

# ARCH CREEK

Arch Creek is a body of water which historically flowed from the Everglades eastward into Biscayne Bay. The name is derived from the 40 feet (12 m) long and 20 feet (6 m) wide natural oolitic limestone bridge that spanned the creek until 1973.



▲ Settlers visiting the natural bridge by horse drawn carriage, circa 1910. Photo courtesy of HistoryMiami Museum



▲ Arch Creek natural bridge collapsed in February 1973.

In 1892, the first county road passed over the natural bridge, later becoming Dixie Highway. Over the years, there were plans to blow up the bridge, reroute the creek, and even build a used car lot on the property. After intense lobbying by citizens' groups such as Tropical Audubon Society, Miami-West India Archaeological Society and the Arch Creek Trust, the Florida Cabinet voted unanimously to preserve the property in 1973. Within hours of signing the official documents, the natural bridge collapsed into the creek! Erosion and old age were determined to be its downfall, combined with auto traffic and vibrations from nearby railroad tracks.

Arch Creek Park was officially opened on April 25, 1982. In 1986, a replica of the natural bridge was constructed.

▲ Arch Creek bridge postcard, circa 1920



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▲ Man fishing along bank of Arch Creek natural bridge, 1920



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