

NEWS RELEASE

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WALK, RUN, OR BIKE TO THE DEERING SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

(MIAMI, March 24, 2008) – Are gas prices getting you down? Do your clothes seem to be getting smaller? Just want some morning exercise to clear your head before heading to work? According to the Green Mobility Network, a growing number of people are saying “yes” to these questions. The one-year old group grew out of advocacy work from other organizations – Bike Miami and Everglades Bicycle Club. Their mission is to make Miami-Dade County a healthier, more livable community and they use education and information to promote bicycling, running and walking for daily transportation, leisure and fitness. Green Mobility Network would like to see people consider bicycling to work and back, but also choose to bike when traveling to and from festivals and special events.

To encourage bicycling, Green Mobility Network is offering a free bike valet service, on Sunday, March 30th at the upcoming Deering Seafood Festival. At last year’s festival over 100 cyclists attended the event. John Hopkins, chair of Green Mobility said, “The Seafood Festival has a large constituency of bike users. The bikes will be kept in a secure location while people attend the festival. We give the bike owner a ticket, just like car valet service. We want to give riders a better alternative than tying a bike to a tree.”

The idea of bike valets originated in California and has spread as far as Wisconsin, where it also is a popular festival service. The most obvious benefits of biking are reducing traffic congestion at the event site, having fun and getting great exercise.

Festival-goers aren’t the only people cycling to the Deering Estate; Miami-Dade police are also using bicycles and Segways for safety and crowd control. “These types of transportation provide more mobility and can draw more attention to the officer. It really creates better interaction with the people,” said Angela Berry, a Miami-Dade Police Officer from the Cutler Ridge district.

For more information about the Deering Seafood Festival call 305-235-1668 ext. 263 or log on to www.deeringestate.org. For information about Green Mobility Network log on to www.greenmobilitynetwork.org.

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The Deering Estate at Cutler, a Miami-Dade County Park, is located at 16701 SW 72 Avenue in Miami. This 444-acre natural and archaeological preserve and historic site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves as a center for education, culture and recreation. Historic house tours and natural area tours are offered daily with admission to the Estate. Eco-tours are also offered throughout the year for an additional fee. For more information on the Deering Estate's educational and cultural programs please visit www.deeringestate.org.

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Miami-Dade Parks provides quality and diverse cultural and recreational experiences for persons with disabilities. To request material in accessible format, information on access for persons with disabilities, or sign language interpreter services (7 days in advance), call (305) 755-7848 or 305-755-7980 (td).