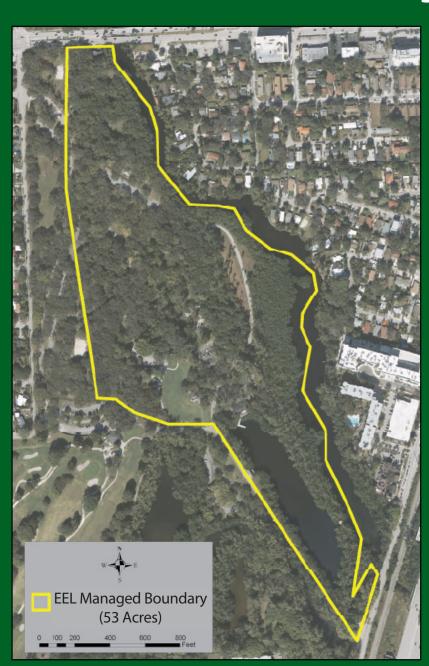
Greynolds Park

History

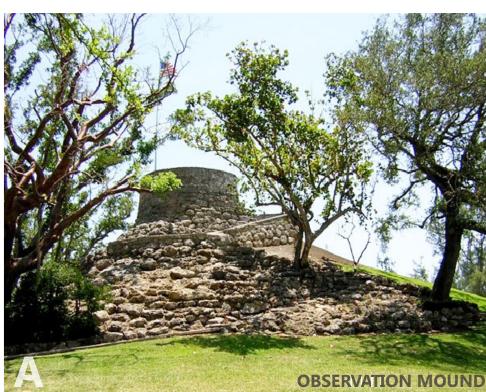
Located along the banks of the Oleta River, this 184-acre park was one of Miami-Dade County's first public recreation areas. Historically, the Tequesta Tribe settled in the area and along the Oleta River as early as 2,500 years ago and in the early 19th century Seminole Indians established villages and trading posts, before moving deeper into the Everglades. In 1933, local entrepreneur A.O. Greynolds, President of the Ojus Rock Company, donated 110 acres to the County after mining the land for limestone rock. The park was inaugurated in 1936.

Greynolds Park was initially designed by landscape architect Prentiss French. The work was continued by William Lyman Phillips, a prominent southeast Florida landscape architect, who designed the grounds, boathouse, and observation mound and tower. The park was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1933 and 1939. Greynolds Park was the first of numerous projects in South Florida that W.L. Phillips designed and supervised. Inspired by the natural, picturesque qualities of the mangrove forest and hardwood hammock, W.L. Phillips incorporated native limestone, coral, and hardwood into the park's boathouse, picnic pavilions, and camping area. Preserving native vegetation that included gumbo limbo, sour oranges, and royal palms, Phillips also worked with the existing site conditions to transform abandoned rock pits into lakes and created an observation mound atop buried mining equipment. Designated in 1983 as a Miami-Dade County Historic Site, Greynolds Park is one of seven County Heritage Parks.

Environmentally Endangered Lands



Voters approved the creation of Miami-Dade County's Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program in 1990 to acquire, restore, preserve, and protect endemic and diminishing wetland and forest communities due to historic loss and fragmentation. Only the best and most endangered environmental lands are approved for acquisition and management by the EEL Program. In 2005, the EEL Program accepted 53 acres of Greynolds Park for management in perpetuity as environmental lands in accordance with the purposes and requirements of the EEL Program. These natural areas of the Greynolds EEL Preserve include: 19.5 acres of tropical hardwood hammock, 3.5 acres of coastal hammock, and 30 acres of mangrove wetlands.



Observation Mound

At 46 feet above sea level, Greynolds Parks' Observation Mound was once the highest publicly accessible landform in the County. It offers panoramic views of the park. To many visitors' surprise, however, the mound does not occur naturally. William Lyman Phillips embraced the existing site conditions of the former mining operation by transforming abandoned mining rock pits into lakes and building the observation mound atop buried equipment.

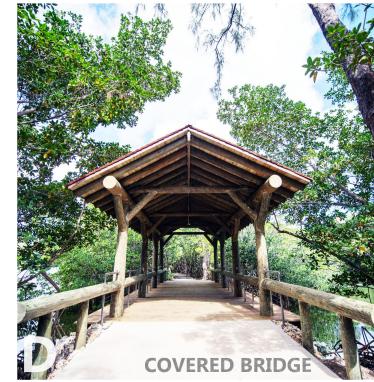
The mound is castle-like in appearance and constructed of oolitic limestone, a naturally occurring stone in South Florida. The top of the mound features a platform with spiraling walkways and staircases leading to its summit. The mound and the lookout tower are popular amongst children and adults, alike. William Lyman Phillips followed the design philosophy that defined landscape architecture as "the art of arranging land and landscape for human use, convenience, and enjoyment."



Boathouse

Built in 1934 along the park's main drive, the original boathouse now serves as a lagoon shelter. A new boathouse was later designed by Phineas E. Paist and Howard D. Steward and constructed in 1939, housing an administrative office, a refectory, a concession stand, boat storage, and a two-story open air pavilion area for park goers. While the boathouse was sponsored by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), it reflects the principles introduced by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The building is constructed with local cut oolitic limestone and timber beams, knitting together landscape and architecture under a shingled gable roof. The boathouse draws visitors to its terraces and decks, inspiring exploration of the lagoon and park.





HISTORIC BOATHOUSE IN 1935



