


# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT

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	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Age Friendly Parks Policy and Checklist			


## Policy Statement

February 19, 2008, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the Miami-Dade County Park and Open Space System Master Plan, also known as the Open Space Master Plan (OSMP). The OSMP took several years to develop and is based on a comprehensive analysis of other park systems in the US and around the world, an assessment of Miami-Dade County, as well as findings from a county-wide public participation and outreach effort, which included the Great Parks Summit in 2006. The vision for the OSMP is to create a new, interconnected framework for growth, one that results in a more a livable, sustainable community. Consisting of existing and proposed parks, public spaces, natural and cultural places, greenways, trails and streets, the framework will form the foundation or "bone structure" of the County to accommodate growth while also improving the quality of life for residents. The new framework will encourage the revitalization of neighborhoods; allow for the orderly redevelopment of existing land uses in response to changing markets and demographics; and ensure greater environmental protection. It will also improve the social fabric of the County, providing equitable access to parks and open spaces, and providing more opportunities for residents to meet socialize and connect with one another. 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.

The Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department is committed to providing criteria and standards for parks and recreational open spaces that are intended to encourage active living through equitable access to local (neighborhood) parks and open space as well as area-wide recreational activities for all County residents. This is consistent with Policy ROS-5C of the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Development Master Plan which states:

***ROS-5C. The Parks, and Recreation and Open Spaces Department shall, as funds are available, renovate, restore, and upgrade County facilities following the guidelines of the Miami-Dade County Park Structure and Landscape Pattern Book "Pattern Book" to enhance park aesthetics and ensure that the public can safely and securely enjoy recreational opportunities, and that the County can cost-effectively extend the useful life of existing facilities. Expenditures for the renovation, restoration and upgrade of existing parks and recreation facilities are prioritized as follows: 1) repairs and projects increasing visitor safety; 2) hazard reduction; 3) facility upgrade and resource management; 4) accessibility improvements in compliance with ADA; and, 5) energy efficiency improvements. The County***


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**shall implement projects and activities including but not limited to the following in order to address these priorities:**

- i. *The Parks, and Recreation and Open Spaces Department will repair facilities, equipment, and grounds that have the potential to be unsafe for public use, and install adequate security measures to protect visitors and facilities.*
- ii. *The Parks, and Recreation and Open Spaces Department will remove known hazards existing within its facilities. Provisions will be made to remove or abate asbestos within buildings, remove or mitigate materials containing lead, and provide storm protection to walls, windows, and doors.*
- iii. *The Parks, and Recreation and Open Spaces Department will redevelop facilities that are no longer functional, whose use has changed, or that require building code upgrades. Park sites containing important natural, historic, or archaeological resources will be developed and managed for the long-term sustainability and integrity of the resource and where appropriate considered for designation as Heritage Parks.*
- iv. *The Parks, and Recreation and Open Spaces Department shall continue to provide improved access for persons of all ages including persons with disabilities by removing architectural, communication and program barriers to participation in compliance with ADA as may be amended from time to time.*
- v. *The Parks, and Recreation and Open Spaces Department will design with sustainability Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles and install energy efficient equipment within its facilities that measurably: 1) decreases water consumption and treatment within restrooms and irrigation systems; 2) increases the use of more energy efficient cooling, refrigeration, and lighting equipment, including solar powered lighting; 3) increases the use of fuel-efficient park maintenance vehicles; and, 4) increases the use of automated equipment to filter and monitor swimming pools.*

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## **Age-Friendly Parks**

As stated above in CDMP ROSE Policy 5C, the Department strives to make parks more accessible and more usable for persons of all ages and abilities. The Pattern Book includes a very comprehensive set of design standards for improvements to existing parks planned for updates and for new park facilities. While the design standards are appropriate for people of all ages and abilities, it has been determined that there is a need for an emphasis on age-friendly design and programming to be incorporated into planning efforts.

The WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide<sup>1</sup> is the basis for the following Age-Friendly Parks checklist which will be appended to the Pattern Book, much as the LEED for New Construction and Major Renovations Project Checklist has been incorporated. By December 2013 the Department will initiate implementation of this Age-Friendly Parks Policy through a pilot study by identifying 12 parks within proximity to concentrations of seniors and senior services and where feasible, future capital improvement projects will utilize the Age-Friendly Parks Checklist.

## **Scope, Responsibility and Enforcement**

This policy covers all County parks and where feasible, future capital improvement projects will utilize the Age-Friendly Parks Checklist.


## **Effective Date**

This policy statement is effective immediately upon the date of adoption.

Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

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<sup>1</sup> © World Health Organization 2007

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## Age-Friendly Parks Checklist

### Outdoor spaces and buildings<sup>2</sup>

- Public areas are clean and pleasant
- Green spaces and outdoor seating are shaded, sufficient in number, well maintained and safe
- Pavements are shaded, well-maintained, free of obstructions and reserved for pedestrians
- Pavements are non-slip, wide enough for wheelchairs and have dropped curbs to road level
- Pedestrian crossings are sufficient in number and safe for people with different levels and types of disability, with non-slip markings, visual and audio cues and adequate crossing times
- Cycle paths are separate from pavements and other pedestrian walkways
- Outdoor safety is promoted by good signage, street lighting, police patrols and community education
- Services are situated together and are accessible
- Buildings are well-signed outside and inside, with sufficient seating and toilets, accessible elevators, ramps, railings and stairs, and non-slip floors
- Public toilets outdoors and indoors are sufficient in number, clean, well-maintained and accessible

<sup>2</sup> © World Health Organization 2007