

City of Miami Gardens

County

Miami-Dade

Boundaries

North: Northwest 215th Street/State Road 852

South: Northwest 151st Street

West: Northwest 47th Ave/Red Road/State Road 823

East: Northeast 2nd Avenue/North Miami Avenue

Community Type

Municipality

History

Miami Gardens is a city of 19 square miles in north-central Miami-Dade County, located 16 miles north of Downtown Miami. The city's name comes from Miami Gardens Drive, the locally used name for State Road 860, a major roadway that runs through the area.

Miami Gardens was incorporated on May 13, 2003, joining the neighborhoods of Andover, Bunche Park, Carol City, Lake Lucerne, Norland, Opa-locka North, and Scott Lake that were previously unincorporated areas within Miami-Dade County. Miami Gardens has a mayor-council form of government, consisting of seven members: a mayor and two council members elected citywide, with four additional council members elected by individual districts. The administrative responsibility of the City rests with the City Manager, who is appointed by the City Council, upon recommendation of the Mayor. Each Council Member is elected to a four-year term.

Miami Gardens is Florida's most populous city with a majority African American population and also home to the largest percentage of African Americans (64.7% as of 2021) of any city in Florida. In the wake of the construction of Interstate 95 in the late 1960s, many middle and upper income African American and West Indian American families migrated from Miami neighborhoods like Liberty City to what became Miami Gardens (also called Carol City, Norland or Norwood).

In 2007, Mayor Shirley Gibson declared that Miami Gardens would no longer allow low-income housing developments. Many residents blamed the developments for spreading crime and recreational drugs throughout the city. At that time, the city's tax revenues dropped to the third lowest in Miami-Dade County.

In 2012, Mayor Oliver Gilbert proposed the formation of a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). CRAs are formed to remove slum and blight, to improve the physical environment of a city, and to combat social and economic problems.

Community Dynamics

As of 2021, Miami Gardens had a population of 111,706. The median age was 37.3 and the median household income was \$51,067. Between 2020 and 2021 the population of Miami Gardens grew from 110,767 to 111,706, an increase of .848%. At the same time, the median household income rose from \$46,760 to \$51,067, an increase of 9.21%. Regarding ethnicity in 2021, 64.7% of the population was Black non-Hispanic, 17.3% was White Hispanic, 8.26% was Multiracial Hispanic, 3.1% was Other Hispanic, and 2.24% was White non-Hispanic. None of the households in Miami Gardens reported speaking a non-English language at home as a primary language, and 87.3% of the population were US citizens. As of 2021, 35.5% of the residents of Miami Gardens were born outside the US, which is much higher than the national average of 13.6%. In 2020, the percentage of foreign-born residents was 33.3%, indicating that the rate has been increasing. In 2021, the median property value was \$252,600, and the homeownership rate was 65.8%.

Business Landscape

The multi-purpose Hard Rock Stadium is located in Miami Gardens just west of Florida's Turnpike and is the home of the Miami Dolphins and the Miami Hurricanes. The stadium has hosted six Super Bowls, the 2010 Pro Bowl, and two baseball World Series. It is also the annual venue for the Orange Bowl and the Miami Open Tennis Tournament. The stadium will host multiple matches during the 2024 soccer Copa America and the 2026 FIFA World Cup. This sports facility is a major traffic generator in the north central area of the city.

The Calder Casino and Gulfstream Park West (formerly known as Calder Race Course) are also major entertainment draws in the city.

Miami Gardens has three industrial parks scattered along its southern boundary. These are the Palmetto Lakes Industrial Park, the Sunshine State Industrial Park, and the Miami Industrial District.

Miami Gardens has designated a Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), which is located mostly in the northwest corner of the city, just south the of the city's northern boundary at Northwest 215th Street. The area has an extension that reaches southward and also slightly northward, centered along Northwest 27th Avenue/State Road 817. This is a major roadway, running north and south just west of Hard Rock Stadium and Calder Casino. A map of the area is available on the Miami-Dade County website.

Miami Gardens announced the development of the “Now & Tomorrow Strategic Plan” in June of 2023. The planning process will include collaboration among city employees, residents, businesses, community organizations, and local leaders. Stated goals are:

- Establish a shared vision
- Align strategic priorities
- Measure progress and define goals
- Enhance communication and engagement

Transportation Characteristics

Miami Gardens is criss-crossed and bordered by multiple major roadways. The Ronald Reagan Turnpike runs parallel to and just north of the city's northern boundary, formed by Northwest 215th Street/State Road 852. Florida's Turnpike intersects Northwest 215th Street/State Road 852 and runs south/southeast through the eastern half of the city before reaching the Golden Glades Interchange with Interstate 95 and the I95 Express Toll Road, just outside the city's boundary at its southeast corner. South State Road 7/US 441 runs north and south just inside the city's eastern boundary, and is a commercial corridor. Miami Gardens Drive/Northwest 183rd Street/State Road 860, the roadway which gives the city its name, crosses the city running east and west at its midpoint. Northwest 27th Avenue/State Road 817 bisects the city from north to south and is another commercial corridor. The Palmetto Expressway/State Road 826 runs east and west through the city on its southern side.

According to DATA USA 2021 statistics, most people in Miami Gardens drove alone to work, with an average commute time of 32.7 minutes. The average car ownership was two cars per household.

The Miami Gardens Express is the city's free trolley service, with four different routes. The municipal website has a link to a live trolley tracker.

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) Tri-Rail commuter rail line runs along the southeast border of the city, where the Golden Glades Station is located. Miami-Dade County Metrobus also serves the city. The Miami-Opa locka Executive Airport is just outside the city's southern boundary at its southwest corner.

Sources

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