

# **Village of El Portal**

## **County**

Miami-Dade

## **Boundaries**

North: Northwest/Northeast 91st Street

South: Little River (C-7) Canal

West: Northwest 5th Avenue/Interstate 95

East: Northeast 5th Avenue/Park Drive/D Street

## **Community Type**

Municipality

## **History**

El Portal is a village in Miami-Dade County. The name comes from the Spanish words for “The Gate”, deriving from two large wooden gates that once stood at the entrance to the village. El Portal began on the verge of the Miami real estate bust. Miami annexed the area as part of an aggressive expansion program in 1925 but gave up its jurisdiction when the village incorporated in 1937. Three small subdivisions (now neighborhoods), Sherwood Forest, El Jardin (Spanish for "The Garden"), and El Portal, were merged into the Village of El Portal. The village is located six miles north of downtown Miami. It is bordered on the south and east by the City of Miami, on the north by Miami Shores Village, and on the southwest by unincorporated West Little River.

The Village of El Portal has been designated as a bird sanctuary by the state for more than fifty years, which means that the birds and trees cannot be harmed in any way. A nature trail winds its way through the village.

El Portal has links to prehistoric Indian life at the Little River Mound, an ancient Tequesta burial ground. The Mound, located in the Sherwood Forest neighborhood, was the first archaeological site to be publicly recognized and preserved in Miami-Dade County. All the properties located along the north bank of the Little River (C-7) Canal between the railroad and Northeast 2nd Avenue fall within the boundaries of the El Portal Archaeological Zone, designated in 1983 by the Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation Board. The village adheres to laws pertaining to archaeology to ensure that appropriate professional standards are followed in investigating archeological

sites, that archaeological materials are properly cared for, and that penalties are imposed on those who violate the law.

El Portal uses a council-manager form of government. Regular council meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month except August, and the meeting schedule appears in the village website events calendar. Committee meetings also appear on the website, with meeting agendas and minutes available. The village publishes a newsletter via email.

## **Community Dynamics**

As of 2020, El Portal had a population of 2,066. The median age was 45.2 and the median household income was \$108,750. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of El Portal grew from 1,969 to 2,066, an increase of 4.93%. At the same time, the median household income rose from \$85,500 to \$108,750, an increase of 27.2%. Regarding ethnicity in 2020, 32% of the population was Black, 28.7% was White non-Hispanic, 20.9% was White Hispanic, 7.02% was Multiracial Hispanic, and 3.82% was Other Hispanic. None of the households in El Portal reported speaking a non-English language at home as a primary language, and 90.3% of the population were US citizens. As of 2020, 41.4% of the residents of El Portal were born outside the US, which is much higher than the national average of 13.5%. In 2019, the percentage of foreign-born citizens was 40.7%, indicating that the rate has been increasing. In 2020, the median property value was \$437,100 and the homeownership rate was 90.3%.

## **Business Landscape**

El Portal is mostly residential, with the exception of a few businesses along Biscayne Boulevard. The southeast corner of the village is zoned for commercial purposes and is designated as “urban center” on the zoning map. The village hosts the Horace Mann Middle School, a Miami-Dade County public school on Northwest 2nd Avenue.

## **Transportation Characteristics**

El Portal lies just west of Biscayne Boulevard and the southwestern tip of the village reaches to I-95 where it crosses the Little River Canal, but there are no major roadways running through the village. Two of the broader north/south streets are served by Miami-Dade Transit buses. Bus line #2 runs on North Miami Avenue and bus lines #9 and #10 run on Northeast 2nd Avenue.

According to DATA USA 2020 statistics, most people in El Portal drove alone to work, with an average commute time of 26.6 minutes. The average car ownership was two cars per household.

## Sources

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