



MIAMI
BEACH
BIRD SANC+UARY

MISSION STATEMENT

Create awareness and build support for the City of Miami Beach as an official bird sanctuary by crafting and installing unique birdhouses in city green spaces and public parks to expand safe habitats for local and migratory bird populations.

INTRODUCTION

The City of Miami Beach is an officially designated bird sanctuary, but there are currently no protected habitats in public parks or green spaces for birds to nest and thrive. Few city residents take the time to consider the wildlife living within a few feet of their homes, believing instead that South Florida wildlife begins in the Everglades.

The Miami Beach Bird Sanctuary Project hopes to develop a series of safe havens for birds throughout Miami Beach's neighborhoods and parks. The hope is for these habitats to encourage bird species to move out of urban areas and into more naturally suited green space environments. The expectation is that these habitats will also provide places of rest and temporary homes to migratory birds passing through our city.

Many factors affect the natural balance of wild bird habitats, displacing bird populations and forcing them to migrate to areas with unsuitable conditions and unforeseen predators. South Florida's expanding development footprint impacts our ecosystem and threatens area wildlife. Moreover, increasingly high-velocity storm systems moving through our communities destroy the natural canopy where our smallest creatures live and breed.

"Ecosystem Services" is the collective term for the many ways birds support and improve human life. Birds impact our community and benefit humans in many ways. Some birds are considered insectivores and naturally hunt flies, mosquitoes, beetles and other pests. They contribute to public health, protect our drinking water by preventing erosion, slow the spread of disease, aid in seed dispersal and even contribute financially by enhancing South Florida Ecotourism.

With the natural habitat of birds being reduced each year, providing safe nesting spaces will help support bird populations throughout Miami Beach. Providing artful bird housing in our public parks and green spaces will also build awareness, inspiring mindful conversations about the world around us and our responsibility to protect the abundant natural resources found in every neighborhood.

PROJECT GOALS: DETAILS + EXPECTATIONS

PROTECTION

Create + install a series of permanent, protective birdhouse habitats throughout Miami Beach's neighborhood parks + green spaces.

Provide a safe haven for native + migratory birds that supports their numbers and also encourages park visitors to protect area wildlife.

Add an element of visual interest to Miami Beach parks + green spaces to expand awareness about the city's designation as an official bird sanctuary.

EDUCATION

Design + build an accompanying set of wooden placards to provide each park with useful information including a QR coded access point to an online portal filled with educational resources.

Develop a series of educational activities + projects (from aggregated sources) for educators and the general public. Provide free, downloadable PDF projects to perpetuate the Miami Beach Bird Sanctuary Mission.

SHARING

Use the existing Miami Beach Bird Sanctuary Project map to promote park attendance, finding ways to work in concert with other outdoor public events.

Develop a social network of locals + city visitors to upload and share park photos and comments about their experience with the project.

Encourage other cities in Miami-Dade County to support natural bird sanctuaries + adopt the Miami Beach's Bird Sanctuary Project within their community parks and green spaces.

PROJECT GOALS: LOCATIONS

MIAMI BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD MAP LOCATIONS:

The map below features 12 parks and 1 home base as recommended locations for the Bird Sanctuary habitats across Miami Beach's neighborhoods. To visit any of these park locations use this Google map to get directions : Bird Sanctuary Parks + Green Spaces Map



**MIAMI
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BIRD SANC+UARY

- HB** City Center:
Botanical Garden
- 01** Biscayne Point:
Crespi Park
- 02** North Shore:
North Shore State Park
- 03** Normandy Shores + Isle:
Normandy Monument
- 04** La Gorce:
Fisher Park
- 05** Nautilus:
Pinetree Park
- 06** Ocean Front:
Indian Beach Park
- 07** Bayshore:
M. Gibb Memorial Park
- 08** City Center:
Lincoln Rd
- 09** Venetian Islands:
Belle Isle Park
- 10** Flamingo / Lummus:
Lummus Park
- 11** South Point:
South Point Park
- 12** Star, Palm Hibsc Island:
Palm Island Park

PROJECT GOALS: LOCATIONS

The photos below show recommended tree spots from 6 of the 12 parks where the birdhouse habitats can be installed.



City Center: Botanical Garden



Venetian Islands: Belle Isle Park



Nautilus: Pinetree Park



Ocean Front: Indian Beach Park



Bayshore: Gibb Memorial Park



La Gorce: Fisher Park

PROJECT GOALS: LAYOUT + PLACEMENT



BIRDHOUSE LAYOUT OPTIONS

OPTION A :

This option shows a mock-up layout of the birdhouse habitats installed in tightly clustered groups on a more centralized tree location in the park.

OPTION B :

This option shows a mock-up layout of the birdhouse habitats installed in a more loosely spaced out configuration across multiple trees within the park.

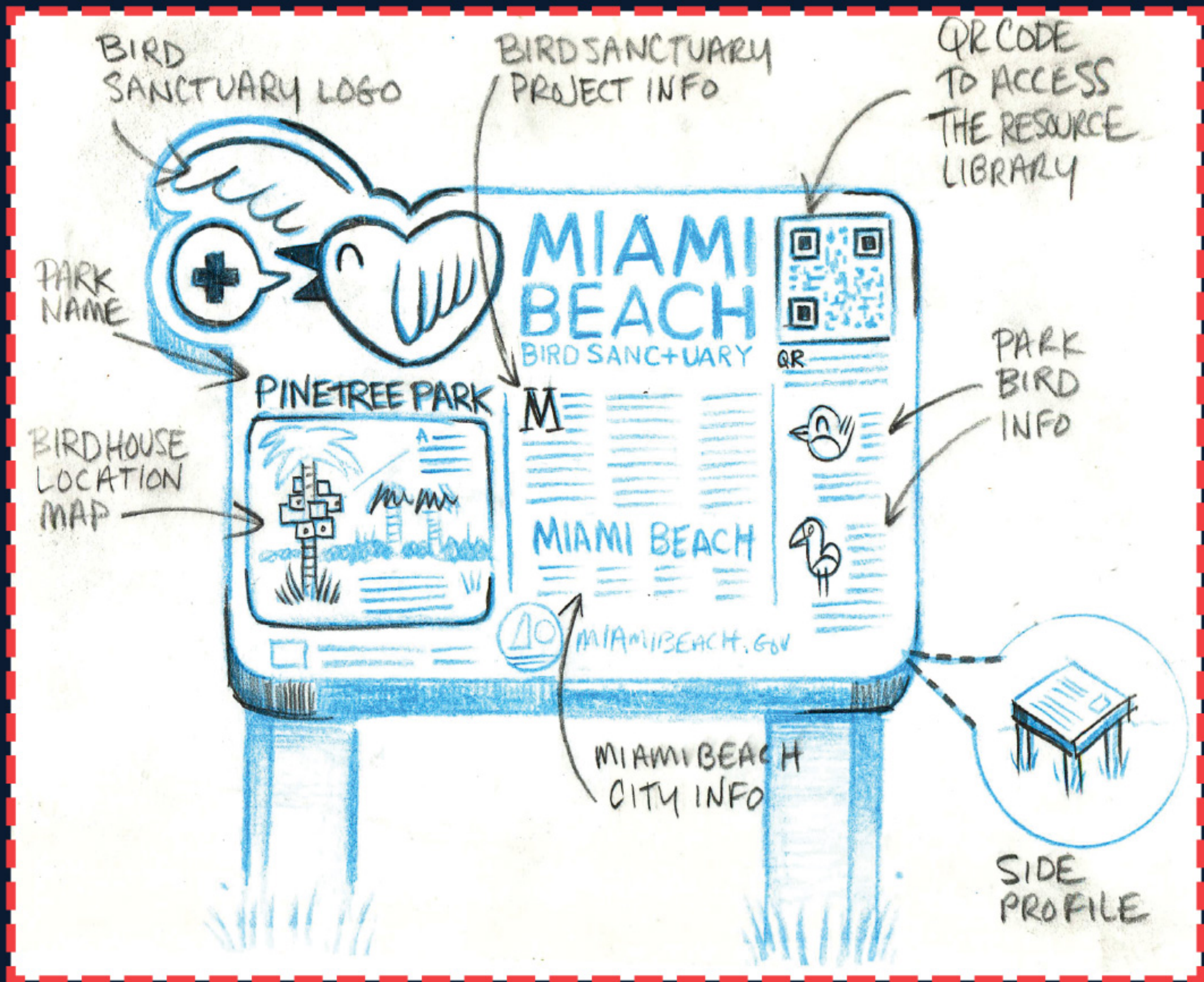
ADDITIONAL CONCEPT PHOTOS

The two photos below feature extreme examples of option A.



PROJECT GOALS: WOODEN PLACARD

The sketch below represents a concept for a wooden informational placard to be used in conjunction with each bird sanctuary habitat. These placards would act as an informational access point to an online portal of resources. Each sign would be equipped with a unique QR code for accessing digital information from a smart device to discover an online library of free, bird-friendly resources.



Library content could include:

- PDF documents + drawings of birdhouse designs with instructions for visitors to download schematics, build their own birdhouses and install them within home gardens and participating schoolyards. Creating personal bird sanctuaries helps spread the sanctuary mission throughout the community.
- Photos and documents about the development of the Miami Beach project, the installation of the boxes in select trees and the progress area habitats are making in supporting wildlife.

Link to an interactive Bird Sanctuary Map including all locations across the city.

- Site maps to the locations of birdhouses within each green space to help visitors find and watch birds.
- A bird watcher's photo gallery featuring common area birds to help identify species spotted at area parks.
- Details about migrating bird species visitors might discover in the green spaces each season.
- Educational information for children about area birds and ecosystem preservation that encourages empathy for wildlife.
- A moderated photo page where visitors can upload and view photos taken at area sanctuaries.
- Educational resources about South Florida Ecology and Ecosystems, ways to support wildlife through conservation, recycling, coordinating neighborhood clean-up activations etc.
- Links and information to join the Audubon Society's "Great Backyard Bird Count." The information provided by the community at the Bird Sanctuaries can assist the Audubon Society with the tracking and counting of the bird population in South Florida.
- Links to area bird rescue centers and animal advocacy services like the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission + Pelican Harbor Seabird Station.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The City of Miami Beach's Natural Bird Sanctuary Documentation

Below are additional details about the City of Miami Beach's policies and links to PDF documentation that define and designate the city as a natural bird sanctuary.

MIAMI BEACH SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

• Biodiversity Section Overview:

In a number of programs promoting species protection, Miami Beach is designated as a bird sanctuary.

An overview of this policy can be found on page 15 of the Miami Beach Sustainability Plan.

[PDF DOC](#)

MIAMI BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: POLICY 2.3

Conservation Coastal Zone Mgt. Section / Objective 2 : Natural Resource Protection

Policy 2.3

In conformance with the City Charter establishing the City as a bird sanctuary, it is prohibited for any person to injure, kill, hunt, destroy, capture or molest any endangered, threatened, rare, or species of special concern or any bird in the City of Miami Beach; except those persons holding a valid permit to destroy birds for scientific purposes issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior and issued a special permit by the Chief of Police.

MIAMI BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: POLICY 2.4

Conservation Coastal Zone Mgt. Section / Objective 2 : Natural Resource Protection

Policy 2.3

Maintain the area known as "Pelican Island" as a special bird sanctuary.

An overview of this policy 2.3 + 2.4 can be found on page 115 of the Miami Beach 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

[PDF DOC](#)