



THE RECLAMATION PROJECT

ABOUT THE ARTIST

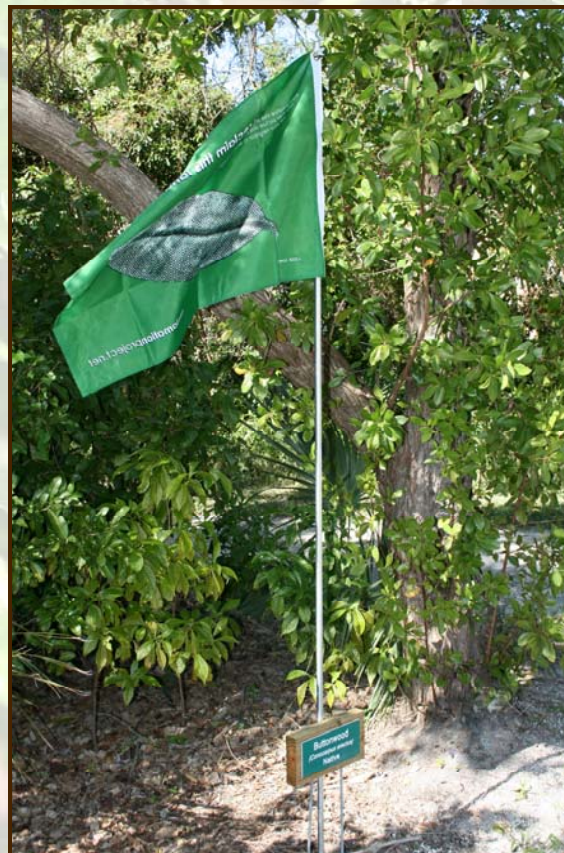
XAVIER CORTADA has created art installations at the Earth's poles to generate awareness about global climate change: In 2007, the artist used the moving ice sheet beneath the **South Pole** as an instrument to mark time; the art piece will be completed in 150,000 years. In 2008, he planted a green flag at the **North Pole** to “reclaim” it for nature and encourage individuals to reforest of the world below.

Cortada has exhibited and produced works **internationally**, including in Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Cyprus, Holland, Latvia, Monaco, Norway, Northern Ireland, Panama, Peru, South Africa, and Switzerland. The Cuban-American artist has been commissioned to create art for the **White House**, the **World Bank** and, locally, for **Miami City Hall**, the **County Commission Chambers** and the **Frost Art Museum**.

Cortada, who was born in Albany, New York and grew up in Miami, holds degrees from the University of Miami College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate School of Business and School of Law.

To learn more, visit www.cortada.com.

Miami-Dade Parks provides quality and diverse cultural and recreational experiences for persons with disabilities. To request material in accessible format, information on access for persons with disabilities, or sign language interpreter services (7 days in advance), call 305-365-6706.



A PARTICIPATORY ECO-ART INTERVENTION BY XAVIER CORTADA

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

ABOUT THE RECLAMATION PROJECT

The **Reclamation Project** is a participatory eco-art project aimed at rebuilding our native tree canopy one tree at a time. A healthy, native urban canopy ensures considerable ecosystem services. Native trees provide habitat for local fauna, prevent soil erosion, offer shade and reduce electric bills, increase property values and provide global environmental benefits through the capture of carbon dioxide and the production oxygen from their leaves. Currently, Miami’s average urban canopy cover is 10%, well below the national urban average of 30%. Citizen involvement is crucial to returning tree canopies to our urban landscape.

Miami artist **Xavier Cortada** developed this urban reforestation effort to engage local residents in helping restore native habitats for plants and animals. The Reclamation Project encourages residents to plant a native tree and green flag in their front yard and encourage their neighbors to do the same. As the tree grows, their interest in protecting the environment should also grow.

The website, www.reclamationproject.net, provides a platform for participants to upload pictures and learn more about urban conservation. Since its inception in 2007, over 1,000 native trees and flags have been planted throughout Greater Miami and other parts of Florida including Treasure Coast and Pinellas County.

The urban reforestation component of The Reclamation Project is a spinoff of Mr. Cortada’s iconic coastal habitat eco-art effort. Since 2006, red mangrove propagules have been collected by volunteers at protected areas along Miami’s coastline, exhibited in plastic cups at museums, retail stores and schools throughout the community where they grow into seedlings, and later planted by volunteers on Biscayne Bay. This process constitutes a participatory “reclamation” of coastal mangrove wetlands.

CALL TO ACTION

The upland canopy component of The Reclamation Project combines as an eco-art intervention and performance: While planting their flag alongside a tree the participants utter the proclamation: “I hereby reclaim this land for nature.” The project’s conspicuous green flags serve as a catalyst for conversations with neighbors about the importance of returning the urban cityscape to nature—one yard at a time.



How the Reclamation Project works

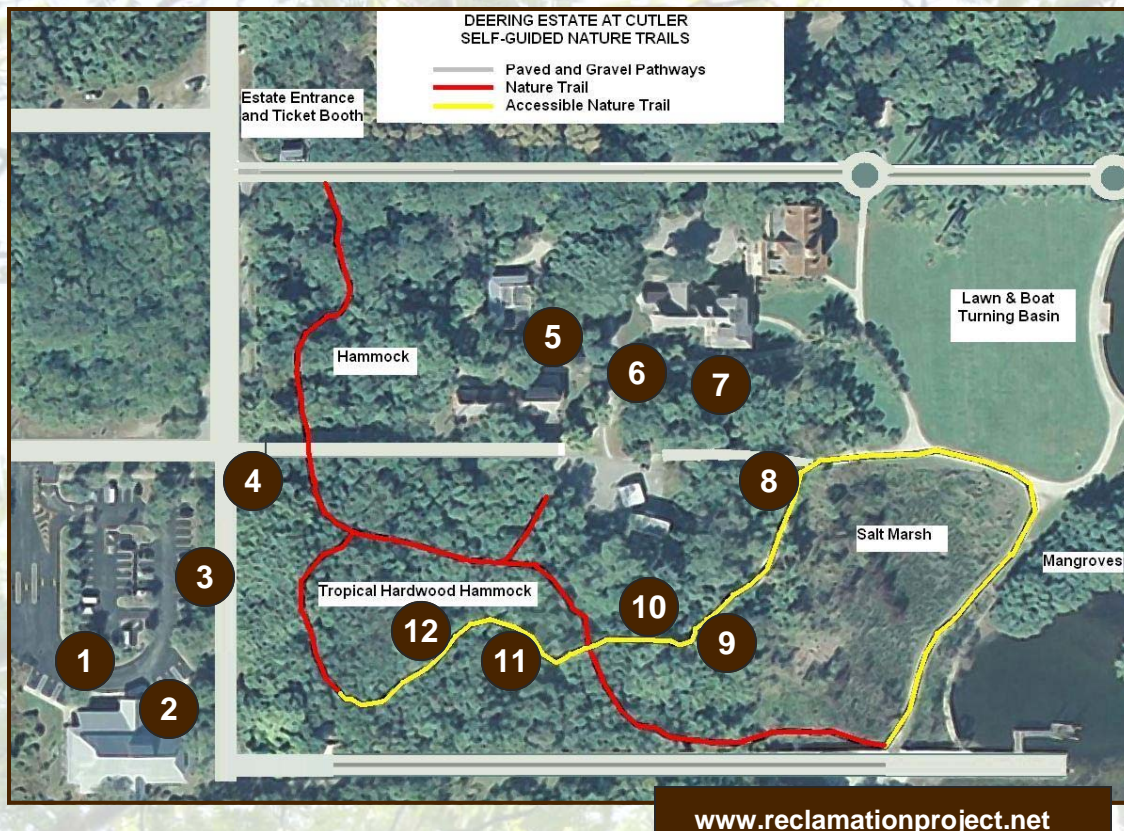
- 1) Purchase a Reclamation Project Flag at the Visitors Center.
- 2) Plant a native tree in your front lawn alongside the green project flag and state, “I hereby reclaim this land for nature.”
- 3) Take a photo of the tree and flag and upload it to our website www.reclamationproject.net
- 4) Ask your neighbor to do the same.

“The Reclamation Project explores our ability to coexist with the natural world. It reminds us of what our community looked like before all the concrete was poured.” --Xavier Cortada, Artist

www.reclamationproject.net

The Reclamation Project

Twelve Native Trees



DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER



1. Satinleaf (*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*) *Description:* A medium-sized tree noted for its unusually beautiful foliage and light reddish-brown bark. Produces small, inconspicuous flowers followed by small, sweet, purple fruits. *Wildlife and Ecology:* Contributes to the beauty of the forests where it grows, helps protect the soil, and furnishes food and cover for wildlife.



2. Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*) *Description:* A small tree ideal for a variety of landscape settings. At least two Dahoon Hollies must be planted to ensure production of the brilliant red berries in fall and winter. *Wildlife and Ecology:* Provides significant food and cover for wildlife. The berries serve as an excellent food source for small mammals and birds.



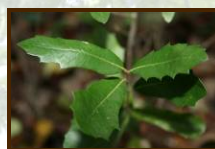
3. Florida Privet (*Forestiera segregata*) *Description:* A large shrub or small tree that produces small, petal-less flowers in winter and dark purple berries in spring and summer. *Wildlife and Ecology:* Honeybees, butterflies, and other insects are attracted to the flowers for the nectar. Warblers, mockingbirds, and other birds feed upon the fruits.



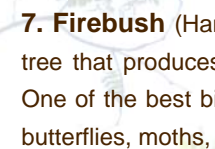
4. Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*) *Description:* A native shrub produces groups of small white flowers in spring and summer. Its red fruit resembles the true coffee bean. *Wildlife and Ecology:* Provides significant food and cover for wildlife. Nectar plant for atala, great southern white, julia, Schaus' swallowtail, and other butterflies. Birds and other animals eat the fruits.



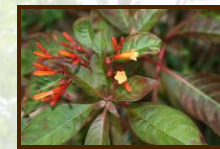
5. Paradise Tree (*Simarouba glauca*) *Description:* The Paradise Tree is found in coastal hammocks throughout South Florida. It produces yellowish springtime blooms followed by small clusters of dark purple edible fruits. *Wildlife and Ecology:* Its fruits attract birds.



6. Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) *Description:* This large, sprawling, picturesque tree provides large areas of deep, inviting shade. *Wildlife and Ecology:* Provides significant food and cover for wildlife. Larval host plant for several species of butterflies. Its acorns are eaten by birds and squirrels. Great horned owls and other birds nest among its branches. Host tree for "air plants".



7. Firebush (*Hamelia patens*) *Description:* A large, fast-growing, perennial shrub or small tree that produces orange-red flowers throughout most of the year. *Wildlife and Ecology:* One of the best bird and butterfly shrubs in South Florida. Larval host and nectar plant for butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and pollinating bees. Birds eat the fruits.



8. Buttonwood (*Cornocarpus erectus*) *Description:* Multi-trunked, shrubby evergreen produces small, greenish flowers in spring followed by conelike, red-brown fruits. *Wildlife and Ecology:* One of the most important host trees for "air plants" in South Florida. Provides significant food and cover for wildlife. Larval host and nectar plant for butterflies and moths.



9. Pigeon Plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia*) *Description:* A wonderful small to medium-sized tree, typically sporting a multiple trunk. Produces small, whitish-green flowers in early summer, followed by purple, pear-shaped fruit. *Wildlife and Ecology:* Provides a significant food and cover for wildlife. Nectar plant for several types of butterflies. Birds and other animals eat the fruits.



10. Seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*) *Description:* A sprawling bush or small tree with very small white flowers. Female trees bear clusters of green "grapes" that ripen to a deep purple in late summer. *Wildlife and Ecology:* Extremely important component of coastal ecosystems. Nectar plant for several types of butterflies. Fruit attracts birds and small mammals.



11. Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) *Description:* One of the most common and important canopy trees in the tropical hammock. Also considered one of the most wind-tolerant trees. *Wildlife and Ecology:* Provides food and cover for wildlife. Larval host plant for dingy purple-wing butterfly. Fruit is an important source for birds, including many winter migrants.



12. Wild Tamarind (*Lysiloma latisliquum*) *Description:* The tamarind is grown as a shade and fruit tree, on roadsides, yards, and parks. *Wildlife and Ecology:* Provides some food and significant cover for wildlife. Primary habitat for native tree snails. Larval host and nectar plant for several species of butterflies.

