

# Community Background Report

## Rockdale

### County

Miami-Dade

### Boundaries

North: Southwest 151st Street (Coral Reef Drive)

East: South Dixie Highway

South: Southwest 168th Street (Richmond Drive)

West: Southwest 107th Avenue

### Community Type

Neighborhood

### History

Rockdale is a neighborhood of just over one square mile in size, located entirely in the unincorporated area of Miami-Dade County. It lies just west of Palmetto Bay, which was incorporated in 2002. The Rockdale neighborhood was established and recognized in the 1960s, but since then its status has diminished in comparison with surrounding neighborhoods. Rockdale is representative of other neighborhoods in south Miami-Dade County. It was first developed as farmland along a railroad, where a major roadway (South Dixie Highway) is now located. Rockdale was later developed as a residential suburban area in the 1950s and 1960s. The Census Bureau, working with Miami-Dade County, designated this neighborhood as part of the Palmetto Estates Census Designated Place (CDP) in 2010.

Rockdale has one public park, Fairwood Park, which is located at the neighborhood's southwest corner. The West Perrine Trash and Recycling Center is located within this park. The Rockdale Pineland Preserve lies just northeast of Rockdale's boundaries.

The Colonial/Fairway Estates Civic Association addresses issues in the Rockdale area. It has a website featuring news items, a photo gallery, and an events calendar. According to the site, "The Colonial/Fairway Estates Civic Association (CFECA), formerly the Fairway Estates Homeowners Association (FEHA), represents the residential area of Fairway Estates/Colonial Drive bounded on the east by U.S. 1, on the west by SW 112th Avenue, the north by SW 152nd Street, and the south by SW 168th Street. CFECA is a community organization that aims to keep our neighborhood clean, friendly and safe. **It is a voluntary group whose membership is open not only to homeowners, but to all area residents.** Associate memberships are available for local businesspersons, religious leaders, and elected officials during their time of service to the community." The stated goals of the association are to sponsor and promote activities in the neighborhood, to resolve traffic issues, to beautify the area, to support selected building and

zoning projects, to work with other community organizations and local businesses in support of the neighborhood, and to promote local police and crime watch activities. Although regular meetings were held up until 2011, the meeting schedule is currently on hold. Contact information is available on the website. Residents can register as members and create a personal login.

## **Community Dynamics**

According to U.S. 2010 Census and American Community Survey 2015 5-year data, Rockdale has a population of 12,531, 65.1% of which are working age from 18 to 64. The average per capita income is \$30,563, which is a little higher than Miami-Dade County's average per capita income of \$28,823. The population is 47.76% Hispanic and 52.24% non-Hispanic. Furthermore, 62.84% of the population is White (including Hispanic White), 30.28% is Black, 4.34% is Asian, and 2.54% multi-racial and others. A non-English language is spoken by 9.35% of the population. Regarding education level, 45.1% of the population has less than a high school education, which is slightly lower than Miami-Dade County's 48.86%. Foreign-born individuals make up 44.2% of the population, out of which 53% are naturalized citizens, while 47% are not U.S. citizens. Of the foreign-born residents, 60.6% are from the Caribbean, 3.5% are from Europe, 16.8% are from South America and 16.1% are from Central America.

## **Business Landscape**

This neighborhood has only a few businesses, almost all of them located on Colonial Drive (Southwest 160th Street) near South Dixie Highway. Businesses in the area are supermarkets, convenience stores, restaurants, a bank, and other businesses providing neighborhood services. There are also a couple of auto dealerships, an auto parts store, and a truck rental facility located along South Dixie Highway, on the neighborhood's eastern edge.

The Palmetto Golf Course, which is open to the public, lies in Rockdale and is owned and operated by Miami-Dade County. The 121-acre course was built in 1959, before many homes in the area. The Jackson South Medical Center is located adjacent to the golf course.

There are no public schools located in the neighborhood.

## **Transportation**

The main transportation arteries serving Rockdale are South Dixie Highway/US 1, which forms the eastern boundary of the neighborhood, and Southwest 152nd Street, just within the northern boundary.

The South Miami-Dade Busway provides access to frequent express bus service to and from the Dadeland South Metrorail Station. Miami-Dade Transit bus lines that run on this route are #31, #38, #39, and #287. The South Dade Greenway (South Dade Trail) runs parallel to the Busway and provides for non-motorized travel from downtown to Homestead. There is a Park & Ride Lot located at 168th Street, just west of the Busway.

Miami-Dade buses also run on Southwest 168th Street (#35 and #52), on Southwest 107th Avenue/Fairway Heights Boulevard (#35), and on Southwest 152nd Street (#35, #252 and #52).

## Reference

- 1.) U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2010). Statistical File 3: block group #: 120860012043, 120860083062, 120860083063, 120860083061, 120860012041, Miami-Dade County, Florida. Url: <http://www.census.gov>
- 2.) U.S. Bureau of the Census. American Community Survey, 2011-2015 5-Year Data Profile. Url: <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/data-profiles/2015/>
- 3.) Google Maps, 2021. Url: <https://www.google.com/maps>
- 4.) Wikipedia. Palmetto Estates, Florida, U.S. Census Bureau map showing CDP boundaries, 2021. Url: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palmetto\\_Estates,\\_Florida#/media/File:Palmetto\\_Estates.gif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palmetto_Estates,_Florida#/media/File:Palmetto_Estates.gif)
- 5.) Palmetto Golf Course, 2019. Url: <https://www.miamidade.gov/parks/palmetto-golf-course.asp>
- 6.) Colonial/Fairway Estates, 2021. Url: <https://fairwayestateshoa.com/>