

## Former Bloom's Nursery Site (Middle River Terrace Park), Ft. Lauderdale Draft Health Report Now Available

October 2015



Former Bloom's Nursery (now known as the Middle River Terrace Park) in Fort Lauderdale

### *Site History*

The 3.6-acre former Bloom's Nursery site is at 1329 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Ft. Lauderdale. Between 1946 and 1979, the owners used the site to grow and sell plants. Their use of pesticides likely caused soil pollution. In 1997, the City of Ft. Lauderdale took ownership of the property and in 2001 opened it as the Middle River Terrace Park. (Learn more about the site on the back of this page.)

In 2007, the city considered adding an adjacent property to the park but they found arsenic in the soil. At least one nearby resident had concerns about the health risk from the pollution including fruit trees. These concerns led the Florida Department of

Environmental Protection (DEP) to test the park's soil and groundwater. DEP asked the Florida Department of Health (DOH) to assess the public health risk. Now DOH has a draft report ready for public review and comment.

### *Draft DOH Health Report Conclusions*

Overall, DOH finds the former Bloom's Nursery site (Middle River Terrace Park) poses no apparent risk to public health.

- Swallowing arsenic and pesticides in soil is not likely to harm the health of:
  - Park workers
  - Park visitors
  - Future residents at the adjacent property (1325 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue)
- Eating fruit from trees at the park is not likely to harm health.

***Please give your comments on the DOH draft report.***

***Learn how to get a copy or give comments on the back of this page.***

***Comments are due by Friday, November 13, 2015!***

### ***DOH Plans***

- DOH will address public comments and health concerns in its final report.
- DOH will consider review of new data when requested.

### ***More about the Site's History and the Park***

The city built Middle River Terrace Park on the former Blooms Nursery site between 2000 and 2001. The park has open grassy areas, pavilions, picnic areas, and walking/jogging trails. The historic Annie Beck House is also in the park. The city sometimes uses the house for community meetings. No formal summer or after-school activities occur at the park. The park is open from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm. The park's entrance road has a gate, but people can simply walk into the park at any time. Homes border the park to the east, south, southwest and west. Apartments or condominiums are to the west and east. Vacant land is to the north.

DEP believes that the site owners only ran Bloom's Nursery at 1329 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They do not think the adjacent property (1325 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue) was ever a part of the nursery.

### ***For More Information***

**About health or to comment on the draft report:**

- Alan Willett, Florida DOH: call (toll-free): 877-798-2772 or email him at: [PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov](mailto:PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov)

***Give your comments on the draft health report.***

***To get a copy or send comments, please:***

***- Call us toll-free at 877-798-2772***

***- Visit our website at: [hazwaste.floridahealth.gov](http://hazwaste.floridahealth.gov)***

***- Send an email to: [PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov](mailto:PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov)***

***Comments are due on the draft report by Friday, November 13, 2015!***

***Please share this update with your neighbors!***



**Comments are due by Friday, November 13, 2015**  
**Former Bloom's Nursery Site, Fort Lauderdale**

**PLEASE CIRCLE ONE ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION:**

1. I learned that the levels of arsenic and pesticides found in soil at the former Bloom's Nursery site (now the Middle River Terrace Park) are not likely to harm the health of workers or park visitors.  

**Yes                  Mostly                  Some                  No**
2. I learned that eating fruit from trees at the park will also not harm health.  

**Yes                  Mostly                  Some                  No**
3. I learned that a draft health report about the soil and groundwater at the park is now available for review.  

**Yes                  Mostly                  Some                  No**
4. I learned more about the DOH's health assessment process.  

**Yes                  Mostly                  Some                  No**
5. I learned more about the DOH's plans at this site.  

**Yes                  Mostly                  Some                  No**

My health concerns about the former Bloom's Nursery site are:

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What health topics would you like to learn about? (Please list)

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**Optional (so we can contact you later, if needed)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_, FL ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill this form out, fold in thirds, tape or staple shut, add a postage stamp and mail to the address on the back of this page. Or save a stamp by calling our toll-free number (877-798-2772) to give us your comments, or by sending them via e-mail to [PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov](mailto:PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PLACE  
FIRST CLASS  
POSTAGE HERE

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