

Shaped by Fire



AD Doug Barnes Park
Grades: K-12

Named after Miami-Dade's first park's director, AD Doug Barnes Park is home to one of the most endangered habitats in South Florida—pine rockland. Historically, Miami was largely pine rockland, but most of it has been destroyed to make room for urban development and agriculture. It's characterized by open, grassy lands where plants grow directly on land with exposed limestone and little to no soil. The dominant plant is the slash pine—a tall, slender tree with pine needles and a flaky bark. Other notable understory plants include the cabbage palm, coontie, saw palmetto, and an array of wildflowers. This habitat relies on fire to maintain a balance of vegetation. Without fire, other vegetation, including hardwood trees, will thrive and encroach into the pine's environment. Students will explore the trails and understand the importance and benefits of preserving urban forests through various interactive activities including nature journaling and estimating carbon storage in trees.

AD Doug Barnes Park
3401 SW 72 Ave
Miami, FL 33155

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“Many of our students never leave their neighborhoods—this trip has provided them with a much broader view of where they live.” -Mrs. Merwitzer, *Jack D. Gordon Elementary*

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