

CERP Master Recreation Plan Public Outreach Meeting

14 August 2006

Dade County Caleb Community Center,
5400 NW 22nd Ave, Miami, FL 33142

Summary of Public Input:

Existing Conditions:

- The existing areas and facilities need to be cleaned and updated.
- Existing boatramps are in poor condition in Miami-Dade County.

Future Needs:

- There is a need for more camping areas and cabins at these facilities.
- Miami-Dade County has many water based sports opportunities on the east side but very few on the west side. Need to develop more areas such as a water park, like Hialeah, Olympic size pool(s), and make them free to use.
- More trails are needed to connect CERP lands with existing public spaces (greenways).
- First aid centers, drinking fountains, and accessible shaded areas are needed.
- Skateboarding facilities should be considered.
- It would be nice to have waterfalls and other peaceful areas.
- Eating facilities, possibly run by Miami-Dade youth entrepreneurship, should be considered.
- Many more fishing facilities such as piers and boat ramps are needed.
- Put trails around edge or perimeter of the CERP lands.
- Better and consistent signage for directions, education, and locations are needed at all facilities.
- Better accessibility is needed to the recreational areas and consider the different types of transportation (buses, bicycles, etc.) that may be used to get to these areas.

Emerging Issues:

- There is a need to connect CERP lands with existing greenbelt areas (greenways).
- Hunting is a concern in relation to public safety and close proximity to urban areas, as well as endangered species. Should hunting be a future recreation type?
- More cooperation and communication among government agencies to coordinate and expand the recreational opportunities of the county.
- More areas are needed for ATV use.
- More speed boat areas are needed.
- Connecting waterways (blueways) is important and should be considered.
- Bring teachers and students into the planning process. The school system master plan needs to be considered and coordinated with the MRP.

- Provide tours of CERP areas to encourage participation in and education of Florida and the specific area's role in pollution control and ecology.
- Program dollars need to be spent on activities for the children and the disabled.
- More water needs to be captured and kept in the Everglades for fire control issues.
- The areas and facilities need to be built with green building practices in mind.
- Consider the areas surrounding the CERP lands when developing recreational uses for those particular areas.
- The Everglades need to be preserved.

Recreational Trends:

- There needs to be more space/activities specifically for the elderly.
- There needs to be more youth-based activities.
- Participation and interest is increasing in kayaking and paddling sports; this needs to be considered.
- Wildlife observation such as bird watching and butterfly viewing is popular. The need to access areas for these activities is important.
- The character and the history of the land needs to be considered when developing facilities and recreational uses.
- If there are boat ramps, there should be fishing piers.
- Trails are needed to connect with the Florida Long Trail.

General/Other Issues:

- There was a question about the timeframe involved to implement the plan. As per the presentation the MRP should be completed by next year. The actual implementation of the MRP on the entire CERP land projects could last 50 years.
- There was a concern about whether the Corps is limiting what uses will be available in specific project areas.
- A question was asked as to whether there is presently hunting in CERP areas. The answer is yes.
- More information on historic sites is needed.