Miami-Dade Resilient Action Design
WAGNER CREEK GREEN SPACES

ISSUE
Wagner Creek is an important tributary of the Miami River. It runs through Miami’s Health District, an area that supports more than 100,000 people from various socio-economic backgrounds. The District has the 2nd largest concentration of healthcare facilities in the nation, many owned by the University of Miami (UM), and hosts many state and local judicial institutions as well as significant social service providers including the Kristi House, a child advocacy organization. Clearly missing from this vital area, are inviting natural green spaces, especially along the Creek.

The District’s lack of trees and abundance of concrete limit access to nature, and also prevent localized stormwater storage and infiltration, which exacerbates the impacts of recurrent flooding and increase runoff and water pollution in the Creek. The absence of green space along Wagner Creek reduces the quality of life of urban communities and prohibits a healthy ecosystem that welcomes wildlife.

The creation of multi-purpose green infrastructure along Wagner Creek would be immensely beneficial in many ways: ensuring much needed flood risk reduction; providing natural areas and new recreational opportunities; increasing well-being for Health District area employees; visitors, and residents; and creating more natural systems which improve water quality, habitat and biodiversity.

RESPONSE
Wagner Creek was selected as a proposed project location due to the multiple benefits that would be realized by creating more open green spaces in the heart of the city. Initial planning, conducted in collaboration with partners to evaluate restoration opportunities along the upper reaches of the Creek, would result in a series of options for the creation of bank improvements and multi-purpose green spaces at 3 locations along the waterway in the Health District (see Figure 1). Proposed design concepts would be refined and finalized with community and key stakeholder input. Construction of the Resilience Action Design project would begin following the currently planned remediation dredging of Wagner Creek.

ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE: 2019

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