



# City of North Miami

776 Northeast 125th Street, P.O. Box 610847, North Miami, Florida 33261 - 0847

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

(305) 893-6511

April 23, 1992

Ms. Brenda Marshall, Project Manager  
Trust for Public Land  
Dade Branch Office  
7900 Red Road, Suite 25  
South Miami, FL 33143

Re: Arch Creek Park Addition Hearings

Dear Ms. Marshall:

I regret that I cannot appear in person to speak at the public hearings considering the acquisition of the parcel of land immediately North of Arch Creek Park. Please express my concern as well as my enthusiastic support for the acquisition of this property.

The Enchanted Forest Elaine Gordon Park is a 22 acre City park adjacent to Arch Creek Park. Together they form a biological oasis in the urban sprawl of North Dade. The diversity of ecosystems protected by this complex includes the last remaining examples of Pine ridge and hardwood hammock known in this area. The presence of the natural bridge across Arch Creek at this site served to focus human activity to this point from the time of the earliest native Americans until recently. Thus, this area is steeped in archeological and historical significance.

This precious and fragile area of nature and history is severely threatened by encroachment from all sides. The sounds of heavy traffic along Biscayne Blvd. and 135th St. combine with the sight of garish and utilitarian commercial and high-rise development to together steal the peace and tranquility of this site. The visualization of life as a Tequesta Indian is shattered by the squeal of auto tires. Yet deeper in the woods, the illusion of wilderness returns, along with the smells and sights which were here before modern man. The fragile plants and animals still endure and share their mysteries with the quiet visitor.

The property that the Land Acquisition Selection Committee is considering has helped provide part of the buffer necessary to preserve the irreplaceable experience of Arch Creek Park and the Enchanted Forest. If it is not acquired, it will be commercially developed. The tragedy will be that a major part of both parks will also be lost from the perspective of the park user and his experience. The view of the rear of commercial developments along Biscayne Blvd. along with the sounds of urban congestion will penetrate far into the delicate harmony of our vanishing natural world.

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The Environmentally Endangered Lands Program has the power to hold back the intrusion of urban sprawl and protect this tiny pocket of nature, not just for today, but for your children's children. If not, the last surviving natural areas in North Dade will forever lose a part of their integrity and significance. The choice is yours. Please choose for the generations yet unborn.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Kincaid, Assistant Director  
Parks and Recreation

JK:es