

A Naturalist's Paradise



Historic Simpson Park Hammock Grades: K-12

A hardwood hammock is an elevated, dense forest with a variety of broad-leaved and hardwood trees including the gumbo limbo, strangler fig, wild coffee, and many more tropical plants native to South Florida and parts of the Caribbean. At roughly 8 acres, Simpson Park Hammock was once part of a large coastal hammock that extended all along Biscayne Bay. It was named after a self-taught naturalist and tropical plant enthusiast, Charles Torrey Simpson, who strongly advocated for preserving South Florida's native landscape. In 2018, the park was designated an old-growth forest given its historical and environmental significance. Students will explore the trails and understand the importance and benefits of preserving urban forests through various interactive activities including nature journaling and sketching for elementary students and more advanced projects for older students such as estimating carbon storage in trees.

Historic Simpson Park Hammock
5 SW 17 Road
Miami, FL 33129

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“Having this park is an asset to the history of Florida. I really enjoyed the experience and so did my students.” -Ms. Dorsett, Aventura Waterways K-8 Center

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