History, Landscape Change and the Social Dimensions of Restoration in the Biscayne Bay Area

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Goals
• Analyze long-term landscape change and sociopolitical drivers of change at two Biscayne Bay-area restoration sites, the Deering Estate and Wagner Creek
• Critically examine social and institutional challenges and goals of contemporary restoration projects

Research Methodology
• Measure change in vegetation and other landscape features using 19th century government survey maps, early 20th century aerial photos, and present-day land use/land cover maps
• Use archival research to explore drivers of landscape change
• Conduct key informant interviews and analyze restoration planning documents

Results
• Natural vegetation expanded since 1900 at the Deering Estate, while Wagner Creek suffered declining water quality and vegetation conversion for development.
• Drivers of landscape change included the early 20th century environmental movement, the 1920s Miami Real Estate Boom, and struggles over racial segregation.
• Preliminary results suggest that at the Deering Estate, there are tradeoffs between land management goals and restoration targets.