

# South Florida Parks Coalition

## A Coalition of City, County, State and Federal Parks in Miami-Dade County

A Vision as ambitious as the Miami-Dade County Parks and Open Space System can only be accomplished through the seamless collaboration of City, County, State, and Federal Park agencies working together to create a more livable Miami-Dade County through a vision that includes great parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas, greenways, water trails and streets.

### *The Charter*

#### **Preamble:**

*The South Florida Parks Coalition is created to foster a seamless, connected, and sustainable parks system for the South Florida community. The Coalition will meet, collaborate, share knowledge and professional expertise regarding park, recreation and conservation open spaces.*

*Our work is rooted in the fundamental values of recreation opportunity and environmental stewardship. It is dedicated to building a model park system that will promote a greener, healthier, and more livable South Florida community.*

*We believe that a model park system consists of parks and public spaces, recreation facilities, greenways, blueways, great streets and conservation lands.*

*We believe that a sustainable, model Park System must be planned and created with an eye to its impact on the neighborhood, city, county and region as a whole. It must be effective, efficient, fair and balanced. It must work with other public and private agencies; and it must enhance the health, safety, happiness and well-being of all residents and visitors to South Florida, now and in the future.*

*We believe that a model park system is integral to social, environmental and economic sustainability; it must become a vital part of everyday human experience; it must be connected spiritually and physically; and it must provide accessibility for people of all means and abilities. The model Park System must raise the standard of living for the region and inspire generations of people to care for and contribute to their communities.*

#### **Based on these beliefs, we assert that the Model Park System shall:**

- Ensure an accessible, diverse and balanced system of passive and active recreation opportunities that promote safety, security and healthy lifestyles.*
- Ensure the preservation, protection and enhancement of ecological resources to sustain and preserve biodiversity and the environmental health of the region.*
- Ensure the preservation, protection and enhancement of cultural resources to sustain landscapes and their historical and heritage features.*
- Ensure that park, recreation and conservation open spaces guide the shape of urban form.*
- Ensure that there is no net loss of park, recreation or conservation lands and mandate replacement of land of equal value, context and significance.*
- Ensure community stewardship of park, recreation, and conservation open spaces by fostering educational and recreational programming, civic art, volunteerism and support of philanthropic and grassroots organizations.*
- Ensure the continual enhancement of economic development and quality of life in the region by partnering and collaborating with the business community.*
- Ensure the equitable distribution of park, recreation and conservation open spaces for all communities in the region.*
- Ensure and support responsible growth to conserve environmental and cultural resources, promote economic investment, and support neighborhood stability, while reclaiming marginal and abandoned areas.*
- Ensure the support and development of an interconnected framework of transportation alternatives such as transit, pedestrian, bicycle and waterway systems that link parks, recreation and conservation open spaces to each other and to communities.*
- Ensure high standards of design excellence, innovation and beauty to support economic, social and environmental sustainability of the region.*