

# 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 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 any access to some areas of the beach park and require immediate removal.
- 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.
- The Virginia Key Beach Park Trust needs staff and resources from the City of Miami parks and recreation department to focus its attention on restoring Virginia Key Beach Park to a presentable level.
- Some of the historic building structures were also impacted by Hurricane Wilma. Hurricane disaster funds from the City of Miami, other local sources, state and/or federal resources are required at this time.
- 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.

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

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