

Community Background Report

Village of El Portal

County

Miami-Dade

Boundaries

North: N.W. 91st Street

South: Little River

West: N.W. 5th Avenue

East: Parker Drive

Community Type

Municipality

History

Like Biscayne Park, the major period of development in El Portal village began on the verge of the Miami real estate financial bust. Miami annexed the city as part of an aggressive expansion program in 1925. The village was not officially incorporated until 1937 and at this time only 25 families resided in the area. The village of El Portal is nestled in Northeast Dade County between other municipalities of Little Haiti and Miami Springs.

Community Dynamics

El Portal's goal is maintaining a good quality of life of all of its citizens. Its motto is "seeing is believing". Since 2002 El portal has taken several steps to improve the quality of life for its citizens. The city has recently appointed its first permanent village manager to oversee its village projects, policies, and programs. This appointment will take many of the unnecessary responsibilities that have been allocated to the council members and allow them to focus on other matters at hand. Currently the city is revitalizing the city's main thoroughfare, the 87th street corridor, by installing a sidewalk and adding landscaping the street.

The village's small population includes a large percentage of seniors. To address their matters the village council voted to add an outreach center. This new center would offer free services to the village's seniors including lunches, field trips, and a variety of other programs. Along with programs for senior the outreach center would provide services for students and health services for HIV and crisis counseling. The community is well blended a very involved in many of the decisions made that will affect their community and well-being. There are plans to add an unincorporated section of Miami-Dade to the northwest of El Portal and to buy the land from the trailer park in the southeast section town for other uses.

Sources

The Miami Herald

Metropolitan Dade County & Office of Community and Economics Development. "from Wilderness to metropolis: The history and architecture of Dade County (1825-1940). 1982. P 03-100

<http://www.villageofelportal.com>