



# MIAMI CANOPY COALITION

## Miami's Tree Canopy & Environmental Justice

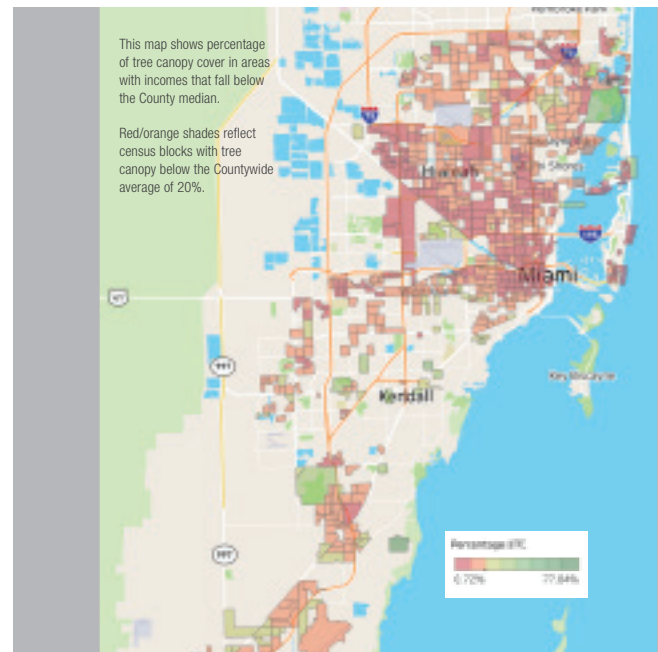
**Environmental Justice** is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of color, national origin, or income, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

### The Loss of Miami-Dade's Tree Canopy is an Environmental Justice Issue.

The social, environmental, and economic benefits of the urban tree canopy can mitigate negative effects of the built environment. These benefits include improved health outcomes, crime reduction, higher air quality, flood mitigation, and cooler air and surface temperatures.

### Race and socioeconomic status affect access to the urban tree canopy in Miami.

- While the overall tree canopy cover in Miami-Dade County is approximately 20%, that number varies widely depending on one's neighborhood, race, and socioeconomic status.
- The 2016 Miami-Dade Urban Tree Canopy Assessment found that higher income areas were associated with greater tree canopy coverage.
- Out of 1373 census blocks that fall below the County median income of \$52,900, 80% percent of those areas have tree canopy cover that falls below the County average of 20%. This means that most of Miami-Dade's tree cover is distributed in wealthier areas of the county.
- Additionally, areas with larger populations of African-American and Hispanic residents were associated with lower tree canopy coverage.
- There are 434 census blocks with almost no tree canopy cover at all, 20% of which are predominantly Black/African American areas.



Sources: Data from Miami-Dade County Urban Tree Canopy Assessment and from U.S. Census Bureau Household Income Data (2018)

### How can we promote equitable access to the benefits of Miamis' tree canopy?

- Incorporate tree canopy protection and expansion into plans for affordable housing
- Incorporate more trees in public parks located in underserved areas
- Incorporate tree plantings into public infrastructure projects, including resilience and flood mitigation projects
- Provide technical and finance assistance to low-income residents to plant and maintain trees on private property
- Provide grants through the Tree Trust Fund and other sources to organizations to conduct tree plantings and education