RESILIENCE!

MAY 2023

UNDERWATER VOICES

Led by artist Xavier Cortada, *Underwater: Broward* prepares to integrate climate and art to help spread awareness of sea level rise and climate change

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWARD COUNTY RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

RESILIENT BROWARD

PLUS

When the Rains Came: The Historic Floods of April 12, 2023

IN THIS ISSUE...

Document The Floods

During April our community faced flooding because of unexpected storms and flash floods.

A Broward Resilience citizen science initiative began in 2016 to better understand and document current rain and tidal flood patterns in Broward County. The project app has been recently upgraded to improve access to mobile phone users.

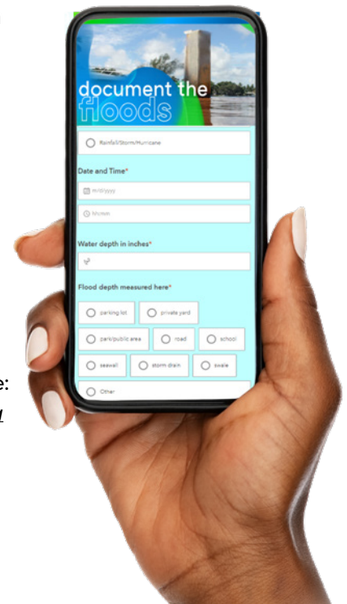
Document the Floods aims to collect, compile, analyze, and view flood occurrences at a county scale. Nearly eight hundred flood reports have been collected from the public.

To help identify these trouble spots we are once again encouraging the public to upload flood photos to help document the location, frequency and extent of flooding from either heavy rainfall or high tides throughout Broward County.

If you would like to upload your own documentation of flooding in your neighborhood, visit the links below.

Visit the program website:
crowdsource.broward.org

Upload your photos:
flooding.broward.org



WHAT'S NEW

BROWARD SHINES

BROWARD COUNTY FY23-FY28 STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL THEME: RESILIENT COMMUNITY
"Ensuring accessible, seamlessly integrated investments in renewable energy, sustainable practices, manufacturing, resilient infrastructure, and environmental protection."

BROWARD SHINES 2023

County Administrator Monica Cepero officially rolled out the County's new strategic plan - ***Broward Shines 2023*** - at March's quarterly leader's meeting, after spending several weeks working with the Board of County Commissioners and the Executive Leadership Team to review, refine and revitalize Broward County's Vision, Mission, Values and Goals.

Office of Public Communications has begun to showcase County agency programs and activities that incorporate the new plan on the BrowardEmployee.org home page.

The Resilient Environment Department is already meeting the theme's challenge with a number of actions and programs in 2023:

- **Rising Groundwater Modeling** *focusing on contamination and impacts.*
- **LEED For Cities Certification** *compiling LEED required information from County Agencies.*
- **Recreational Boating Study** *to achieve increased manatee protection.*
- **Broward Resilience Plan** *to reduce flood risk and inform infrastructure investments.*
- **Expanded Renewable Energy Projects** *through building retrofits and new construction.*
- **Port Everglades Sand Bypass Project** *to enhance shoreline protection.*
- **2050 Net Zero Strategy** *to guide Broward County and community-wide planning and investments.*
- **EV Charging Infrastructure** *to aid and accelerate transition to electric vehicles within the County fleet.*
- **Regional Action Plan (RCAP 3.0** *collaboratively leading implementation through public, private, institutional and community-based partnerships.*
- **State And Federal Funding** *to support resilient infrastructure investments, such as flood risk reduction and shoreline protection.*

"Challenges the County is facing are being addressed head on. Issues including affordable housing, transportation, and resiliency weave a common theme among the priorities identified by the Commissioners."

Broward County Administrator Monica Cepero

BROWARD **RESILIENCE** / SPRING 2023

WHEN THE RAINS CAME

IN A 24HR PERIOD NEARLY 26 IN OF RAIN FELL ON FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. IT WAS THE MOST EVER OBSERVED IN FORT LAUDERDALE IN A SINGLE DAY, ECLIPSING THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 14.59 IN SET ON APRIL 25, 1979

On the evening of April 12th, over two feet of rain fell in parts of Broward County, as a supercell thunderstorm 'parked' near Fort Lauderdale, Pembroke Pines and Hollywood. To compound the issue, the ground was already saturated after days of heavy rainfall, reducing stormwater infiltration and overwhelming stormwater drainage systems. The results, as we all witnessed, were catastrophic.

From top: Abandoned truck on Frontage Road; Rescue truck, Melrose Manors neighborhood, Fort Lauderdale; Flood damage curbside., River Oaks neighborhood, Fort Lauderdale

It rained so much that the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International airport's flooded runways closed for 40 hours, affecting at least 1,119 flights, and the County reported at least $2 million in damages to schools across the region. Approximately a third of Fort Lauderdale's average annual rainfall came down during an eight-hour window, as rainfall of 25.91 inches of rain was reported at the airport, a State record.

The Broward County Resilience Unit team has long utilized compound flooding maps to predict how major flood conditions affect our water management and transportation, and with the help of strategic partners in our cities, neighboring counties, FDOT and the South Florida Management District, these models have proven to be very robust.

Now that these modeled conditions have been realized we can see how close our planning tools replicate such extreme flood events. Broward's Future Conditions models not only evaluate the impacts of rainfall intensification, but consider these events under the combined conditions of predicted sea level rise, king tides, and storm surge. This approach has proven effective in replicating what we can also expect from a 1,000-year event like this.

This flash flood event has underscored the realities of extreme weather, climate change, and the need for action across South Florida and globally. As waters recede from the Broward's lowest-lying points, homeowners, nonprofit organizers and government leaders can tabulate a list of lessons the storm has taught us.

Hard-hit neighborhoods, like River Oaks and Edgewood, will benefit from City of Fort Lauderdale's $200 million, five-year drainage system overhaul, with storm pumps and robust pipes on the way. Elsewhere, areas in Hollywood, Dania Beach and within the Broward Municipal

Below and right: Riverland Road looking north towards Broward Boulevard. Municipal truck moves along Riverland Road close to Davie Boulevard.

Services District will benefit from planned resilience projects supplemented with Resilient Florida grant funds awarded to our local governments this last year.

Broward County's Resilience Plan partners are working to incorporate the findings from the April 12th event to help refine the County's hydrological model – a tool that will be used to explore the validity of the model results and aid in the identification of adaptation priorities and opportunities.

The team will be working with water managers and local governments as part of 6 sub-regional stakeholder meetings to review the results and solicit feedback during the months of May and June.

FLOOD MITIGATION & FUTURE PLANNING

Broward Resilience Plan Progress
broward.org/resilienceplan

Broward Flood Zone Maps
broward.org/Environment/FloodZoneMaps

Future Conditions Planning
broward.org/resilience/Planning/

Resilience Dashboard
resiliencedashboard.broward.org

Florida Division of Emergency Management / Broward Flooding
floridadisaster.org/info/broward-flood/

Document The Floods
crowdsource.broward.org

UNDERWATER: BROWARD

PIONEER ECO-ARTIST **XAVIER CORTADA** BRINGS HIS CELEBRATED INTERACTIVE ART PROJECT TO BROWARD COUNTY

Climate change presents diverse challenges that will influence our communities for decades. The *Underwater: Broward* project proposes to integrate climate and art in the delivery of a high impact public engagement program designed to educate, convene, and motivate Broward residents around key environmental, community, and public health issues relating to our changing climate.

The Underwater is a socially engaged art project by Xavier Cortada aimed at working with communities to amplify "Underwater Voices" – those who are often underrepresented, underserved, and undervalued. In coordination with Broward County Resilient Environment Department and Broward Cultural Division, the project will use data-driven art to systematically reveal vulnerability to rising seas and mobilize residents to demand that government equitably plan for a future impacted by climate change.

He recently explained the overall approach to New York Times: "By mapping the impending crisis, I make the invisible visible. Block by block, house by house, neighbor by neighbor, I want to make the future impact of sea level rise something impossible to ignore."

"I hope to engage my neighbors as problem solvers who will learn and work together now to better prepare themselves and their heirs for the chaos to come."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Xavier Cortada is a leading environmental artist; an artist and professor of practice at the University of Miami with over 150 public art projects to his name.

Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Arts Council, the Miami-based artist's studio is located at Pinecrest Gardens, where he serves as artist-in-residence, implements his participatory art projects and oversees the Hibiscus Gallery.

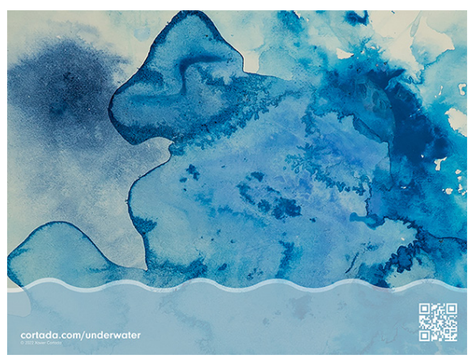
Connect with Xavier on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @xcortada

The project's scope will become visible online, where users can learn their vulnerability to sea level rise and more.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
The project's scope will include artist-led workshops across ten public schools, where students and teachers research their elevation and create elevation markers.

Xavier Cortada will also lead a 'Townhall' event, during which participants will learn their community's vulnerability to sea level rise and climate change. The event is expected to be hosted at a library within the County, where 100 participating residents will receive personalized elevation markers.

The Underwater Elevation Markers are yard signs that announce a home's elevation above sea level in an effort to catalyze conversation and action around the climate crisis. Participants of The Underwater are encouraged to discover the elevation of their home and paint or draw that number on their blank yard sign (pictured below).



The backdrop of the Elevation Marker is an "ice painting" that artist Xavier Cortada created using melted Antarctic ice during his trip to the world's southernmost continent in 2007.

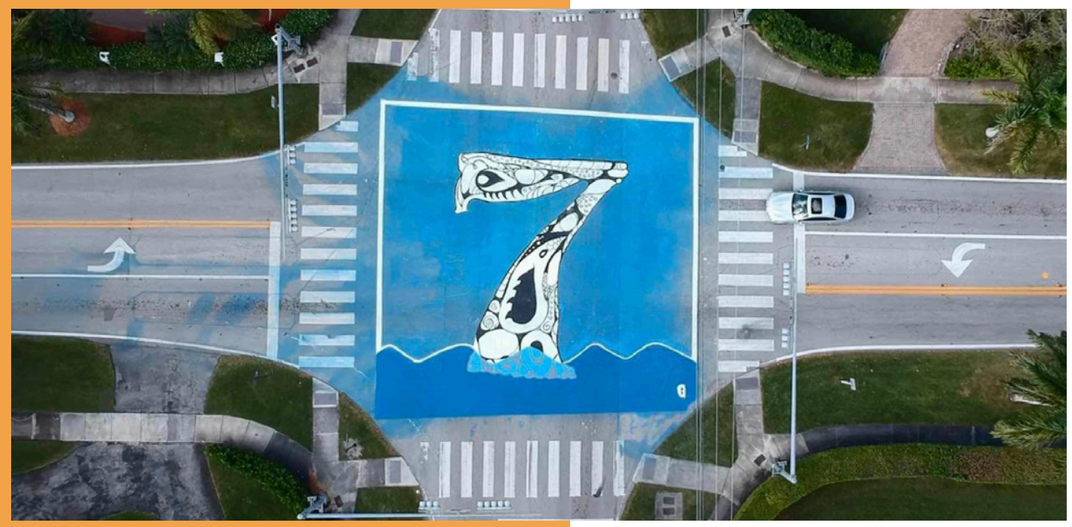
"I DEVELOPED *THE UNDERWATER* TO HELP MY NEIGHBORS UNDERSTAND OUR VULNERABILITY TO RISING SEAS AND GIVE THEM THE TOOLS TO TAKE ACTION.

LEARNING TOGETHER AND WORKING TOGETHER TODAY, WE CAN BUILD A MORE EQUITABLE TOMORROW."
XAVIER CORTADA

Once residents place these elevation-marked signs in their front yard, curiosity from neighbors, friends, and family is instantly sparked as the meaning of the number is unknown to anyone not familiar with the project.

"It's precisely in these moments of intrigue when project participants have the opportunity to educate the individual(s) about the local impacts of sea level rise and motivate them to get involved in efforts to protect Broward County" explains Cortada.

CONTINUES >



Street junction created by the artist in Pinecrest, FL.

ANTARCTIC ICE PAINTING

The backdrop of the Elevation Marker is an “ice painting” that artist Xavier Cortada created using melted Antarctic ice during his trip to the world’s southernmost continent in 2007.

Cortada, recipient of a 2006-2007 National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers fellowship, traveled to Antarctica to create new works and implement a series of projects and installations. Learn more about the artist’s Antarctic work at_ *cortada.com/art2007/art-in-antarctica/.*

PICTURED ABOVE: Florida Governor Charlie Crist and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger accept Antarctic Ice Paintings from artist Xavier Cortada at the Florida Summit on Global Climate Change in Miami on July 13, 2007.

WATER MATTERS DAY
A high point of the project is expected to be Water Matters Day 2024, which takes place on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at Tree Tops Park.

Xavier Cortada is anticipated to engage as speaker and host for workshops where attendees will learn about their community’s elevation and create personalized elevation markers to be used as yard signs.

PUBLIC ART
It is envisioned that a big feature of *Underwater: Broward* will be public artworks. Ideas mooted include site-specific sculptures capturing elevation relative to sea level, flat tile murals as elevation markers; and bus wraps promoted in conjunction with Broward County Transit.

All of the artworks will be functionally integrated; developed and created with an awareness of the unique aspects of Broward County’s built and natural environments and fulfill the civic responsibility of County to provide art and design for livability, accessibility, beauty, and comfort.

Through Cortada’s engagement at Miami Senior High School, his alma mater, thousands of families and dozens of shops along Little Havana’s Calle Ocho learned about Miami’s vulnerability to rising seas, created personalized Underwater Elevation Markers, and became part of the conversation around equitably addressing the climate crisis in their community.

In 2022, artist Xavier Cortada traveled to 54 coastal city halls and placed a sign at each, depicting their respective elevations above sea level.

Community workshop at Pinecrest Gardens in Pinecrest, Florida.

READY, SET, SOLAR

MICHAEL OWENS, BROWARD COUNTY SENIOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY REVIEWS RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR FOR HIS HOME AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY STEPS

My spouse and I have been interested in getting residential rooftop solar for our home for many years. Between the age of our home and roof, though, we wanted to address some energy efficiency and conservation steps first.

Our home was built in 1950 and is a slightly raised concrete block building. It had old jalousie windows, old doors, and an old split-level flat roof with no insulation under it. We liked the community (Miami Springs), the yard, and that our purchase wasn't contributing to urban sprawl. That said, we realized that our electric demand and bill would reflect that it wasn't even close to energy efficient!

Our first step to lower our electricity demand was to have gas run to the house from the alley. As soon I as could, I replaced our stove, water heater, and dryer with gas appliances. While there have been recent concerns about the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by such gas appliances, those concerns weren't clear at the time, and it definitely lowered our electricity bills.

Shortly before the pandemic, we invested in hurricane windows and doors, as well as a re-roof that includes a small pitch for the main roof and insulation underneath. These steps addressed the most fundamental ways in which cooling (and occasionally heating) our home was wasting energy. With that work done, we were ready to consider investing in rooftop residential solar!

We'd had door-to-door sales people come by our home over the years, but between not having the house more ready, some of the misleading promotional materials we saw and inability of the sales people to answer questions about Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing and other available financing, we hadn't pursued those opportunities.

In late 2021, we were approached by a sales person again. This time, it was on behalf of a long-established roofing company (Roofing & Reconstruction Contractors of America) that would contract with a well-established local solar installer (Titan Solar) that has completed over 97,000 solar projects. The financing would be through GoodLeap, a sustainable home improvement financing company.

We liked the business team and preferred the financing approach over PACE financing, which relies on annual assessments that our mortgage company might object to or pose future home sale complications with a buyer or buyer's financing. Since we felt ready, we signed up!

Of course, the pandemic, Hurricane Ian, coordination with City permitting, and

Solar roof panels and a wall-mounted SolarEdge HD Wave Inverter, converting direct current (DC) electricity from the solar panels to alternating current (AC) electricity for home use.

Florida Power & Light all contributed to the process not going as quickly as we hoped, but we saw diligent progress along the way.

Our solar system was approved for use in late February, and it's been exciting to see it in action. We monitor the system through the Solaredge app on our phones, which reports a decent amount of system and performance data.

We have 33 solar panels, and can track the power production of each panel, as well as daily, weekly, monthly, annual, and lifetime statistics. In our first full month, we produced 1.75 MWh of electricity with a daily high of 74.5 kWh. Our lowest day was April 12th, which was cloudy and rainy, producing just 13.4 kWh.

"WE'RE LEARNING HOW THE RAINY SEASON WILL AFFECT OUR SOLAR OUTPUT! THE APP ESTIMATES THAT WE'VE SAVED 8,440 LBS OF CO2 EMISSIONS AND EQUATES THAT TO 64 TREES BEING PLANTED SO FAR."

Our FPL statistics from March 3rd to April 4th show 623 kWh of demand and 1206 kWh received from our solar system, so production was almost twice that of our demand in our first full billing cycle! Only two days in that period are reported as using more electricity than we provided back to the grid.

We've gone from FPL bills of $300-335 to a pending bill of $30, which is basically base charges plus taxes and fees. If we stay ahead on energy produced versus used, FPL will annually send us a check for the extra energy, which will help offset the remaining base charges and defray the cost of the solar system.

Overall, we're really satisfied with the steps we took to prepare our home for solar and have rooftop solar installed. We're glad to be contributing relatively clean energy to the grid and paying for the panels and system instead of the electric bills.

READY FOR HOME SOLAR?

Broward County Solar Co-op
broward.org/GoGreen/GoSOLAR/

Solar Energy Loan Fund
solarenergyloanfund.org/

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)
broward.org/Sustainability/Pages/PACE.aspx

Helpful Tips - Contractors
broward.org/Building/Contractors/Pages/HelpfulTips.aspx

DOE Energy Savings Hub
energy.gov/save

WATER MATTERS DAY 2023

PHOTO GALLERY

Broward County held the 21st Annual Water Matters Day in-person on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at Tree Tops Park in Davie. This well-attended event featured interactive educational displays and booths, tree giveaway for Broward residents, food trucks, children's activities and more. Over 40 educational exhibits and booths were on display to help residents learn about water conservation techniques, smart irrigation, native landscaping, and what role they play in protecting our environment.

Top: Susan Berry is awarded the 2023 Naturescape Emerald Award with (left) Rose Béchard-Butman, Naturescape Program Coordinator, with Victor Suarez, Naturescape Education Specialist, and Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr.

Above: Judy Paul, Mayor of Town of Davie; Broward County Commissioners Beam Furr, Lamar Fisher and Steve Geller.

Left: Savannah Sachs, (4th Grade, McNabb Elementary School) winner of the The Water Matters Day poetry contest for Broward County Public School elementary and middle students, with her teacher Sheila Cousins. Also pictured, Commissioner Bean Furr (left), and (right) Lisa V. Milenkovic, Supervisor, STEM+Computer Science at Broward County Public Schools with Broward County Commissioner Lamar Fisher.

Below left: Naturescape Broward stall with Naturescape volunteer Janet Arculeo at Water Matters Day. Below Right: Monica Pognon, Director of Broward County Natural Resources Division.

Winners and families of the The Water Matters Day poetry contest for Broward County Public School elementary and middle students, with Broward County Commissioners.

At the 'Florida Agriculture in the Classroom' stall with Cindy Griffin and Summer Scarlatelli, Instructional facilitators at STEM CS with Victor Suarez, Naturescape Education Specialist, and Broward County Commissioner Nan Rich.

watermatters.broward.org

YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT IN ACTION

Held this year on February 10 , The annual Youth Climate Summit provided a platform for BCPS students to advocate for policy change and promote environmental sustainability.

Approximately 1,000 Broward County Public Schools students learned ways to make a positive impact on the environment during the 2023 Broward Youth Climate Summit. This year's theme: *'I am the Change: Connect, Commit, Act!'*

Broward County Resilience Unit's Adrienne Aiken and Saadullah Baloch gave students a get a crash course on GIS basics and explained how spatial data can be leveraged to address climate related issues such as extreme heat and flooding.

Also in attendance were Levent Akinci and Ashley Robins representing the Broward County Air Program. They presented a session to explain how Air pollution contributes to climate change, which in turn impacts air quality.

Broward's Beach Program Manager Jacob Rice spoke about the work going on to renourish our beaches, while Angela Delaney made a presentation on the climate change impacts to coral reefs.

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This year's Youth Climate Summit started with 50 high school students who attended the December 8-9 Climate Compact at the Broward Convention Center (pictured above right) to learn from climate leaders.

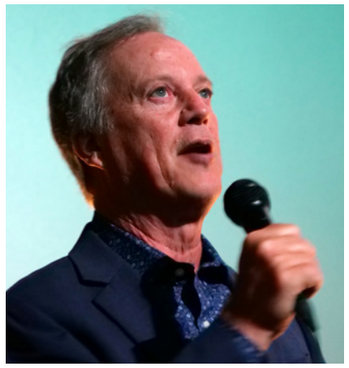
The summit culminated in a special in-person event introduced by Commissioner Beam Furr, at the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) on April 6, 2023 for over 200 middle school students, who participated in hands-on activities around developing students' climate change action plans.

Keynote Panel Moderator was MODS Director of Sustainability Lance Cutrer. The panelists at the event were Broward School Board Vice-Chair Debra Hixon; CLEO Program Manager Diego Molina-Castrillon; and Broward County Chief Resilience Officer Dr. Jennifer Jurado.

Photos from the 2023 Broward Youth Climate Summit at Pompano Beach High School. Above from top: Resilience Unit's Adrienne Aiken and Saadullah Baloch; Jacob Rice; some of the 900 student attendees. Right: Levent Akinci and Ashley Robins representing the Broward County Air Program.

Broward Youth Climate Summit 2023

BCPS Students attending the Climate Leadership Summit in November 2022



Above: panelists Broward School Board Vice-Chair Debra Hixon; CLEO Program Manager Diego Molina-Castrillon; and Broward County Chief Resilience Officer Dr. Jennifer Jurado.
Above right: Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr.
Right: Broward County School Board Vice-Chair Debra Hixon; Museum of Discovery and Science Director of Environmental Sustainability Lance Cutrer.

Above, left to right: CLEO Program Manager Diego Molina-Castrillon; Broward School Board Vice-Chair Debra Hixon; Broward County Chief Resilience Officer Dr. Jennifer Jurado, and President & CEO at Museum of Discovery and Science, Joe Cox.
Left: Dr. Jennifer Jurado speaking to students.

IRRIGATION MADE EASY

Michael Gutierrez (left) and Dyane Oliva (right) Broward County Natural Resources Specialists.

Dyane Oliva and Michael Gutierrez, Natural Resources Specialists with Broward County's NatureScape Irrigation Service, discuss the Residential Irrigation Rebate Program (RIRP) from a program admin and program applicant perspective, and talk about the larger picture of Smart Irrigation Month and Florida as a growing state.

RIRP 101

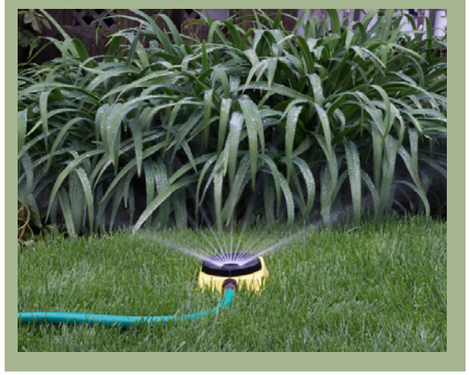
Broward County Water and Wastewater Services is offering rebates for installation of EPA WaterSense-labeled smart irrigation controllers and pressure regulating spray bodies.

To be eligible you must have a working, city water irrigation system at your home.

Qualifying applicants receive an irrigation system evaluation from Broward County staff, a report detailing how to improve your system and a conservation kit.

Visit ***broward.org/irrigationrebate*** to check eligibility and apply.

First come, first served!



In 2020 Broward County launched RIRP in partnership with 11 water providers in the County, to support residents in water conservation with the improvement for high-efficiency irrigation systems and SMART technology controllers. Year 4 of the program commences in April 2023, as the city of Coral Springs joins the program.

Michael Gutierrez (MG): Dyane you reside in Coral Springs and are considering applying to participate in RIRP. What can you share about your home landscape?

Dyane Oliva (DO): It's about 50/50 with ornamentals and turf. I honestly just irrigate as needed.

MG: When someone irrigates as needed, we call that a deficit irrigator. This means that at some points during the year you are irrigating less than the landscape requires since you may be pushing it to its limits.

DO: In dry season (Feb – May) I let the timer irrigate automatically twice a week. In wet season I turn it off and just use the hose if necessary. I'm not sure how RIRP will benefit me, but I'm considering it because I know there are probably inefficiencies in my landscape, and it may help me save more water and save a little bit on my water bill.

MG: In your case, as a deficit irrigator, you may not save much additional water.

Dyane Oliva's garden landscape.

The technology that RIRP incentivizes is EPA WaterSense-labeled – specifically weather-based, Wi-Fi compatible timers. However, there is a convenience factor with these devices. Even though a timer like this may elect to water slightly more that you might throughout the year you can be sure to respond to your landscape's need and since system operation is accessible via Wi-Fi you can monitor operations from anywhere.

DO: If I apply for RIRP what's the process?

MG: One of the program administrators will coordinate a site visit with you. We evaluate the system – put it through a fitness test and note system design and maintenance issues. By the end of the evaluation, you'll know which of the 4 rebate options you qualify for and up to how much the rebate will be if you decide to proceed with the program and invest in the system. What can you tell me about your existing system?

DO: It's digital. Not Wi-Fi. And we have two irrigation zones.

MG: Not knowing anything else about the system you would qualify for the VIP Upgrade. This is when the existing system is digital, so the upgrade is focused on the timer and swapping it out for a weather-based, Wi-Fi compatible device.

During the system evaluation, if it's revealed that you have zone inefficiencies – namely mixing sprinkler heads with different application rates in the same zone – then the rebate amount increases to correct these issues. RIRP's objective is a digital, weather-based system with balanced zone application rates.

Although the program is focused on system upgrades, many applicants use this time to also address minor maintenance issues they were not aware or have long neglected. It is not disqualifying to have a few leaks.

For more about Broward County's Naturescape programs visit broward.org NaturalResources/WaterConservation

UPSTATE UPDATE

BY SARAH PARISEAU

The 2023 Legislative Session in Florida came to an end on Friday, May 5th, 2023. The overall state budget for FY 2023-2024 is more than $115 billion dollars, with more than $22 billion dollars, going into Natural Resources, Environment, Growth Management, and Transportation.

There were several newsworthy bills introduced and passed during this Legislative Session, including some positive developments on environmental and resiliency efforts.

OSBORNE REEF

THB 641, introduced by Rep. LaMarca, addresses the unintended negative effects of a well-intentioned artificial reef project from the 1970s. The project used old tires from South Florida landfills to create an artificial reef off the coast of Ft. Lauderdale, but the tires came loose and damaged other coral reef ecosystems in the area.

Currently, there are between 500,000 and 1 million tires that still need to be removed from the ocean floor. The bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to provide a report by December 1, 2023, detailing the condition of the remaining reef structure, restoration efforts undertaken, the number of tires retrieved and remaining, and an estimated timeline for completion of the tire removal project.

SEAGRASS

Seagrasses are important to Florida in many ways. They provide food and habitat to numerous species, stabilize the ocean bottom, maintain water quality, and help support local economies. It is estimated that 7,400 acres of seagrass were lost between 1943 and 1994. Between 2011 and 2019, approximately 58 percent of seagrasses were lost.

CS/HB 1181/SB 724 – Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative, establishes the Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative (Initiative) within DEP, in partnership with Mote Marine Laboratory and the University of Florida, to develop innovative and environmentally sustainable technologies needed to restore coastal seagrass ecosystems. Both the House and Senate companion bills are in their final committee stops.

RESILIENT FLORIDA GRANT PROGRAM

This bill (HB 111) directs the Resilient Florida Grant Program to provide money for local governments to conduct feasibility studies and cover permitting costs for nature-based solutions to the impact of flooding and sea-level rise.

It also expands funding to cover water management districts' efforts supporting local government adaptation planning. The bill passed on the House and Senate floor with no objections. If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

NEWS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITIES

Water Resources Manager

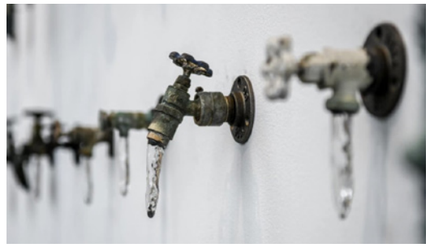
This is a senior-level supervisory position responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of county-wide water resources initiatives The successful candidate is also responsible for advancing county-wide water resource policy, planning, and management programs with a strong focus on effective water resource management under the pressures of climate change.

Visit *Governmentjobs.com/careers/broward*

GET SMART

The Broward Resilience program, *Document The Floods*, has received the distinction of awardee for the 2023 Smart 50 Awards.

At the reception in Denver, Colorado this May 15, Smart Cities will announce the top three projects as winners at the Smart Cities Connect Conference & Expo Spring 2023 held at the Colorado Convention Center later in the year.

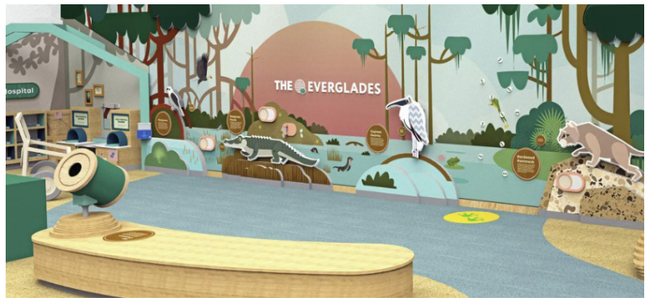


BOIL NOTICE

Presented by Broward Cultural Division and City of Pompano Beach Cultural Arts at Pompano Beach Cultural Center, *Boil Notice* is an exhibition by Dana Kleinman with collaborating artist Ruth Avra (KX2) and sound composition by Dave Rosenthal. Informed by the environmental conditions of Southern Florida, "Boil Notice" focuses on the rising water levels due to climate change, a lack of access to potable water, and industrial waste pollution.

The exhibition is on show at Pompano Beach Cultural Center through July 3, 2023.

Find our more at *kx2art.com/kx2-projects*



A recently completed renovation at the Museum of Discovery and Science, Fort Lauderdale.

ALL NEW DISCOVERY SPOT

At the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Discovery and Science a new early childhood experience is reopening this summer as the Discovery Spot presented by JM Family Enterprises.

In the Discovery Spot, children ages 0-6 will be able to splash, climb, tinker, and explore - encouraging the Museum's youngest guests to make exciting discoveries through experiences in the freshly reimagined and beloved Citrus Grove, Ocean to Air, and Everglades areas.

The new Discovery Spot will encourage playful exploration and STEM experiences leading to lifelong learning for all families and will cover 4,000 square feet of Museum space. More info *MODS.org*

MEET THE TEAM

SARAH PARISEAU

Hi - I'm Sarah Pariseau, Broward County's new Environmental Policy and Program Lead for the Resilient Environment Department!

I come to Broward County with a wealth of experience, having previously worked in the Florida Legislature for the last six years representing northwest Broward, where I managed a legislative office and focused on policy and appropriation initiatives.

I'm originally from the beautiful Green Mountain State of Vermont, and developed a deep appreciation for the environment through my family's love of hiking and camping. I'm passionate about protecting our natural resources and working towards building a more sustainable and resilient community, and I'm thrilled to have joined such an excellent team here at Broward County!

STAY IN TOUCH

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