Hammock Park Gets Even Better

The efforts of volunteers, organizations and park employees are giving the Hammock a spring revival. Picnic tables throughout the park are getting a face lift by the City’s park crew with new wood tops and repainted legs. Boy Scouts from Troop 46 have replaced the aging benches and flagpole in the Hammock Day Camp in anticipation of the arrival of summer campers. Volunteers like Eileen and Joe Ishikawa are making great strides in removing invasive plants from their adopted areas. A new kiosk funded and built by volunteers from the Friends of the Hammock is now in place in Osprey Field.

The kiosk has a Community Notice Board on the back, where visitors can post lost and found items and upcoming events on a waterproof message area.

With a recent donation of $1,000 from the Dunedin Scottish Arts Foundation, Inc. and the sale of the last engraved bench, The Friends of the Hammock has raised almost $9,000 toward the construction of a boardwalk that will allow Fern Trail to be reopened.

The group’s “Fifty for Fern” goal of $25,000 will match the commitment of the City. Donation forms are in all the park kiosks and on the Friend’s website for those who want to help in this effort. Visit hammockpark.org/contribute to help.
What Are They For?

As you walk through the Hammock, you may have noticed posts with arrows and numbers along the various trails. These are part of the park’s long range management plan to document the conditions and changes that occur in the forest over time. The final phase of the contracted manual and chemical removal of non-native species will be completed this year, and these designated areas will be photographed seasonally each year to chronicle the ecology of the park. Along with our volunteers’ observations of their adopted areas, these longitudinal photographs will be a valuable tool to evaluate native growth and any re-emergence of invasive plants.

Friends of the Hammock, Inc.
c/o Parks & Recreation
1920 Pinehurst Road
Dunedin, FL 34698

Find us on the web at hammockpark.org & on Flickr.com as Dunedin’s Hammock Park

Spring Bird Banding Project in the Hammock

This spring season marked the fifth year of the semi-annual migratory bird banding project led by Jim McGinity. To date, 693 birds have been captured, banded and released. This spring, 52 new birds and 6 recaptures were recorded. Among those caught were Hooded Warblers and three Swainson’s Warblers, which are a highly secretive species. Some of the other birds recorded were beautiful male Indigo Buntings (left), a female Painted Bunting and a male Blue Grosbeak (new species banded).

This season’s highlight, though, was the large amount of visitors to the banding station. Over 150 people visited during the six days of banding, including people from Canada, Cuba, Poland and Hungary. On one day alone, 53 visitors attended!

For more capture pics and info on the project, be sure to visit Jim’s blog at: hammockbirdbanding.wordpress.com