

Miami Beach Mooring Field Status Update

February 20, 2024

MIAMI BEACH



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Agenda

- Meeting Objectives
- Factors leading to considering a mooring field
- City's Actions to Date
- Preliminary Planning Activities
 - 2020
 - 2022
- Design and Permitting Activities to date
 - Engineering Design
 - Anchorage Limitation Areas
 - Mooring Field Management
- Next Steps
- Timeline
- How to stay informed and provide input into the process



Meeting Objectives

- Provide the public with background on City's interest in establishing a Mooring Field
- Outline the benefits of having a Mooring Field
- Provide background on historic analyses and public engagement conducted to evaluate needs, viability and process to establish a mooring field
- Provide an update and status on the latest activities since the last public meeting
- Present an updated preliminary plan and discuss the factors affecting the criteria
- Describe the City's plan to operate the Mooring Field
- Show the next steps and the future projected schedule



Main objective is to update the public on activities since the last public meetings and provide an opportunity for feedback and questions.

Impetus to Consider a Mooring Field

Concerns that Prompted the Mooring Field	Mooring Field Benefits to Address Concerns
Increased number of anchored vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulates number of vessels moored Deters derelict vessels-Derelict vessels are a) wrecked, junked, or “substantially dismantled” (i.e., 2 of 3 are compromised: steering, propulsion or exterior hull integrity), b) located in port without agency consent or c) docked or grounded on property without owner consent¹
Degraded water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires management of sewage and pollution; promotes healthy seagrass growth
Seagrass impacts of anchoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vessels are secured to permanent structures, no anchors are used
Nuisance concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users are subject to a user agreement with rules and ordinances that become enforceable
Safety concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases public safety by identifying mooring users and giving City enforcement authority
Navigation concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhances navigational safety by establishing navigation channels around vessels and buffer around mooring field
Storm hazards causing vessels to sink or become loose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users are registered and need to comply with weather related watches or warnings. Vessel moorings are regularly inspected for integrity

¹See Chapter 823.11(1)(b) for full definition of a derelict vessel per Florida Statutes

City's Actions to Date

Public Input

Obtain City Commission Direction

Pursue Funding

Preliminary Analysis

Public Meetings

Initial Meetings with Regulatory Agencies

Initial ALA Communications with County

Initiate Design and Permitting

Consultation with City Departments (Marine Patrol, Zoning, Facilities, Capital Improvement Projects, Environmental)

Submerged Land Survey

Utility Survey

Seagrass Survey

Submerged Debris Survey

Geotechnical Survey

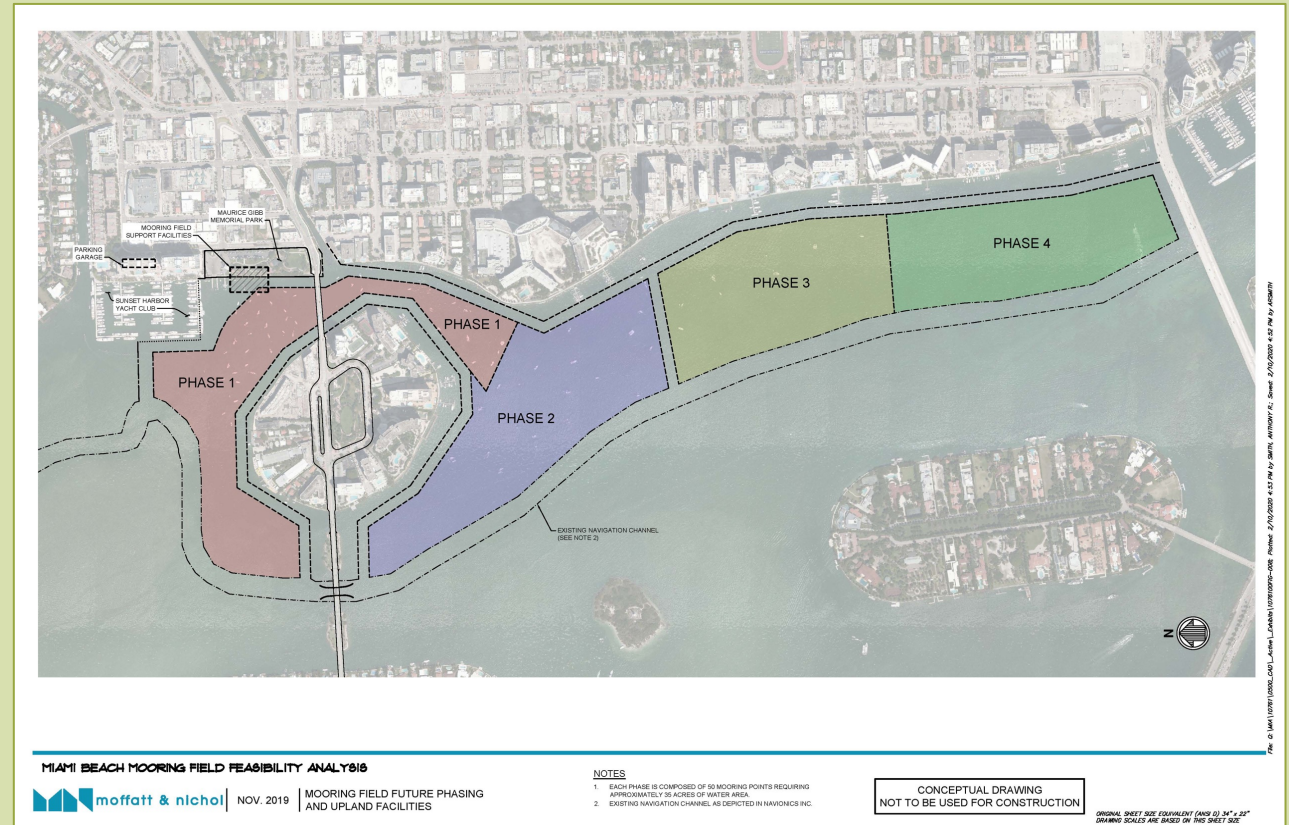
Hydrographic Survey

Concept Layout Development

Management Plan Drafting

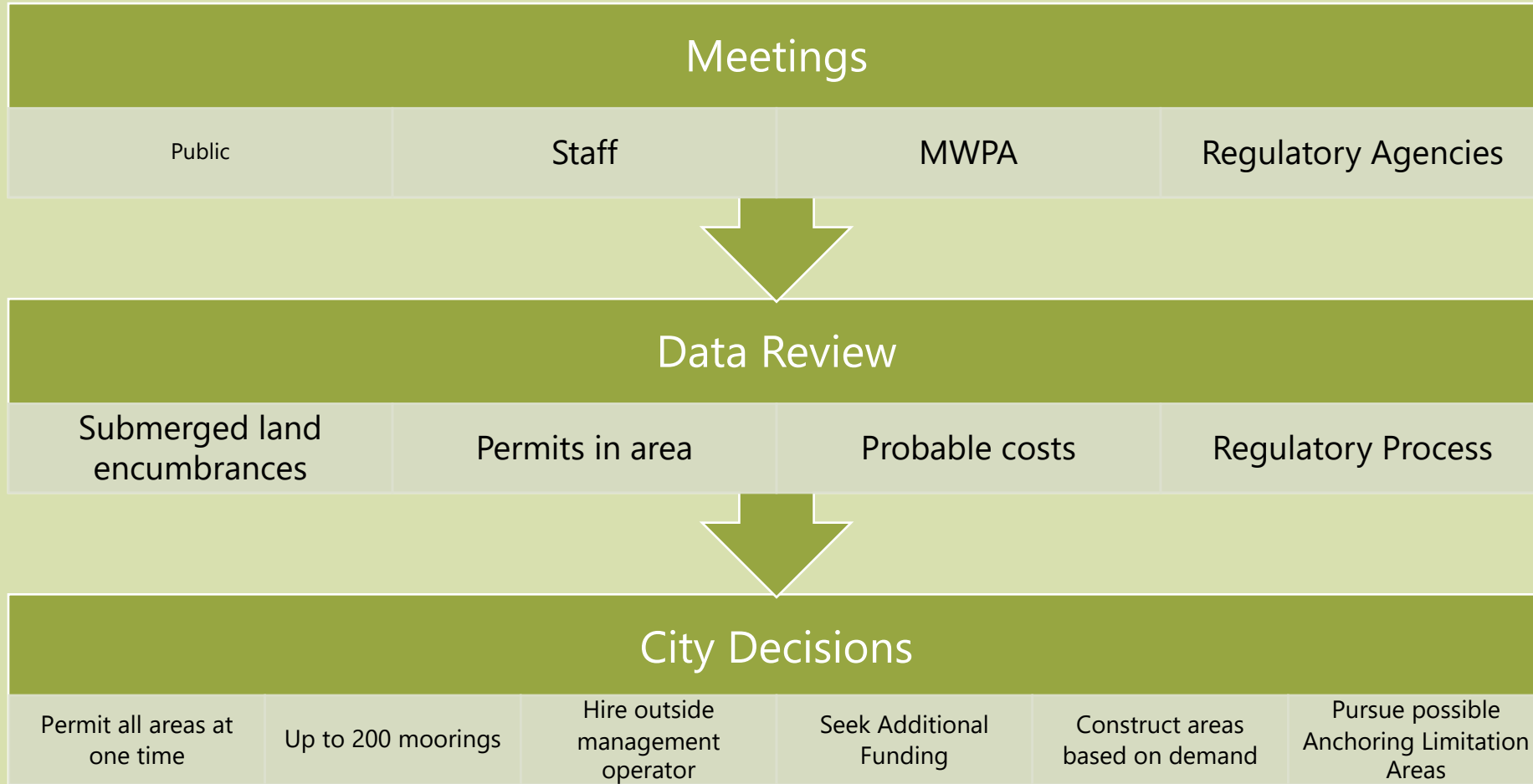
2020 Preliminary Analysis Conducted

- Assess needs
- Outline benefits
- Determine regulatory requirements
- Explore physical extent of viable area
- Provide example layout concepts
- Present possible options to phase expansion based on different vessel size combinations
- Investigate requirements and options for upland support facilities
- Identify requirements for management
- Meeting with Marine and Waterfront Protection Authority
- Meeting with public
- Individual meetings with City staff



Mooring Field Preliminary Analysis performed to evaluate potential elements of mooring field to guide future policy direction

2022 Refined Evaluation



Additional information gathered facilitated City decisions on possible phasing and permitting options

2023-2024 Design and Permitting Efforts To Date

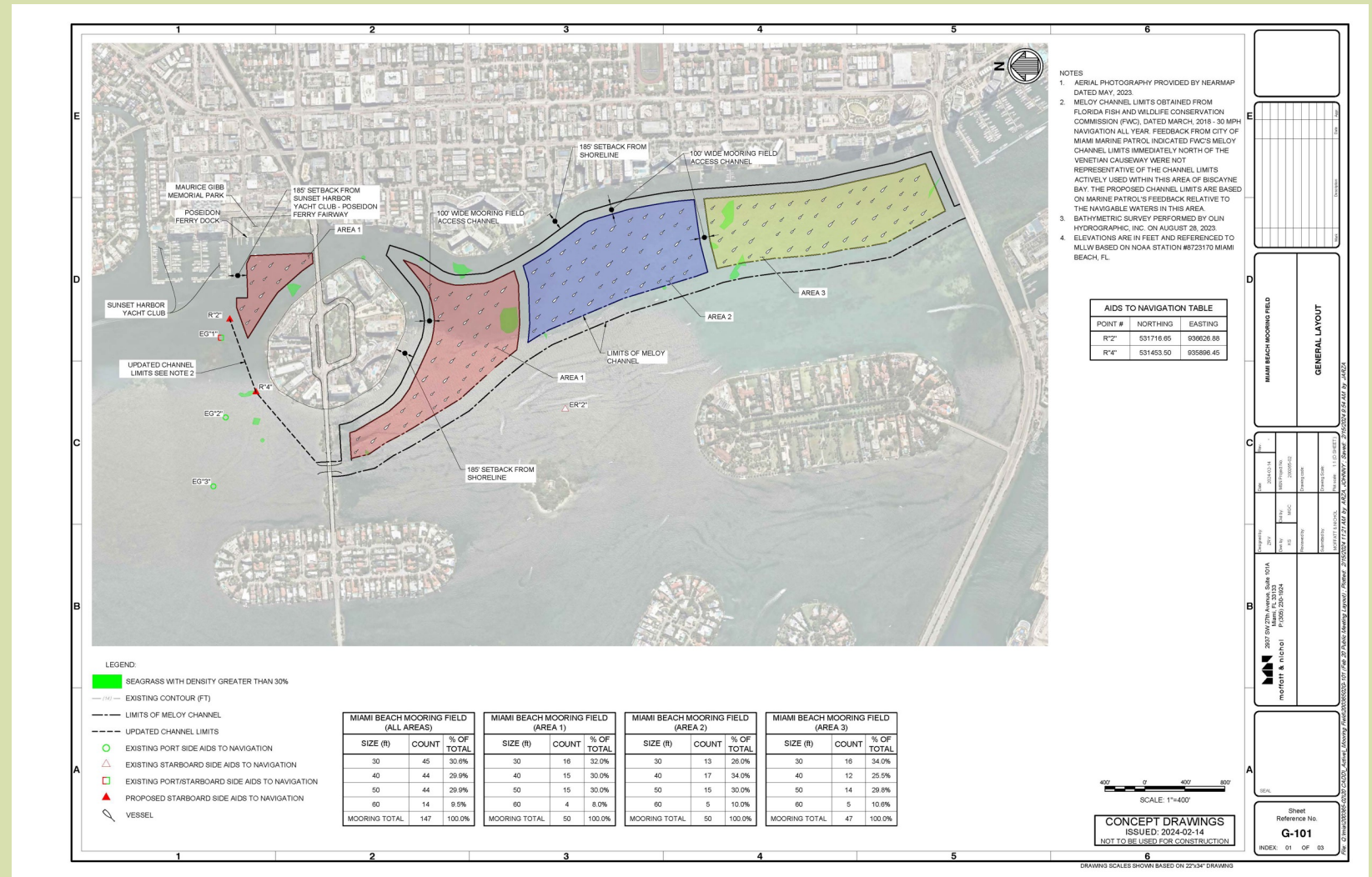
- City staff engaged County and created a resolution regarding Anchoring Limitation Areas
- City engaged Team for design and permitting
- Seagrass surveys
- Submerged debris surveys
- Hydrographic survey
- Geotechnical survey
- Utility surveys
- Meetings with Zoning and Facilities Departments
- Consultation with Marine Patrol
- Created project webpage on Capital Improvement Site
- Updated FAQs
- Developed draft management plan
- Developed updated draft conceptual layout



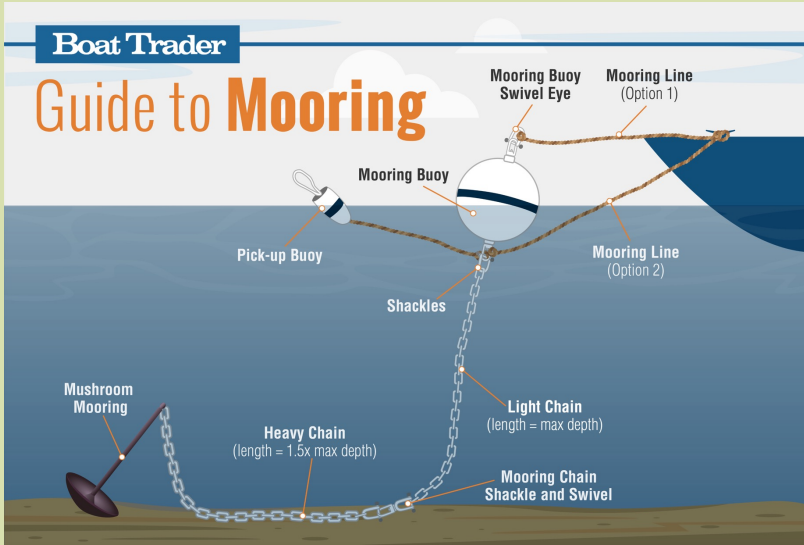
Additional information gathered facilitated City decisions on possible phasing and permitting options

Preliminary Engineering Design

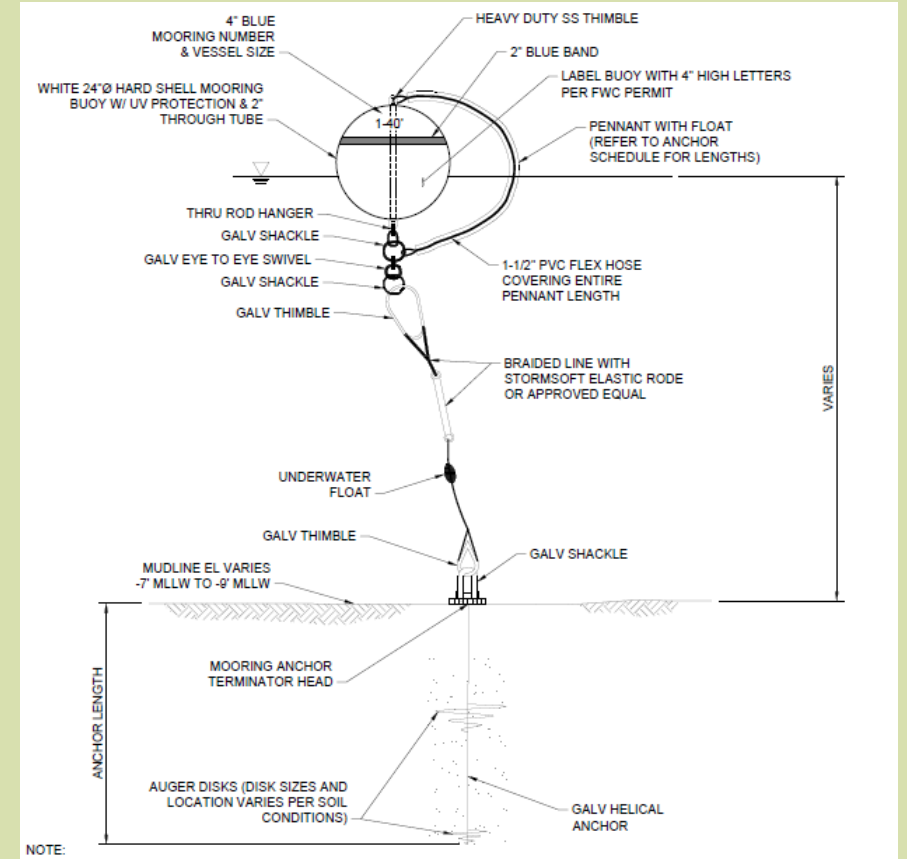
- Slip mix
- Setback from waterfront properties
- Navigation fairways
- Water depths
- Seagrass
- Submerged/buried utilities
- Aids to navigation



Preliminary Engineering Design



TRADITIONAL ANCHOR SYSTEM
NOT BEING PROPOSED



PROPOSED ECO-FRIENDLY
ANCHOR SYSTEM

Establishing Anchoring Limitation Areas (ALAs)

- In 2021, the State adopted a Statute which created a process for establishing ALAs
- Counties have the administrative authority to establish ALAs through ordinance, with limits
- City initiated communications with Miami-Dade County to express interest in establishing ALAs within the City in 2022
- City issued Resolution 2023-32646 for ALAs to be established for the residential islands in the vicinity of the City's mooring field, including Sunset Islands I through IV, Star Island, Palm Island and Hibiscus Island
- Establishing ALAs is on the City's legislative agenda at the State level

ALAs are typically in urban areas that have residential docking facilities and significant recreational boating traffic; a County's defined and approved ALA establishes a person may not anchor a vessel for more than 45 consecutive days in any 6-month period.

Mooring Field Management

- City intends to procure a mooring field management company through a competitive solicitation
- City developed a draft Management Plan, posted to the project website: [Mooring Field - City of Miami Beach \(miamibeachfl.gov\)](https://www.miamibeachfl.gov)
 - Establishes rules and criteria for mooring field users
 - Developed using the State's template
 - References City and County ordinances
 - Considered MWPA Motion dated June 26, 2023 and Letter to Commission dated July 12, 2023
 - Informed by other Cities' management plans
 - Considered multiple City department input: Environmental, Capital Improvement Projects, Facilities, Marine Patrol, Neighborhood Affairs
- User agreement will be required to use the mooring field



Next Steps

Short Term Steps (within next 90 days)

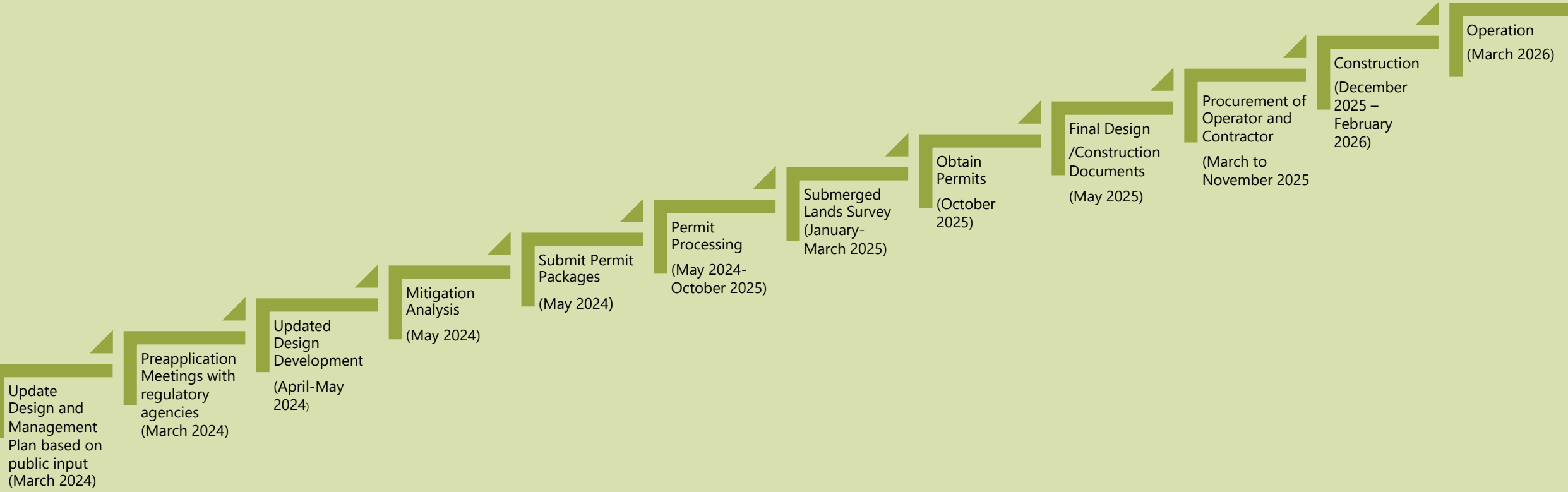
- Seek community input on draft management plan and conceptual layout
- Preapplication meeting with regulatory agencies
- Incorporate public and agency input into design plans
- Develop design for permitting purposes

Longer Term Steps (from 90 days to end of 2025)

- Adopt an ordinance
- Create a Mooring Field User Agreement
- Acquire submerged land lease with State
- Competitive procurement for mooring field management company
- Competitive Procurement of contractor for construction
- Obtain permits



Timeline



STAY IN TOUCH

VISIT OUR PROJECT PAGE TO STAY CONNECTED
MIAMIBEACHFL.GOV/MOORING-FIELD



Download the presentation, re-watch the meeting and view the draft management plan.



Sign up to receive project updates via email.



Provide feedback within our **30-day** comment period, which ends **March 21, 2024**.

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Scan the QR code to view the project page.

