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Note from editor

Spring is a time of renewal but in the subtropical North Miami climate, Spring takes a more symbolic aspect. As South Floridians we enjoy the last bit of cool weather before the harsh summer settles in. Springtime is the ideal time to declutter our homes. It's time to donate gently used items to the local thrift store. Check out the city's annual **Earth Day Fair** to recycle old papers, electronics and hazardous waste. Springtime is also a wonderful time to start thinking about tree trimming and getting rid of any outdoor item that could potentially become a projectile during hurricane season.

Most importantly, springtime is a time of reflection and rediscovery. As we purge, we often rediscover what was forgotten. The 24hr appeal of constant sales in our inboxes can makes us lose sight of what's important as we accumulate more and more material goods. But spring allows a renewed purpose as decluttering creates a healthy environment to focus on the essentials.

The Sustainability Division wishes you a **healthy and sustainable Spring!**

Sargassum Seaweed

What is Sargassum?

Sargassum is type of brown seaweed that drifts on the ocean surface accumulating along beaches and coastlines throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, Texas and Florida, including Miami-Dade County annually from March to October.

Sargassum supports a high level of biodiversity serving as essential habitat for a number of species including fish, marine birds, crustaceans, and endangered species such as sea turtles.

Is Sargassum a concern?

According to the **Florida Department of Health** Although ***the seaweed itself cannot harm people***, tiny sea creatures that live in sargassum can cause skin rashes and blisters. As sargassum decomposes, it gives off hydrogen sulfide, a substance with unpleasant odor which can irritate the eyes, nose, and throat.

Currently, Florida has no regulatory guidelines for exposure to hydrogen sulfide at the beach. Levels of hydrogen sulfide in an outdoor area with large amounts of airflow are ***not expected to harm human health***.

State and federal environmental regulations prohibit the removal of seaweed, including sargassum, from the water prior to it landing on the shore.

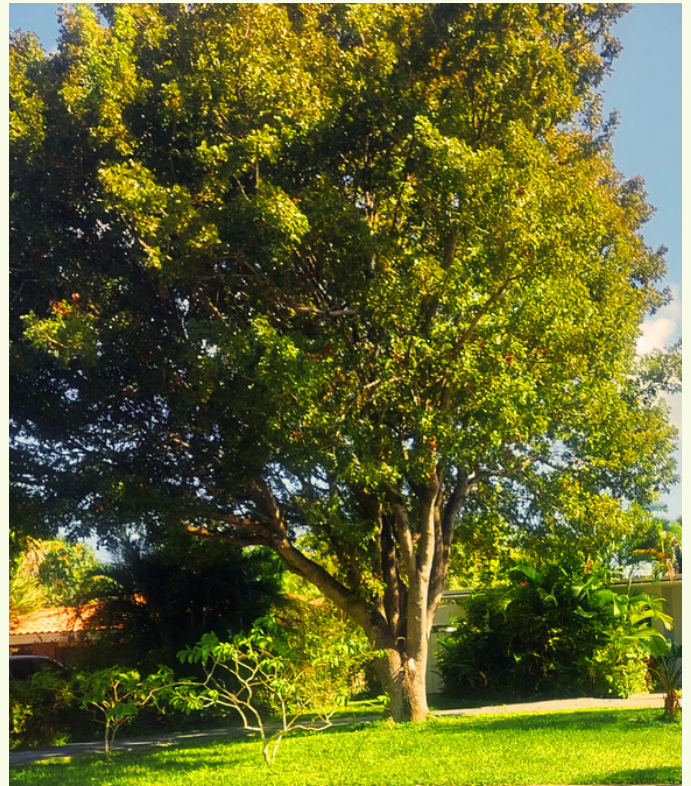
Keep an eye out for more communication on Sargassum in North Miami.



Let's talk about the *Trees* in North Miami

North Miami like the rest of South Florida is going through a development boom. This boom also comes accompanied with a housing crisis. In the midst of all this change, trees can seem like an inconvenience to some instead of the silent climate warriors that they are.

Trees along with the canopy that they create help **curb extreme heat, reduce air pollution, improve water quality, enhance property value and provide wildlife habitat**. There's even evidence that trees lead to **lower crime rates** in neighborhoods.



Of course not all trees are **planted in the right place**. Trees planted too close to homes can disturb foundations. Trees planted in the wrong environment can become invasive and disturb the local flora and fauna. Outside of these circumstances, trees should be protected for the climate benefactors that they are.

Some of the oldest trees in Florida are natives dating back over 250 years. However South Florida is in love with the aesthetic appeal of exotic Palm "trees". But did you know that palms are actually grasses? Additionally, they do not lower ambient temperatures as well as native trees and are very vulnerable to falling during hurricanes. Plus, in North Miami, **three (3) palms count as one (1) tree**. Although palms do have their benefit, the environmental contribution of native trees is undeniable.

So next time you stroll near a NoMi tree, remember its silent contributions in lowering ambient temperature and providing life saving oxygen. And fight to keep these gentle giants alive.

What's the deal with Bioswales?

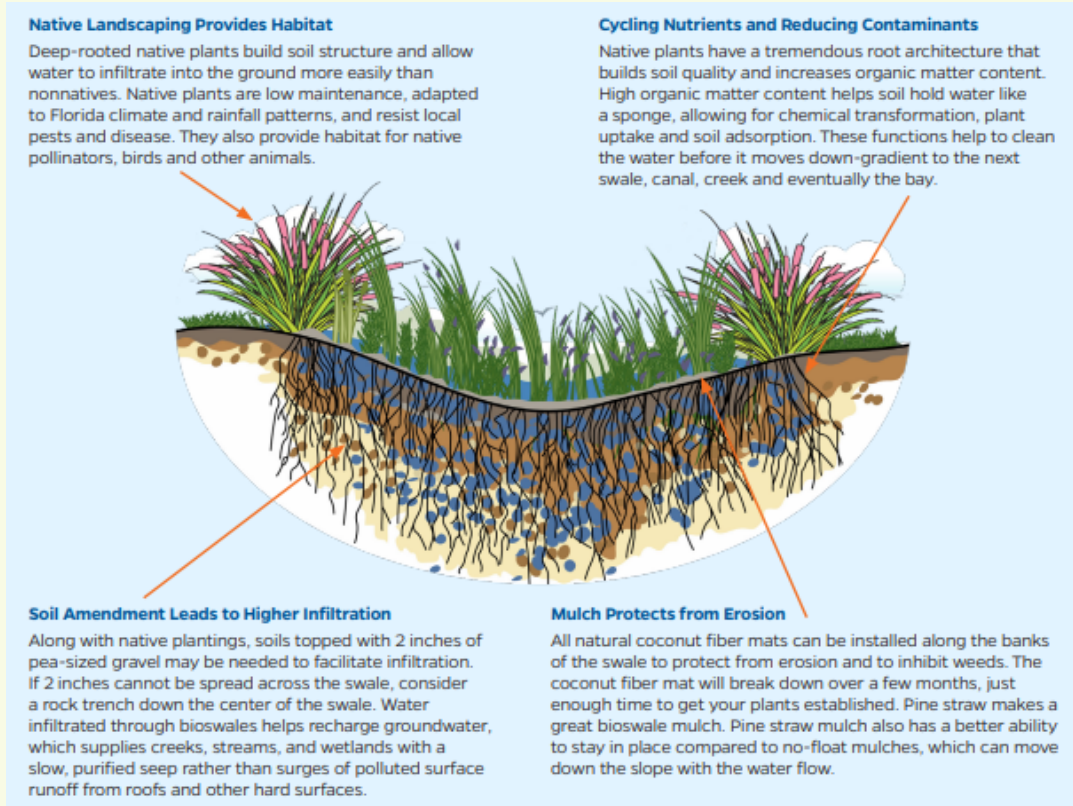
A bioswale is a ditch or swale, planted with native vegetation to increase water percolation and pollutant removal from stormwater.

Stormwater from neighborhood roads and rooftops flow into the bioswale. The bioswale then slows down the water which infiltrates the soil. Plants and microbes in the swale break down pollutants. As water sinks into the ground, it recharges the aquifer and reduces the amount of polluted water that flows into the bay.

Not all plants and sites are appropriate to bioswales. **Site selection** must take into consideration underground utilities and road visibility. Native plants are more likely to establish well, while increasing natural habitat for birds and butterflies. Choose native plants that are low-lying and with reduced maintenance needs.

North Miami encourages bioswales on municipal roads in front of residences! Bioswale installation requires a no-fee landscape permit application. For county and state roads, additional permits are required from those entities. Bioswales are a **low-impact development** strategy that will contribute to a more **Resilient NoMi!**

Keep an eye-out for the North Miami **Bioswale guide** coming out this summer!



Celebrate Earth Day with NoMi!

Join us on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Enchanted Forest Park, for a day filled with music, food, local artists, native plant giveaways, and free recycling of electronic waste and hazardous material. Register at <https://EarthFair.eventbrite.com>

Also take part in our morning clean-up. Register at:
<https://mayorandcouncil.wufoo.com/forms/2023-earth-day-cleanup-at-city-of-north-miami/>



Earth Fair

HOSTED BY
COUNCILWOMAN
KASSANDRA TIMOTHE, MPA

Enchanted Forest Park
1725 NE 135th St, North Miami, FL 33181

Please register at:
<https://EarthFair.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, April 22, 2023
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

MUSIC • FOOD • LOCAL ARTISTS • GIVEAWAYS
FREE RECYCLING SERVICES
PAPER AND ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

KEEP North Miami BEAUTIFUL
Resilient NoMi
THE GREATER NORTH MIAMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CITY OF NORTH MIAMI YOUTH COUNCIL
WASTE PRO

To become a volunteer or vendor, contact Christina Viala at 305-893-6511 ext. 19008 or pviala@northmiamifl.gov.

Upcoming Green Holidays

- National Park Week: April 22-30
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 28: Arbor Day
- May 19: National Endangered Species Day
- May 22: International Day for Biological Diversity
- June 3: World Bicycle Day
- June 5: World Environment Day
- June 8: World Oceans Day

Let's Keep North Miami Beautiful!

NORTH MIAMI
FLORIDA

Hosted by
Councilwoman
Kassandra Timothe, MPA

Saturday
April
22
2023
9am-11am

Earth Day Clean Up

EARTH DAY
CLEAN UP

Enchanted Forest Park
1725 NE 135 St.
North Miami, FL 33181

KEEP North Miami BEAUTIFUL
ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Resilient NoMi
Plan...Protect...Preserve

THE GREATER NORTH MIAMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CITY OF NORTH MIAMI YOUTH COUNCIL

WASTE PRO
Caring For Our Communities

To become a volunteer, register at
<https://mayorandcouncil.wufoo.com/forms/2023-earth-day-deanup-at-city-of-north-miami/>

Must wear comfortable clothes and closed toe shoes. Hats, sunscreen and water bottles are strongly recommended. Community service hours available.

For information, contact the Community, Planning and Development department at 305-893-6511 ext 19008

SCAN ME

NOTICE OF FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

By attending a City of North Miami event, you are entering an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. By agreeing to these terms, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for promotional purposes, advertising, inclusion on websites, social media, or any other purpose by the City of North Miami and its representatives.

“Our biggest challenge in this new century is to take an idea that seems abstract – sustainable development – and turn it into a reality for all the world’s people” — Kofi Annan

Contact us

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