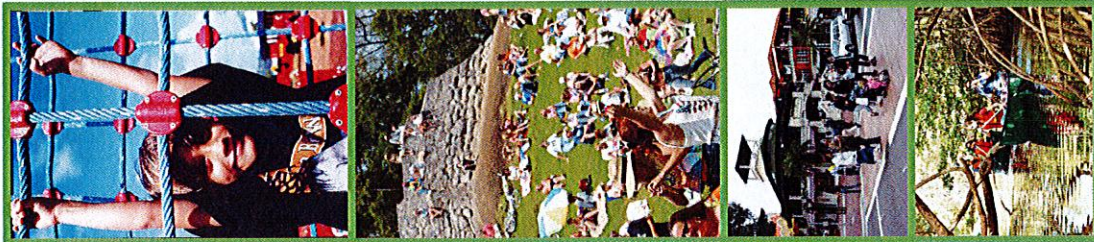


vision



Great Parks are for everyone, and should provide a diverse and balanced system of active and passive recreational opportunities. The County's Vision is that residents of every neighborhood, urban, suburban, rural, incorporated and unincorporated, have equal access to places to walk, to exercise, to socialize and to engage in a healthy, active lifestyle.

Great Public Spaces often define the great cities of the world. As Miami-Dade County develops more densely, there will be a need for great, attractive, usable public spaces that provide an opportunity for meaningful recreation experiences. These can be anything from neighborhood plazas to great waterfront vistas and promenades.

There is especially great potential for new transit station parks/urban plazas that would serve as the central gathering places for transit oriented developments (TODs). These public spaces would have a potentially smaller service area radius of about one quarter of a mile, and serve local residents' needs for walking, meeting, informal play, and special events. Not only would they provide another outlet for recreation and social interaction, transit-oriented parks would act as a place-maker and a form-giver to TODs.

Great Natural and Cultural Places can be celebrated in a system of Zones (clusters of Environmentally Endangered Lands and Cultural Resource Centers) that: provide a variety of education activities and programs; elevate the public's appreciation and understanding of the County's natural ecosystems and cultural amenities; engage the surrounding neighborhoods; and link the sites with the other elements of the open space system through streets, greenways, and water trails.

Great Streets can be created through the redevelopment of existing arterial and collector roads to: create urban form and identity; improve aesthetics; provide for bicycle/pedestrian safety and comfort; and to improve the social, physical and economic environment for land uses along the corridors. To facilitate the creation of great streets, Miami-Dade County must move beyond vehicular performance-based street design and instead design streets that are defined by their role in the community. While all streets should have a minimum level of accessibility to all modes of transportation, not all streets require the same details.

Great Greenways Trails and Water Trails can form an interconnected system that: provides transportation alternatives and reduces traffic congestion; creates new recreational opportunities; increases property values; protects natural resources; and encourages tourism and business development. These trails strengthen connections across the County, from Broward to Monroe Counties, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Everglades.

great places have great spaces

<p><i>Parks are accessible to everyone regardless of age or ability</i></p>	<p><i>Public spaces are designed to engage residents</i></p>	<p><i>Natural and cultural areas are planned to balance access and resource protection</i></p>	<p><i>Streets are designed as linear parks</i></p>	<p><i>Greenways and Water Trails connect every resident to places throughout the community</i></p>

miami-dade parks

parks and open space system master plan

A 50-year, unifying vision for a livable, sustainable Miami-Dade County

principles

Equity

Every resident should be able to enjoy the same quality of public facilities and services regardless of income, age, race, ability or geographic location

Access

every resident should be able to safely and comfortably walk, bicycle, drive and/or ride transit from their home to work, school, parks, shopping and community facilities

Beauty

every public space, including streets, parks, plazas and civic buildings, should be designed to be as aesthetically pleasing as possible, and to compliment the natural and cultural landscape

Seamlessness

every element of the County, including neighborhoods, parks, natural areas, streets, civic centers and commercial areas, should be connected without regard to jurisdiction

Sustainability

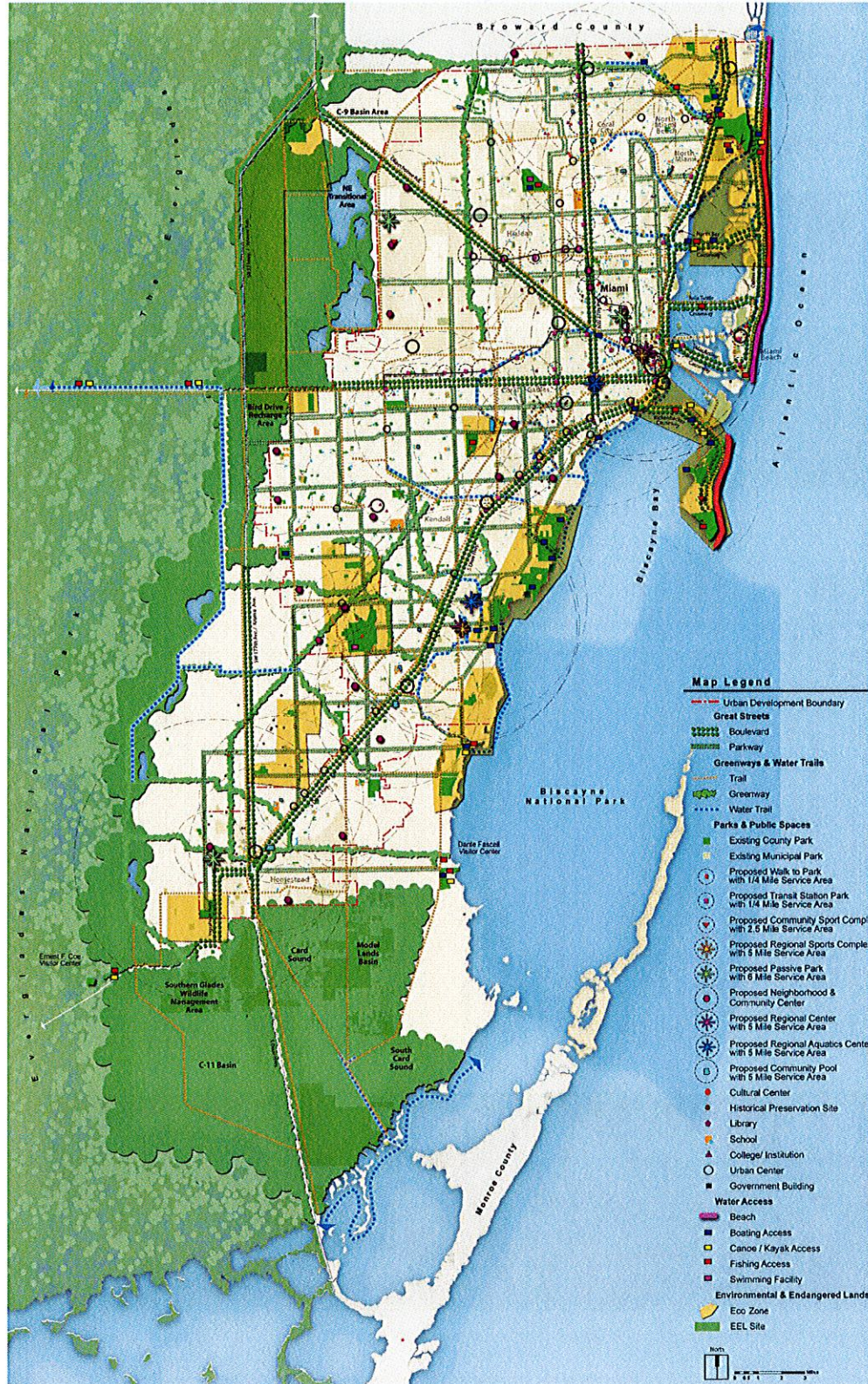
every action and improvement of the Park System, including facilities, programs, operations and management, should contribute to the economic, social and environmental prosperity of the County

Multiple Benefits

every single public action should generate multiple public benefits to maximize taxpayer dollars

"When we build let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight, nor for present use alone; let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them."

-John Ruskin



Great parks are accessible to everyone regardless of age or ability



Great public spaces are designed to engage residents



Great natural and cultural places are planned and managed to balance access and resource protection



Great greenways and water trails connect every resident to places throughout the community



Great streets are designed as linear parks