



MIAMI
WATERKEEPER



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

PROTECTING THE WATER YOU LOVE



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RACHEL SILVERSTEIN, PH.D.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND MIAMI WATERKEEPER



Your full-time Miami Waterkeeper, Rachel Silverstein, is part investigator, scientist, educator, and legal advocate, functioning as a public spokesperson and protecting your right to clean water.

Dear Miami Waterkeeper Family,

They say you never know the worth of water until the well runs dry. But here in South Florida, we know the greater threat is contamination: pollution in Biscayne Bay, saltwater intrusion into our aquifer, and mounting pressures on our aging infrastructure. Protecting the water we love means engaging in both a proactive strategy and a reactive response to threats.

Few issues embody these threats more than the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant. For decades, this facility has operated on the edge of Biscayne Bay. As it ages and climate impacts intensify, the risks to our ecosystems, drinking water, and community grow more complex and more urgent.

Miami Waterkeeper's work has reflected that reality. By challenging an inadequate federal review of climate risks at Turkey Point, we helped strengthen protections at Turkey Point— and regulations governing aging nuclear facilities nationwide. Grounded in science, our advocacy shows how hyperlocal advocacy can drive nationwide change.

We are still fighting to make sure that keeping the lights on in Miami doesn't mean living next to unnecessary nuclear risks. Turkey Point is just one of many campaigns and water wins we have engaged in over the last year, from coral reef advocacy to stormwater, septic and more. While we are seeing the needle move with significant progress on our water wins, our work is ongoing and more urgent than ever—and supporters like you keep our lights on!

We are building a movement together, building a clean water future for South Florida.

Rachel Silverstein, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer and Miami Waterkeeper

OUR WORK

THEORY OF CHANGE

WE DO THIS:

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

All of our work—from boots-on-the-ground data collection to advocacy and litigation—is grounded in scientific research that drives action and informs solutions.



POLICY & LEGAL ADVOCACY

Using science and a grassroots-to-grasstops approach, we advance new policies, strengthen regulations, and—when necessary—hold polluters accountable in court.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We engage South Florida communities to protect our waterways today and inspire the next generation of environmental ambassadors.



TO GET TO THIS:

CLEAN WATER

From the Everglades to the ocean, from groundwater to coral reefs, we address pollution across the Biscayne Bay watershed to protect South Florida's waters.

THRIVING HABITATS

We protect South Florida's coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses, and wetlands—native ecosystems that help buffer our coasts from storm surge and sea-level rise.

A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

As one of the world's most vulnerable coastal regions, we work to advance a more resilient region that protects both people and the environment.

OUR WORK

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

With the support of our community of dedicated water advocates, Miami Waterkeeper is creating measurable change for South Florida's water and ecosystems—from advocating for clean water policies to restoring vital habitats and inspiring tomorrow's environmental leaders.

GROUNDING IN SCIENCE

1,387
Water samples collected.

4
Swim advisories shared with the public.

159,482
Public views on Swim Guide.

96
Pollution reports received and responded to.

ROOTED IN NATURE

21.5
Acres of habitat restored.

8,794
Signatures on action alerts and petitions.

3
Active legal challenges.

56
Public comments made.

DRIVEN BY COMMUNITY

6,418+
Lbs of marine debris removed.

397
Community members trained in 1,000 Eyes on the Water.

45
Technical comment letters submitted.

6,091
Community members engaged.

OUR WORK

WATER QUALITY REPORT CARDS

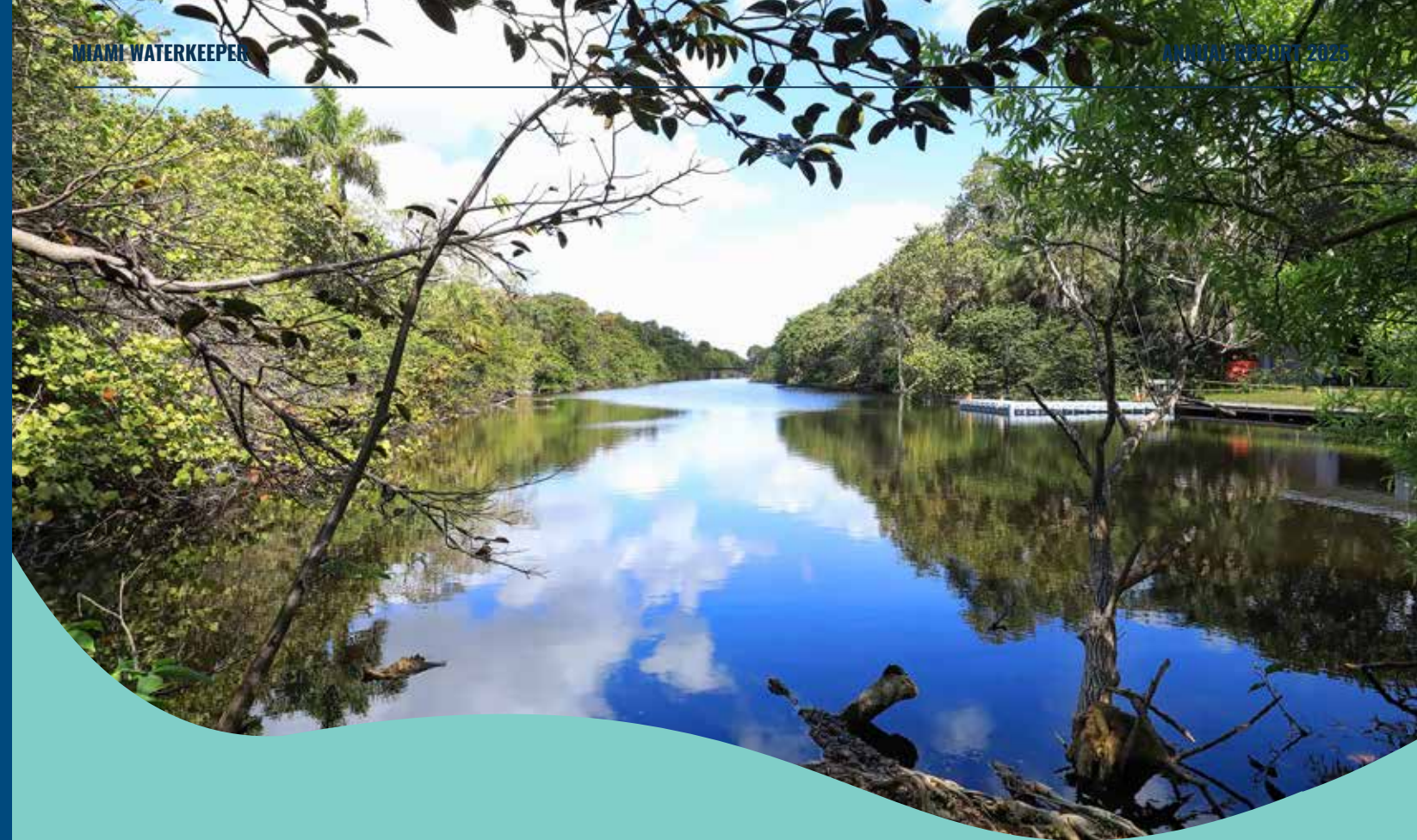
You have a right to be informed about the quality of your local water.

Every week, Miami Waterkeeper’s team of dedicated water quality technicians tests more than 30 popular waterfront sites throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties for bacteria levels.

We report all of our findings on social media, on our website, and in the easy-to-use Swim Guide App—helping you know whether your favorite beaches and waterways are safe to enjoy. Over 159,000 people have viewed our results via Swim Guide this year.

Is your favorite spot meeting recreational water quality standards?

Scan to find out!



SITE SPOTLIGHT

SUNRISE BAY AT HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH STATE PARK

Sunrise Bay is located within the Coral Ridge neighbourhood and adjacent to Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. Designated by the City of Fort Lauderdale as a Watersports Activity Area, this spot supports activities such as water skiing, tubing, kneeboarding, and wakeboarding. Its proximity to the city’s “Central Park”—a biodiverse refuge that is home to gopher tortoises, nature trails, and boat access from the Intracoastal Waterway—makes Sunrise Bay a key location for understanding how recreation and natural habitats intersect. Monitoring this area helps protect public health as well as the ecological integrity of a cherished urban waterway.

Want to sponsor one of our sites for weekly testing?
Get in touch with us at hello@miamiwaterkeeper.org.

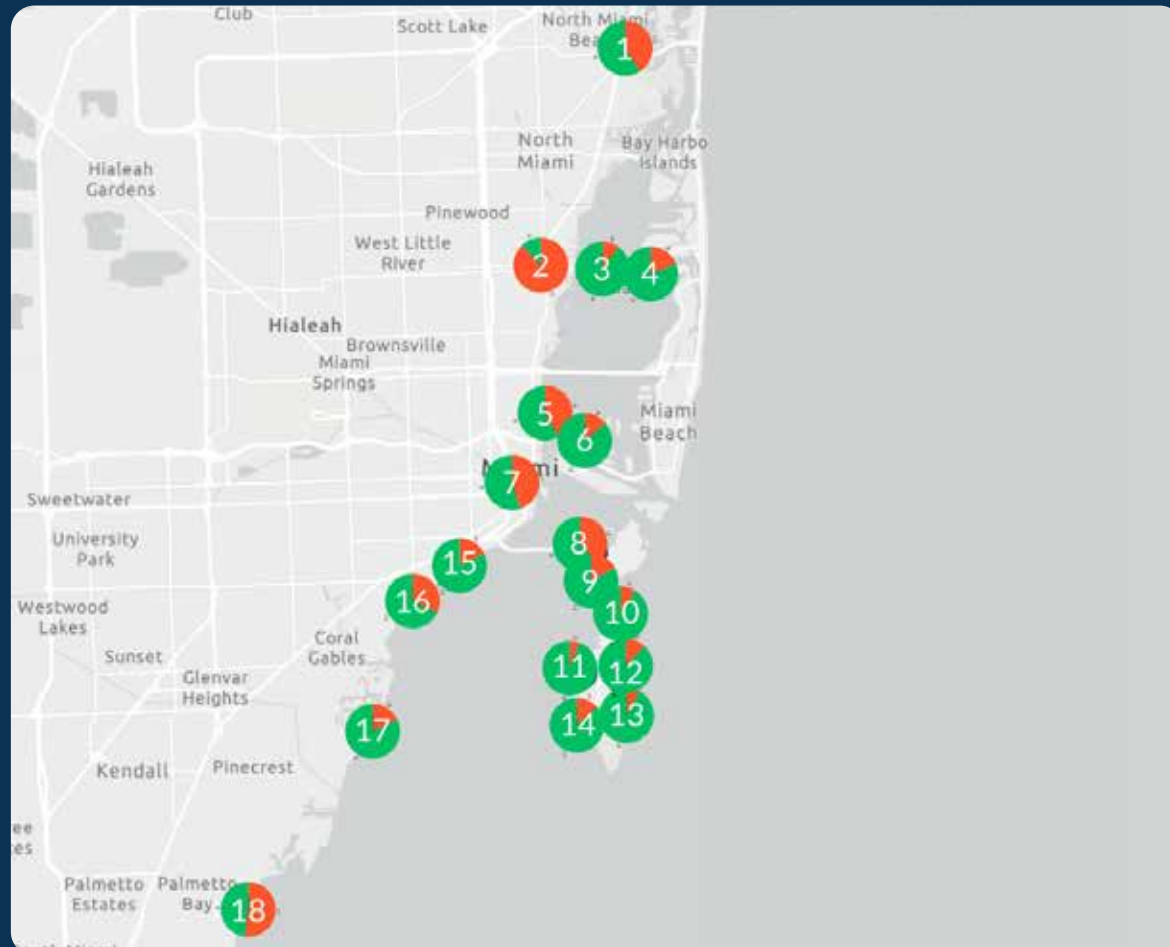
2,247 Swim Guide views in 2025.

67% Percent of tests that met recreational water quality standards.

49 Tests Performed.

33% Percent of tests that exceeded recreational water quality standards.

WATER QUALITY REPORT CARD
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 East Greynolds Park | 7 Jose Marti Park | 13 Key Biscayne Beach Club |
| 2 Manatee Bend Park | 8 Miami Marine Stadium | 14 Mariner Drive |
| 3 Vogel Park | 9 Rosenstiel School | 15 Shake-A-Leg |
| 4 Grandview Palace Marina | 10 Crandon Park Marina | 16 Peacock Park |
| 5 Margaret Pace Park | 11 Key Biscayne Yacht Club | 17 Matheson Hammock |
| 6 Watson Boat Ramp | 12 Oceana Key Biscayne | 18 Deering Point |

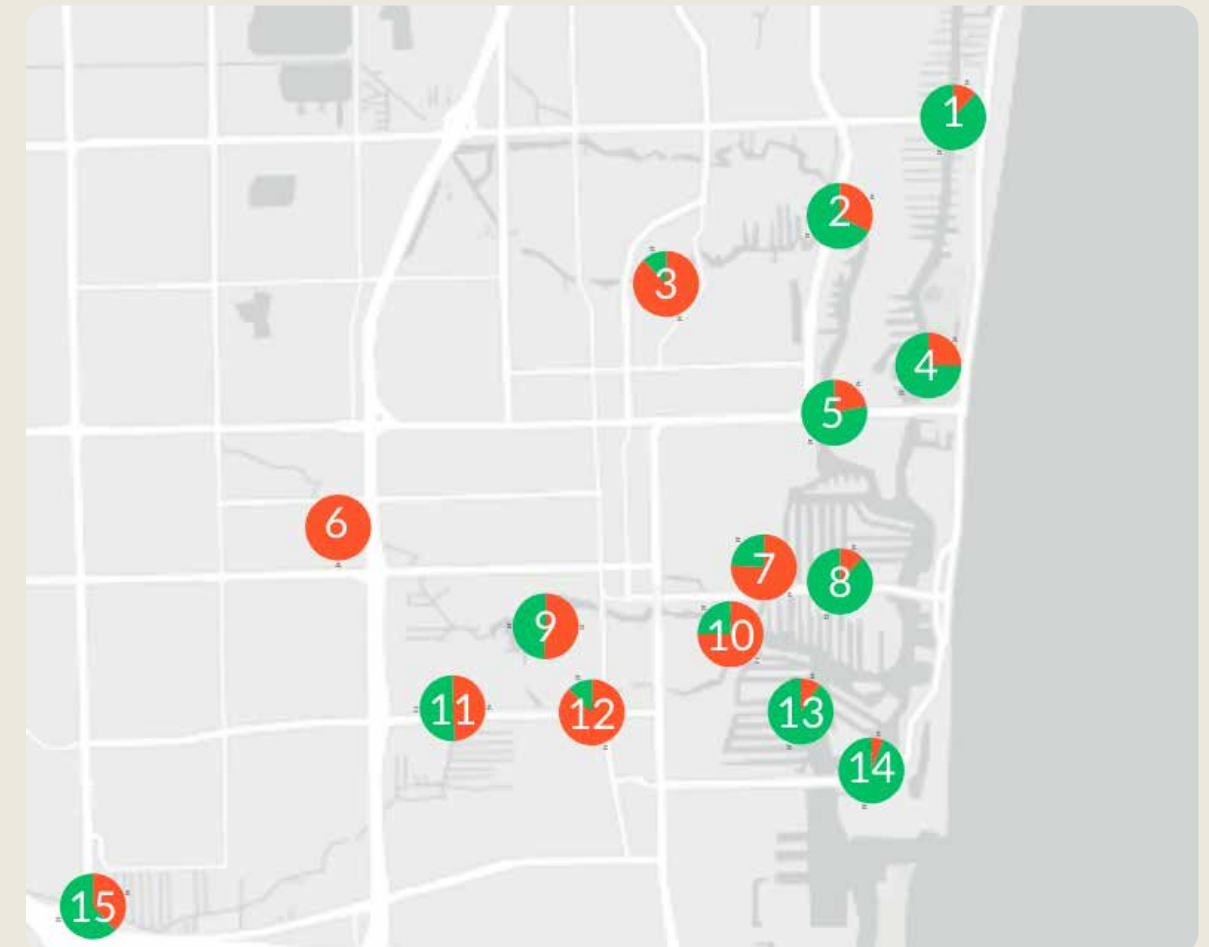
Trend Statement: Bacterial levels were typically higher at sites located closer to canal systems.

Data is only from weekly samples and does not include resamples.

- GREEN indicates the percentage of the time that the bacteria levels in the water met recreational water quality limits in 2025.
- RED indicates the percentage of the time that the bacteria levels in the water exceeded recreational water quality limits in 2025.

Overall average enterococci concentration: 233 MPN/100mL (Standard deviation of 1,415 MPN/100 mL). Less than 70 MPN/100mL is considered safe for swimming.

WATER QUALITY REPORT CARD
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE



- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Oakland Park Blvd Bridge | 6 Sweeting Park | 11 Coontie Hatchee Park |
| 2 Sunrise Paddleboards | 7 Annie Beck Park | 12 Tarpon River Park |
| 3 Middle River NE 18th St Dock | 8 Royal Palm Drive Las Olas Blvd | 13 Sandbar |
| 4 Sunrise Bay Hugh Taylor Birch | 9 Cooley's Landing Marina | 14 Lake Sylvia |
| 5 Middle River George English Park | 10 Colee Hammock Park | 15 Lauderdale Isles Landing |

Trend Statement: Bacterial levels were consistently higher at sites located further inland. These inland locations also experienced more frequent exceedances of water quality standards. In contrast, sites closer to the inlet generally showed lower bacterial levels.

Data is only from weekly samples and does not include resamples.

- GREEN indicates the percentage of the time that the bacteria levels in the water met recreational water quality limits in 2025.
- RED indicates the percentage of the time that the bacteria levels in the water exceeded recreational water quality limits in 2025.

Overall average enterococci concentration: 222 MPN/100mL (Standard deviation of 706 MPN/100 mL). Less than 70 MPN/100mL is considered safe for swimming.

LOOKING BACK

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE 2020 FISH KILL: A WAKE-UP CALL THAT STILL ECHOES

In August 2020, Biscayne Bay sent an unmistakable warning.

Over just a few days, oxygen levels crashed, tens of thousands of fish died, and the Bay's normally blue waters turned green with algae. The scale of the die-off was unprecedented—a visual and emotional shock that made clear the Bay had reached a tipping point and was dying.

Sometimes it takes a crisis to galvanize action, and now five years later, this anniversary offered a moment to look back and renew our commitment to protecting the Bay's future.

Waterkeeper Dr. Rachel Silverstein marked the occasion by joining Louis Aguirre on WPLG Local 10 News to reflect on the crisis and call for stronger water quality safeguards, including accelerating septic-to-sewer conversions and enforcing the standards needed to prevent another disaster.

This milestone reminded us why our year-round science, monitoring, and advocacy matter—and why community support remains essential to preventing another crisis and restoring the Bay's health.

And while the Bay is still vulnerable, this year also brought clear signs of what's possible when we act together: signs reflected in new research, policy wins, restoration efforts, and community-driven solutions.



DEFENDING CLEAN WATER IN COURT

PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM CANCER-CAUSING CHEMICALS

Florida's water quality standards that limit exposure to toxic, cancer-causing chemicals haven't been updated since 1992—despite a requirement to review them every three years. The state's Human Health Criteria, meant to protect people from dozens of harmful chemicals, including neurotoxins and endocrine disruptors, are overdue for revision. Both the state and the EPA have acknowledged that the current limits are not fully protective, yet updates have stalled for decades.

After decades of delay, we've stepped in. Along with Waterkeepers Florida and the Environmental Defense Alliance, we petitioned the EPA to enforce stronger protections. The agency began drafting new standards for 77 toxic pollutants, but in January 2025, the EPA halted all new rules and withdrew the draft standards.

In response, we filed suit to challenge the withdrawal and compel action.

Updating these standards is essential to protect public health, local fisheries, and the communities that rely on Florida's waters. We will continue pressing for updated, enforceable standards through the courts and federal advocacy, and will evaluate further legal action if delays continue.

PROTECTING THE MIAMI CAVE CRAYFISH

Deep beneath Miami-Dade, in the Biscayne Aquifer, lives the unique Miami cave crayfish, found only in Miami's underground freshwater caves. This endemic species is highly vulnerable to rising seas, pollution, and over-pumping—threats that also impact the aquifer that supplies clean water to local communities. To protect both the crayfish and this critical water source, Miami Waterkeeper—in partnership with the Center for Biological Diversity—has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to secure Endangered Species Act protections.

This legal action aims to recognize the cave crayfish as a threatened species and, therefore, safeguard its habitat, preserve biodiversity, and ensure resilient drinking water supplies for Miami. Such actions demonstrate how protecting a single species can have far-reaching benefits for people and nature alike.

CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT

STOP THE DREDGE. SAVE THE PORT EVERGLADES REEF.

Port Everglades, one of Florida's busiest ports, is also home to one of the last thriving populations of wild staghorn corals and one of only two known breeding populations of queen conch in Florida. A plan to deepen and widen the channel—eerily reminiscent of the project planned at PortMiami—threatens to result in the largest impact to coral reefs permitted in U.S. history.

Miami Waterkeeper and our partners Earthjustice, Center for Biological Diversity, the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association, and Florida Wildlife Federation have been challenging this project in court since 2016. We've succeeded in delaying the project by over 10 years and requiring new environmental reviews and stronger protections for the corals, fish, and wildlife in the area. But the importance of protecting this reef—after staghorn corals were declared functionally extinct in Florida this year—means that the stakes are higher than ever.

As political pressure is mounting to push this project forward, Miami Waterkeeper launched a widespread, multi-pronged advocacy campaign from grassroots to grasstops. We've sent technical comment letters to the Army Corps of Engineers demanding that the project comply with Endangered Species Act requirements, and we've launched billboards, advertisements, and a petition campaign. Our team has been working with the local community, including regular dives, plane flights, and satellite analyses to keep track of the activity in the area.

These efforts have generated significant media attention, with recent coverage in WLRN, The Guardian, The Miami Herald, and National Geographic.

Save the reef. Stop the dredge. Sign the petition and contact your state representatives.



Watch our animation series on coral reefs



SAVE THE PORT EVERGLADES REEF

StopTheDredge.com



DON'T DREDGE ON ME



Scan the QR code to sign the petition and contact your state representatives

WATER WINS

WATER WINS

10TH MICROPLASTICS CLEAN UP



Miami Waterkeeper celebrated its 10th microplastics clean-up, bringing together a total of 326 dedicated volunteers to remove 879 lbs of marine debris and microplastics from local mangroves and waterways. Each piece collected helps protect Biscayne Bay's fragile ecosystems and wildlife, transforming hands-on action into measurable impact.

Microplastics and marine debris harm fish, birds, and aquatic habitats, and can make their way into the food chain. Each clean-up reduces pollution, strengthens ecosystems, and helps ensure healthier waters for South Florida residents and wildlife alike. From mangroves to canals, every clean-up demonstrates the power of community action. Join us almost every

weekend for clean-ups, habitat restoration, guided tours, kayaks, and more!

WATER QUALITY IN ACTION

Miami Waterkeeper took local policymakers out on the water to see Biscayne Bay's challenges first-hand, such as sewage contamination and stormwater runoff.

On-the-water experiences connect our leaders to our water—and give direct insight into local waterways and pollution challenges. We now have four contracts with local governments to provide water quality information directly to the public: the City of Miami (District 2, Commissioner Pardo's office), the Village of Key Biscayne, the City of Fort Lauderdale, and North Bay Village.

By combining education, data, and collaboration, Miami Waterkeeper is turning field science into actionable policy—ensuring that decision-makers and community members have the information they need to protect Biscayne Bay and South Florida's waterways.



WATER WINS

WATER WINS

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PARK DESIGN



Miami Waterkeeper's EPA and NFWF-funded Green Infrastructure Accelerator Project is advancing new solutions to urban water challenges, and Larchmont Park is a clear example of how community-driven design can improve water quality and climate resilience. Through this initiative, Miami Waterkeeper worked with Local Office Landscape Architecture and Miami-Dade County's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces to design resiliency solutions for 6 underutilized public spaces. After dozens of community listening sessions, tabling events, town halls, and community feedback, locations like Larchmont Park are being reimagined with nature-based strategies

such as rain gardens, tree plantings, and other green infrastructure features that capture and filter stormwater, reduce flooding and heat, and create healthier, more livable neighborhoods. This work actively engages residents and stakeholders in planning and feedback to ensure that green infrastructure improves water filtration, supports habitats, and strengthens community well-being.

POWERING OUR VOICE FOR CLEAN WATER

We are deeply grateful to the Lynn & Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation for funding our new media studio — a dedicated creative hub that brings our mission to life through storytelling, design, and community engagement. This space allows us to produce high-quality visual content, digital campaigns, educational materials, and advocacy tools that inspire civic action and strengthen our connection with the Miami community.

Made possible through a generous grant, this investment recognizes that protecting our waters also requires clear, compelling communication. The studio equips us to inform residents, mobilize supporters, and advocate for clean water with focus and consistency.



SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY

JUNIOR AMBASSADOR: ALESSANDRO VIDAL



Alessandro Vidal exemplifies the dedication and leadership that define Miami Waterkeeper’s Junior Ambassador program. Through his incredible consistency and commitment as a Junior Ambassador, Leadership Board Manager, and Alumni Mentor, he gives his all at every event, inspiring others through action.

“Being a Junior Ambassador has been one of the most meaningful parts of my high school journey.”

AMBASSADOR: HEIDI RONQUILLO

As a member of our inaugural Ambassador cohort, Heidi brought exceptional energy and commitment, engaging deeply in every opportunity. Her connection to Miami Waterkeeper extended beyond the program through a collaborative yoga beach cleanup that blended education, community, and sea turtle conservation—leaving a lasting impact.



“Being an Ambassador also helped open the doors for my own conservation work and collaboration with Miami Waterkeeper with a yoga beach clean-up.”

VOLUNTEER: KORE KNUDTOFT



Kore consistently went above and beyond, attending one to two volunteer events each month and approaching every cleanup with focus and determination. Known for removing more debris than anyone on site, his passion and reliability made a meaningful impact on our environmental efforts.

“We all feel engaged, appreciated, and that we are a part of something bigger. It’s not my trash but it’s our world!”

SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY

BOARD CHAIR: H JORDAN WEITZ



This year marks the conclusion of H. Jordan Weitz’s fifth year as Chair of the Miami Waterkeeper Board and his 15th year of dedicated service. His tenure coincided with a period of extraordinary growth and transformation for the organization—evolution he played a critical role in shaping and supporting. From its earliest days as a small, emerging non-profit to a team of more than 20 full-time staff, H recognized and championed Miami Waterkeeper’s potential from the very beginning.

A Miami native and lifelong sailor, his deep connection to Biscayne Bay has long fueled his commitment to protecting South Florida’s waters. Drawing on his corporate leadership and expertise in risk management, H helped guide the organization through periods of uncertainty, including the challenges of COVID-19, while positioning it for long-term success. Just as importantly, he cultivated a Board culture grounded in inclusion, thoughtfulness, and strategic leadership—leaving a lasting impact on both the organization and the people who serve it.

As he passes the torch to our new Chair, Phil Kushlan, in 2026, H remains an active and committed member of the Board and a steadfast

champion of the Miami Waterkeeper mission.

INTERN: KATY MCRAE



Our exceptional Education & Outreach intern brought invaluable programmatic support across multiple departments during her time with Miami Waterkeeper. Beyond developing K–12 environmental curriculum tailored for South Florida students, she seamlessly collaborated with our policy team, demonstrating a level of versatility and initiative that elevated our mission.

“As an intern, I combined my passion for the natural world with hands-on education, organizing beach cleanups and bringing classrooms directly to Biscayne Bay.”

SPOTLIGHT

AWARDS



COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Miami Waterkeeper was named Community Partner of the Year by the Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida, honouring our work in supporting Girl Scouts and their families through environmental education and water protection initiatives. Each year, Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida highlights organizations that make a meaningful impact in their communities, and this recognition reflects our ongoing efforts to engage and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.



ERNESTO LASSO DE LA VEGA AWARD

Miami Waterkeeper Dr. Rachel Silverstein received the 2025 Ernesto Lasso De La Vega Award from the Florida Lake Management Society. This award recognizes professionals who have advanced the restoration, protection, and understanding of Florida’s aquatic resources. Dr. Silverstein was honoured for her leadership in safeguarding Biscayne Bay and surrounding ecosystems through science-based advocacy, legal action, and public education.

SPOTLIGHT

PROGRAMS



RESILIENTSEA

The Miami ResilientSea project advances climate resilience in Miami-Dade County by integrating science, education, and community action. Led by the University of Miami in partnership with local organizations, the initiative strengthens inclusive engagement, ecological restoration, and citizen science efforts. Through this project, Miami Waterkeeper hosted two marine debris cleanups and two Floating Classroom programs, engaging 135 community members and removing 211 pounds of debris from local waterways. The opportunity also supported a Community Engagement Intern, Miyah Brooks, expanding outreach and increasing access to hands-on conservation opportunities for historically under-represented communities.



THE UNDERLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

The Underline Workshop Series, launched this summer, was a three-part urban forestry event series made possible by Friends of The Underline and supported by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the initiative Growing Miami’s Green Corridor: Cultivating Community Environmental Stewards. The series explored the connection between urban nature and community well-being, beginning with a workshop on green spaces and waterways, followed by a bird-friendly gardening workshop in partnership with Tropical Audubon Society, and concluding with a workshop on green infrastructure and environmental justice in partnership with the PEER group. Together, these workshops engaged community members in hands-on learning while fostering environmental stewardship across Miami’s urban landscape.



We were incredibly grateful to be recognized by Girl Scouts of Tropical South Florida. It was an honor to work alongside young leaders, helping foster a lasting appreciation for our natural world and inspiring them to take responsibility for protecting it.

—Erin Cover, Senior Education & Engagement Manager



Being the first ResilientSEA community engagement intern with Miami Waterkeeper was one of the highlights of my 2025. Leading community events, connecting with so many different faces, and learning how nonprofits operate was incredibly fulfilling. Opportunities like this don’t come around often for people like me, so it meant everything to step into that role. I’m beyond grateful for my MWK team, they were full of love and passion, who made the experience what it was.

—Miyah Brooks, Community Engagement Intern



SPOTLIGHT

STATE OF THE WATER



POWERING MIAMI

At this year's State of the Water, we asked a simple question: **What powers Miami?**

The event highlighted the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant and the resilience of South Florida's waterways. Held at the scenic Rusty Pelican, the presentation brought together over 250 community members, advocates, and experts to explore strategies for protecting water quality, ecosystems, and coastal communities. Scan the QR code to watch Dr. Rachel Silverstein discuss the environmental and safety challenges posed by the Turkey Point nuclear power plant.

2025 PORTER PRIZE WINNER

Craig Grossenbacher brings 37 years of experience protecting South Florida's waters, with a career defined by leadership in both restoration and environmental science. During his tenure at Miami-Dade County's Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), he oversaw the county's groundwater and surface water quality monitoring programs and led major investigative projects that uncovered critical pollution issues—including identifying chloride contamination from the Turkey Point cooling canal system. His work has advanced restoration of Biscayne Bay and the Everglades while improving the region's ability to detect, understand, and address water quality threats. Honored with the Porter Prize for his exceptional contributions, we are thrilled to share that Craig is now on our team full-time! Craig serves as a Senior Advisor at Miami Waterkeeper, bringing decades of technical expertise to strengthen our science, policy, and conservation initiatives.



The Miami Waterkeeper Porter Prize is named in honor of Miami Waterkeeper's longtime attorney, Jim Porter. With a deep and abiding love for Biscayne Bay, Porter dedicated thousands of hours of service to Miami Waterkeeper's mission to protect our environment. In 2021, Porter lost a long battle with cancer. The Miami Waterkeeper Porter Prize is now awarded annually to a member of the community who, like Jim, has gone above and beyond in service of the environment.

SPOTLIGHT

POWERING MIAMI

On the edge of Biscayne Bay, the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant has operated since the early 1970s and poses risks to South Florida's ecosystems, communities, and our drinking water supply. As the plant ages and sea levels rise, new risks add pressure to the plant, and the stakes have never been higher. In 2018, Florida Power & Light sought a 20-year license extension that would allow the reactors to operate into the 2050s — without fully accounting for climate risks.

Miami Waterkeeper and partners stepped in. Through rigorous scientific analysis and fearless legal advocacy, we challenged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's license extension. In 2022, we won. A federal court overturned Turkey Point's license extension and required the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to strengthen how it reviews climate risk—setting a national precedent for aging nuclear facilities across the country. We brought these complex issues to the public through an animated video series, an op-ed in the Miami Herald, and coverage in The Guardian, Bloomberg, and WPLG.

This was hyperlocal advocacy with nationwide impact.

FPL's license has since been granted after a second regulatory review, and we remain engaged in trying to improve the analysis and to reducing risks from nuclear plants to our community and our water via demanding science-based review, transparency, and accountability to protect our community and Biscayne Bay.

Scan the QR codes below to see major press.



Miami Herald



The Guardian



Miami Herald



Bloomberg



WPLG



Watch our animation series on Turkey Point



LOOKING AHEAD

HOOK UP: SEPTIC



Reducing septic pollution around Biscayne Bay is a top priority. Miami Waterkeeper is advocating for septic-to-sewer conversions, supporting strategic planning for conversions in high-risk areas, and encouraging the creation of septic-free zones. Community outreach and education campaigns will highlight the link between proper wastewater management, water quality, and public health. By targeting vulnerable areas with dense septic systems, these efforts aim to reduce nutrient and bacterial pollution, protect waterways and public health, and ensure cleaner, safer waters for both recreation and wildlife. Collaboration with local and state partners strengthens long-term resilience for

South Florida's communities and ecosystems.

SEWAGE UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Miami Waterkeeper is reviewing data from the Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resources Management and the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department to assess countywide progress in reducing sewage spills and improving wastewater management. This analysis evaluates long-term trends in spill frequency and volume, identifies high-risk communities or "hotspots," assesses the effectiveness of infrastructure upgrades, and examines factors such as rainfall, sewage infrastructure age, and population density. The report will highlight areas of improvement, ongoing challenges, and opportunities to strengthen accountability, helping to ensure that Biscayne Bay and our communities are protected. By tracking this critical data, Miami Waterkeeper aims to inform policy, guide community engagement, and advocate for stronger enforcement and investment in wastewater solutions.



LOOKING AHEAD

WATER QUALITY MONITORING EXPANSION

Our waterways are getting more attention with expanded water quality monitoring across South Florida. In 2025, four new sites were added in Fort Lauderdale, and beginning in 2026, monitoring will grow to 19 sites across canals and high-use recreational areas in Broward County. At the same time, Miami Waterkeeper will begin sampling at two sites thanks to the support of District 2 Commissioner Pardo. In Miami-Dade County, monitoring grew to 18 sites in 2025 across canals and high-use recreational areas.

This coordinated expansion strengthens regional coverage, improves identification of pollution hotspots, and provides more timely public health information to residents and visitors. Data generated through this program informs local agencies, supports science-based policy decisions, and empowers communities with transparent, actionable information about water quality conditions.

TRACKING STORMWATER POLLUTION IN MIAMI-DADE

An updated Stormwater Report Card is being released in 2026, building on the first-of-its-kind analysis published in 2022. Stormwater remains a major source of pollution into Biscayne Bay, carrying fertilizers, pet waste, debris, and other contaminants from our communities into local waterways.

This new report evaluates municipal compliance with critical stormwater permit requirements across Miami-Dade County, highlighting where progress has been made, where persistent gaps remain, and priority actions are needed to better protect our waters. By shining a light on municipal performance, the report continues to drive accountability, inform policy, and advance clean water solutions for the Bay.

PROVIDE THE MONTHLY SUPPORT THAT MAKES BOLD ACTION POSSIBLE.



The future of Biscayne Bay depends on what we do now. The A.N.C.H.O.R. program is a community of dedicated supporters who provide reliable, ongoing funding to protect our waters.



“We can’t really be a city – we can’t really be a community – without our healthy Bay.”

– Louis Aguirre, Journalist & Community Advocate

\$1 A DAY HELPS PROTECT OUR BAY!

www.miamiwaterkeeper.org/donate-monthly

SCAN TO JOIN



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

WPLG



BISCAYNE BAY FISH KILL

Local 10 revisits the 2020 Biscayne Bay fish kill, spotlighting ongoing pollution threats. Miami Waterkeeper continues to push for cleaner waters, stronger protections, and greater community awareness.

WLRN ON MILLIONS OF CORALS NEAR PORT EVERGLADES

The first major assessment of coral near busy Port Everglades in a decade has led scientists to a surprising discovery: one of the world’s busiest channels is also home to millions of corals, including wild staghorn.

wlrn



wlrn



ENVIRONMENTALISTS SUE EPA CHIEF IN FLORIDA FEDERAL COURT

Two environmental groups sued Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin in Florida Tuesday for failing to update 1990s-era pollution standards for clean water in the state.

HOW CORALS PROTECT AGAINST STORM SURGE

National Geographic covers how Florida’s coral reefs provide protection from hurricane storm surges—and experts estimate that losing key species in those reefs could imperil thousands of lives.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



Political Cortadito



DEVELOPERS GET GIFT-WRAPPED, WEAKER DERM IN BUDGET SHUFFLE

Buried in the county’s \$12.9 billion budget vote this Thursday is a last-minute “restructuring” that environmentalists say will actually weaken the Division of Environmental Resources Management and hand developers a major win.

MIAMI-DADE POISED TO STRIP ENVIRONMENTAL WATCHDOG OF PERMITTING AUTHORITY

A rushed effort to strip Miami-Dade County’s environmental watchdog agency of its permitting authority while re-establishing it as an independent department is raising alarms with environmentalists.

wlrn



SPOTLIGHT

THE PartnerSHIP



The PartnerSHIP recognizes and engages Miami Waterkeeper's most dedicated supporters. Members of the PartnerSHIP crew provide unrestricted funding, enabling us to quickly pivot and respond to water crises, such as pollution spills and policy proposals, that may arise. To join the PartnerSHIP please contact Helen.Quinn@MiamiWaterkeeper.org.

HONORARY KEEPER (100,000+)										
Anonymous	Bruce and Diana Rauner									
SEAHORSE LEVEL (50,000+)										
airbnb	RIVIAN FOUNDATION									
MANATEE LEVEL (25,000+)										
amazon	Florman Family Foundation	The Frankel Family	Ellen and John Levinson	The Mailman Foundation	Bethany and Robert B. Millard	The Newman Family				
DOLPHIN LEVEL (15,000+)										
StorQuest SELF STORAGE	Paula Tolliver	Reiter and Soman Family	The SeamLev Foundation	Jenny and Nick Semaca	Aviva and Aaron Stauber	Robin and H Jordan Weltz	The Charlesmead Foundation			
SEA TURTLE LEVEL (10,000+)										
Blackstone Charitable Foundation	patagonia	KBCF	ROBERT FINVARR COMPANIES	LizHogan	NEW LIFE	Wolfs Family				
PodhurstOrseck	Roger and Leslie Baumann	The Gardner Family Foundation	Jaleh and Jeffrey Bast	Fritz-Veloso Family	Brandon and Kara Yarckin	Bisnow Family				
Cristina and Mark Crofton	Leslie Miller	Phillip Kushlan	Leomi Foundation	Judd Rosen	Amanda Perwin and Seth Cassel	Schwedel Family				
CORAL LEVEL (5,000+)										
FARREY'S LIGHTING-BATH KITCHEN-HARDWARE	DANIELLE COHEN-ROGERS	element solutions	INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL LLC	KOZYAK • TROPIN THROCKMORTON	OLIVELA					
RAD	TUUCI	UNIVERSAL INSURANCE HOLDINGS	Charles Hammel	Susan and Rob Askew	Marcelo Fernandes and Family in memory of Kellie Henley	Julia and Till Bechtolsheimer	Steven and Rochelle Weinstein			
The Benjamin and Gloria Joannou, Jr. Family Conservation Fund	Chrissy and Rob Cecot	The Charlesmead Foundation	The Dedrick Family	The Diamond Family	Ernesto Morales	Arny Taylor	Liz Greig and Jason Extein	Valerie Hernandez and Gildas Durand	Knaill Family	Cindy Lerner
Tracy Slavens and Daniel Schwartz	Ashley Litwin and Anton Diego	The Stokes Family	Mark Mason Family	Lisa and Victor Mendelson	Maureen and Todd Mestepey	Professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter	The Stajman Family	The Toni Shrager Team	Michelle Petock and Henry Werner	Estelle Silverstein
STARFISH LEVEL (2,500+)										
ATLANTIC SAPPHIRE	BRIDGE INVEST.	Open Door YOGA	FAVSOLUTION	Commissioner Ellen Higgins District 5	HB	LSN LAW P.A.	MF&H			
Ocaquabrics	THE JORGE M. PEREZ FAMILY FOUNDATION	Rainforest CRUISES	Commissioner Raquel Regalado	SILVA FAMILY FOUNDATION	COMMISSIONER MICKY STEINBERG	ae air essentials				
Deborah and Neil Bienstock	Christopher Boykin and Stratton Pollitzer	The Bulgarelli Family	Cassandra Hall and Jason Rosenhaus	The Burlington Family	Susana Callau	In memory of Diane	The Casino Family	Ana Paula Faria and John Carr	The Diegga Family	Frank and Dorothy Newman Legacy Fund
The Goldstein Family Foundation	Cindy Gomez	Cassandra Hall and Jason Rosenhaus	The Holthus Family	Danielle and Alex Horn	Dr. Susan Jay	The Keelley Family Charitable Fund	Dayanis Lima	The Lirman Family	Tim and Lauren Lower	
The MacLeod Family	Micheline and Peter McClennen	Julie Mendel and Nanette Stavits	Eric and Kim Mendelson	Michelle Haast at the Keys Company	The Naylor Family	Professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter	Joy & Associates	The Miska Family	Michele Segalla	
Charles and Cindy Munroe	Geoffrey Harris and Elana Oberstein-Harris	Peggy Ochandarena	Meredith and Michael Ortega	Mark Stauber and Shani Gross	Caroline Jocelyn Williams and George Sanchez Calderon	The Wilmoth Family	Christina and Peter Wisniewski			

SPOTLIGHT

THE PartnerSHIP



Steven Weinstein, Esq.

“Having been born and raised on Miami Beach, and fishing, snorkelling or scuba diving almost every weekend as a child, I have always valued Biscayne Bay and the ocean. To this day, few things excite me as much as seeing a pod of dolphins, a turtle, manatee, or eagle ray while out on the water. When I learned about Miami Waterkeeper, I jumped at the opportunity to donate and get involved. I am proud to be playing a small role in protecting our waters, for today and tomorrow.”

Marvin Wilmoth, The Wilmoth Family
BOARD DIRECTOR & TREASURER

“What differentiates Miami Waterkeeper from a lot of other organizations is their specific focus on policy and execution. As a former vice mayor of a municipality surrounded by Biscayne Bay, we would not have been able to accomplish what we were able to do without the collaboration with Miami Waterkeeper.”



Aaron Stauber
BOARD DIRECTOR & SECRETARY

“I really believe that there’s a balance that could be created, and that’s why I got into working with Miami Waterkeeper. I have four grandsons, and my dream is that they’ll have the opportunity to enjoy the water in the same fashion that I did.”

Ellen Levinson
BOARD DIRECTOR

“Miami Waterkeeper has been able to work with other organizations and the government to actually affect change, and that’s why I wanted to be involved in it.”



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GRANT FUNDERS

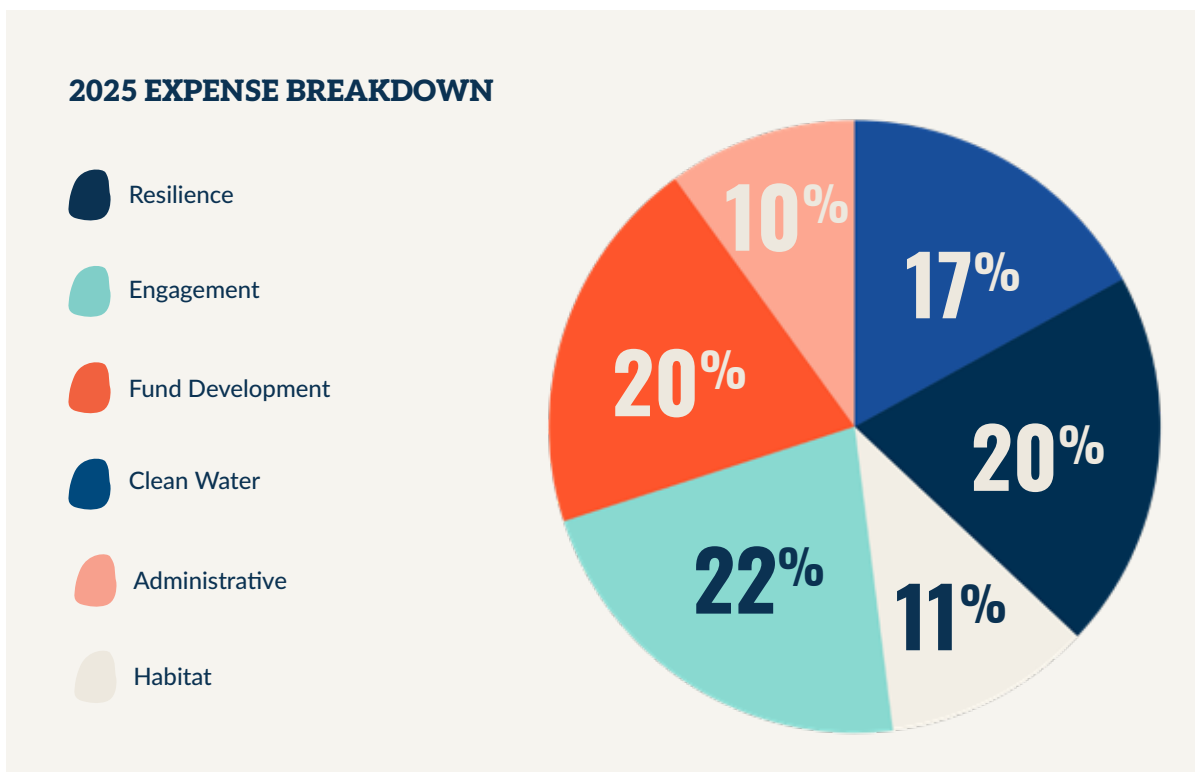
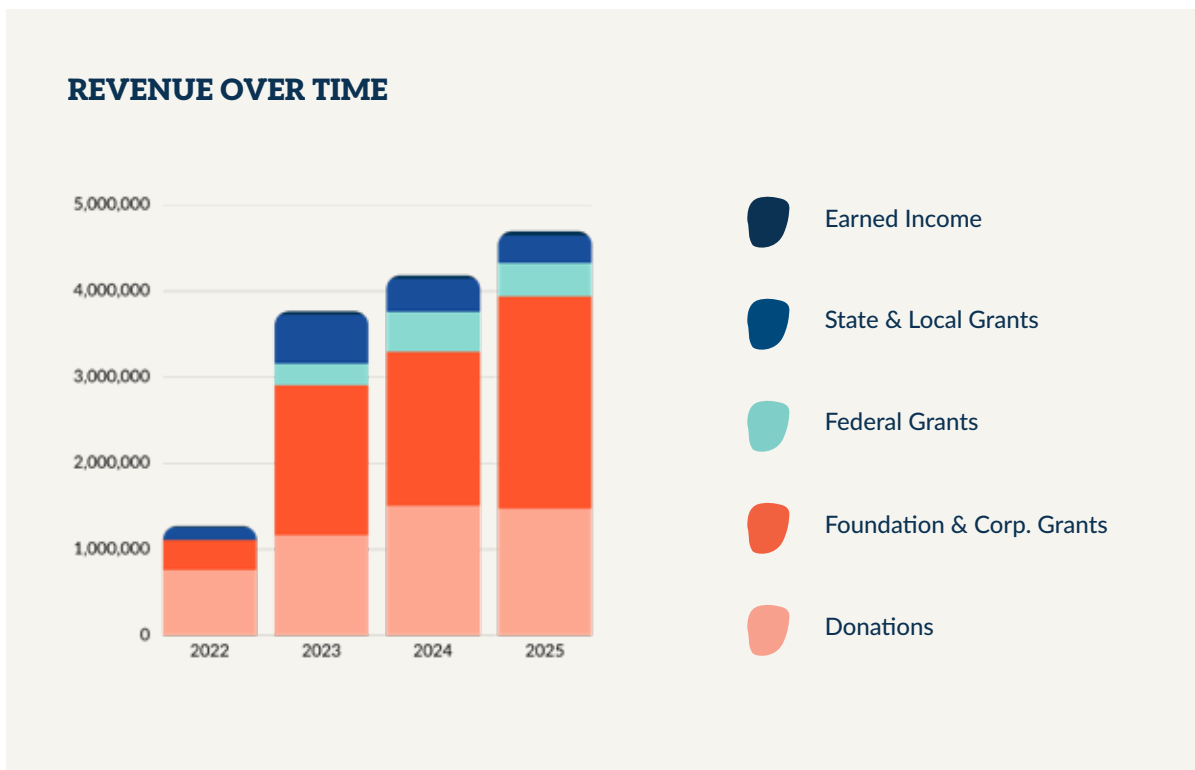
Thank you to our generous Grant Funders.



“What we hope to get out of this is a Miami that is much more engaged and much more active in discussing and defining ... a resilient future.”
 - Raul Moas, former senior director at the Knight Foundation.

2025

FINANCIALS



OUR TEAM

We are so proud of our growing team of full and part-time staff members, who dedicate themselves to the hard work of protecting the water you love—every day.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

H Jordan Weitz,
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Vice-Chair (Incoming Chair)

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Secretary

Marvin Wilmoth,
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Paula Toliver

Tracy Slavens

Lauren Hornor,
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INTERNS

Miyah Brooks
Community Engagement Intern
(Miami ResilientSea)

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Education & Outreach Intern

Lauren Norvoska
Education & Policy Intern

Addison Becker
Education & Outreach Intern

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Grace Welles
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Cindy Lerner

Bruce Rauner

Jill Reiter

David Schwedel

Maria Schwedel

David Wells

PART TIME STAFF

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Education & Outreach Assistant

Caroline Carlson
Education & Outreach Assistant

Marissa Dallaire
Water Quality Field Technician

Natalie Gonzalez
Education & Outreach Assistant

Melissa Lau, MS
Education & Outreach Assistant

Gabriela Perez
Water Quality and Outreach Assistant

Daniela Rodriguez
Water Quality and Outreach Assistant

Dylan Sanchez
Education & Outreach Assistant

Natalia Tohme
Education & Outreach Assistant

Camilla Varoli
Water Quality Field Technician

FULL TIME STAFF

Rachel Silverstein, Ph.D.
CEO & Waterkeeper

Mariana Aziz Pico
Environmental Policy Specialist

Samantha Barquin, PSM
Chief Programs Officer

Jackeline Benzecry, B.B.A.
UX/UI Manager

Margaret Block
Vice President of Finance

Christopher Boykin
Chief Development Officer

Sofia Bond, M.S.
Community Engagement Coordinator

Erin Cover, MPS
Senior Education &
Engagement Manager

Laura del Mar Cruz, MPS
Education & Outreach Manager

Amalia Fernández
Executive Assistant

Jessica Ganim M.S.
Environmental Policy Analyst

Adriana González Fernández, Ph.D.
Science & Research Director

Aliza Karim, M.S.
Science & Research Manager

Noah Edwards
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Helen Quinn
Vice President of Philanthropy

Amanda Prieto, Ed.D.
Chief Operating Officer

Jaimee Spector, CFRE
Vice President of Development



Our Mission

We protect South Florida's waters by advocating for resilient solutions grounded in science, rooted in nature, and driven by community.

Our Vision

We envision a resilient South Florida that is a global leader in clean water solutions, where thriving communities and nature coexist.

Grounded in Science. Rooted in Nature. Driven by Community.

PROTECT THE WATER YOU LOVE.

Miami Waterkeeper works every day to safeguard for our water, future, and community, relying on the skills, talents, and passion of our team, our board, and our supporters. Our work protects South Florida's water and ecosystems—from advocating for clean water policies to restoring vital habitats and inspiring tomorrow's environmental leaders. We are grateful to you for being a part of our mission and our water wins.

Every contribution brings us closer to clean, thriving waterways for all. As an award-winning, organization that shines through our fearless advocacy, trusted science, and dedicated community, we're committed to transparency, accountability, and maximizing the impact of every gift entrusted to us. Be part of the change, get involved and donate today.

SCAN TO DONATE






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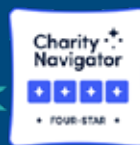
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