

Miami Beach's Pinetree Park gets better and better



It had been nine years since I visited Pinetree Park in Miami Beach. I remembered it as a dark place with a thick canopy of trees and a fenced-in dog run. Since then, a lot of positive changes have occurred at the 7.2-acre pride of Mid-Beach.

The City of Miami Beach has 43 parks; according to the Trust for Public Land, 95 percent of its residents live within a ten-minute walk of at least one of them. Pinetree Park serves 2545 of those residents who live within that ten-minute-walk radius. Located at 4411 Pinetree Dr., the rectangular-shaped park has approximately 750 feet of frontage along Indian Creek waterway to the east, across the water from two historic hotels: the Fontainebleau and the Eden Roc.

In 2012, the City of Miami Beach installed a kayak launch and gravel-covered ramp at the park's water's edge, which was partially funded by a Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) grant. It's built for walk-in vessels only; there's no drive-up boat launch.

A new, eye-catching and decorative red concrete walkway meanders along the length of coastline, and the shore is fortified with levee-style, flood-resilient construction and a mangrove preserve, which are protected from foot traffic by recently improved post-and-double-chain fencing.

Room to Roam -- and Much More

Written by Janet Goodman, BT Contributor
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The city is planning to replace the fixed kayak launch with a floating one, as it is underwater and unusable during high tides, and often needs repairs.

Design plans for the Mid-Beach Community Garden were announced in late 2010, to be located next to the future kayak launch site in the northeastern section of the park, which had been utilized as the Miami Beach Police K-9 training area that since moved to the Normandy Park area. The creation of this organic garden was originally funded with \$40,000 as a capital project. In 2015, a \$20,000 grant by Lowe's Keep Miami-Dade Beautiful, and additional city funds were used to make the garden ADA-accessible by installing a navigable walkway, and 10 of the 85 new eight-by-eight-foot planter boxes were raised for those gardeners in wheelchairs.

Plant-bed boxes can only be rented by garden members. Signs indicate that Mid-Beach Community Garden is a certified butterfly garden with the North American Butterfly Association, and a certified Monarch Butterfly Garden.

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