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## Belle Meade

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# Community Background Report

## Belle Meade

### County

Miami-Dade

### Boundaries

North: Waterway between Northeast 78th Street and Northeast 77th Street

South: Northeast 72nd Terrace

West: Biscayne Boulevard

East: Biscayne Bay

### Community Type

Neighborhood

### History

Belle Meade is an upper-middle class neighborhood of the City of Miami located in what is known as the Upper East Side. This is one of Miami's older neighborhoods but in the 1920s and 1930s Belle Mead extended further west of Biscayne Boulevard and further south. The neighborhood is now an isolated, exclusive enclave of 136 acres. Many surrounding neighborhoods are noticeably poorer though they have a similar housing stock. This is a neighborhood of mostly single-family homes built from the 1920s to the current year. Many of the older homes have been refurbished and maintain original architectural facades.

### Community Dynamics

Belle Meade is an older neighborhood located in the City of Miami, which is isolated from thru traffic. It is bound by natural barriers on two sides and gated. Often large, single-family homes valued at \$500,000 and up are accessible by boat from Biscayne Bay, the Little River, or water canals.

Belle Meade has a small park on Northeast 76th Street, which serves the community in providing a safe space for children. The neighborhood homeowners association has repeatedly petitioned

the City of Miami for maintenance and equipment upgrades. With a picnic table, barbecue, playground, and nighttime lighting, this park is an unofficial ‘town hall’. Efforts have recently won a designation of the park as a dog park, allowing pets to roam the grounds without leashes.

## **Business Landscape**

This is a strictly residential neighborhood, without commercial property. The single-family character of the neighborhood is ensured by a strong homeowner’s association. Historic designation has been considered by neighborhood residents in 2004 and in 2011, but residents are divided on this issue.

## **Sources**

Frank Rollason. (February 2011). Here we go again. Biscayne Times.

Jim W. Harper. (January 2009). A tale of two minis. Biscayne Times.