The Water Resources Division and Environmental Monitoring Division are in partnership with Broward Urban River Trails (BURT) and other community organizations, to develop an Urban Institute of Environmental Studies at Stranahan High School (the Academy).

The Academy was established to include students who live within the geographic boundaries of the Stranahan Innovation Zone and are struggling academically or lacking motivation. As a partnership effort, the Academy will provide a new design for learning that emphasizes personalization, intellectual focus and work-based career learning.

One of the goals of the Academy is to directly involve the students in "real world" issues in their community and challenges that stretch beyond school. As part of this alliance, students participate with the Water Resources Division and the Environmental Monitoring Division in a water quality monitoring program to collect data and sample water from the North Fork of the New River. The goal of this effort is for students to gain valuable experience and cultivate community ethics and moral responsibility regarding our waterways.

The activities of the Urban Institute of Environmental Studies are supported by grants from the A.D. Henderson Foundation and the South Florida Annenberg Challenge. Community partners include Broward Urban River Trails; Broward County's Historical Commission and Department of Planning and Environmental Protection; the City of Ft. Lauderdale; the South Florida Water Management District; Earth Rangers; and the Riverside Park Homeowner's Association.

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