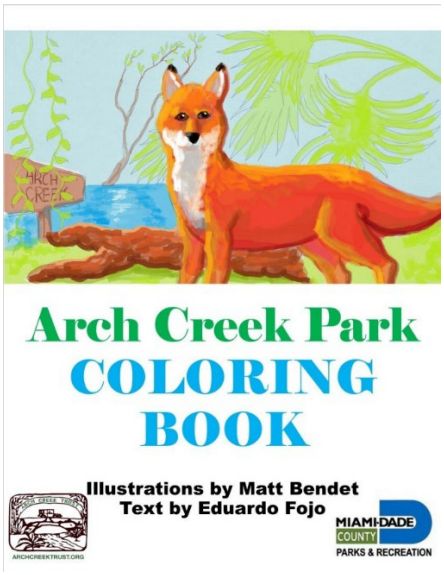
ARCH CREEK TRUST Newsletter

1855 N.E. 135th Street, North Miami Beach, Fla. 33181 - 305-944-6111

archcreektrust.org

February 2026

Arch Creek Coloring Book Published



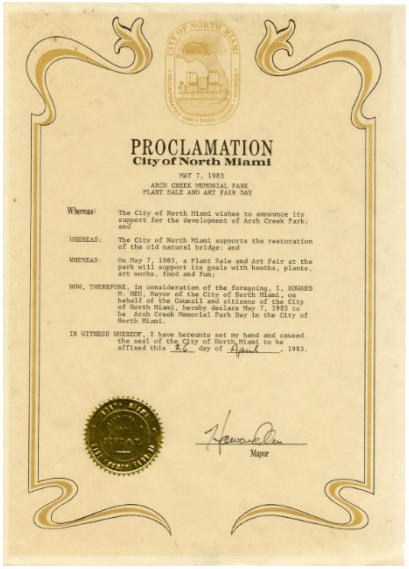
The Arch Creek Trust announces that it has published and donated 500 coloring books about the Arch Creek Park hammock to the Park. The books will be given to the schoolchildren who visit the Park, as well as those participating in the field trips sponsored by the Dade Heritage Trust. The Trust will also distribute the coloring book to children attending the April 4, 2026, Pioneer Day Meet at the Bridge event.

Many thanks are owed to the FIU Biscayne Campus library staff for their ideas, expertise and execution. The books were created and produced under the direction of Ximena Valdivia, FIU Metadata Librarian. Librarian Eduardo Fojo, authored the story, which highlights the living things found in the Arch Creek Rockland Hammock. Matthew Bendet created the original artistic illustrations for coloring. Their collaborative approach has resulted in an appealing and educational 16-page workbook.

City of North Miami Scheduled to Vote on a Proclamation Supporting Pioneer Day

Arch Creek Trust members are encouraged to attend a North Miami City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 6:45 pm. Your presence will demonstrate community support for a City Council "yes" vote on a Proclamation endorsing Arch Creek Parks' Pioneer Day on April 4, 2026.

The Proclamation recognizes the City's Centennial and the events planned for April 4th during the Park's Meet at the Bridge celebration. The Council Chambers are located on the second floor of the City Hall at 776 NE 125th Street. We are pleased to announce that North Miami Police Chief Gause has confirmed that NMPD will conduct the flag-raising ceremony that will start the events of the day. Arch Creek Park was named to memorialize Carl Mertes, the North Miami Police officer who was slain at the Park while protecting the community.



PROCLAMATION
City of North Miami

MAY 7, 1983

ARCH CREEK MEMORIAL PARK
PLANT SALE AND ART FAIR DAY

Whereas: The City of North Miami wishes to announce its support for the development of Arch Creek Park; and

WHEREAS: The City of North Miami supports the restoration of the old natural bridge; and

WHEREAS: On May 7, 1983, a Plant Sale and Art Fair at the park will support its goals with booths, plants, art works, food and fun;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, I, HOWARD M. SHU, Mayor of the City of North Miami, on behalf of the Council and citizens of the City of North Miami, hereby declare May 7, 1983 to be Arch Creek Memorial Park Day in the City of North Miami.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of North Miami to be affixed this 26 day of April, 1983.

Mayor

Meet at the Bridge Celebrates Pioneer Day and 100 Years of North Miami History at Arch Creek Park

The Annual Meet at the Bridge celebration at Arch Creek Park returns on April 4 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a special Pioneer Day theme, commemorating the centennial anniversary of the cities of North Miami and North Miami Beach. This year's event promises a vibrant day of history, culture, and community connection.

The program begins with a ceremonial Flag Raising by the City of North Miami Police Department at 11:15 a.m. at the Front Field flagpole. Throughout the day, visitors can enjoy engaging talks and presentations, including a UF/IFAS workshop presented by GerryAnn and "Arch Creek Memories and Stories Passed Down," presented by Robert Burr, highlighting the rich local history and personal stories that have shaped the area.
History enthusiasts will enjoy special displays featuring local historian Seth Bramson discussing the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC), ACT Member Andrew Ricke, describing the early development of the Town of Arch Creek, where his great-great-grandfather was the first postmaster, as well as a fire truck and police car exhibit that brings the region's past and present together.

Art and community spirit will come alive at the Community Art Project hosted by Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami (MOCA NoMi). From 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. attendees can decorate quilt squares as part of an ongoing initiative to create a large, collaborative quilt representing the City of North Miami. Participants are welcome to join the project at any time during the event.

Families can enjoy free food, drinks, live music, children's games, and a variety of interactive activities throughout the afternoon. Visitors are also encouraged to explore booths hosted by local organizations, including Arch Creek Trust, Miami Waterkeeper, Dade Heritage Trust, Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida, FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine – Green Foundation's NeighborhoodHELP, EcoAdventures, and more.

With its blend of history, art, environmental awareness, and family-friendly fun, the Meet at the Bridge Pioneer Day celebration offers a meaningful way for the community to honor the past while building connections for the future.

Participate as a Vendor at Meet at the Bridge Community Event

There is still time to participate as a vendor in the Arch Creek Park and Miami EcoAdventures annual Meet at the Bridge community event, taking place at Arch Creek Park on Saturday, April 4, from 11am to 4pm.

Participation is cost-free and only requires completing a vendor agreement form. For details or to sign up, contact Vanessa Herrero at *Vanessa.Herrero@miamidade.gov* or 305-666-5885. The event organizers welcome vendors and look forward to a successful community gathering.

Centennial Stories Honoring 100 Years of Miami's Cities

Centennial Stories: Honoring 100 Years of South Florida Cities brings together local historians and preservationists for a lively panel and reception celebrating the centennials of Miami Shores, Opa-locka, Coral Gables, North Miami, Miami Springs and Hialeah. Explore the origins, architecture and lasting spirit of these communities born during the 1920s Miami land boom. Hosted at the beautifully restored Opa-locka Historic City Hall, this special evening honors a century of vision, resilience and community pride. Special guest moderator to be announced.

Opa-locka Historic City Hall (777 Sharazad Ave. Opa, FL 33054)

Sat, February 28th @ 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm EST

Registration and details at https://mdpl.org/event/centennial-stories-honoring-100-years-of-miamis-cities/

Arch Creek Trust Continues Its Financial Support for the Park

In 2026, the Dade Heritage Trust continued its "Historic Places, Green Spaces" program, which arranges and provides trained educators and bus transportation for Title I public schools to visit and tour Arch Creek Park. The Arch Creek Trust was pleased to support this program by paying the Miami-Dade Parks Department's required fee of $7.00 per child for 70 students from Fulford and Morningside Elementary Schools. The Trust also issued a $299.00 check to purchase five new six-foot folding tables to replace the ones it had donated decades ago.

The Park's bird feeders remain full, thanks to Trust member Rosey Voyce, who has continued her decades-long tradition of donating 40-pound bags of wild bird seed and delivering them whenever requested by Park staff. This month bird visitors were:

Ovenbird
Black-and-white Warbler
Northern Parula
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Northern Cardinal
Broad-winged Hawk
Gray Catbird
Common Yellowthroat
Chuck-will's-widow
Turkey Vulture
Cooper's Hawk
Belted Kingfisher

More information on ACT, scan QR codes

Trust website

FIU Digital Collection

Arch Creek Park March Events

A full list of programs click here Arch Creek Park & Preserve Programs
Register online at www.miamidadeparks.com
For more information, please call 305- 944-6111