



Key Biscayne's Citizen Scientist Project



**KEY BISCAYNE
MANGROVE CLEANUP**

For the 2024-25 fall and winter seasons, we have entered our third year of annual mangrove cleanups. Each year for the last 3 years we have applied for and were awarded a \$5,000.00 grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) to perform cleanups in “neglected or hard-to-reach

areas” around Key Biscayne. As mangroves are both extremely important marine habitats and are generally very difficult to access, we opted to perform five mangrove cleanup events. Mangroves are rarely cleaned due to the challenging environment they create, but we have had incredible results. We perform one cleanup per month for 5 months. In further discussions with FIND, they have essentially guaranteed that we would continue receiving \$5,000.00 annually for these cleanups as long as we apply each year, and we have already been approved for the 2025-2026 fall/winter season. We have so far performed 4 out of our 5 cleanups for the 2024-25 season, with our final cleanup to take place this month, January 2025. The results of our cleanups are below.

Though the numbers of volunteers fluctuate annually, we have still managed to pull close to 2 tons of trash from the mangroves each year. Currently, the amount of trash we have collected in this year’s cleanups is slightly behind previous years, but this may indicate that our efforts to clean Key Biscayne mangroves are beginning to show real results.

2022-23 KB Mangrove Cleanup		
Date	LBs of Trash	# Volunteers
9/17/2022	1328.2	70
10/1/2022	529.5	28
11/12/2022	224.6	15
12/29/2022	1302	46
1/21/2023	462	25
TOTAL	3846.3	184

2023-24 KB Mangrove Cleanup		
Date	LBs of Trash	# Volunteers
9/16/2023	640	59
11/18/2023	793	23
12/30/2023	707.5	40
1/20/2024	1188	15
3/23/2024	548	12
TOTAL	3876.5	149

2024-25 KB Mangrove Cleanup		
Date	LBs of Trash	# Volunteers
9/21/2024	200	34
10/26/2024	875	46
11/23/2024	504	17
12/30/2024	583	40
1/18/2025	TBD	TBD
TOTAL	2162	137

Partners/Collaborators: Florida Inland Navigation District, FillABag, Miami EcoAdventures, Free Plastic, PADL (PADL has created a link for watercraft rentals specific to our cleanups, and they deliver and pickup all rented watercraft at every cleanup)