

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Southeast Florida's population will continue to expand dramatically through at least the year 2025. In fact, the region is forecast to grow by more than 2.5 million new residents. Current growth policies have accommodated population increases by developing lands next to the Florida Everglades. But the consequences of this decision are visible. The Everglades have been brought to the breaking point, future regional water supplies have been endangered, economic resources have been directed away from our urban communities, and our quality of life has been severely reduced. Nevertheless, the anticipated growth in our population provides a unique opportunity to promote development that complements local redevelopment initiatives.



Photo courtesy of the South Florida Water Management District

Historic View of the Miami River

This report begins in the future with a look back from the year 2025. Returning to the present day, the report then highlights some of Southeast Florida's most innovative local

revitalization efforts and the positive examples they can provide. Market opportunities for smart growth and redevelopment are discussed. And finally, the report discusses ways to measure success and involve others.

Exciting things are happening in Southeast Florida. The region's local governments are forging partnerships among all levels of government, citizens, and the private sector to revitalize their communities. In the time since the first report, we have had the opportunity to get the word out about East-

ward Ho! The response has been encouraging, but work has just begun. In order to be successful, local residents as well as the private sector must support redevelopment. Issues such as improving schools, reducing crime, providing adequate affordable housing, increasing job opportunities, preserving open spaces, and improving infrastructure must be addressed. Redevelopment must also be facilitated by real change in laws, programs, and financial practices.

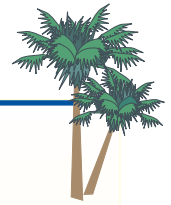
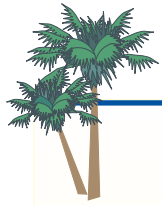
We are proud that Eastward Ho! is a voluntary, partnership-based initiative that has provided assistance to local redevelopment. It is both exciting and encouraging that so many

individuals and organizations work to improve their communities despite the obstacles they have encountered.

Eastward Ho! recognizes that while change must occur, it will not happen overnight. Both the public and the private sectors must continue to work together to support community-based redevelopment efforts. We look forward to continuing this important work with everyone who cares about the future of Southeast Florida.



Historic Everglades System



Drainage for development has reduced the size of the Everglades natural system by half. Most of today's developments are on lands that were once part of the greater Everglades system. The dark line represents the historic boundaries of the Everglades.

Source: South Florida Water Management District