



# Broward Sierra Bulletin



**VOL. XLVIII NO. 6** **June 2026**

[www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward) • [www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra](https://www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra)

<https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/> • <https://twitter.com/BrowardSierra>

## Announcement from your Chair

– Leah Weisburd, *Chair, Broward Sierra Group*

Six years ago, I had no idea what the Sierra Club was about. Having moved to Broward County in the beautiful state of Florida, I saw it changing rapidly, and not for the better. As a very bored retiree, my interest took me to a club that was dedicated to keeping our environment safe and beautiful.

I became acquainted with members of the Broward Sierra Group. Here I heard and felt their passion to protect our environment in Florida, and the planet. Members of their executive committee (ExCom) reached out to me as they became aware that I had a strong administrative background, was deeply concerned about the destruction of our eco-systems and that I was a “people person.” The Group felt that I needed to step in to take a robust approach and action to help the Broward Sierra Group become a praiseworthy environmental resource. We needed to demand respect and protection for our environment, so I stepped in! Within months our ExCom elected me their new Chair.

***OMG! What did they expect of me and can I help?***



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## **Announcement from your Chair (*Continued*)**

I took it step by step! Firstly, I must get to know the bylaws of the National Sierra Organization, the role of the Florida Chapter, and our ExCom team, our Chairs, and Co-Chairs. Then to find out what they are doing or not doing to make our Broward Sierra Group strong, environmentally enthusiastic, and an active fixer Group. Next, I must reach out to our members to find out what they are interested in and would want to volunteer to help our team. And lastly, I must get to know all our elected officials here in Florida that create the laws we must live with and find out what they are doing to protect our beautiful Florida.

So, in six years we have come from not being known at all, to being the “go to” Group for any clarification on environmental bills, candidates that are environmentally pro-active, or not, and know that we have a complete Broward Group of experts that is dedicated to protecting our health, our greenspaces, our wildlife, our clean waters, educating our younger generation that they have a strong voice, and the influence of our environmentally elected officials, our safety, and most of all the relevance of the Sierra Club Organization.

Well, my six incredible and fruitful years being the Chair of this awe-inspiring Broward Group will end on June 1, 2026. I have chosen to take a step back from being the Chair of this spectacular Group. I will be handing the baton to an extraordinarily strong leader, knowledgeable, and like-minded enthusiastic member who will carry the torch even further than I could imagine. Please help me welcome Elisa Jones, that I have nominated to the Chair of our Broward Sierra Group, and who has been elected unanimously by our ExCom.

I am not going far away and will of course be available to assist Elisa and the team. I have been elected to the Sierra Club’s Florida Chapter’s Executive Committee. There I will be supporting the 16 Sierra Groups here in Florida to help them any way I can.

### **On other changes**

1. Our ExCom must always have seven members that have been elected for a two-year commitment by our membership. So, with my leaving a seat empty, I nominated Tiffany Furr Grantham, who at one time was an ExCom member and wishes to return to fill my vacancy on June 1, 2026. She too was also voted unanimously by our ExCom.
2. Julie Long has been participating with me to take over mentoring our incredible Broward Sierra Group-Junior Team. I am excited to let you know that she will be a fantastic teacher and very caring guide mentoring the Junior Team as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. She was nominated by me too, and was unanimously voted by our ExCom to join Broward Sierra Group’s ExCom. She will be taking Jordan Holaday’s seat immediately, as he too has moved up the ladder to our Chapter as the Chapter’s Program Manager.

Please give a shout out to all the “newbies” to support and welcome them as they will need your assistance and suggestions too.

Thank you Sierra Club-Broward Group for six amazing years of joy collaborating with our National Sierra Club, our Florida Chapter, and our dedicated ExCom, all our Chairs, Co-Chairs, volunteers, and last but certainly not least, our political leaders here in Florida.

### **Excom Response**

– Max Goldstein, *ExCom Member*

I think I can speak for practically all ExCom members, present and past, that we are grateful for the enormous responsibility that Leah has taken on and how she has moved Broward Sierra Group forward into the future. The enormity of what an ExCom Chair has to deal with would be too large to summarize here, but be assured that when I say there were sometimes dozens emails waiting for her when she gets up, it’s no exaggeration. Many thanks, Leah, and we wish you well for the future.

**June General Meeting**

**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)**

[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: 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

## July General Meeting

Richard Ramcharitar of [Broward Clean Air](#)



**SIERRA CLUB**  
BROWARD GROUP

Thursday, July 9, 2026 – Hybrid (in Person and on-Line)

PROUDLY PRESENTS:

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**

**We've got all kinds of snacks!**

***In-Person Attendee Prize Question!!!***

**[Registration Required - Click Here](#)**



### **Part I: Presentation**

Why Zero Waste? Advancing Zero Waste Solutions in South Florida.

### **Part II: Zero Waste Station**

A hands-on demonstration showing how to properly sort waste into reuse, recycling, compost, and landfill categories.

**ECO ACTION:** *Take the [Solid Waste Authority Pledge](#) and let your city commissioners know you stand behind the work of the Authority.*

**MINI ZERO WASTE SWAP:** **Bring some items** you have around your home or garage that are in **good and usable condition that you no longer want** for other members to take home and reuse. Examples: kitchen, office or art supplies, textiles, books, small appliances, electronics, garden supplies, etc. Any swap items leftover from the evening will be packed up and donated. *Let's work hard to keep nice things out of the landfill!*

**Richard Ramcharitar** is an environmental advocate, community educator, and founder of [Broward Clean Air](#), focused on advancing Zero Waste, recycling reform, composting, and sustainable community initiatives across South Florida. He has contributed to regional sustainability planning efforts connected to the Miami-Dade County Zero Waste Master Plan and currently supports stakeholder outreach and community engagement for the Southwest Ranches Zero Waste Plan with Abbe & Associates.

Since the inception of the Broward Solid Waste Authority, Richard has actively participated in Executive Committee, Governing Board, and Technical Advisory Board meetings advocating for innovative Zero Waste strategies and sustainable materials management solutions. He has also participated in high-level meetings and field site visits at Miami International Airport focused on improving recycling and sustainability initiatives at a major international airport.

Recognized as a trusted voice among elected officials, Zero Waste professionals, and community stakeholders, Richard has traveled throughout the United States and Brazil studying environmental and Zero Waste solutions to help bring practical, community-based strategies back to South Florida.

## A Fond Farewell

– Anagha Iyer, *Graduate from Broward Sierra Group's Junior Team's Chair*

For the past three years, serving as Chair of the Broward Sierra Group Junior Team has been one of the most meaningful and rewarding experiences of my life. Through Sierra Club, I gained so much valuable experience, from speaking to commissioners and advocating for environmental issues, to tabling at outreach events, designing graphics for social media, and strengthening my communication skills with both youth and adults. As chair, I had the privilege of attending countless events, helping organize our own Junior Team meetings, and even getting a behind-the-scenes look at how Sierra Club operates through ExCom meetings. Every experience taught me something new about leadership, collaboration, and community engagement.

As I prepare to leave for Stanford University this fall, it is incredibly bittersweet to say goodbye to a group that has become such a huge part of my life. While I am excited for what lies ahead, I will always carry with me the lessons, memories, and friendships that came from my time with Sierra Club. The organization and everyone involved will always hold a special place in my heart, and I am endlessly grateful for the past three years.

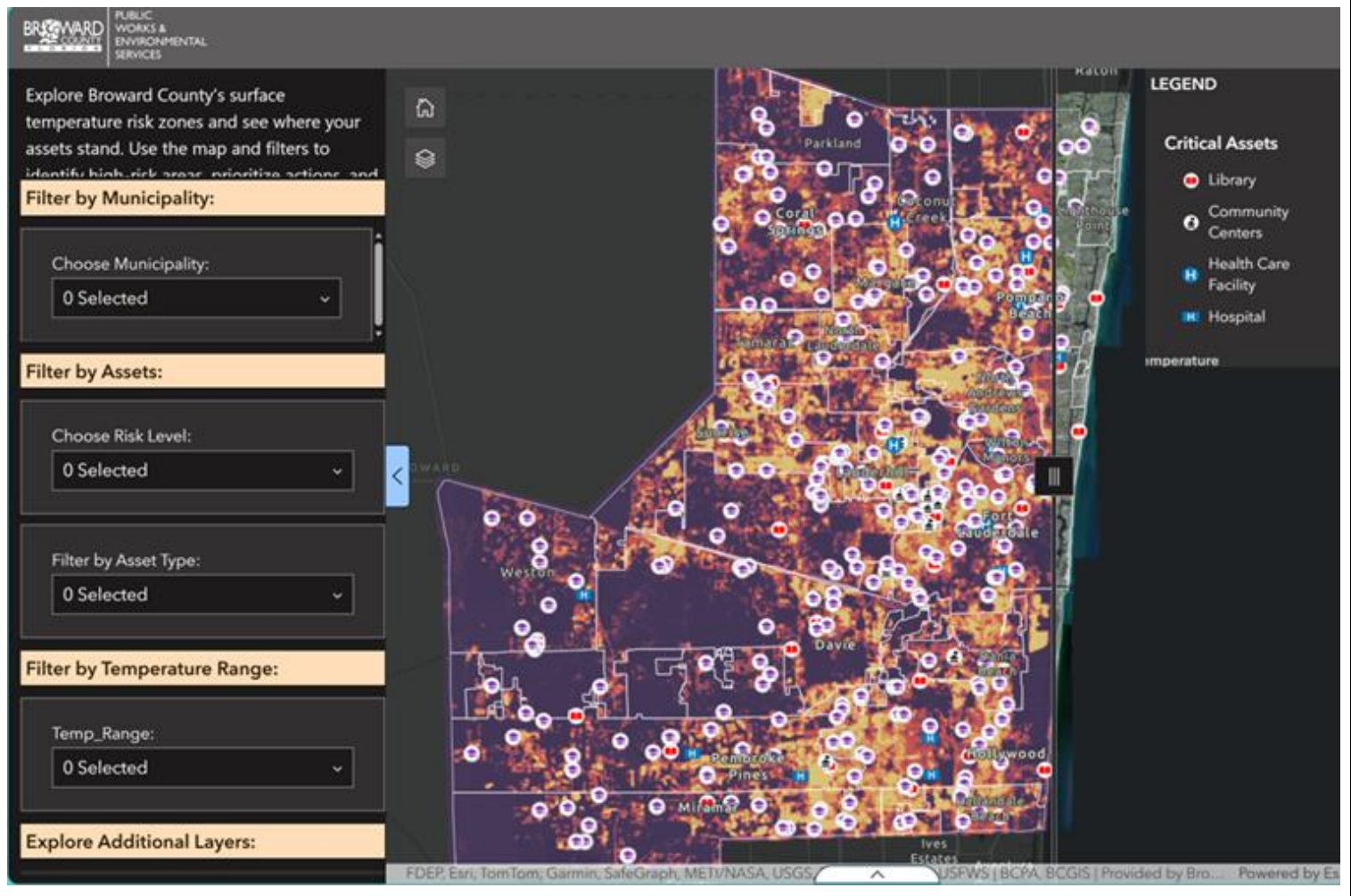
– Anagha Iyer, *Signing Out*

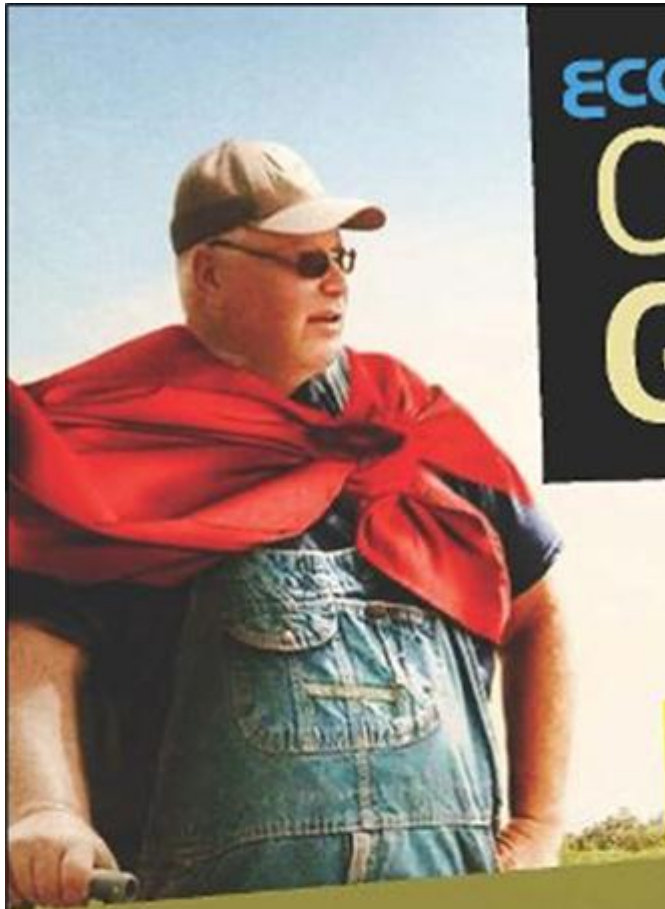


## Beat the Heat Broward

Summer is almost here and Broward Public Works & Environmental Services has put together an extreme heat resource for Broward residents called "Beat the Heat Broward" where you can learn more about extreme heat risks across our county and look up local hotspots, use the Heat Dashboard to see the heatmaps for your own neighborhood and find local Cooling Centers that offer relief!

Visit the [Beat the Heat Website](#) for more information.





ECOSHIFT FILM SERIES 2026

# COMMON GROUND

## JUNE 27

2:00 - 5:00PM  
ROOM 154

NORTH REGIONAL BROWARD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
1100 COCONUT CREEK BOULEVARD  
COCONUT CREEK, FL 33066

DOORS OPEN @ 2:00PM

Join us for a special screening of the film followed by a panel discussion.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS & SNACKS PROVIDED AT THIS EVENT. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLE CUP OR FILLABLE BOTTLE. NO PLASTIC WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

REGISTER NOW!



SCAN HERE

or register online @

[BROWARD.LIBNET.INFO/EVENTS](http://BROWARD.LIBNET.INFO/EVENTS)

Presented by





## **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



## Legislative Session 2026 - Then & Now



**Thursday, June 18, 2026**

**Zoom Presentation: 7:00 - 8:15 PM**

**Program:** A wrap up about legislative session and where we ended up and where we go from here. We all hear bits and pieces, but what really happened this session and what can we do to prepare for next session.

**Speaker:** Javier Estevez. Javi has been with Sierra Club Florida since 2022, previously serving as the organization's Operations & Legislative Coordinator. Born and raised in Miami, Javi brings a wealth of experience to his role, including a run for Florida State House in 2018 where he came within 417 votes of flipping a red district. He served his local DEC as both Legislative Liaison and Campaign Chair from 2019-2021 and Chair of the Miami-Dade LGBTQ+ caucus from 2022-2024.

**Register:**

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00001krr6RIAQ&mapLinkHref=>

**OR**

**Scan Here:**

