

# Virginia Key Beach Park Trust

## Hurricane Wilma Damage Report – November 2, 2005

Hurricane Wilma struck South Florida during the early morning hours of Monday, October 24, 2005. The hurricane made land fall on the Southwest edge of Florida and crossed the state affecting Miami-Dade County and several counties to the North.

There was considerable damage to historic Virginia Key Beach Park on Virginia Key.

- Along with continued shoreline erosion and damage approximately half a dozen coconut palms were lost and dozens of Australian Pine trees fell. Fallen trees have cut off access to some areas of the beach park and require immediate removal. Some large limbs have fallen from Native Sea Grape trees and Figs
- The need for fallen tree cutting and excavation and other debris clean up is extensive and the need to haul accumulated debris piles from earlier storms, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, has only been compounded by Hurricane Wilma.
- Many of the trees have been moved clear of vehicular and walking paths, however, large piles of debris need to be collected and hauled off the property. Many others require additional cutting and heavy equipment for complete removal.
- Some of the historic building structures were also impacted by Hurricane Wilma. One hurricane aluminum door was damaged at the Concession Stand Building (the door on the far South end of the building facing East toward the sea). Also, there is damage to the interior of the carousel building's aluminum hurricane doors (Four of the eight doors experienced damage to the interior aluminum door roll-up housings due to high wind).
- Following this immediate disaster recovery effort a standardized maintenance and landscaping schedule must be developed to prepare the park for daily visitation by the public and park operations that will begin November 2006.
- A 20-25 foot boat is on shore toward the Center/Northern end of the beach; Vessel FL4798EW – exp. 06/05. Blue with white stripe, thin gold line, cabin, mast, and small motor. **(FWC Case #11983 provided Nov. 22, 2005)** planned for removal by FWC; costs for removal go to the boat owner.

*\* Photographs and other records of damages and repairs are available from the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust – 305-571-8230*

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