ongoing
Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)	Multiple	BB063	FIND Cooperative Assistance Program	Cooperative Assistance Programs are grant programs established for the purpose of financially cooperating with local governments carrying out public navigation, increasing boater access, local and regional mooring field management, public recreation/waterfront parks, inlet management, environmental education, and boating safety projects, directly related to the waterways and to alleviate problems associated with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and associated waterways within the District.		Programmatic	Ongoing
Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)	Multiple	BB064	FIND Interlocal Agreement Program	The Waterway Assistance Program is a grant program established by the Florida Legislature and the District for the purpose of financially cooperating with local governments to increase public access associated with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and associated waterways within the District.		Programmatic	Ongoing
Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)	Miami-Dade County	BB065	FIND Waterway Cleanup Program	The waterways in the District can accumulate trash and debris from many sources. The District sponsors voluntary waterway cleanups in each of the 12 counties with Keep Florida Beautiful affiliates as well as Marine Industry Associations and others. Eligible applicants may be funded in accordance with Rule No. 66B-2.016 of the Florida Administrative Code.		Marine Debris	Ongoing
Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)	Multiple	BB066	FIND Small-Scale Spoil Island Enhancement and Restoration Program	FIND Small-Scale Spoil Island Enhancement and Restoration Program - The District has elected to develop a Small-Scale Spoil Island Enhancement Program to foster "adoption & stewardship" of these islands. This program is intended to provide general improvements, cleanup and maintenance to these islands. The District intends to seek the most technically sound and cost-effective proposals that specifically address the enhancement, improvement and maintenance of spoil islands of the Waterway.		Natural System Restoration	Ongoing
Florida International University - Institute of Environment	Florida DEP	BB014	Biscayne Bay and Reef Observation, Interpretation and Prediction System (B-BROIPS)	Project will fill data gaps, build a unified and open data and visualization portal, create predictive models at levels from statistical to mechanistic and then provide the predictions needed for informed management decisions influencing bay and reef.		Data Collection and Evaluation	Ongoing
Key Biscayne, Village of	Florida DEP	BB015	Stormwater Sustainability Pilot Project	Pilot to demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of capturing stormwater runoff pollutants captured at the source. Includes installation and monitoring of Ultra-Urban Filters (UUFs), under-grate filter baskets, and curb inlet filters within the K-8 School Basin.		Stormwater	Planned
Miami Beach, City of		BB028	Climate Initiative	Established a climate action goal to reach net zero emissions by 2050.		Governance	Completed
Miami Beach, City of		BB027	Plastic Free Ordinance	Passed a plastic free ordinance, a plastic straw ordinance and an expanded polystyrene ordinance, becoming the first municipality in Florida to do so and was the inspiration for county-wide passage of the Plastic 305 initiative.		Ordinance	Ongoing

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Lead Entity	Partners	Unique Project ID	Project Name	Project Description	February 2024 Semiannual Update	Project Type	Project Status
Miami Beach, City of		BB029	Fertilizer Ordinance	Adopted DEP's model ordinance for fertilizer use for urban landscapes, alongside additional and more stringent standards related to the use of nitrogen and phosphorus-based fertilizers.		Ordinance	Ongoing
Miami Shores, Village of	Florida DEP	BB016	Miami Shores-NE 8th Avenue Drainage Improvement Project	This project mitigates flooding during heavy rain events and protects Biscayne Bay. It connects to Biscayne/Blvd./State Road 1 (evacuation route), and planned improvements help ensure that all roads leading to evacuation exit routes remain passable.		Stormwater	Planned
Miami Waterkeeper	Florida DEP	BB017	Improving Water Quality in Biscayne Bay through Coordination, Outreach, Monitoring, and Source Tracking	Establish coordination between scientists and agencies for water quality events; monitor fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) in Biscayne Bay weekly; analyze an EPA-funded dataset correlating nutrients, FIB, and land use and generate management recommendations .		Data Collection and Evaluation	Ongoing
Miami, City of	FIND	BB057	Virginia Key Seawall, Dock and Kayak Launch	The Virginia Key seawall, dock and kayak launch at Shrimper's Lagoon.		Recreation	Completed
Miami, City of	FIND	BB058	Spring Garden Park Seawall and Kayak Launch	Spring Garden Park Seawall and Kayak Launch.		Recreation	Completed
Miami, City of	FIND	BB059	Dinner Key Marina Redevelopment	Dinner Key Marina Redevelopment.			Completed
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB106	BBTF-5D	Conduct an analysis of marine debris in Biscayne Bay.	City of Miami partnership with Ocean Conservancy on a Circularity Assessment Protocol (CAP) a tool that can give us a clear picture of the lifecycle of plastics and debris in the city of Miami.	Marine Debris	Completed
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB125	BBTF-7G	Identify and establish dedicated and recurring funding sources to pay for marine debris prevention and removal activities.	The Biscayne Bay Environmental Enhancement Trust Fund has been identified as a funding source in addition to the general fund.	Funding	Completed
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB001	MDC's Chief Bay Officer	Chief Bay Officer acts as an advisor to the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners and advocates on matters related to the health and recovery of Biscayne Bay.		Governance	Completed
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB002	MDC's Biscayne Bay Task Force	Task force made up of nine members consisting of professionals and the community at-large, who review relevant data, prior studies and reports related to Biscayne Bay and determine how various issues may affect residents and property owners.		Governance	Completed
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB003	MDC's Biscayne Bay Website and Report Card	MDC provides website as a public service to its residents and visitors. The Biscayne Bay Report Card evaluates water quality, habitat, and fisheries in Biscayne Bay as the three representative aspects of the Bay's overall ecological health.		Education	Completed
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB005	"Protect Biscayne Bay" Specialty License Plate	MDC Partnered with the Miami Foundation and unveiled a Protect Biscayne Bay specialty license plate. Funds from the sale of the license plate will be directed to the Miami Foundation who will house the Biscayne Bay Recovery Fund.		Education	Completed
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB006	Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board	The Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory board was created by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), through Ordinance No 21-72 as recommended by the Biscayne Bay Task Force. It establishes a permanent board to advise the BCC and the County Mayor on issues related to Biscayne Bay.		Governance	Completed
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB080	BBTF-2A	Establish by ordinance a Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Board (WMB).	Adopted Ordinance to create and established the Miami-Dade County Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board	Governance	Completed
Miami-Dade County (MDC)	Multiple Cities and FDEP	BB067	BBTF-1A	Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP) for Biscayne Bay with DEP.	Currently developing Reasonable Assurance Plan for Biscayne Bay with FDEP for the first phase.	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB068	BBTF-1B		Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources Division of Environmental Management (RER DERM) working on calculations pre and post projects in Northern Biscayne Bay through the RAP process.	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB069	BBTF-1C	Activate additional Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources' (RER) resource management functions.	RER DERM created the water resources section and increased staff focus on Biscayne Bay recovery efforts.	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB070	BBTF-1D	County should conduct an immediate assessment of land-based hotspot areas prioritized based on existing, known impairments.		Water Quality	Ongoing

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Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB071	BBTF-1E	Review, develop (as needed), implement and enforce local ordinances and policies to attain pollution load reduction goals set forth in the Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP).	RER DERM currently updating Chapter 24 of the code to improve stormwater and septic systems operations and maintenance	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB072	BBTF-1F	Coordinate, staff and provide an annual budget for comprehensive, centralized Biscayne Bay Watershed data and research coordination and data management infrastructure.	Collaborating with academia and tech industry to develop outline and plan	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB073	BBTF-1G	Undertake and secure funding for new pilot projects and research projects focused on reducing pollutant loads.	Implementing pilot projects with State funding to install additional stormwater grates, smart sensors, baffle boxes, and similar mechanisms and technologies; pilot projects; and research projects.	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB076	BBTF-1J	Initiate and fund studies that illuminate specific knowledge gaps for application toward watershed restoration.	RER DERM currently working on studies with academic partners.	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB077	BBTF-1L	Increase compliance of all marinas and commercial operations along waterways.	Chief Bay Officer collaborating with Miami Dade County Parks and Recreation & Miami Dade Police Department to improve education and enforcement efforts.	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB078	BBTF-1M	Continue to monitor the progress of the October 7th, 2015 Consent Agreement between FP&L and Miami-Dade County.		Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB079	MDC - SI1	Spoil Island Contract.	Disbursement of \$550,000.00 from Biscayne Bay Environmental Enhancement Trust Fund to conduct environmental enhancement for trash removal on spoil islands in Biscayne Bay.	Marine Debris	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB081	BBTF-2D	Develop a formal partnership in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SFWMD.	Approved cost-share partnership with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to update the 2005 Biscayne Bay Economic Study, to bring such partnership agreement to this Board for approval as quickly as possible, and to identify sufficient legally available funds in such agenda item.	Governance	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB082	BBTF-2E	Enable the alignment and coordination of County departments that takes a holistic, comprehensive approach to Biscayne Bay recovery and resilience.	Chief Bay Officer with the support of the County Mayor are working cross departments to coordinate recovery efforts.	Governance	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB084	BBTF-3A	Increase compliance with existing laws to result in the immediate connection of ~12,000 properties to the sewer system.	Miami-Dade Water & Sewer initiated the first phase of connections in northern Biscayne Bay. Currently planning the phase two.	Infrastructure	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB087	BBTF-3D	Undertake immediate efforts to identify and eliminate all root causes of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) including inflow and infiltration. Accelerate sewer infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.	Miami-Dade Water & Sewer working with consultant to design redundant sewer mains, identify the most at risk for failure.	Infrastructure	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB088	BBTF-3E	Develop and expedite a Condition Assessment and Asset Management Action Plan to document the condition of the County's wastewater system assets and certify all historical "As-Builts" and/or those not already certified with a focus on identifying horizontal and vertical locations of main wastewater transmission lines.	Adopted resolution to undertake an effort to update the historical "As-Builts" for County-owned sewer infrastructure that is eight-inches in diameter or greater and which "As-Builts": (a) are over 25 years old or (b) were not prepared by a Florida-licensed Professional Land Surveyor. This Board further directs the County Mayor or County's Mayor designee to prioritize the part of this project that focuses on updating the historical "As-Builts" for County-owned sewer infrastructure that is eight inches or greater in diameter and located within a quarter mile of any canal or body of water that discharges to Biscayne Bay.	Infrastructure	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB090	BBTF-3G	Develop a plan to prioritize the retrofitting of stormwater infrastructure within basins with the most substantial water quality and/or habitat degradation issues.	Pilot projects underway	Infrastructure	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB091	BBTF-3H	Eliminate direct and indirect stormwater discharges to Biscayne Bay.	1. Stormwater pilot projects - See item BB073 2. Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department (WASD) Capital Improvement Plan replacing of sewer mains. 3. updating design standards for septic and stormwater systems.	Infrastructure	Ongoing



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Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB093	BBTF-3K	Ensure that new infrastructure projects to address coastal flooding and storm surge that are cost-shared by the County adhere to the recommendations of this Task Force and prioritize Biscayne Bay health and resilience.	MDC Office of Resilience	Infrastructure	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB098	BBTF-4E	Prioritize existing and identify new green and blue infrastructure approaches and restoration projects.	RER DERM, Office of Resilience working with academia and private sector to review potential solutions for sea level rise.	Watershed Habitat Restoration and Natural Infrastructure	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB099	BBTF-4F	Continue to work with SFWMD and to have the State of Florida allocate the funds necessary to ensure the timely commencement of construction of the Cutler Flow Way in accordance with the project timeline in the Integrated Delivery Schedule.	Finalizing transfer of property to SFWMD	Watershed Habitat Restoration and Natural Infrastructure	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB100	BBTF-4G	Continue to advocate for funding to support the Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) project (also known as the BBCW / C-111).	MDC adopts urgings annually to adds CERP to legislative package. BBCW Phase 1 final construction and BBSEER planning process have been fully funded.	Watershed Habitat Restoration and Natural Infrastructure	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB102	BBTF-4I	Accelerate green infrastructure solutions for flooding, resiliency and water quality.	1. MDC working on building resilience in secondary canal system with elevating canal banks. 2. In partnership with SFWMD to develop strategies to SFWMD's level of service for C7, C8 & C9. 3. Partnering with SFWMD on grant proposals for Innovative Water Technology.	Watershed Habitat Restoration and Natural Infrastructure	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB103	BBTF-5A	Create a comprehensive marine debris prevention, reduction, and removal program within DERM and to adequately fund and staff the program.	Received approval from DERM Director's Office to create a scope of work to bid out the development of a comprehensive marine debris plan, to be informed by the goals and objectives identified by the marine debris planning team and to include, at a minimum, the following: 5D, 5E, 5F, and 5G	Marine Debris	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB104	BBTF-5B	Establish a marine debris working group to promote collaboration on ways to reduce marine debris.	RER DERM working with consultant, municipalities and stakeholders to develop plan through workshops and charrettes.	Marine Debris	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		bb	BBTF-5C	Through the Miami-Dade County Police Department (MDPD), direct the Marine Patrol Unit to prioritize its commitment to the enforcement of all applicable laws having a nexus to the environmental health of the Bay and its tributaries.	Chief Bay Officer collaborated with Miami Dade Police Department to increase law enforcement presence in Biscayne Bay and tributaries by increased FTEs. MDPD conducted Earth Day clean up activity to show commitment towards Biscayne Bay recovery efforts.	Marine Debris	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB107	BBTF-5E	Adopt a target maximum input level policy for trash.		Marine Debris	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB108	BBTF-5F	Evaluate the various existing stormwater outfall systems throughout the county to determine their effectiveness at preventing debris from entering Biscayne Bay.	Creating report to include maintenance of stormwater infrastructure and stormwater mechanisms, including, but not limited to, stormwater drainage on roads and the secondary canal system: what stormwater-related maintenance the County currently undertakes, including the type of maintenance; the general locations; differences in maintenance by location, if differences exist; and the frequency of such maintenance.	Marine Debris	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB109	BBTF-5G	Identify and establish dedicated and recurring funding sources to pay for marine debris prevention and removal activities.		Marine Debris	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB110	BBTF-6A	Create a multi-lingual, multi-media campaign and educational outreach program.	Resolution directing the county mayor or county mayor's designee to develop and implement a multilingual, multimedia public awareness campaign and educational outreach program to promote and improve awareness regarding Biscayne bay.	Education and Outreach	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB111	BBTF-6B	Leverage the funding in the Community Based Organization grant program to create a special focus on Biscayne Bay education.	RER DERM has updated the program to emphasize focus on Biscayne Bay recovery. OMB finalizing the streamlining of the grant process.	Education and Outreach	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB113	BBTF-6D	Implement policies to reduce the amount of locally generated plastic marine debris.	Created a "Plastic Free 305" during Earth Month 2022. The program shall be a voluntary certification program for business in Miami-Dade County to reduce the use of single-use plastics.	Education and Outreach	Ongoing

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Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB114	BBTF-6E	Build upon and increase volunteer clean-up activities county-wide.	adopted resolution to organize and conduct additional Baynanza events to take place year-round, subject to the availability of funding. Such events may include, for example, additional Biscayne Bay cleanup events, environmental education events, and other activities to raise awareness related to Biscayne Bay. Conducted the 40th Annual Baynanza clean up.	Education and Outreach	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB116	BBTF-6G	Support a "Living Laboratory for Bay Health".	FIU and North Bay Village collaborating.	Education and Outreach	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB117	BBTF-6H	Develop and implement a contractor and lawn care industry training program.	Miami-Dade County partnered with University of Florida - IFAS Extension to develop a Green Industries Best Management Practices for commercial applicators in Miami-Dade County.	Education and Outreach	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB118	BBTF-6I	Expand the scope of Baynanza to add year-round activities and collaborate on Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit activities.	Resolution to organize and conduct additional Baynanza events to take place year-round with 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations to fund Biscayne Bay cleanup events.	Education and Outreach	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB119	BBTF-7A	Collaborate with the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation and the Congressional Delegation to secure annually appropriated funds to support Biscayne Bay watershed restoration.	Miami Dade County has adopted urgings and engaged in advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels every session focused on projects to improve water quality in the watershed. Since 2020, MDC received ongoing appropriations from state grants and federal grants and earmark requests.	Funding	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB120	BBTF-7B	Immediately engage in the legislative process to designate a Biscayne Bay License Plate.	During Florida's 2021 legislative session, Senator Ileana Garcia (R) District 37 and State Representative Nick Duran (D) District 112, led a successful bipartisan effort to create the "Protect Biscayne Bay" specialty license plate. We are currently at 274 sales out of 3,000 needed for circulation - 6.21.2022	Funding	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB121	BBTF-7C	Immediately enter into a cost-share partnership with SFWMD.	See item BBTF-2D	Funding	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB124	BBTF-7F	Develop a mechanism to collaborate with municipalities and work with the development community.	Chief Bay Officer and RER DERM hosted a workshop to coordinate activities prior to the rainy season. In addition, the County hosts Utility Roundtables with municipalities as well.	Funding	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB004	Countywide Fertilizer Ordinance	Florida friendly fertilizer use on urban landscapes ordinance was adopted in April 2021. The ordinance relates to the regulation of fertilizer, creating Chapter 18C of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida; regulating fertilizer application and usage in the incorporated and unincorporated areas; adopting the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Model Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use for Urban Landscapes; providing for additional and more stringent standards than the model ordinance, including an annual period during which fertilizer application generally would be prohibited and limitations on nitrogen and phosphorus; providing enforcement authority to Department Director; amending section 8CC of the Code; providing for enforcement by civil penalty; directing the County Mayor to conduct an educational campaign, make recommendations as to areas of County parks which could be modified to require less fertilization, make recommendations as to water quality testing related to fertilizer, and to prepare reports for the Board of County Commissioners.		Ordinance	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB020	Marine Debris Program	Create a comprehensive marine debris prevention, reduction and removal program within Miami-Dade County Environmental Resources Management and adequately fund and staff the program.		Marine Debris	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB021	Marine Debris Enforcement	Through the Miami-Dade County Police Department, direct the Marine Patrol Unit to prioritize its commitment to the enforcement of all applicable laws having a nexus to the environmental health of the bay and its tributaries.		Marine Debris	Ongoing

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Miami-Dade County (MDC)	Multiple Cities	BB040	Septic-to-Sewer Task Force	The Task Force would consist of 13 members (all experts or knowledgeable on issues related to septic tanks, sanitary sewer systems, or septic to sewer conversions). The proposed Task Force would be established solely to advise the County Commission and the County Mayor on septic to sewer conversion in Miami-Dade County.		Governance	Ongoing
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB085	BBTF-3B	Develop and enforce septic system design criteria with design parameters.	Draft ordinance was workshopped with industry and at the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board. Pending final action by the Board of County Commissioners	Infrastructure	Planned
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB086	BBTF-3C	Initiate a mandatory septic system registration and inspection program.	Staff reviewing feasibility of inspection program. County Commission adopted resolution to create educational campaign for County residents and business owners on septic system maintenance, including, but not limited to, materials that should and should not be placed into a septic system, the type and frequency of recommended maintenance, how to address an improperly functioning septic system, and why proper maintenance is important, such as to avoid financial, health, and environmental contamination risks.	Infrastructure	Planned
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB089	BBTF-3F	Enforce the existing code and update the stormwater design criteria to improve effectiveness and include advances in stormwater treatment technologies.	RER DERM currently drafting the update for Chapter 24 of the code to improve stormwater design, operations and maintenance	Infrastructure	Planned
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB094	BBTF-4A	Develop ecologically acceptable living shoreline design options that are consistent with the existing Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Act.	Currently identifying consultant to develop a living shoreline guidance document.	Watershed Habitat Restoration and Natural Infrastructure	Planned
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB112	BBTF-6C	Conduct an educational campaign to inform the public on the proper and improper ways to dispose of trash and the impacts of littering and marine debris to the health and management of Biscayne Bay.	See item BB110	Education and Outreach	Planned
Miami-Dade County (MDC)	Florida DEP	BB011	Phase 2 - Implementation of Biscayne Bay Task Force Recommendations	Phase 2- Identification of pollution hotspots, construction solutions leading to reduced nutrient inputs to surface waters of Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, and biological restoration in support of protecting Florida's Coral Reef.	Grant awarded in 2021	WQ Characterization - Phase 2 Wastewater Innovative Technology S2S Education and Outreach Construction Stormwater Innovative Technology	Planned
Miami-Dade County (MDC)	Biscayne National Park	BB165	Marine Debris Program	The Marine Debris Program has contracted with Miami Dade County to expand and enhance derelict fisheries trap retrieval efforts throughout Biscayne Bay and host local volunteer debris removal events. The Marine Debris Program coordinates with the National Park Service to fund a marine debris removal and hot spot mapping project. This partnership will facilitate the removal of marine debris both in water and on the shoreline in Biscayne National Park.	MDC supported Biscayne national park efforts by providing \$130K to restore and removed marine debris from the mangroves forest along the western edge of the national park's boundary. In addition, MDC provide staff support to remove derelict vessels. BISC continues to remove more than 60,000 lbs. annually of marine debris from the national park's coral reefs, seabeds, mangrove forests and coastal beaches habitats. Impacts to the flora and fauna are evaluated, with specific focus on sea turtle nesting success, and damage to fundamental mangrove forests, seagrass, and coral reef habitats. This is accomplished via a cadres of natural resources staff, volunteers and supported my base funds, private donations and public grant programs.	Programmatic	Updated
Miami-Dade County (MDC)	Florida DEP	BB007	Biscayne Bay Water Quality Characterization and Pollution Reduction - Implementation of Biscayne Bay Task Force Recommendations	Projects will support identification of pollution hotspots, construction solutions leading to reduced nutrient inputs to surface waters of Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, and biological restoration in support of protecting Florida's Coral Reef.	Projects will support identification of pollution hotspots, construction solutions leading to reduced nutrient inputs to surface waters of Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, and biological restoration in support of protecting Florida's Coral Reef.	Task 3 - WQ Characterization Task 4 - Innovative Technology Task 5 - Education and Outreach Task 6 - Septic to Sewer Task 7 - Stormwater Treatment Task 8 - Restoration	Updated

# Attachment A - Project Tracker

Lead Entity	Partners	Unique Project ID	Project Name	Project Description	February 2024 Semiannual Update	Project Type	Project Status
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB074	BBTF-1H	Elevate and further amend the Comprehensive Develop Master Plan (CDMP) to further include Biscayne Bay watershed management planning elements.	Elevate and further amend the Comprehensive Develop Master Plan (CDMP) to further include Biscayne Bay watershed management planning elements	Water Quality	
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB075	BBTF-1I	Conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment for Biscayne Bay.	Conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment for Biscayne Bay	Water Quality	
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB083	BBTF-2F	Develop a formal partnership in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Miami River Commission.		Governance	
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB092	BBTF-3I	Set policy that all As-Builts/Record Drawings are done and certified by a Florida Professional Surveyor and Mapper qualified and registered to do work in Miami-Dade County.		Infrastructure	
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB095	BBTF-4B	Raise awareness of the value of mangroves through a homeowner education campaign.		Watershed Habitat Restoration and Natural Infrastructure	
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB096	BBTF-4C	Increase enforcement of existing rules for protecting existing mangroves and mangrove shorelines.		Watershed Habitat Restoration and Natural Infrastructure	
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB097	BBTF-4D	Identify vulnerable properties along the coastline and partner with municipalities to focus on public properties and private property owners to create a voluntary Mangrove Protection and Restoration Zone Program.		Watershed Habitat Restoration and Natural Infrastructure	
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB101	BBTF-4H	Establish seagrass targets and maintenance requirements.		Watershed Habitat Restoration and Natural Infrastructure	
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB122	BBTF-7D	Collaborate with Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) to immediately identify projects that will improve water quality and restoration of the Biscayne Bay watershed.		Funding	
Miami-Dade County (MDC)		BB123	BBTF-7E	Leverage municipal financial resources through interlocal agreements to supplement County funds.		Funding	
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Florida DEP SED	BB143	Miscellaneous Electrical Improvements	Miscellaneous electrical improvements at MDWASD Central District treatment plant. Consent Decree Project 2.01	Miscellaneous electrical improvements at MDWASD Central District treatment plant.	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Florida DEP SED	BB144	Replacement of Pumps	Replacement of pumps at one of the effluent pump stations at Central District treatment plant. Consent Decree Project 2.11	Replacement of pumps at one of the effluent pump stations at Central District treatment plant.	Water Quality	Completed
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Florida DEP SED	BB145	Rehabilitation of Digesters	Rehabilitation of digesters at treatment plant 2 clusters 1-4 at Central District treatment plant. Consent Decree Project 2.15	Rehabilitation of digesters at treatment plant 2 clusters 1-4 at Central District treatment plant.	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Florida DEP SED	BB146	Construction of 80-ton Oxygen Production Units	Construction of two 80-ton oxygen production units at Central District treatment plant. Consent Decree Project 2.27	Construction of two 80-ton oxygen production units at Central District treatment plant.	Water Quality	Completed
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Florida DEP SED	BB147	Standby Pumps and Rehab Outfall Pump Station Wet Well	Standby Pumps and Rehab Outfall Pump Station Wet Well for effluent disposal at North District treatment plant. Consent Decree Project 3.07	Standby Pumps and Rehab Outfall Pump Station Wet Well for effluent disposal at North District treatment plant.	Water Quality	Completed

# Attachment A - Project Tracker

Lead Entity	Partners	Unique Project ID	Project Name	Project Description	February 2024 Semiannual Update	Project Type	Project Status
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Florida DEP SED	BB148	Rehabilitation of South Dade 54 Inch Force Main	Rehabilitation of 3.5 miles of the South Dade 54-inch force main (collection system). Consent Decree Project 4.5	Rehabilitation of 3.5 miles of the South Dade 54-inch force main (collection system).	Water Quality	Completed
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Florida DEP SED	BB149	Rehabilitation of City of Miami 54 Inch Force Main	Rehabilitation of a 54-inch force main in the city of Miami (collection system). Consent Decree Project 4.8	Rehabilitation of a 54-inch force main in the city of Miami (collection system).	Water Quality	Completed
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Florida DEP SED	BB150	Replacement of Asbestos Cement Force Main	Replacement of 30 miles of asbestos cement force main transmission system (collection system). Consent Decree Project 4.9	Replacement of 30 miles of asbestos cement force main transmission system (collection system).	Water Quality	Completed
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Florida DEP SED	BB151	Replacement of Force Main Collection System	Replacement of 231,731.01 linear feet (43.89 miles) of force mains (collection system).	Replacement of 231,731.01 linear feet (43.89 miles) of force mains (collection system).	Water Quality	Completed
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	FPL	BB152	Supply of Reclaimed Water to Turkey Point	A cooperative project with FPL is underway to supply reclaimed water for industrial reuse to the Turkey Point power plant, indirectly reducing MDWASD ocean outfall discharges under the Ocean Outfall legislation.	A cooperative project with FPL is underway to supply reclaimed water for industrial reuse to the Turkey Point power plant, indirectly reducing MDWASD ocean outfall discharges under the Ocean Outfall legislation.	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Florida DEP SED	BB153	Deep Injection Wells	Deep injection wells are being built to be the primary disposal method at each plant, eliminating or greatly reducing nutrients, solids, and other constituents discharged via the outfalls.	Deep injection wells are being built to be the primary disposal method at each plant, eliminating or greatly reducing nutrients, solids, and other constituents discharged via the outfalls.	Water Quality	Ongoing
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (MDWASD)	Florida DEP SED	BB142	Rehabilitation of Chlorine Contact Chamber at South District Treatment Plant	Rehabilitation of Chlorine Contact Chamber at South District Treatment Plant Consent Decree Project 1.12	Rehabilitation of Chlorine Contact Chamber at South District Treatment Plant	Water Quality	Completed
Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium	Florida DEP/FWC	BB008	Strategic Integration of Stony Coral Disease Resistance into Coral Reproduction and Restoration Practices to Recover FL's Coral Reef	Applied Stony coral tissue loss disease research to increase restoration innovation.		Data Collection and Evaluation	Ongoing
North Bay Village, City of		BB033	Fertilizer Ordinance	Adopted the Florida Friendly Fertilizer Ordinance.		Ordinance	Ongoing
North Bay Village, City of		BB034	Innovative Research Partnership	Developed a partnership with Florida International University and the University of Miami to find innovative research to help improve the health of Biscayne Bay.		Data Collection and Evaluation	Ongoing
North Bay Village, City of	FIU	BB035	Marine Park	Set aside a marine park.		Recreation	Ongoing
North Bay Village, City of	Miami-Dade County	BB036	Rapid Derelict Vessel Removal	Working on rapid derelict vessel removal in partnership with the county.		Marine Debris	Ongoing
North Bay Village, City of	Florida DEP	BB018	North Bay Village Stormwater Pump Station	Project consists of replacing the injection well and pump station and adding Contech CDS stormwater treatment units at each outfall.		Stormwater	Planned
Palmetto Bay, City of		BB032	Fertilizer Ordinance	Adopted DEP's model ordinance for fertilizer use for urban landscapes, alongside additional and more stringent standards related to the use of nitrogen and phosphorus-based fertilizers.		Ordinance	Ongoing
Pinecrest, City of	Miami-Dade County	BB039	Pinecrest Potable Water Project	Will connect 700 homes previously reliant on well water to the county water and sewer system.		Potable Water	Ongoing
South Florida Water Management District		BB022	Cutler Flow Way	Contract 6: Cutler Wetlands Flow way- Intermediate design completed. Final design, contract award and construction expected in 2022, with completion in 2025.		Hydrologic Restoration	Ongoing
South Florida Water Management District	Miami-Dade County; Florida DEP	BB024	Model Lands Restoration Project	Miami-Dade County in cooperation with the SFWMD and DEP is implementing a concept for the construction, operation and monitoring of environmental pump stations to divert excess stormwater from the Florida City Canal and improve hydrology and reduce saltwater intrusion in the Model Lands.		Hydrologic Restoration	Ongoing

# Attachment A - Project Tracker

Lead Entity	Partners	Unique Project ID	Project Name	Project Description	February 2024 Semiannual Update	Project Type	Project Status
South Florida Water Management District	Miami-Dade County	BB025	Biscayne Bay Economic Study Update	The purpose of the Biscayne Bay Economic Study Update is to estimate the economic contribution of Biscayne Bay as it is used for recreation, shipping, cruises and commercial fishing. Economic contribution is the output, resident income, employment and tax revenue generated from these activities. The study will also update the recreational uses and intensity of Biscayne Bay. This update of the economic role of Biscayne Bay in Florida could be used to justify investments and programs to protect the bay and its contributions to economic activity and community well-being.		Data Collection and Evaluation	Ongoing
South Florida Water Management District	Cutler Bay, City of	BB026	BBCW/C-111	The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) project, a part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), was authorized by Congress in 2014.		Hydrologic Restoration	Ongoing
South Florida Water Management District	Florida DEP	BB019	Biscayne Bay Water Quality Model Development and Application	Objective is to develop and implement a physically-based hydrodynamic water quality model for Biscayne Bay. Model applications will provide quantitative assessments of potential projects and operations to reduce nutrient loading to Biscayne Bay.		Data Collection and Evaluation	Planned
South Florida Water Management District	Miami-Dade County	BB023	CERP-Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration	Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration is a CERP study with multiple components to bring fresh water and improve timing of deliveries to Biscayne Bay, the Model Lands, Southern Glades and other areas, building on the work of the BBCW project.		Hydrologic Restoration	Planned
South Miami		BB129	Storm Drains	Added grates on storm drains to prevent trash from reaching Biscayne Bay.	Added grates on storm drains to prevent trash from reaching Biscayne Bay.	Stormwater	Updated
South Miami		BB130	Septic-to-Sewer Plan	Funded plan to get all residents on city water and currently working to find funding to implement the septic-to-sewer plan, which already has the engineering component completed.	Funded plan to get all residents on city water and currently working to find funding to implement the septic-to-sewer plan, which already has the engineering component completed.	Funding	Updated
South Miami		BB131	Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration	Passed resolution to protect Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration from any industrial development that conflicts with current restoration alternatives.	Passed resolution to protect Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration from any industrial development that conflicts with current restoration alternatives.	Ordinance	Updated
The Florida Sea Base	Florida DEP	BB010	Coral Restoration and Youth Environmental Education	Coral restoration project that is part of a STEM program in Florida Keys.		Education	Ongoing
The Green Corridor Cities	Cutler Bay, Palmetto Bay, Pinecrest, South Miami, Coral Gables, Miami and Miami Shores	BB132	PACE Program	Support of PACE Program funding for water and sewer infrastructure improvements.	Support of PACE Program funding for water and sewer infrastructure improvements.	Infrastructure	Updated
University of Miami	Florida DEP	BB009	Enhancing Coral Restoration through propagation, research, and training across a network of six FL Institutions to improve reproductive success, genetic diversity, and resilience of restored corals.	Project will integrate and expand asexual and sexual propagation activities for Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.		Data Collection and Evaluation	Ongoing

# BISCAYNE BAY COMMISSION - FINANCIAL PLAN

## WATER RESOURCE FUNDING APPLICABLE TO BISCAYNE BAY

### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

#### Division of Water Restoration Assistance

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) [Division of Water Restoration Assistance](#) provides loans and grants to local governments, utilities and other agencies for projects that improve the quality and quantity of the state's water resources and provide a significant benefit to the environment and local communities. These projects improve stormwater quality; reduce pollutants entering surface water and groundwater; conserve energy or water; protect springs; collect and treat wastewater; produce and distribute drinking water; provide alternative water supply; and restore potable water for homeowners in areas affected by declining source water quality.

For more information about any of the grant or loan programs below, visit [FloridaDEP.gov](http://FloridaDEP.gov) or contact Angela Knecht at [Angela.Knecht@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Angela.Knecht@FloridaDEP.gov) or **850-245-2934**.

#### State Revolving Fund Program

The division's largest program is Florida's [State Revolving Fund](#), funded through money received from federal grants and state contributions. These funds then "revolve" through the repayment of previous loans and interest earned. While these programs offer loans, grant-like funding is also available for qualified small, disadvantaged communities, which reduces the amount owed on loans by the percentage that the community qualifies. Projects are considered for funding each August, November, February and May depending on funding, and the initial paperwork to be considered at these meetings must be submitted 45 days in advance of those meetings (The details and paperwork are available at the links below).

- The [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#) (CWSRF) is Florida's largest financial assistance program for water infrastructure, providing low-interest loans to local governments to plan, design, and build or upgrade wastewater, stormwater and nonpoint source pollution prevention projects. Certain agricultural best management practices may also qualify for funding. The loan terms include a 20-year amortization and low-interest rates.
- [Small Community Wastewater Facility Grants](#) are available for the construction of wastewater facilities in municipalities with 10,000 or fewer people and per capita income levels below Florida's average per capita income. These grants are incorporated into and must accompany a CWSRF loan.
- The [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) (DWSRF) provides low-interest loans to local governments and certain private utilities to plan, design, build or upgrade drinking water systems. Discounted assistance for small communities may be available. Principal forgiveness may also be available for disadvantaged communities. The loan terms include a 20-year amortization and low interest rates.

#### Nonpoint Source Funds

The [Nonpoint Source Program](#) (NPS) provides funding for control of water pollution from nonpoint

sources and is managed by DEP's NPS Management Program.

The program administers federal and state grant funding for projects that reduce stormwater pollution from nonpoint sources, particularly to address impaired waterbodies and meet restoration goals related to total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and restoration plans. These funds to construct traditional and green stormwater infrastructure projects to treat nutrient pollution in impaired waters are primarily granted to local governments (county and municipal governments; special districts; water management districts; other state agencies; public universities/colleges; and national estuary programs located in Florida). The federal [Clean Water Act section 319\(h\) grant](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can also be used to implement demonstration of agricultural best management practices, abandon septic tanks and connect residents to sewer, and education campaigns targeting behavior change to reduce personal pollution to waterbodies.

NPS project proposals may be submitted anytime throughout the year. Department review and evaluation periods are expected to occur in September/October and March/April of each year or as needed. If the project is not funded in the first selection cycle (September/October), it will be considered in the following cycle (March/April) with no need to resubmit, unless there is a need to update the proposal. However, if a previously submitted project is not selected within the current state fiscal year, the proposal will need to be resubmitted for evaluation.

### **Wastewater Grant Program**

The [Wastewater Grant Program](#) (WWGP) provides grants to governmental entities for wastewater projects that reduce excess nutrient pollution within a basin management action plan (BMAP), an alternative restoration plan adopted by final order or a rural area of opportunity (RAO). The program requires at least a 50% match that may be waived by the department for RAOs.

Projects to construct, upgrade or expand wastewater facilities to provide advanced wastewater treatment and connect septic tanks to sewer systems are prioritized. Consideration is given to nutrient reductions; project readiness; cost effectiveness; overall environmental benefit; project location; local matching funds; and water savings and water quality improvement. Please refer to [section 403.0673, Florida Statutes](#), for the full description of the Wastewater Grant Program statute. Project proposals for each fiscal year are to be submitted via [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

### **Innovative Technology Grant Program**

The [Innovative Technologies Grant Program](#) is available to local governmental entities for projects that evaluate and implement innovative technologies and short-term solutions to combat algal blooms and nutrient enrichment, restore and preserve Florida waterbodies, and implement certain water quality treatment technologies. It has received \$10 million each year for the past three years and \$15 million for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Project proposals for each fiscal year can be submitted at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).

### **Office Of Resilience and Coastal Protection**

The [Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection](#) (RCP) is committed to helping prepare Florida's communities and habitats for changes resulting from sea level rise by providing funding and technical



assistance to coastal communities and continuing to promote and ensure a coordinated approach to sea level rise planning among state, regional and local agencies.

- The [Resilient Florida Program](#) includes a selection of grants that are available to counties, municipalities, water management districts, flood control districts, regional resilience entities and other eligible entities. To effectively address the impacts of flooding and sea level rise that the state faces, eligible applicants may receive funding assistance for planning grants to analyze and plan for vulnerabilities as well as implementation grants for adaptation and mitigation. Please refer to [section 380.093, F.S.](#), for more information on the available grant programs, definitions and required parameters. Project proposals can be submitted July 1 – September 1 each year via [DEP's Grants Portal](#). To learn more, visit DEP's Resilient Florida Program online, call 850-245-7600 or email [Resilience@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Resilience@FloridaDEP.gov).
- [Water Quality Improvement Grants in Biscayne Bay](#): For the second year in a row, Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature funded a grant program in FY 2022-23 specifically targeting water quality improvements in Biscayne Bay. Eligible projects must be designed to improve water quality, and eligible project proposals must be submitted by a local government, academic institution, nonprofit organization or for-profit organization that receives state financial assistance. Funding cannot be provided by DEP directly to any federal agency, vendor or private, for-profit entity. Project proposals can be submitted through Aug. 15, 2022, at [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov](#).
- The [RCP Project Funding Sources list](#) includes information about grant opportunities that are available for local governments, state agencies and other eligible entities to help plan, design, manage or construct projects such as vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, beach and inlet management, public access needs, coral protection, and marina waste pump handling.

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The [Florida Department of Economic Opportunity](#) (in collaboration with its partners assists the Governor in advancing Florida's economy by championing the state's economic development vision and by administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help visitors, residents, businesses and communities.

- The [Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant](#) (CDBG) Program is a competitive grant program that awards funds to units of local government in small urban and rural areas. Florida receives \$18 to \$26 million annually from HUD to award subgrants to eligible units of local government.

The program provides an excellent opportunity for communities to obtain funds for projects that they cannot otherwise afford. CDBG funds can also provide administrative support for local governments that may not have the staffing resources necessary to administer their projects.

Examples of CDBG funded projects include water and sewer improvements; rehabilitation of substandard housing; street and sidewalk improvements; economic development activities that create jobs for low- and moderate-income people; downtown revitalization, including facade improvements, streetscaping, and underground utilities; park facilities and community centers; and drainage/stormwater improvements.

- The [Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program](#) (RCDRL) was created by the 1996 Florida Legislature to facilitate the use of existing federal, state and local financial resources by providing local governments with access to financial assistance to further promote the economic viability of rural communities. This program is intended to be highly flexible, and the loan amounts will vary depending on the need of applicants. It will provide term loans to local governments or to economic development organizations substantially underwritten by a unit of local government; within counties with populations of 75,000 or fewer or a contiguous county of 125,000 or fewer as stated in [section 288.065, F.S.](#) The long-term goals of the RCDRL include the creation of jobs for the residents of rural Florida and an increase in economic vitality and diversification for these areas. For more information, visit the [RCDRL website](#) or contact Tina Grow at 850-717-8533 or [Tina.Grow@DEO.MyFlorida.com](mailto:Tina.Grow@DEO.MyFlorida.com).
- The [Technical Assistance Planning Grants](#) Program provides funding for Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grants for counties, municipalities and regional planning councils with the opportunity to create innovative plans and development strategies to promote a diverse economy, vibrant rural and suburban areas while meeting statutory requirements for planning and protecting environmentally sensitive areas. Understanding that many Florida communities have been impacted by hurricanes, CPTA Grants may also be used for disaster recovery, resiliency and economic development planning.

## ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

[Enterprise Florida](#) is a public-private partnership of business and government leaders with the goal of promoting Florida as a premier business destination and expanding the state's economy through private-sector job creation. Enterprise Florida works closely with a statewide network of economic development partners and is a resource for a variety of public and private projects and activities, including those in rural communities, to facilitate the creation, capital investment, strengthening and diversification of local economies by promoting tourism, trade and economic development. The various Enterprise Florida programs and financial incentives are intended, among other things, to provide additional financial assistance to enable communities to better access other infrastructure funding programs.

- Resources for Rural Communities: Enterprise Florida's Rural Expansion Toolkit includes grant opportunities for marketing and training, consulting services and site preparedness in Florida's rural communities, including development and enhancement of sites to make them build-ready and competitive for site selection projects. Grant funds may be available for, but are not limited to, the following types of activities: matching funds for federal grants; renovation of existing building or demolition of old buildings (county or city-owned); stormwater project for potential commercial sites; phase one environmental study; gas line extension; water and sewer construction or upgrade; access road construction (including engineering or architecture costs); or other approved infrastructure costs.

Grants within this program are eligible for reimbursement up to \$25,000 with a 24-month term beginning upon the execution of the grant contract. Learn more about the program.

Applications will be accepted from local or regional economic development or community partners located within a rural community – as identified in [288.0656\(e\), F.S.](#) – that can demonstrate a

pathway to site readiness. Visit [www.enterpriseflorida.com/rural/resources-rural-communities](http://www.enterpriseflorida.com/rural/resources-rural-communities) to learn more about the Rural Expansion Toolkit as well as other local, state and national economic development resources.

The [Environmental Finance Center Network](#) (EFCN) is a university-based organization creating innovative solutions to the difficult how-to-pay issues of environmental protection and improvement. The EFCN works with the public and private sectors to promote sustainable environmental solutions while bolstering efforts to manage costs.

[Funding Sources by State or Territory](#) (select Florida) lists water and wastewater funding sources in the state. For more information, visit [EFCNetwork.org/about-the-network/](http://EFCNetwork.org/about-the-network/) or [https://efcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FL-Water-Wastewater-Funds-2020\\_draft.pdf](https://efcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FL-Water-Wastewater-Funds-2020_draft.pdf).

## FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

The [Florida Legislature](#) may solicit applications directly for [Community Budget Issue Request](#) projects, including water projects, in anticipation of upcoming legislative sessions. This process is an opportunity to secure legislative sponsorship of project funding through the state budget. Interested parties should contact their local legislative delegation to determine whether there are opportunities available to fund projects. Information on contacting senators and representatives is available at [Leg.State.FL.US](http://Leg.State.FL.US).

## Florida Rural Water Association

The [Florida Rural Water Association](#) (FRWA) is a nonprofit, nonregulatory professional association that assists water and wastewater systems with every phase of operations, including drinking water, wastewater, groundwater protection/source water protection and engineering services.

Active members include public water and wastewater systems such as counties, municipalities, associations, districts, mobile home parks, schools and authorities. For more information, visit [FRWA.net](http://FRWA.net).

- The [FRWA Loan Program](#) assists communities in obtaining competitive interim financing for construction projects. To assist borrowers across the state with financing capital construction projects, FRWA, in conjunction with a partner, created an interim construction loan program to provide construction funding for communities which have received a permanent loan commitment from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD) or permanent loan commitment from DEP's State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program and needs construction funding. The program structure enables communities access to competitive fixed rate loan funds at a very low cost of borrowing. Loan proceeds are utilized for the construction period only and are paid off with USDA-RD/DEP's SRF funds when the project is complete or funded. For more information, visit: [www.frwa.net/funding](http://www.frwa.net/funding) or contact Gary Williams at 850-668-2746 or [Gary.Williams@frwa.net](mailto:Gary.Williams@frwa.net).

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. Through these programs, the agency approves contracts to provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land. For more information, visit [www.NRCS.USDA.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial](http://www.NRCS.USDA.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial).

- EUSDA's [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand the collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS co-invests with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address. Read the RCPP Fact Sheet. For more information, visit [www.NRCS.USDA.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp](http://www.NRCS.USDA.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp).
- USDA's [Rural Development \(USDA-RD\)](#) offer loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure. The program promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools, and it offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives to improve the effectiveness of their operations. For more information, visit [www.RD.USDA.gov](http://www.RD.USDA.gov).
- USDA's [Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs \(WEP\)](#) provide funding for the construction of water and waste facilities in rural communities and is proud to be the only federal program exclusively focused on rural water and waste infrastructure needs of rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less. WEP also provides funding to organizations that provide technical assistance and training to rural communities in relation to their water and waste activities. WEP is administered through national office staff in Washington, D.C., and a network of field staff in each state. For more information, visit [www.RD.USDA.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs](http://www.RD.USDA.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs).
- USDA's [Rural Development Rural Utilities Service \(RUS\)](#) provides much needed infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities. These include water and waste treatment, electric power and telecommunications services. All of these services help to expand economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for rural residents. For more information, visit [www.RD.USDA.gov/about-rd/agencies/rural-utilities-service](http://www.RD.USDA.gov/about-rd/agencies/rural-utilities-service).

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The [U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration \(EDA\)](#) provides economic development financial assistance to communities so they can encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in a way that works best for them. Through its network of regionally based

staff and portfolio of [flexible grant tools](#), EDA helps communities that are experiencing economic distress take control of their future and position themselves for economic prosperity and resiliency. For funding opportunity information, visit [www.EDA.gov/funding-opportunities](http://www.EDA.gov/funding-opportunities).

## FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION RESOURCES

### Division of Habitat and Species Conservation: Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration Program

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Habitat and Species Conservation receives recurring annual allocations of Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Marine Resources Trust Fund to complete aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement projects on public lands throughout the state. Completed projects include ephemeral and forested wetland, lake, river, estuarine, and marine habitat restoration, providing ecological services to people and supporting fish and wildlife resources. These projects restore hydrologic connectivity between habitat types and along landscape corridors; improve water quality; and create productive structural and nursery habitat for fish and wildlife benefiting regional and local communities. FWC works with numerous partner organizations to identify, plan and implement aquatic restoration projects through procurement of engineering, construction, research and monitoring contractors. This program also matches state funding to amplify project impacts by seeking grants from federal programs by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Fish Habitat Partnerships, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. For more information visit <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/habitat/ahcr/>.

### Division of Law Enforcement: Boating and Waterways Section – Derelict Vessel Program

This program offers grants to counties and cities for reimbursement for their costs in the removal of derelict vessels. All derelict vessels (DV), after completing a law enforcement investigation, statutorily required due process procedures, and being entered into the Statewide DV Database, may be submitted for a removal reimbursement grant by a local government. This grant program will reimburse local governments at 100% of their pre-approved costs, until the annual state-wide allocations are exhausted. An executed grant must be in place **before** the vessels are removed and disposed of. Pre-award cost is not allowed for vessels already removed. Please see the following link for a copy of the DV Grant Program guidelines as well as the application form: <https://myfwc.com/boating/grants-programs/derelict-vessel/?redirect=dvgrant>.

### Division of Law Enforcement: Boating and Waterways Section – Marine Debris Program

The FWC does not have an established marine debris grant program but is in the process of establishing one. FWC is currently developing a contract with Miami-Dade DERM to provide funding for abandoned and derelict trap retrieval through fall 2023. FWC is awaiting final approval on a re-budget request submitted to NOAA for FWC to hire dedicated staff to be stationed at Biscayne National Park to assist NPS, Florida Sea Grant and Miami-Dade DERM with continued hurricane debris removal throughout Biscayne Bay on mangrove/spoil islands, reef and reef tract, and the shoreline.

FWC does track and promote additional marine debris removal funding opportunities:

- <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/resources/funding-opportunities> Summer/fall funding opportunities released annually, with alternating focus areas.
- <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters>
- <https://myfwc.com/conservation/special-initiatives/cwci/grants/> Multiple grant resources that could be used for marine debris and/or other coastal work.
- <https://helpingseaturtles.org/apply-for-a-grant/>

### **Division of Law Enforcement: Boating and Waterways Section – Boating Access and Improvement**

The Florida Boating Improvement Grant Program (FBIP) offers competitive grants to counties and cities for reimbursement of costs to enhance public boating access, and, contingent upon available funding, will reimburse the local government up to 100% of their pre-approved costs. An executed grant agreement must be in place before the project work begins. No match is required but it increases the score in the competitive selection process. Additionally, eligible projects with at least 25% match that are not selected for FBIP funding may be eligible for federal Sport Fish Restoration funding, if available. This program will pay for a wide variety of facilities and amenities including waterway markers (signs/buoys, channel markers, navigation aids); ramps for motorized boats; piers and docks; surveys; dredging; parking; restrooms; design/engineering/permitting; informational kiosks; and educational items (e.g., brochures, guides and educational programs). Please see the link below for a copy of the FBIP Guidelines as well as the Application form:

<https://myfwc.com/boating/grants-programs/fbip/>

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIGP) offers nationally competitive federal grants to public and private applicants for reimbursement of a portion of their costs to enhance public transient recreational vessel boating access. Transient recreational vessels are defined as those 26' in length or greater and staying for 15 days or less. This grant program (contingent upon selection by FWC and award by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) will reimburse the applicant up to 75% of their pre-approved costs. A minimum 25% non-federal match is required, and a higher match percentage increases the competitiveness of the application. This program will pay for a wide variety of facilities and amenities including directional waterway markers, slips, docks, breakwaters, parking, restrooms and showers, dredging as part of a project (not maintenance), mooring systems and dockside utilities. Please see the link below for a copy of the BIGP Guidelines as well as the Application form:

<https://myfwc.com/boating/grants-programs/bigp/>

### **FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT RESOURCES**

#### **Waterway Assistance Program**

The Waterway Assistance Program is a grant program established by the Florida Legislature and the Florida Inland Navigation District for the purpose of financially cooperating with local governments to increase public access associated with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and associated waterways within the district. The program is authorized by Section 374.976, F.S., and is administered under the

provisions of Chapter 66B-2, Florida Administrative Code. Eligible local governmental agencies include municipalities, counties, port authorities and special taxing districts within the 12 counties of the district.

Grant applications are posted to the district's website in January. Applications are due at the district office toward the end of March. Please see the application package for deadline dates. Funding is awarded in October.

Applications are initially reviewed by district staff for compliance with district rules. If the application is in compliance, applicants present their application to the district's board of commissioners. The board then evaluates the application utilizing a rating form. Projects scoring the minimum number points become eligible for funding which is subject to statutory and budget limitations. For those projects which are approved for funding by the district board, funds become available on October 1.

The limitation on funding has been established by the Legislature to be equal to the tax revenue that the district receives from the county in which the applicant is located. There may be several applicants from within a county competing for these funds.

Waterway related projects must be located on natural, navigable waterways within the district. Eligible waterway related projects include navigation channel dredging; channel markers; navigation signs or buoys; boat ramps; docking facilities; fishing and viewing piers; waterfront boardwalks; inlet management; environmental education; law enforcement equipment; boating safety programs; beach renourishment; dredge material management; environmental mitigation; and shoreline stabilization.

The district is authorized to provide up to 75% for public navigation projects, while all other project categories are eligible for up to 50% funding assistance. The district annually allocates approximately \$10 to \$12 million for the program. Cash and other grant funds may be utilized as the local match.

[http://cms5.revize.com/revize/floridainland/grants\\_and\\_assistance\\_programs/index.php](http://cms5.revize.com/revize/floridainland/grants_and_assistance_programs/index.php)

### **Cooperative Assistance Program**

The Cooperative Assistance Program is a grant program established by the Florida Legislature and the district for the purpose of financially cooperating with federal, state and regional governments to alleviate problems associated with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and associated waterways within the district. The program is authorized by Section 374.976, F.S., and is administered under the provisions of Chapter 66B-1, F.A.C.

Eligible federal, state and regional governmental agencies seeking to develop waterway improvement projects within the 12 counties of the district (Miami-Dade to Nassau counties) can apply for funding assistance. Grant application package will be available on the district's website in January And applications are due at toward the end of March. Please see application package for specific deadline dates. Funding is awarded in October.

Applications are initially reviewed by district staff for compliance with district rules. If the application is in compliance, the applicant presents their application to the district's board of commissioners. The board then evaluates the application for funding that is subject to statutory and budget limitations. For those projects which are approved for funding by the district board, assistance funds become available on Oct. 1.

Waterway related projects must be located on natural, navigable waterways within the district. Eligible waterway related projects include the following:

1. Public navigation channel dredging.
2. Public navigation aids and markers.
3. Inlet management projects that are a benefit to public navigation in the district.
4. Public shoreline stabilization directly benefiting the district's waterway channels (ICW or OWW).
5. Acquisition and development of publicly owned spoil disposal sites and public commercial/industrial waterway access
6. Waterway signs and buoys for safety, regulation or information.
7. Acquisition, dredging, shoreline stabilization and development of public boat ramps and launching facilities.
8. Acquisition, dredging, shoreline stabilization and development of public boat docking and mooring facilities.
9. Derelict vessel removal.
10. Waterway related environmental education programs and facilities.
11. Public fishing and viewing piers.
12. Public waterfront parks and boardwalks and associated improvements.
13. Maritime management planning.
14. Waterway boating safety programs and equipment.
15. Renourishment on beaches adversely impacted by navigation inlets, navigation structures, navigation dredging or a navigation project.
16. Environmental restoration, enhancement or mitigation projects.
17. Other waterway related projects.

There is no limitation on the amount of funding that can be requested. The district is authorized to provide up to 75% for certain types of public navigation dredging projects while all other project categories are eligible for up to 50% funding assistance. The district annually allocates approximately \$1 million to \$4 million for the program. Cash and other grant funds may be utilized as the local match.

[http://cms5.revize.com/revize/floridainland/grants\\_and\\_assistance\\_programs/index.php](http://cms5.revize.com/revize/floridainland/grants_and_assistance_programs/index.php)

## **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESOURCES**

### **Stormwater Utility Fees**

The stormwater utility was established in 1991 to properly manage the environmental impact of stormwater pollution and to provide adequate flood protection.

The utility was created to help solve the problem of polluted stormwater and to improve the drainage capability of areas that are susceptible to flooding. Impervious areas create barriers to rainwater, limiting the ability of water to soak into the ground and recharge the aquifer. Special structures need to be built to drain these areas.

Fees collected by the stormwater utility go toward the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of stormwater management systems – such as canal and drainage improvement projects and secondary drainage systems - in unincorporated portions of the county and within certain municipalities.

They also go toward reducing pollution caused by silt, oil, gasoline, fertilizers, pesticides and litter



carried by the stormwater to the drainage systems and canals that have been developed to prevent flooding during heavy rainfall. Stormwater drains not only have to remove water from the streets as quickly as possible, but they also must deal with all of the contaminants that get picked up along the way. The county utilizes stormwater utility revenue to issue revenue bonds to finance capital improvements to stormwater systems (secondary canals, local drainage infrastructure, etc.).

### **Water and Sewer Utility Fees**

Customer billing by the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) represents the cost of operating and maintaining existing assets (water and wastewater treatment facilities, pipelines, pump stations, etc.), as well as fund debt service for capital improvements. Capital improvements by the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department are funded primarily through revenue bonds issued against water and sewer utility fee revenue. Proceeds from these bonds are generally used to fund projects intended to improve the existing system that will benefit all or a large number of customers, both retail and wholesale.

### **General Obligation Bonds**

General obligation bonds are issued by the county and are payable from ad valorem taxes on all taxable real and tangible personal property within the county (excluding exempt property as required by Florida law). The general obligation bonds are legally backed by the full faith and credit of the county, which has committed taxes over the next 40 years to repay the bonds. The issuance of general obligation bonds requires a voter referendum. Miami-Dade County voters on Nov. 2, 2004, approved the \$2.9 billion Building Better Communities Bond Program, which allowed the county to issue long-term bonds to fund more than 300 neighborhood and regional capital projects. Among these have been water, sewer and stormwater system improvements. Assignment of general obligation bond funds for this purpose must align with a county referendum and requires approval by the board of county commissioners.

### **Utility Service Fee**

The utility service fee is a user fee that is assessed upon water and sewer bills throughout Miami-Dade County to fund regulatory activities necessary to protect drinking water supplies. The fee, which is assessed as 6% of the total bill, supports ground and surface water monitoring, monitoring of landfills and other solid waste facilities, and other regulatory compliance functions necessary for source protection.

### **Biscayne Bay Environmental Enhancement Trust Fund**

An ordinance (180-9) was adopted on Feb. 19, 1980, by the Dade County Commission creating the Biscayne Bay Environmental Enhancement Trust Fund. This fund consists of money from enforcement and damage actions, mitigation assessments, donations, appropriations, grants and allocations.

Funds are used for the express purpose of financing environmental enhancement of Biscayne Bay and its foreshore, with limited environmental enhancement activities in the coastal waters of the county beyond Biscayne Bay such as installation, maintenance or management of artificial reefs and mooring buoys. As per section one of the ordinance, the prioritized list of enhancement activities, excluding studies, described in this overview qualify for funding from this source.

- (i) Funds shall be disbursed for the environmental enhancement of Biscayne Bay or its foreshore or coastal waters of the county beyond Biscayne Bay strictly in accordance with terms and

conditions of the grant, allocation, appropriation or donation and shall be earmarked accordingly.

- (ii) Any excess monies derived from such grant, allocation, appropriation or donation shall be disbursed or allocated in accordance with the terms and conditions, if any, of such grant, allocation, appropriation or donation. If no such terms or conditions attach to such excess, then such excess, if any, shall be disbursed for the environmental enhancement of Biscayne Bay or its foreshore or coastal waters of the county beyond Biscayne Bay as authorized and approved by resolution of the board of county commissioners.

The Biscayne Bay Environmental Enhancement Trust Fund is kept and maintained in trust by the board of county commissioners for the purposes set forth in this section in a separate and segregated fund of the county that is not commingled with other county funds until disbursed for an authorized purpose.

## LEAGUE OF CITIES/MUNICIPALITY RESOURCES

### Stormwater Utility Fees

The league is composed of 34 member cities, 31 of which border Biscayne Bay or a canal that drains to the bay. The villages, towns and cities have a variety of financial resources at their disposal, including general fund, stormwater utility fund, transportation plan fund, and homeowner assessments. Additionally, many of members take advantage of the grant programs listing within this document to fund their priority projects affecting the health of Biscayne Bay.

Additional resources they listed that are not included in the document are the Florida Department of Emergency Management, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Beverage Association.

## OTHER RESOURCES

### Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The [Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance](#) (CFDA) provides a full listing of federal programs that are available to organizations, government agencies (state, local, tribal), U.S. territories and individuals who are authorized to do business with the government. A CFDA program can be a project, service or activity. For more information, visit [Recovery.fema.gov/glossary/CFDA](https://www.fema.gov/glossary/CFDA).

### Congress – State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program

The [Congress – State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program](#) provides the opportunity to secure congressional sponsorship of project funding, including water project funding, through the annual federal budget process. The program's stated purpose is to strengthen state, local government and tribal abilities to address environmental and public health threats while furthering environmental compliance. To contact congressional members for assistance in pursuing funding, visit [www.GovTrack.us/congress/members](http://www.GovTrack.us/congress/members).

### Division of Emergency Management Recovery Bureau

Florida's [Division of Emergency Management Recovery Bureau](#) works to maximize disaster assistance to eligible public entities, individuals and families through various state and federal disaster assistance programs. These programs help to rebuild lives and communities that have been impacted by a major disaster and begin the recovery process. After being requested by the Governor, the U.S. President may sign a disaster declaration that includes both individual and public assistance programs as authorized by the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act](#). For more information, visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org/dem/recovery](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/dem/recovery) or call 850-815-4000. **Environmental Protection Agency**

The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) awards more than \$4 billion annually in funding for grants and other assistance agreements. From small nonprofit organizations to state governments, EPA works to help many visionary organizations achieve their environmental goals. With countless success stories over the years, EPA grants remain a chief tool to protect human health and the environment. For more information, visit [www.EPA.gov/grants](https://www.EPA.gov/grants).

## Florida Resource Directory

The [Florida Resource Directory](#) is a one-stop source for learning about the latest state and many federal programs and resources to help local communities. The directory will help rural and distressed urban communities as well as community-based organizations find and access sources of assistance for any type of infrastructure project, housing, health services, training, small business and tourism development assistance, or help building a community park. For more information, visit [FMW.state.fl.us:8890/apps/rediHtml/](http://FMW.state.fl.us:8890/apps/rediHtml/) or call 850-717-8980.

[Grants.gov](#)

[Grants.gov](#) provides a centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding opportunities, housing information on over 1,000 grant programs and vetting grant applications for [federal grant-making agencies](#). For more information, visit [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov).



# BISCAYNE BAY COMMISSION

## Strategic Plan

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January 2024

PROTECTING FLORIDA TOGETHER

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# OVERVIEW

Biscayne Bay is the largest estuary in Florida and home to mangrove-lined islands, lush seagrass beds, fish, sponges, corals and an array of endangered species. It is a destination for both locals and tourists alike and helps support the economy for over 2.7 million residents of Miami-Dade County. The bay contains the largest passenger port in the world (Port Miami), is an international sailing destination and plays a critical role in the health of Florida's Coral Reef. Protecting the bay is important to Florida both environmentally and economically by addressing pollutants that threaten the ability of the bay to continue providing environmental, economic, and socio-cultural value to residents and visitors. Portions of the bay are included in the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve (Figure 1).

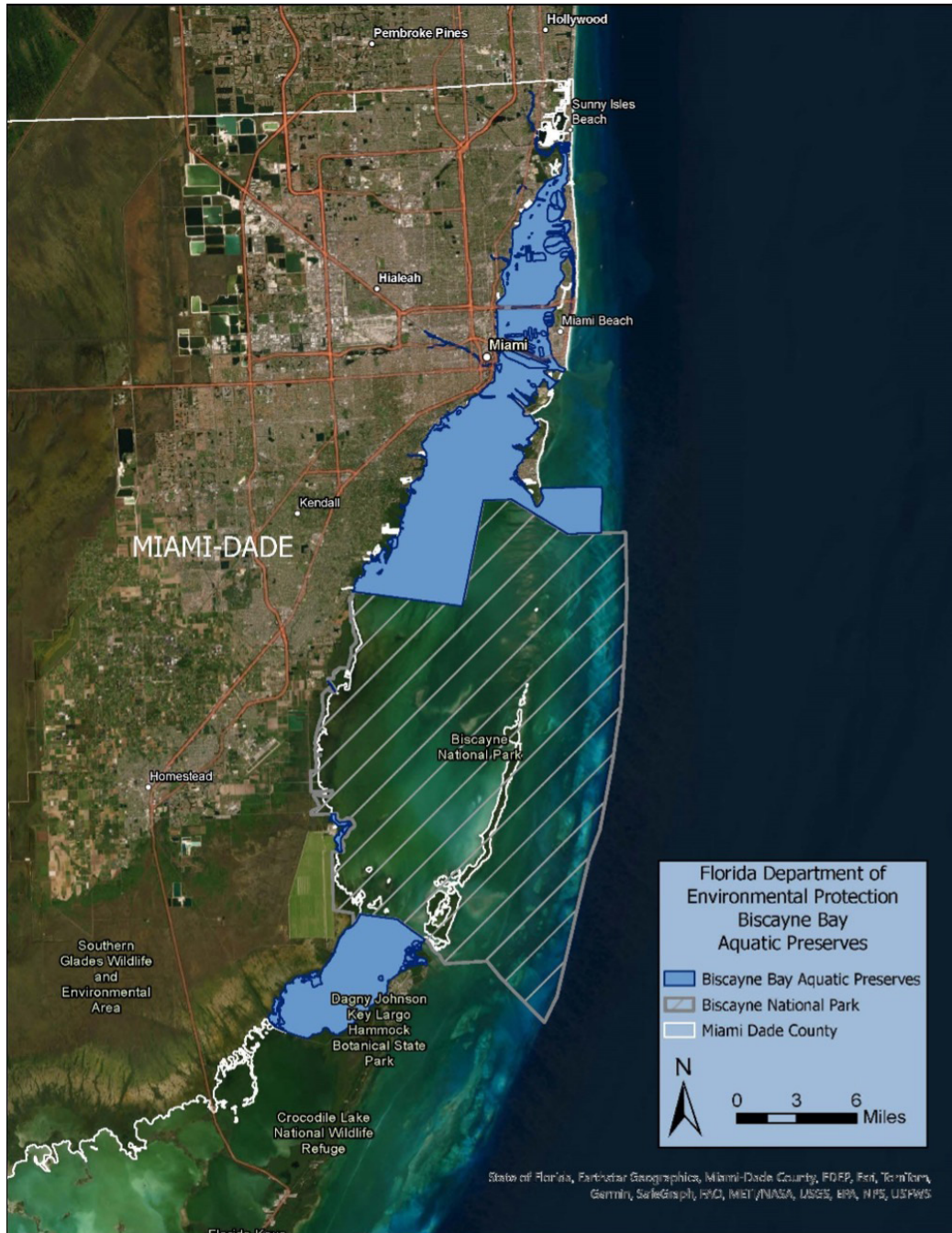


Figure 1. Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve management boundaries.

Established by Governor Ron DeSantis in 2021 and codified in statute, the Biscayne Bay Commission was created to monitor the natural resources within Biscayne Bay. The goal behind this initiative was to “unite all governmental agencies, businesses, and residents in the area to speak with one voice on bay issues; to develop coordinated plans, priorities, programs, and projects that might substantially improve the bay area; and to act as the principal advocate and watchdog to ensure that bay projects are funded and implemented in a proper and timely manner.” (s. 163.11, F.S.). The commission is comprised of nine members who are responsible for holding quarterly meetings throughout the year and publishing semi-annual reports. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) aids in the facilitation of Commission meetings and coordination of its member entities and representatives.

The commission is charged with adopting a “coordinated strategic plan for improvement of Biscayne Bay and the surrounding areas, addressing environmental, economic, social, recreational and aesthetic issues” (s. 161.11, F.S.). This first strategic plan focuses on water quality and natural system restoration and is intended to be paired with initiatives prioritized by the Biscayne Bay Task Force, which was developed by Miami-Dade County.

## STATUS OF RESTORATION

### Existing Plans And Programs

The Biscayne Bay Commission supports and encourages the continued implementation of several existing plans and programs, including:

- **The Biscayne Bay Task Force and Recommendations**

Between 2019 and August 2020, the Miami-Dade County Biscayne Bay Task Force, made up of nine members, consisting of professionals and the community at-large, reviewed relevant data, prior studies and reports related to the Biscayne Bay and determined how various issues may affect residents and property owners. The task force finalized a [report](#) that identified problem areas, prioritized projects and provided recommendations regarding state and federal legislation, activities and appropriations.

- **Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board**

Created by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) upon recommendation from the Biscayne Bay Task Force. Advises the BCC and the Miami-Dade County Mayor on issues related to Biscayne Bay, including: (1) the long-term management of Biscayne Bay, (2) health of the marine community, (3) run-off and other impacts to water quality, (4) marine debris, (5) education and outreach, (6) economic development and vitality related to Biscayne Bay, and (7) how conditions in Biscayne Bay may affect residents and property owners.

- **FDEP’s Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve (BBAP) Management Plan.**

Created in 2013, the BBAP [management plan](#) prioritizes expanding the water quality and benthic monitoring program, tackling sewage and stormwater problems, increasing the education and outreach of county residents, and securing public access to the bay for recreation.

- **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4).**

There are 33 co-permittees covered under the Miami-Dade County Phase I MS4 permit including Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Turnpike Enterprise, and Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX). The city of Miami and Hialeah are covered under separate Phase I MS4 permits. The city of Sweetwater, Florida International University (FIU) and city of Florida City are covered under separate Phase II MS4 permits.

Required by the Clean Water Act, MS4 permits require the development and implementation of a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP), designed to reduce pollutants in stormwater

discharges. SWMPs consist of a combination of legal authority, e.g., ordinances, systems and outfall mapping, inspections and maintenance, good housekeeping of roadways and public facilities, the detection and elimination of illicit discharges and connections, employee training, and education and outreach to the local community. Permittees are also required to conduct activities to address the pollutant of concern for waterbodies with an EPA-established or department-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TDML). Additionally, Phase I MS4 permittees are required to conduct water quality monitoring, as well as pollutant load analysis in order to evaluate the effectiveness of their SWMP. Permitting for both Phase I and Phase II MS4s is considered an iterative process whereby permittees adjust and refine their SWMPs to achieve pollutant reductions to the maximum extent practicable with each permit iteration.

## **Status of the Biscayne Bay Reasonable Assurance Plan**

This strategic plan is intended to support the development and implementation of a reasonable assurance plan (RAP) currently under development by Miami-Dade County. RAPs are a stakeholder-led water quality restoration plans that are developed through a coordinated effort that takes the place of the state-led TDML and basin management action plans (BMAPs). Under the RAP process, the state forgoes TMDL development because stakeholders have provided reasonable assurance that existing or proposed pollution control mechanisms, projects or programs will effectively address the water quality impairment. An approved RAP must include all the same elements as a TMDL and additionally identify projects with an implementation schedule to address the water quality impairment.

Miami-Dade County's Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), in coordination with DEP and in partnership with municipalities and other stakeholders, continues progress developing a RAP for Biscayne Bay. An initial draft RAP document was submitted to DEP on Sept. 2, 2022. DEP reviewed the draft submittal and provided written comments back to Miami-Dade County on Sept. 23, 2022. DERM adjusted their approach and timeline in response to DEP's comments. DEP was provided a draft plan of study, in outline form, on Dec. 6, 2022. The document provided an overview of the proposed updated approach, list of "work activities" and an anticipated timeframe for completion. DEP provided feedback on Dec. 22, 2022. DEP then received a revised plan of study and outline on Feb. 3, 2023, and DEP provided additional feedback on the proposed plan of study document on Feb. 8, 2023. A joint agency meeting was held on Feb. 14, 2023, to discuss the plan of study. DEP agreed that the information included in the plan of study, including the timeline, was reasonable and consistent with the RAP requirements.

## **Water Quality Project Implementation and Tracking**

Between 2019-2024, more than \$72 million in state funds were invested in water quality projects through the Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grants administered by DEP. This included a variety of projects addressing wastewater and stormwater, including more than \$37.4 million to Miami-Dade County for source identification and project implementation. Approximately \$25.5 million has been specifically dedicated for septic-to-sewer conversions.

As part of the Biscayne Bay Commission's semi-annual report, DEP coordinated with cities, the county, other agencies and stakeholders to compile a comprehensive list of projects and programs conducted in the bay since the establishment of the commission. This was translated into a [Project Tracker](#), which is used to monitor progress on these efforts over time. In order to improve upon the tracker and include projects not only completed or underway, but also planned, the commission seeks to collect future project information from stakeholders, which may be considered for inclusion in the RAP and would provide transparency to the public. Information about potential future projects should include estimated costs and current status, as well as anticipated benefits to the bay.



# STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Enhance water quality monitoring
2. Improve communication and public outreach
3. Address sources of nutrients and ecosystem restoration needs

## ENHANCE WATER QUALITY MONITORING

### Why does this goal matter?

Monitoring water quality allows stakeholders to evaluate the health of the bay, including identifying water quality “hot spots” for restoration and evaluating metrics to anticipate changes in conditions. Ensuring that data is of sufficient quality to be used for varied purposes and is publicly available will result in more robust datasets, increased transparency and eliminate unnecessary duplicate monitoring costs.

### Desired objectives:

**Objective 1:** The commission recommends that the parties identify which water quality parameters are being routinely sampled within the bay to identify comparable datasets that will help inform source identification as well as project implementation. To achieve this goal, the following actions would be undertaken:

- **Strategy A:** In accordance with the DEP-funded FIU Biscayne Bay and Reef Observation, Interpretation and Prediction System (B-BROIPS) project, or similar efforts, the resulting information will be presented to the commission and made publicly available. The result of this project may compare datasets within the bay, including parameters as well as trends.
- **Strategy B:** DEP and Miami Dade County will continue to coordinate on the NOAA-funded Government Cut Watershed Inlet Contributing Area Watershed Management Plan development. The overarching goal of this watershed planning effort is to identify and reduce the loads of nutrients (total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) and total suspended solids (TSS)) from land-based sources of pollution in the Government Cut Inlet Contributing Area to the coastal habitats in southeast Florida.

**Objective 2:** The commission recognizes that currently several entities, including DEP, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), and Miami-Dade County (MDC), all regularly collect grab samples and input sample results into the Watershed Information Network (WIN), a data platform that consolidates water quality data from various data providers (Figure 2.). WIN requires data quality information to be entered relating to the quality assurance protocols followed in the sampling and analyses, ensuring that the data are reliable for use in assessing the waterbody to determine whether it is attaining standards. To ensure grab sample data are able to be used for the development and implementation of the RAP and that such data follow quality assurance requirements established by rule, the commission recommends that grab sample data be entered into WIN, with all appropriate data quality information, in a timely manner. In addition, the commission recognizes that coordination amongst water data providers could be beneficial to maximize effectiveness and minimize cost. In order to achieve this objective, the following actions would be undertaken:

- **Strategy A:** By April 1, 2024, DEP will provide outreach to potential data providers on the importance of entering data into WIN. DEP will subsequently provide education and training to each data provider organization intending to load data to WIN on its use, including WIN Minimum Data Quality Standards (MDQS).
- **Strategy B:** By June 2024, DEP will identify points of contact for all monitoring entities to share data and provide for an open forum for discussion on monitoring.
- **Strategy C:** Miami-Dade County will identify any data gaps and needed monitoring to support RAP development, including load reduction goals and interim targets, as well as project implementation and share such information with all member entities in a timely manner.
- **Strategy D:** Miami-Dade County will collaborate with municipalities, SFWMD, FDOT and other pollutant source-responsible entities within the Biscayne Bay watershed to develop a RAP, including model development, and to solicit implementation projects. Such projects should be made part of the BBC Project Tracker.

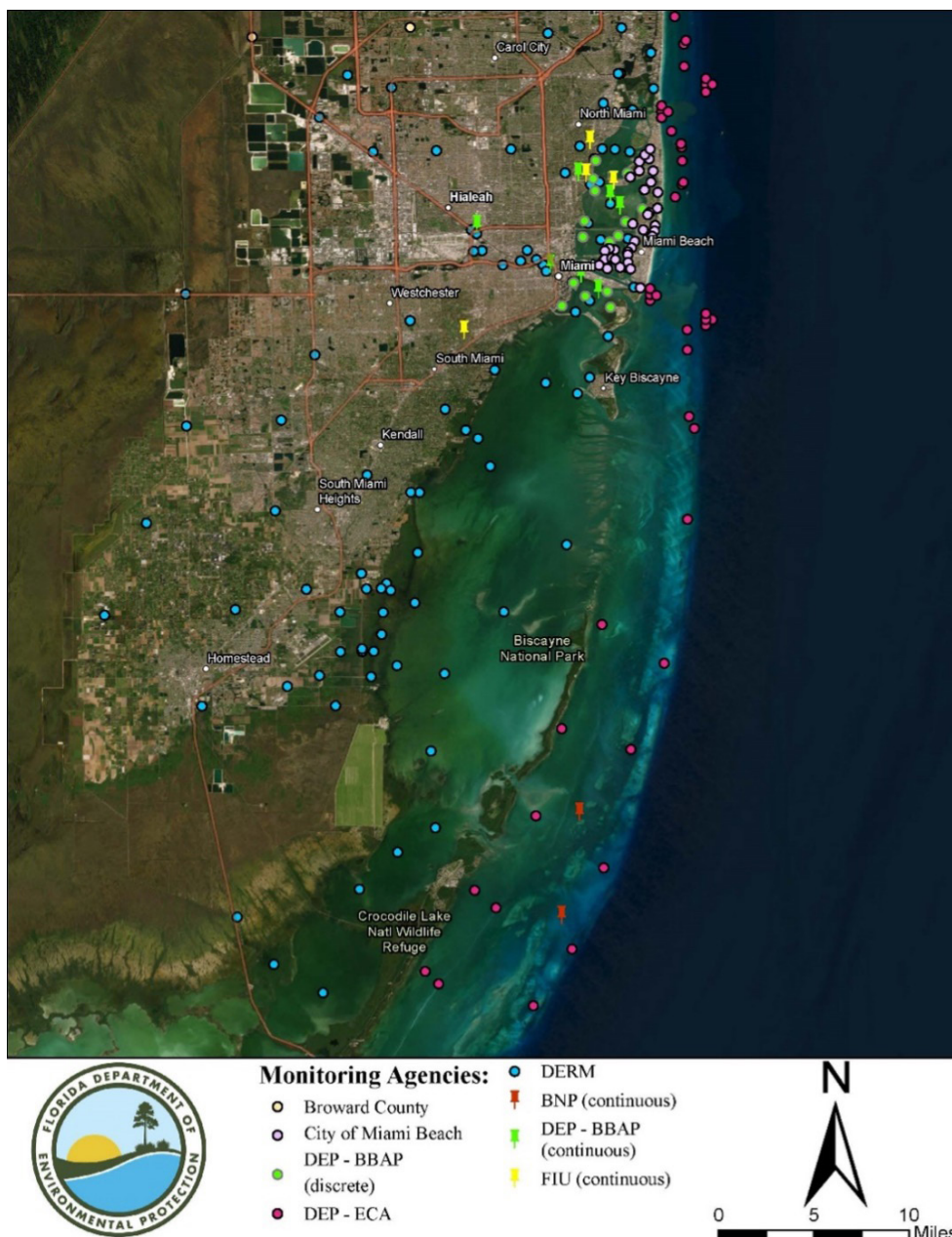


Figure 2. Monitoring Agencies in Biscayne Bay and surrounding area.

# IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

## Why does this goal matter?

Ensuring regular communication on issues important to the bay in turn promises the highest level of coordination. Engaging the public on issues important to the health of the bay helps connect citizens to the activities that they can take to support the environmental health of Biscayne Bay, which in turn supports the economic and socio-cultural benefits provided to them by the bay.

## Desired objectives:

**Objective 1:** MDC has embarked on efforts to connect septic systems to sewer through many areas of the county. The commission is supportive of these efforts and, in doing so, additionally recommends that MDC educate homeowners on why septic-to-sewer conversions help both the bay and the homeowner.

- **Strategy A:** MDC will continue its Connect-to-Protect program and expand where possible to ensure connections are made after sewer is made available.

**Objective 2:** During urgent or emergency environmental disturbance events, communication is critical between stakeholders. The commission recommends communication pathways be formalized in writing to ensure quick response to urgent and emergency events.

- **Strategy A:** By June 2024, DEP, MDC, and partners will document stakeholders engaged in monitoring and response to typical urgent or environmental emergency events, including fish kills. Any existing response plans will be shared with stakeholders and the public as appropriate.

**Objective 3:** The reduction of litter and debris in Biscayne Bay and adjacent areas remains an important concern for the region. The commission recommends tackling trash in the bay through public education and outreach and additional coordination and action by land and aquatic managers.

- **Strategy A:** MDC and DEP will continue to engage local communities by hosting and promoting environmental cleanup efforts around Biscayne Bay (e.g., Baynanza, International Coastal Cleanup, Ghost Trap Rodeos, and weekly Biscayne Bay Friendly coastal cleanup events with MDC Parks Recreation and Open Spaces). Cleanup metrics, including amount of trash removed and number of volunteers participating, will be reported to the commission annually and recorded in the Project Tracker.
- **Strategy B:** FDEP will coordinate with MDC Marine Debris Planning Group, local and state entities and spoil island owners within Biscayne Bay to develop a strategy to address excess trash and trash removal methods on the spoil islands. A joint strategy and messaging will be developed by June 2024 then begin implementation.
- **Strategy C:** FDEP and MDC will continue to communicate the importance of litter control and reduction in urban areas to residents and tourists, as described in the BBAP Management Plan and in accordance with the MDC's Biscayne Bay Friendly multi-media/multi-lingual Campaign. Approximate engagement numbers from outreach events and activities will be included in the Project Tracker.

# ADDRESS SOURCES OF NUTRIENTS AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION NEEDS

## Why does this goal matter?

Over enrichment of the bay can contribute to harmful algal blooms and low dissolved oxygen, which can in turn result in fish kills. Reducing sources of nutrients into the bay is critical to restoring the health and balance of flora and fauna in this important ecosystem. Miami-Dade County is currently undertaking the development of a RAP, which acts as an action plan to establish nutrient loading targets and a restoration plan for the bay to ultimately meet water quality standards. The commission seeks to support the continued development of the RAP and, in so doing, support targeting sources of nutrients in the basin including septic systems, wastewater discharges and stormwater discharges.

## Desired objectives:

**Objective 1:** The successful development of the RAP requires necessary coordination and communication between DEP and MDC. The commission strongly supports Miami-Dade County with the RAP development process. In order to achieve this goal, the following activities would take place and be reported:

- **Strategy A:** Continue interagency coordination through regular (bi-monthly) meetings.
- **Strategy B:** DEP to provide input and feedback on RAP plan of study and the development interim milestones as needed.
- **Strategy C:** Miami-Dade County to submit interim “decision documents” to the department for key portions of the RAP.
- **Strategy D:** RAP submitted to DEP for review.
- **Strategy E:** DEP staff review the submitted RAP and prepare recommendations for Secretarial consideration.
- **Strategy F:** FDEP staff prepare recommendations and documentation for EPA consideration and approval.
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**Objective 2:** The development of projects sufficient to address over-enrichment of the bay remains critical to the success of the RAP and restoration goals. The commission recommends all cities, community development districts, and special districts, coordinate with MDC in the development of those projects. Further, the commission supports the development of county municipal partner projects that can help meet future load reductions. To achieve this goal, the following actions should be undertaken:

- **Strategy A:** MDC will present to the commission the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board’s Annual Report and the Biscayne Bay Report Card (with a focus on nutrient-reducing efforts) each year following the presentation of that report to the MDC Commission. Within or in addition to the annual report, the commission will receive an update on the status of the following:
  - The total number of septic tanks targeted for sewer connections and annual progress towards the target;
  - An update on the implementation of projects, including but not limited to wastewater, septic-to-sewer, and stormwater projects, and;

- An update on the status of the RAP, all associated collaboration, and implementation.
- **Strategy B:** Encourage stakeholders to support county municipal partner project planning and project development to maximize opportunities for cost-effective project development.

**Objective 3:** Implementing projects is critical to reducing nutrient loading into the Bay. To track project implementation, and to support the RAP development, projects implemented by all stakeholders in the region should be reported accurately and regularly.

- **Strategy A:** Once annually, member entities shall coordinate with DEP to update the Project Tracker, including estimated nutrient load reductions, to identify projects planned, underway, or completed. MDC may use such data in developing the RAP. This should include the identification of strategic structural and nonstructural stormwater BMPs and retrofits.
- **Strategy B:** In addition to keeping the Project Tracker updated, DEP will coordinate with the member entities annually to provide an update to the commission on recently completed and/or ongoing projects.