

JANUARY 2026 | ISSUE 1

# RESILIENT NOMI

THE SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI



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## WELCOME MESSAGE

**Akil Cole, Sustainability Clerk**

Welcome to the *Resilient NoMi Newsletter*!

How are you? How do you feel at the start of this year? With 2026 upon us and the mild winter of South Florida in full swing, we invite you to take a moment to reflect. If you are reading this, then you have made it through 2025!



**Resilient NoMi**  
Plan . Protect . Preserve

In that spirit of reflection, the North Miami Sustainability Division, within the Community Planning & Development Department, is looking back at key programs around the city we've taken part in during the second half of 2025. From distributing free native trees and raffling fruit trees at community events to picking up trash at the annual International Coastal Clean-Up, the Sustainability Division has been honored to work alongside residents and other city staff to make North Miami more **1** beautiful and resilient.

The Sustainability Division attended several city-wide community engagement events throughout the summer and fall—including the Housing and Social Services Resources Fair, Back-to-School Block Party, and public feedback sessions for the City’s Land Development Regulation (LDR) updates.

Residents of North Miami were given free access to an extensive selection of native Florida plants at each event, allowing visitors to enjoy the distinctive beauty and hardiness of native trees, wildflowers, and shrubs in their homes!



# INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP

The Division participated in the International Coastal Cleanup at Biscayne River Canal/Griffing Park on Saturday on September 20th, 2025.

This local cleanup, part of an international effort of 70+ cities, has been organized by residents for several years and attended by residents and city government employees alike.

Hundreds of pounds of discarded plastic and glass bottles, wrappers, metal scraps, and other items were collected between the two cleanup locations of **Griffing Park** and **North Bayshore Park**.

A special thank-you to residents Sara McDevitt, Renzo Rojo, and Leyka Rojo for leading as site supervisors! Additionally, thank you to the volunteers from the NoMi Neighbors HOA, Irons Manor HOA, Urban Habitat, Miami Future Farmers of America, Friends of Enchanted Forest, and the local Boyscout troop. Last (but not least), thank you to Jean Sosa, (North Miami Marine Patrol Officer), Lola Heasley (Park Naturalist), Kevin A. Burns (District 1 Councilman) for joining our residents!

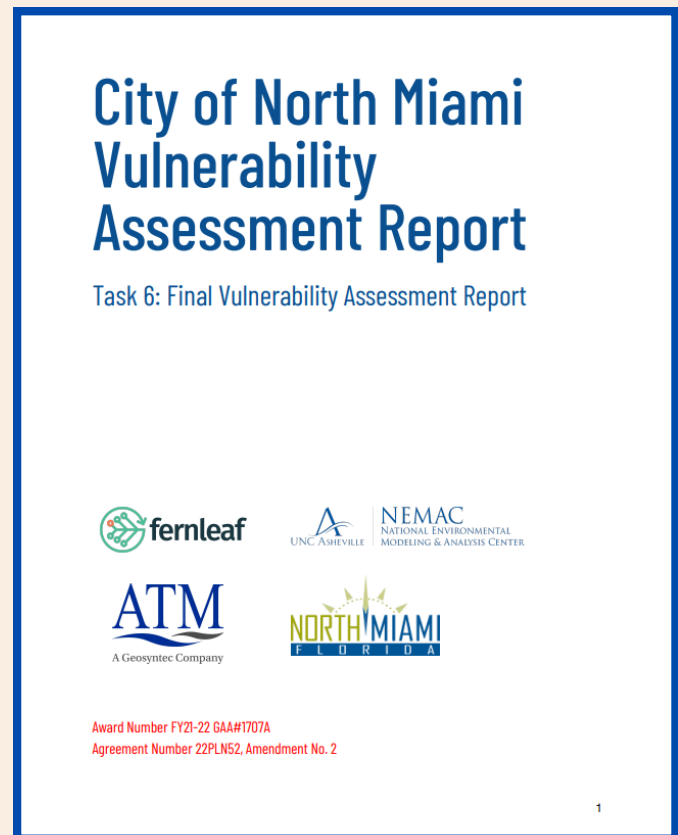


Volunteers of all ages worked together to pick up hundreds of pounds of trash, using kayaks to access garbage in canals!



# VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

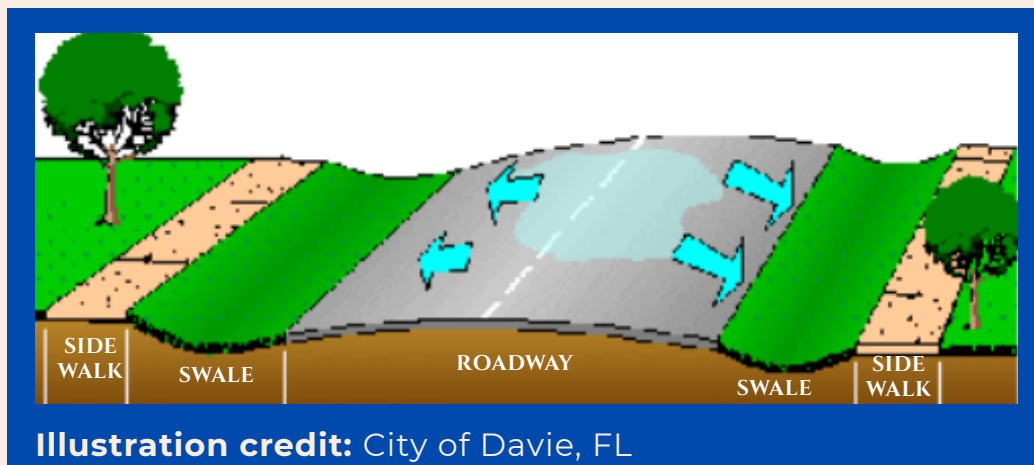
This summer, the Sustainability Division finalized the North Miami Vulnerability Assessment. This **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** grant reimbursed the city nearly \$125,000. The Report discusses storm surge, tidal flooding, and critical assets (like the North Miami Water Plant, schools, government buildings, etc.) within the city for various timeframes into the future. The report will help the City to apply for grants that provide funds to manage flooding in our streets and protect important infrastructure.



This work was funded in part through a grant agreement from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's [Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection](#) Resilient Florida Program.

## PROTECT OUR SWALES

*Did you know that parking on swales makes flooding in our city worse?* Swales are a type of “green infrastructure”, where plants like grasses and trees absorb stormwater from the street and reduce severe flooding. However, having heavy pressure on swales (for example, through constantly parking cars), compacts the soil, making it impossible for water to be absorbed properly.





# FOOD FOREST INITIATIVE

The goal of the Food Forest Initiative is to expand residents' local access to fresh, nutritious food by planting hundreds of fruit trees in North Miami's parks, community centers, and other public spaces. By placing a variety of fruit trees throughout the city, residents will have sources of free food, beautified public spaces, and natural places to stay cool in the shade during hot days.

The Initiative officially began with a fruit tree planting at the North Miami Public Library on [Arbor Day, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025](#). More recently, on November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Sustainability Division partnered with Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and North Miami residents to plant a diverse array of 23 fruit trees at the Library!

A special thank you to Vice Mayor Kassandra Timothe, MPA, (District 2) for joining the planting event.



A **June plum** tree (*Spondias dulcis*) planted at NoMi Library. Fruits from this tree turn from green to yellow once they are ripe!



North Miami residents and City staff dug holes, placed trees in the ground, and watered the newly planted fruit trees throughout the Library's property!





# INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

An **invasive species** is a species that is introduced to a new environment and causes harm to its new environment. Check out our additional invasive plant flyers on our [website](#) and how you can prevent the spread of invasive species!

Scan here for more  
invasive plant  
species!



## Invasive Species



**Protect Our Local Environment: Know the Invasive Species!**

Invasive plants can harm native ecosystems, block waterways, and damage property. This flyer shows what to look out for in North Miami and ways you can help prevent their spread. Let's work together to keep our parks, yards, and neighborhoods healthy!



### Air Potato *Dioscorea bulbifera*

The air potato smothers native plants by blocking sunlight and outcompeting them for space and nutrients. It spreads rapidly through aerial tubers (potato-like bulbs) and underground roots, making it difficult to control once established.

**How to Stop It:**

Remove air potato vines by hand, be sure to pull out the entire root system to prevent regrowth. Pick up and properly dispose of any bulbils (the potato-like growths) to stop them from spreading. Regular monitoring and early removal are key to protecting your yard and nearby natural areas.

### Brazilian Pepper *Schinus terebinthifolia*

Brazilian pepper forms dense thickets that crowd out native plants and reduce wildlife habitat. It produces red berries that are easily spread by birds, helping it take over quickly. Its thick canopy blocks sunlight, altering entire ecosystems.

**How to Stop It:**

Small seedlings can be hand-pulled, but mature trees require more intensive removal. After cutting the tree at the base, apply a targeted herbicide like triclopyr (commonly found in products labeled for woody plant control) directly to the stump to prevent regrowth. Do not simply cut it down without herbicide, this will cause it to sprout even more aggressively.



### Snake Plant *Dracaena trifasciata*

Snake plant, also known as mother-in-law's tongue, is a popular and harmless indoor plant, but when planted outdoors in South Florida, it becomes a serious invasive threat. It spreads underground, forming dense mats that choke out native groundcover and are extremely hard to remove once established.

**How to Stop It:**

Keep snake plants indoors or in pots, never plant them directly in the ground. If found growing outdoors, it must be carefully dug up. Even small leftover pieces can regrow, so thorough removal is essential. Regular checks and early action are the best way to keep this indoor favorite from becoming an outdoor problem.

Wunderlin, R. P., B. F. Hansen, A. R. Franck, and F. B. Essig. 2025. Atlas of Florida Plants (<http://floridaplantatlas.usf.edu/>). [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (application development)], USF Water Institute | Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.  
<https://NorthMiamiFL.gov/sustainability>



***“Look for the helpers.  
You will always find  
people who are  
helping.”***

FRED ROGERS (MR. ROGERS)

Resilient NoMi Volunteer  
Registration!



## ONE LAST THING...

Thank you for being an important part of our North Miami community this year. Whether you're a longtime or recent resident, business owner, staff member, or student—North Miami depends on you to be beautiful, productive, and resilient. We look forward to protecting our parks, expanding access to fresh food, and Keeping North Miami Beautiful with you throughout 2026!



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