

Created by local students from the
Museum of Contemporary Art
North Miami Teen Art Force Program

An
interpretive
guide to the
history and
importance
of
Arch Creek
Park

All About Arch Creek



Museum of
Contemporary Art
North Miami

THE KIRK
FOUNDATION



MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

We Acknowledge This Land

Indigenous peoples of Florida include the Ais, Apalachee, Calusa, Creek, Miccosukee, Seminole, Tequesta, Timucua, and Yemassee. Ancestors of these groups were Florida's First People. Their interactions with European settlers and Florida Homesteaders led to their death, enslavement, or removal from native lands by these colonizers. Present day Native Americans of South Florida include the Seminole and Miccosukee. The Seminole, who stewarded the park preserve as their hunting grounds, were subject to forced removal from this land under the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The park wishes to recognize and honor the Indigenous communities native to this region and acknowledge that Miami and the park occupy Indigenous homelands and resources. We venerate these individuals and groups, their ancestors and descendants, as past, present, and future caretakers of this land.

In Partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami & Miami-Dade Arch Creek Park

A small park with a large & significant history, Arch Creek Park was created around a natural limestone bridge formation that was once part of an important trail. It is believed to have first been used by the Tequesta tribe and later by the Seminoles. Scan the QR code to read more!



The Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami (MOCA NoMI) Teen Art Force program 2022-2023 partnered with Arch Creek Park to fulfill the Drawing x Portfolio Development course service project requirement. For this project students ages 13 -17 developed & curated interpretive materials for the park's history to be distributed to the visitors of Arch Creek Park. Scan the QR code to read more!



TIMELINE

Prehistory - 1973
Limestone Bridge

The Natural Bridge was a natural land feature used by the Tequesta, colonists, & early American settlers for almost two thousand years. It collapsed in 1973 & the likely causes were erosion & damage from vibrations caused by cars & trains. A replica was built in 1986.



1855 - 1858 CE
Third Seminole War

During the Third Seminole War, the Military Trail was built by the American Army as the only road connecting Fort Dallas in Miami to Fort Lauderdale. It crossed the Limestone Bridge and parts of it remain today as Dixie Highway.



500 BCE - 1750 CE
Glades Period

In the 1970s, archaeologists excavated a seasonal Tequesta settlement. They uncovered middens (trash deposits) that contained materials of Tequesta daily life, including shell tools, pottery sherds, & animal bones. The Tequesta used canoes to navigate the creek & travel to other sites across South Florida.



The mill processed edible coontie starch. Located near the bridge, it is the only mill excavated in South Florida & the only one to have a water sluice power source. There are no depictions of it before its destruction in 1859, but we've reimagined what it could have looked like in the following pages.

1858 CE
Coontie Mill



INFOGRAPHIC

Mid 1800s CE
Early Settlers



Early settlers called the town Natural Bridge, which later became Miami Shores & North Miami. The first town established a post office, train depot, and school. Arch Creek became a popular picnic destination for people & their families. We still have letters describing their experiences today!

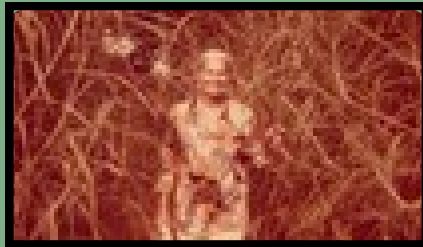


In 1993, the Hardwood Hammock Preserve was established by the Environmental Endangered Lands Program (EEL). This protects the site of Arch Creek Park in perpetuity.

1996 - Present
Preservation

In 1972, the land was owned by the Chrysler Corporation & the company wanted to build a used car lot on the site. Local residents protested & awareness for the site's importance grew. Alice Cohen & other environmentalists went to Miami-Dade County & the Florida State government to lobby for preservation of the land. In 1973, the land was purchased by the State of Florida, protecting it as an archaeological site. Alice Cohen was a founding member of the Arch Creek Trust, a support group that remains today.

1972 CE
Civil Protests & Activism



Indigenous Life



Coontie Plants are native to South Florida. They are extremely toxic to eat unless they are processed. Coontie was a staple food source for the Tequesta & early settlers. It was in almost every meal for the Seminoles & was used to treat burn injuries. The coontie plant is also a favorite of the beautiful & rare Atalas butterflies (another native species)!



The Tequesta inhabited the land of Arch Creek for almost two millennia (BCE 500 - 1300 CE). They built shelters using the resources from the Oak hammocks & depended on a variety of food sources, like conch, turtle, shark, & coontie.

Development in the 1800s



This Arch Creek Coontie Mill was the only coontie mill in South Florida powered by the rushing waters of the creek via a water sluice. It was built in the 19th century CE by George Lewis & Robert Fletchers to make edible coontie for the town. At some point, the mill was destroyed & there are no remaining depictions of it - only written descriptions survive today.

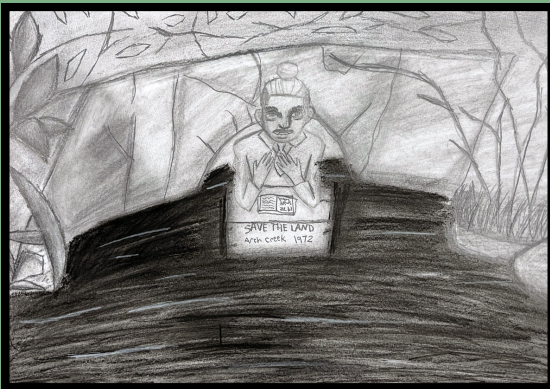


Development in the 1900s



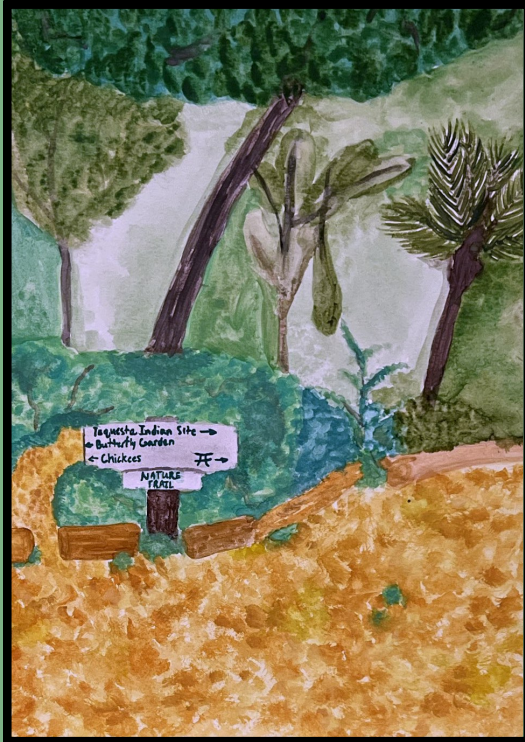
In about 1910, George Hinckley built the structure known as the "Shell house" for visitors to enjoy snacks & shelter during their picnic visits to the Natural Bridge.

In the 1950s, areas of Arch Creek were used for a trailer park.



In 1972, Chrysler planned to destroy the Arch Creek Hammock in order to build a used car lot but Alice Cohen & other environmental activist fought for its protection. Local media protested the construction, & in 1973, the land was purchased by the State of Florida, establishing it as a protected site forever.

Conservation & The Park Today



The park exists today on 9 acres of land, with a museum, nature trail, & reconstructed Tequesta site. The original Limestone Bridge stood for millennia before it collapsed in 1973. Since the park had just been established, it was reconstructed & declared an historical place on July 15, 1986. Some things may have changed over time, but you can still visit the park & imagine it during the time of the Tequesta, early settlers, & even just a few decades ago when we almost lost it forever. The park is here for everyone & it is up to us to continue protecting it for future generations.

MOCA Teen Art Force

Who We Are

MOCA Teen Art Force is a one-of-a-kind, free, multidisciplinary art program that provides students with a foundation in the visual arts. Classes include a wide range of techniques including drawing, textile design, sculpture, printmaking, & photography.

MOCA Teen Art Force (TAF) is for teens Monday to Friday 4 - 6 pm from October to May. Teen Art Force students also complete service projects, attend field trips, develop art portfolios & exhibit their work.

Drawing x Portfolio Development Course 2022-2023

Isabelle Augustin, Age 16

Richard Magliore-Fenelon, Age 13

Kishori Cartwright, Age 16

Jaylin Maurisma, Age 17

Ava Donaldson, Age 16

Christopher Moise, Age 15

Rebecca Abigail Gomez, Age 15

Myriam Moreau, Age 18

Sarah Gomez, Age 16

Loana Rinaldi, Age 18

William Hubbell, Age 15

Yasmin Shimeles, Age 15

Viktoriiia Krylova, Age 18

Miranda Toledo, Age 15

Ashton Le Roy, Age 19

Nicole Varillas, Age 14

Teen Art Force is made possible with major support from The Kirk Foundation

MOCA Teen Art Force

What We Do





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