

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez
DATE: March 27, 2023

SUBJECT: DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION ON THE RESULTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S WATER QUALITY STUDY SURROUNDING PARK VIEW ISLAND AND ITS RESULTS.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

na

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

na

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?

Yes

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

No

Legislative Tracking

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- Park View Island Sustainable Association Newsletter



SEWERAGE OVERFLOWS AFFECTING PARK VIEW ISLAND

In the Past Month, there have been 3 reported sewer overflows:

1/19/2023

1/31/2023

2/11/2023

Any future sewer overflows or flooding should be immediately reported to the 24hr

Public Works Control Room (305) 673 7625

Photos and Video: parkviewisland@gmail.com

No Contact with Water Advisory - Feb.11, 2023

On **January 24th, 2023**, A Public Meeting was held at North Shore Park and Youth Center to present the findings of the University of Miami study titled "**Assessment of Water Quality at the Miami Beach Park View Canal to Identify Sources of the Fecal Indicator Bacteria, Enterococci**"

The City of Miami Beach is taking comments and concerns regarding the Park View Water Quality Study until February 23rd. Please send your comments to mbrisingabove@miamibeachfl.gov

Read the 140-page Study below.

University of Miami Study

The Park View Canal (PVC) is a secondary canal with limited flow located within Biscayne Bay, an area of known degraded water quality. Within this context, the water quality at the PVC is also degraded as documented by elevated levels of the fecal indicator bacteria (FIB), enterococci. A 3-year no-contact advisory is still in place around Park View Island. The University of Miami revealed levels of Enterococci have exceeded the FDOH

recommended limits 90% of the time. Some of the readings found in the study within the 329,00-meter square catchment area **(from Parkview Island extending east to Collins Avenue, 69th to 73rd Street)** contribute rainwater runoff to nine outfalls that discharge directly to the Park View Canal, several of these hotspot sites show readings of coliform units in the hundreds of thousands. The antiquated storm gravity system in North Beach leads runoff containing the FIB from the stormwater catchment area which is carried to the Park View Canal through the stormwater conveyance system creating these extreme conditions.

Although a specific leaking sanitary sewer was not identified, the results of the UM study do not exclude the possibility of sanitary sewage from contributing to the elevated levels of FIB. The sanitary sewer system is aging and needs immediate upgrades. This aging sanitary sewer system along with the stormwater conveyance system is located just above the groundwater or within the top few feet of the groundwater and there is a possibility of leakage from the aging sanitary sewer system impacts shallow groundwater which in turn can be picked up by the stormwater conveyance system and carried toward the Park View Canal.

Plans underway should be implemented that upgrade the sanitary sewer system as soon as possible given the age of the system and the possibility of leaks. The physical constraints to flow within the PVC also contributes to the elevated levels, and efforts should also focus on improving water flow through the removal of debris/trash and possible dredging.

BLUEWATER TASK FORCE - SURFRIDER MIAMI

The Surfrider Miami has been sampling the waters in the Park View Canal for over a year, every Thursday. [Visit the result page here](#)

In 2022, The Surfrider carried out 2 rounds of DNA Source Sampling at various locations of the Park View Canal.

Both Reports revealed very high levels of Enterococci bacteria, both from Human and Canine waste, Ecoli was also detected in these reports.

PROPOSED DOG PARK ON THE BANKS OF THE MOST POLLUTED CANAL

On October 5, 2022, The City of Maimi Beach suddenly broke ground on a new Dog Park located beside the North Beach Community Garden close to 7500 Dicken Avenue. The reasoning behind the idea to build a dog park at this location, at this point in time is absolutely absurd. To think that the city would want more animal bacteria seeping into this precise part of the canal that is already the most contaminated from runoff as detailed in the UM report and Surfrider reports. As soon as any rain event happens all of the animal feces and urine that will be constantly seeping into the soil if this park was to go ahead, would get washed straight into the section of the canal that does not need any more contamination. Undoubtedly, this ground contamination would also damage the "Organic" Nobe Community Garden just feet from the proposed dog park. Residents fear the timing of this dog park construction, while the UM study was underway, was an attempt to mask the extreme results that would be yielded by the study. Park View and North Beach residents are dog lovers, many of us have dogs we dearly love, but our community **must reject** this dog park and demand that construction of this dog park does not happen until water quality in the Park View Canal is restored to normal levels and systems are put in place, such as berms and living shorelines to filter the waste seepage into one of the most troubled canals in all of Miami Dade County.

WILDLIFE ARE GETTING ILL AND DYING

There are many varieties of native and non-native wildlife living all around Park View Island, Manatees, Birds, Raccoons, Possums, Crustecaens, and Fish to name a few, all of which seek shelter, nest, feed, and breed in these waters.

on January 12, 2023, a semi-lifeless Laughing Gull was rescued from the canal around Park View Island. The bird was brought to Pelican Harbor Seabird Station. Patient number 50. A few days later, the bird died from severe Dehydration and Botulism. The Pelican Harbor Station told us:

"We are seeing a rise in the number of seabirds and wading bird patients with botulism poisoning due to low oxygen levels in the water, rising temperatures, and overall contamination. Birds and other

wildlife get botulism from the fish and crustaceans they eat, "which concentrate the Type E toxin produced by the bacterium Clostridium Botulinum" that grows in the plants and environment due to the water conditions described above. The bacteria produce a neurotoxin that causes paralysis and eventually death."

The chain goes from toxic waters to algae, fish eat algae, birds eat fish and crustaceans, inevitably ending in humans, who recreate, eat fish and crustaceans from these waters without knowing the real dangers to their health.

If you see any wildlife in trouble around Park View Island, Please take photos and videos, send them to parkviewisland@gmail.com and mbrisingabove@miamibeachfl.gov

PARK VIEW ISLAND SEWER REHABILITATION NOTICES

This past Friday, February 10, 2023, The City of Miami Beach posted paper notices in person to all Park View Island residents related to the upcoming sewer rehabilitation work that is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 13, 2023, and is expected to last six (6) weeks. Working hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

NO PARKING NOTICE


Parking spaces adjacent to the manholes will need to be accessed on Monday, 2/13/23, and Tuesday, 2/14/23

A No parking advisory will be in place on these dates from 8 AM to 6 PM

Park View Island Sewer Rehabilitation Notice

Parkview Island Sewer Rehabilitation

No Parking Advisory



The City of Miami Beach contractor, Vortex Companies, will be performing work on the gravity sanitary sewer pipes and manholes that service Parkview Island. Sewer-grade lining will be installed on the inside of the existing sewer pipe with an internal coat that extends the useful life of the sewers to ensure proper function of the sewer system in the area. The work is intended to take place through the manholes, no excavation is anticipated at this time.

Timeline
The rehabilitation work is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 13, 2023, and is expected to last six (6) weeks. Working hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

What to Expect

- Parking spaces adjacent to manholes will need to be accessed.
- Please adhere to the No Parking signs and refrain from parking in "NO PARKING" spaces. Vehicles parked in "NO PARKING" spaces will be towed at the owner's expense.
- Crews will need access to this parking space on:
 - Monday 2/13/23
 - Tuesday 2/14/23

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To request this material in alternate format, sign language interpreter (five-day notice required), information on access for persons with disabilities, and/or any accommodation document or participate in any city-sponsored proceedings, call 305.604.2469 and select 1 for English or 2 for Spanish, then option 6. TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay).

The recent University of Miami study is very clear in its findings. Even though, the real problem seems to stem from the 329,00-meter square catchment area **(from Parkview Island extending east to Collins Avenue, 69th to 73rd Street)** that contribute **rainwater runoff to nine outfalls that discharge directly to the Park View Canal**, The City of Miami Beach has decided to start needed upgrades to resolve this issue inside Park View Island. It is imperative The City of Miami Beach address these 9 outfalls that dump all the contaminated water onto the Park View Canal at the earliest opportunity. Until the stormwater conveyance system is upgraded to include new catch basin structures, manhole structures, conveyance piping, injection wells (to treat the first flush), and up to two stormwater pump stations, the Park View Canal will most likely not see much improvement. Modern stormwater conveyance systems are required to treat the first inch or so of stormwater prior to discharge to a receiving water body. The stormwater conveyance system should be comprehensively evaluated for its ability to treat the first flush of contaminants. Common ways to treat the first flush involve letting the first portion of the rainfall runoff enter a detention area where particulates settle.

Other designs are based on the use of grassy swales to retain the first flush. Given the lack of space for stormwater retention, consideration should be provided towards replacing impervious areas with pervious systems that allow for some runoff treatment.

**NORTH BAY VILLAGE - FEBRUARY COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 6 PM**

The Mayor of North Bay Village has sponsored a Recommendation Memorandum in this month's NBV Commission agenda titled:

"Discussion To Urge the City of Miami Beach to Take Action on the Perennially Neglected Sewer System on and around Park View Island, Directly Affecting Water Quality in and around North Bay Village - Sponsored by Mayor Brent Latham".

Residents are encouraged to send comments via email in advance of the meeting, or attend this meeting in person or via Zoom to be a part of this conversation: