



Broward Sierra Bulletin

Please Recycle



VOL. XLVIII NO. 5 **May 2026**

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May General Meeting

Commissioner Ben Sorensen, City of Fort Lauderdale, District 4

Thursday May 7, 2026 – Hybrid (in Person and on-Line)

Meeting begins promptly at 6:30 PM (in person) and 6:45 PM (on-line)

[Veterans Park: 7600 NW 50th Street
Lauderhill, FL 33351](#)

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED – BRING YOUR FILLABLE BOTTLE – NO PLASTIC BOTTLES

In-Person Attendee Prize Question!!!

[Registration Required - Click Here](#)

Topic: Sustainability, Conservation, and Resilience Initiatives in Fort Lauderdale

Commissioner Sorensen was sworn into office December 3rd, 2024, Ben Sorensen returns to the City Commission after previously representing District 4 from 2018-2022, including two terms as Vice Mayor. A dedicated leader with a background in military service and community involvement, Commissioner Sorensen has worked closely with residents to solve key city issues. One of his top priorities is to position Fort Lauderdale as a leader in the ocean economy. He has worked diligently to expand mangrove plantings, implement a seawall incentive program, and progress innovative solutions that enhance the health and quality of our waterways. Ben served as an Intelligence Officer in the Navy Reserve for 17 years before redesignating to become a Chaplain in 2025. He is on the boards of the Lauderdale Isles Water Management District, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward, and History Fort Lauderdale. Ben and his wife, Anna, are proud parents of two daughters.



SIERRA CLUB
BROWARD GROUP

PROUDLY PRESENTS:



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June General Meeting

**Video by Homegrown National Park &
Presentation by Catalina Franco-Cicero,
Broward Master Gardener**



PROUDLY PRESENTS:



**Thursday June 4, 2026 – Hybrid (in Person and
on-Line)**

**Meeting begins promptly at 6:30 PM (in person)
and 6:45 PM (on-line)**

[Lauderhill, FL 33351](#)
[Veterans Park: 7600 NW 50th Street](#)

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED – BRING YOUR FILLABLE
BOTTLE – NO PLASTIC BOTTLES**

In-Person Attendee Prize Question!!!

[Registration Required - Click Here](#)

Topic: Is It Possible to Restore Nature in Your Own Yard?

**Join Us for a Special Video and Hands-On Demonstration and Discussion with Broward
Master Gardener, Catalina Franco-Cicero!**

Did you know that small changes in your yard can have a huge impact on biodiversity? By creating native habitat, you can help restore nature while experiencing the joy and fulfillment of connecting with the world around you.

Part I: Video Presentation: *What's the Rush?* Created by Doug Tallamy, Homegrown National Park.

Join us for a special video presentation from Homegrown National Park, where you'll learn:

- How biodiversity is declining, and what you can do to help
- Simple, effective ways to create habitat and support wildlife
- The personal rewards of bringing nature back home

Part II: Guest Presenter: Catalina Franco-Cicero, Broward Master Gardener.

Native Habitat / Native Mini Garden Demonstration and Discussion

Learn about native gardening with hands-on sample mini starter garden example and landscape options. Ask questions and get advice from our very own BSG member and Broward Master Gardener, Catalina

SAVE THE DATE! - July 9 General Meeting - A Zero Waste Overview & Broward County Update with Hands-On Workshop Led by Richard Ramcharitar of Broward Clean Air. *More information and registration link to be posted on the Broward Sierra Website soon.*

May Outings

Jordan Holaday, *Outings Chair*

Snorkeling Outing

Back in the 60s, the Erosion Prevention District heaped large concrete "jacks" underwater, in lengthy lines, in an attempt to keep sand from eroding from the beaches. It didn't work, but the result is that we have another artificial reef to explore.

Saturday, May 16, 2026

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

45 N Beach Road, Dania Beach, FL 33004

Dania Beach is nice to visit if you want to get away from crowds. In this park, there are no buildings and no city hubbub by the shore.

There's lots of underwater life along the crusty, 1300-foot concrete reef, and it terminates at some natural limestone ledges. We will likely see porcupine fish, lobster, giant angel fish, and nurse sharks. And possibly some cuddly remoras. ☺ There's a story there.

We'll meet at parking for the pier.

Stats: A 100-yard swim, and then we glide along the erojacks. Depth ranges from 10-25 feet.

Registration is required:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00001gyH25IAE>

Biking Outing

We'll be biking at the Water Conservation Levee in Everglades Holiday Park!

Saturday, May 23, 2026

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Everglades Holiday Park: 21940 Griffin Rd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33332

Join us to bike the Levee along South Florida Water Management District's Water Conservation Area 3A. Loop is approximately 12 miles and will take 3 hours to complete. We will be stopping for breaks and lunch, so park plenty of water and snacks. Route is on crushed rock and gravel, and is long, exposed with no shade. Prepare for the elements! Any questions, email Jordan at jordansierraleader@gmail.com

Registration is required:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00001aKwU4IAK>



The Future of Recycling and Solid Waste Management in Broward County - Your Public Support and Comments Are Needed Now Before It's Too Late!

On April 17, 2026, the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) of Broward County Governing Board approved the Solid Waste Management and Recycling Master Plan triggering a 120-day window for the 28 member cities and Broward County to vote on continuing the work of the Solid Waste Authority past August 14, 2026.

As a Broward Sierra Group member, we strongly encourage you to attend your city's scheduled commission meeting to request their support and approval for continuing the Authority!

Upcoming Commission Meetings to Vote on the SWA "Master Plan" (Facilities Amendment)

You can find the most up-to-date city commission voting information here: [Master Plan Voting Schedule - Broward Solid Waste Authority](#)

The SWA Master Plan

The SWA Master Plan is the strategic, guiding document outlining a phased, 40-year action plan in Broward for:

- **Reducing waste generation** through education, behavior change, procurement reform, and incentives for circular economy practices.
- **Expanding recovery and recycling** with source-separated organics, construction and demolition (C&D) recovery programs, and mandatory recycling ordinances.
- **Strengthening infrastructure** by optimizing existing assets while identifying new facility needs for transfer, processing, and disposal over the long term.
- **Improving governance and financial sustainability** via flow control mechanisms, assessment models, and regional policy harmonization.
- **Promoting environmental protection** to ensure historically burdened communities benefit from cleaner operations, improved access to services, and meaningful participation in decision-making.

Learn More Here: [Master Plan - Broward Solid Waste Authority](#)

See the Toolkit and FAQs: [Toolkit Portal - Broward Solid Waste Authority](#)



BROWARD SIERRA GROUP JUNIOR TEAM



Awarded by the Broward County Commission

The Broward Sierra Group - Junior Team is a group of students in grades 7-12 who are passionate about

- sustainability and preservation
- climate and wildlife advocacy
- environmental education

JOIN TODAY!



Lobbied representatives and senators in Tallahassee



Collected petitions for the Right to Clean Water in Florida



Written and published letters to the editors in newspapers



Spoken at commission meetings



Tabled at events and reached 1000+ community members



Supported candidates in their campaigns through canvassing



School service hours are available, and active members get free Sierra Club membership!



For More Information
PI222722@ahschool.com



[bsg.juniorteam](https://www.instagram.com/bsg.juniorteam)



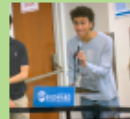
BROWARD GREEN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN™

Campaign to promote environmental stewardship, sustainability, resiliency and energy conservation in Broward schools.

WHO ARE WE?

We are a group of Broward students ages 12-18 who have joined Broward Sierra Group - Junior Team and are working with Climate Reality Project of North Broward and Palm Beach County. On December 17, 2024, we got the Broward School Board to unanimously pass a resolution in support of transitioning the school district to renewable energy!

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



School Board Resolution
On December 17, BCPS unanimously passed Resolution 25-122 in support of transitioning to clean energy.



Plantation Proclamation
On November 20, the City of Plantation passed a proclamation stating willingness to back our campaign.



Coconut Creek Proclamation
On October 10, the City of Coconut Creek also passed a proclamation stating their support.

BENEFITS OF JOINING

- Acquire leadership skills while organizing campaign and speaking to elected officials, school board members, and other stakeholders
- Practice graphic design and communication skills
- Earn community service hours.
- Meet students and environmental activists across Broward County
- Improve our community and expand your network and resume

JOIN + SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN!



or email
Andy at pl1913021@ahschool.com or
Julie at jl525174@gmail.com

A Plan to Protect Residents from a Mounting Trash Crisis

– Mike Ryan, *Mayor, Sunrise, Florida*

Managing trash is an essential service for a functional society. Broward generates 5 million tons of garbage annually, or 20,000 pounds per minute. As our population increases, so will our trash. The regional landfill is reaching capacity; the waste-to-energy facility is already at capacity. With a fractured “every city for itself” model, cities negotiate short-term contracts that lack the maximum bargaining power of economies of scale. Sadly, this fragmentation has caused a crisis of our own making.

But there is hope in a comprehensive plan to move away from this disjointed approach and combine our collective economic strength to manage trash as a region. The governing board of the Solid Waste Authority of Broward County (SWA), made up of representatives from 28 cities and Broward County, unanimously approved a 40-year Master Plan to reclaim our trash management destiny and put us back on track to reduce, reuse and recycle. However, if SWA-participating cities and Broward County do not vote to approve this plan and move forward together, we will return to the fragmented approach that is a proven failure.

To understand the significance of this moment, we must look back. In 1975, Palm Beach and Broward counties faced the same challenges regarding millions of tons of garbage. Palm Beach County went one direction. Broward County went another.

Florida established a goal of a 75% recycling rate by 2020. Palm Beach County, through a sustained countywide approach, reported a 90% recycling rate in 2024. It invests \$4 million annually in education because when residents recycle “wrong,” cities pay hefty contamination penalty charges and it strains the limited disposal capacity.

In 2013, Broward had a 60% recycling rate and was on pace to meet the goal. But Broward’s then-existing countywide cooperation agreement collapsed. Each city began negotiating contracts on its own. Competition dwindled and many cities halted recycling altogether. The 2024 recycling rate plummeted to 38%, and if you remove credits for waste-to-energy, that number falls to 29%.

Successful management means only sending trash that cannot be diverted or reused to landfills and waste-to-energy. Food waste is heavy and troublesome for landfills but can be beneficially composted. Curbside recyclables are plagued by high contamination rates that end up in the landfill and cost us more. Construction debris, bulk garbage and vegetative waste are all highly divertible, yet we are falling short. Household hazardous waste (HHW), such as batteries and electronics, represents a challenging, smaller fraction of the waste stream.

[Read the full story here.](#)

May General Meeting

Topic: Rescuing the River of Grass, with Eve Samples



The Everglades (Photo Courtesy of Christopher McVoy)

<p>Wednesday evening, May 27, 2026</p> <p>Doors Open: 6:00 PM</p> <p>Presentation from 6:15 – 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Lake Worth Beach City Library</p> <p>15 N M Street</p> <p>Lake Worth Beach, FL 33460</p>
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Eve Samples,
Director of
Friends of the
Everglades
[Register Here](#)