

Greynolds Park History

In 1933, when the Miami-Dade County Parks department was first coming into fruition, the want and need for a park in the North end of the county was apparent. The land that would become Greynolds Park was acquired through various swaps and donations. However, the majority of it came from Mr. A.O. Greynolds who owned a local quarry called the Ojus Rock Company. He donated 110 acres of his property in exchange for naming the park after him.

Soon after, work began on what would become Miami-Dade County's second oldest park. Most of this work would be performed by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). Part of Roosevelt's "New Deal" program and under the direction of Robert Fechner and William Lyman Phillips, the CCC used stone from the Oleta River and adjacent quarries to build many of the structures still standing in the park today.

One of the most notable features at Greynolds Park is the "Observation Mound". Standing at 46 feet above sea-level, it was once the highest land point in Dade County. To many visitors' surprise, the mound did not occur naturally as it is mostly a large pile of abandoned rock-crushing machinery, railroad ties, and limestone leftover from the Mr. Greynolds' quarry. A walled look-out platform was eventually built to top-off the structure with spiraling walkways and staircases leading to its summit.

Greynolds Park was officially dedicated in 1936 and saw great popularity almost immediately. As time went on, the park received multitudes of additions including a new Boathouse (1939), several unique picnic shelters (1939), and a 40-acre 9-hole golf course (1964). During the 1960's, hippies converged on the park from far and wide to join "Love-ins" with music provided by the Grateful Dead and other well-known acts. The park pays homage to these days with the annual Love-in event held in May.

In 1983, Greynolds Park was declared a historic site.

Ref:

Information on Major Dade County Park Areas - Bettie Humphreys

Rockpit operator namesake of park - Rene Rodriguez

History of Parks - Adrian Doug Barnes

Various documents - authors are not specified

Designation Report - Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Board

Greynolds Park Dedication - Metro-Dade County Park and Recreation Department