ARCH CREEK TRUST Newsletter

1855 N.E. 135th Street, North Miami Beach, Fla. 33171 - 305-944-6111

archcreektrust.org

September 2026

Welcome back! We will meet on Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 10:00 am at the shelter in Arch Creek Park

Miami Waterkeeper Presentation

Dr. Rachel Silverstein, Ph.D., Executive Director of Miami Waterkeeper, spoke at the Miami Shores Brockway Library on June 13, 2026, about the health of Biscayne Bay and the environmental challenges it faces.

There was a time when freshwater springs flowed into Biscayne Bay, allowing it to function as a true estuarine habitat with brackish water. That changed as development transformed the region. Today, pollution is common, and the natural flow of freshwater into the Bay has been greatly altered.

Miami Waterkeeper monitors the water quality and publishes the *Swim Guide*, an app that helps residents identify areas suitable for swimming and other water-contact activities.

The organization also conducts educational and outreach programs, organizes volunteer activities, and offers an ambassador program for students and adults.

Biscayne Bay is designated as an Outstanding Florida Water, the state's highest level of protection. The Bay is also an important economic driver for the community, providing an estimated $64 billion annually in economic value.

The original Biscayne Bay, a lush, shallow subtropical lagoon, was transformed by the construction of numerous artificial channels designed to drain the Everglades and make land available for development. According to Dr. Silverstein, some areas of Biscayne Bay have now lost 97% of their seagrass. The Bay is affected by septic tanks and stormwater runoff while also being deprived of clean freshwater inputs.

Climate change presents an additional challenge. Higher temperatures heat the Bay's waters, reducing the oxygen that fish need to survive. Following a recent fish kill, action was taken to oxygenate the water.

Miami Waterkeeper is preparing a stormwater report card covering 2023, 2024, and 2025. Dr. Silverstein noted that 25% of Miami-Dade municipalities received low grades for their treatment of stormwater before it enters the Bay. Bay governance has also changed, with DERM no longer handling permitting.

Septic tanks are another concern. Replacing them could cost as much as $4 billion. Miami Shores, El Portal, Little River, Indian Creek, and parts of North Miami still rely on septic systems.

Dr. Silverstein also discussed the effects of lawn fertilizer, particularly during the rainy season from

June through September. She recommended the use of slow-release nitrogen fertilizer and emphasized a central message of the presentation: what happens on the land affects the Bay. She also explained that traditional French drains are becoming less effective because sea-level rise has reduced the amount of dry ground beneath them.

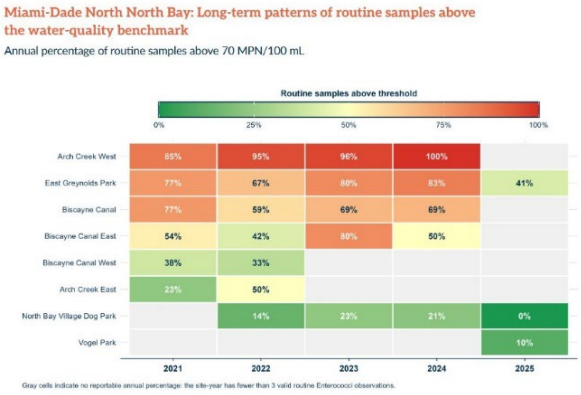
In response to questions from the audience, Dr. Silverstein said conditions could improve if reverse osmosis were used to treat sewage before disposal. She also addressed desalination as a possible source of additional freshwater but noted that it presents challenges. With improved sewage treatment, treated water could instead be returned to the aquifer rather than discharged at sea. Cost, however, remains a significant obstacle.

Dr. Silverstein also expressed concern about the Turkey Point nuclear power plant, particularly because of its vulnerable location and the potential effects of sea-level rise.

Miami Waterkeeper relies on voluntary contributions to support its work. The presentation ultimately returned to a simple but important message: the health of Biscayne Bay begins on the land.

Arch Creek Water is Worse!

Miami Waterkeeper, the science based non-profit in South Florida that is working to protect local water resources and marine habitats, has issued its latest report open its testing throughout South Florida. Arch Creek continues to have the worst water quality, failing 100 per cent of its tests for bacterial contamination, according to 2024 testing conducted by Miami Water Keeper. This is worse than the 2023 testing.



Within memory, the Creek was once part of a thriving ecosystem, an inviting body of water filled with fish, turtles, visited by wading birds- a delight to the kids picnicking at its gently sloping banks in Enchanted Forest, visiting at Arch Creek Park or canoeing on it.

We have contacted the City of North Miami about their practices of discharging polluting stormwater into Arch Creek.

See Full report here: [Report testing location identified as Arch Creek West]

Soda Can Drive

Get involved in recycling and upcycling with the Soda Can Drive! By donating your used soda cans, you're not only contributing to a special project but also helping to promote sustainable practices in our community.

Drop off your clean cans at Arch Creek Park, Bill Sadowski Park, or AD Barnes Nature Center any day of the week between 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM. For every 100 cans donated, you'll earn 3 community service hours—a great way to give back while making an impact.

For more information, call (305)-666-5885. Let's work together for a greener future!

Arch Creek Trust has already donated 600 cans of soda.

Arch Creek in the News

(Miami Herald, July 5, 2026)

On Sunday, July 5, 2026 the Miami Herald published two articles by Andres Viglucci with pictures. One five-column article on the front page entitled: "Miami's forgotten past is hiding beneath a Joe & the Juice, Yes, really" describes in four full pages the researched locations, including Arch Creek Park, that are important to Miami's prehistoric ancient history and the archeological evidence supporting it. The second article is the cover story in the Tropical Sunday section entitled: "Miami's Ancient Past is hiding in plain sight: Here are 7 places to find it" is two full pages with details about Arch Creek Park's more recent history.

Arch Creek fun

(Miami Herald, July 28, 2026)

Arch Creek Trust President, Maureen Harwitz send a letter to the Miami Herald and it was published on July 28. The letter highlighted the importance of Arch Creek, one of Miami's oldest archaeological and historic sites. Maureen notes that local residents successfully prevented the 2,000-year-old site from being destroyed for commercial development in 1973 and continue to support its preservation through the Arch Creek Trust.

The letter emphasizes the Trust's educational efforts, including partnerships that fund field trips for students to learn about South Florida's Native American history, archaeology, pioneer heritage, and natural environment.

It also describes the long-standing tradition of community gatherings at Arch Creek's Natural Bridge, which continues

Creek's Natural Bridge, which continues through the annual Meet at the Bridge event. The author invites readers to attend the next celebration on January 23 to experience the site's historical, cultural, and environmental significance firsthand.

Honoring Our History while Building Our Future

(City of North Miami Newsletter, v.4, no.2),

The article describes the Pioneer Day celebration at Arch Creek Park, where residents and community partners gathered to honor the history and cultural heritage of North Miami. The event recognized the pioneers whose efforts and vision helped shape the community and emphasized the value of preserving local history.

The article also reaffirms the City of North Miami's commitment to protecting its historical resources, celebrating its diverse cultural heritage, and educating future generations. By preserving and learning from the past, the city aims to foster a stronger, more connected, and vibrant community for the future.

Members news

Hannah Lasky Art at the Sagamore Hotel

The Art of Hannah Lasky is currently on display in a group show in the Lobby of the Sagamore Hotel at 1671 Collins Avenue in Miami Beach. It is free to roam and view her and the creations of others. The exhibition will be on display until the end of September. Check out her website at www.hanartwork.com

Conference presentation

Ximena Valdivia and Eduardo Fojo will be presenting at the 2026 SEFLIN Regional Conference, *Beyond the Expected*, in West Palm Beach, Florida, on October 15. Part of the presentation highlights how cataloging librarians at FIU Libraries are expanding their roles beyond traditional cataloging through community partnerships, resource development, and professional learning. One featured project is a collaboration with the Arch Creek Trust to preserve local history by organizing, digitizing, and providing public access to archival materials documenting Arch Creek. The partnership also produced an educational coloring book about the ecological and historical significance of Arch Creek Park.For that presentation, they have created a new source of information available to everyone, check here https://library.fiu.edu/Archcreek

A book by Andrew Ricke

Andrew Ricke's lifelong interest in uncovering his family history and understanding how his family came to South Florida and persevered across five generations inspired him to write *Arch Creek 25 Years: The Dewinkler(s) and Dale(a) in Arch Creek, Florida*. Prompted by a relative's family-history book, Andrew consulted genealogical records, historical archives, heritage organizations,

newspapers, and other sources in the United States and Belgium.
Beginning with the Dewinkler family's arrival in the United States in 1896, the book explores the family's history as well as the relatives, friends, and early Arch Creek community that surrounded them in present-day North Miami and North Miami Beach. Written for his family and future generations, Andrew hopes the book will preserve family memories and encourage others to ask older relatives about their lives before those stories are lost. The book is currently being revised and edited in preparation for possible publication.

Hold the Dates!

December 19: We will hold the Holiday Potluck Party along with the Friends of Enchanted Forest on Saturday, December 19, 2026. We will celebrate in the Enchanted Forest Park at their freshly repaired Shelter.

January 23: On January 23, 2027, we will co-sponsor the annual community Meet at the Bridge Event with Miami Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department.

I Found it in the Archives

Arch Creek, once home to the Indigenous Tequesta people, takes its name from a 40-foot-long natural limestone bridge that spanned the creek until its collapse in 1973. In this black & white image found in the archival collection, Maureen Harwitz observes the collapsed natural bridge at Arch Creek Park, February 21, 1973.

The loss prompted efforts to preserve the surrounding land, and in 1986, Arch Creek was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.
Full item and its associated description can be found online in the FIU - Arch Creek Trust digital collection.

Arch Creek Trust Membership

Annual membership	$10.00
Organization membership	$50.00
Lifetime membership	$250.00

Donations are tax deductible
Renew membership
https://www.archcreektrust.org/
For more information, please scan QR codes

Trust website

FIU Digital Collection

Arch Creek Park September – October Events

Remember Arch Creek Park is located at 1855 N.E. 135th Street, North Miami, Fla. 33171

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

UPCOMING EVENTS
OCT 3
Nature Tots
"Busy Bugs"
(18 months - 3 years)
10:00am-11:00am
Tales & Trails
"Squirrel Search"
(4 - 5 years)
11:30am-12:30pm
Junior Naturalist
"South Florida History"
(6 - 12 years)
2:30pm-4:30pm
OCT 9
Creatures of the Night Hike
(Greynolds Park)
7:00pm-9:00pm
OCT 10
Arch Creek Trust Monthly Meeting
10:00am-12:00pm
OCT 11
Oleta River Canoe Excursion
(East Greynolds Park)
10:00am-12:00pm
OCT 16
Campfire & Night Hike
Halloween Theme
7:30pm-9:30pm
OCT 17
EcoAction Day
(Volunteer Day)
9:30am-12:30pm
Arch Creek Park Ghost Stroll
(10 and up)
7:30pm-9:30pm
OCT 23
Arch Creek Park Ghost Stroll
(10 and up)
7:30pm-9:30pm
OCT 24
Arch Creek Park Ghost Stroll
(10 and up)
7:30pm-9:30pm
OCT 25
Junior Naturalist
"South Florida History"
(6 - 12 years)
2:30pm-4:30pm
OCT 29
Arch Creek Park Ghost Stroll
(10 and up)
7:30pm-9:30pm
REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.MIAMIDADEPARKS.COM