



Dunedin's Hammock Park

"The Hammock" is an ancient 98-acre mixed-hardwood forest filled with more than 300 native species of trees, shrubs, ferns, wildflowers and small animals. In addition, over 100 species of birds inhabit the preserve throughout the year.

Of the 98 acres, 75 acres are a "low" hardwood and palm hammock, with a dark, rich soil that supports a more varied and denser vegetation than the surrounding sandy uplands. One of the most conspicuous features of the hammock are large, 100-year-old hardwood trees, some upward to 3 feet in diameter. The tallest trees, reaching 80 to 90 feet, are Sweetbays. They are becoming rare as they succumb to age, drought and invasive vines.

Historical Perspectives

When Florida joined the Union in 1845, the U.S. Government sent a geodetic team to survey the entire state. The Dunedin Historical Society has a copy of the original 1846 survey map of the Dunedin area, with the park identified as "Wet Swamp." The surveyors' field notes referred to it as "a hammock." Remarkably, the north-south boundaries of the park set by this 158-year old survey remain to this day.



Formerly known as the "Kerr Tract," Hammock Park was purchased by the City in 1965 for \$175,000. In 1974, the Dunedin Garden Club helped create the first self-guided nature trail (Sugarberry Trail West) and biologists began the studies and identification of flora and fauna (see "wildlife" on hammockpark.org).

The Growing Hammock

In 2007, the City annexed the eastern 5.3-acre area known as the Harris tract. In 2016, annexed 8.7 acres of adjoining forest to the south, thereby preserving even more pristine land from a proposed townhome development.

Historically, it is a part of nature that will permanently be preserved in this quickly changing community. Environmentally, it purifies and reoxygenates the air, drains and purifies runoff water from surrounding areas, and provides food and shelter for animals and birds. Socially, it provides a natural beauty for the soul and a peaceful respite for the body. Educationally, it provides a chance for adults and children to encounter a piece of "real Florida."



In 1994, the Friends of the Hammock, Inc. was established to help preserve the natural state of the park for future generations. Through the generous involvement from volunteers such as the Boy Scouts; Junior ROTC; Bay Bouquet and Dunedin Garden Clubs; Dunedin Nature Center; Dunedin Tree Bank; private businesses and the Dunedin Parks Department, the Friends of the Hammock continues to create community awareness of the natural treasure of this unique park.



With a management plan in place to remove invasive exotics; reforest with native trees; maintain trails and contain drainage erosion, the park continues to be a source of joy for the entire community.



The Hammock Needs YOU!

Become a member of Friends of the Hammock and join the ranks of enlightened people who are dedicated to preserving and protecting this remarkable forest for future generations. Membership categories are as follows: Corporate—\$50; Family—\$20; Individual—\$15; Student—\$10. Send your name, address, and a check payable to the Friends of the Hammock to: **Friends of the Hammock Membership, c/o Parks and Recreation, 1920 Pinehurst Road, Dunedin, FL 34698.**

Join online at hammockpark.com/join



Brochure made possible by Friends of the Hammock, Inc.

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