



Golden Silk Orb-Weaver



Simpson Park Vegetation



Gulf Licaria Siblings



Simpson Stopper



MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

We provide an inclusive, world-class park system and recreational opportunities that promote happiness and a positive quality of life in our community.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in volunteer opportunities? Want to learn how to become involved with the Natural Areas Division? To find out more information, please contact Parks Naturalist Senior, Gloria Antia, at gantia@miamigov.com.

**Please note: For volunteer groups, a minimum of 10-15 people is preferred.*

TOURS

We invite you to join one of our naturalists during a nature guided tour. To confirm event times and dates, please contact Gloria Antia, at gantia@miamigov.com.



PARK HOURS

Open Monday Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
**The East park entrance closes at 4:00 p.m.*
****Simpson Park is closed on holidays.*

For more information, please contact Simpson Park at (305) 533-3577 or visit miamigov.com/Parks.

VEGETATION & FAUNA

The vegetation of Simpson Park is important because of the bio diversity and genetic value to the South Florida Ecosystem The hardwood hammock contains rare, native plant species and is considered designated "Natural Forest Community" pursuant to Section 24 29 of the Miami Dade County Code.

The flora of Simpson Park consists of about 162 plant species, including 96 that are native Some important plants include Mastic, Red Stopper, Spicewood, Marlberry Satin Leaf, Pigeon Plum, and White Stopper.

City of Miami staff continue to work on improvement the forest by removing invasive exotic vegetation.

Golden Silk Orb Weaver

(Nephila clavipes)

Simpson Park is home to the Golden Silk Orb Weaver spider. Females are significantly larger than males As this spider matures, it develops a protein that makes its web yellow, an alluring color to insects.



Paradise Tree

(Simarouba glauca)

Simarouba glauca has a long history in herbal medicine in many countries including Cuba, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, etc. It is taken internally for diarrhea, dysentery, malaria, and colitis and used externally for wounds and sores.



Black Swallowtail Butterfly

(Papilio polyxenes)

The black swallowtail caterpillar repels predators with a gland that releases a foul odor.

ENDANGERED

15 endangered and 9 threatened plant species are present in the hammock of Simpson Park These are distributed throughout the hammock and are easy to see as you walk the nature trail. These include Wild Cinnamon, Coffee Columbrina Yellow Boxwood, Silver Palm, and Strongbark In this park you will find one of the most representative population of the endangered Eugenia confusa Bitterbush and Gulf licaria in Florida.



Gulf Licaria

(Licaria triandra)

Pictured is the oldest and largest Gulf Licaria in the country. It was toppled by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In February of 2012, an individual specimen near the pond was observed bearing

fruit for the first time. Simpson Hammock is Dade County's one of the unique park with a population of Gulf Licaria.

Florida Bitterbush

(Picramnia pentandra)

Helps protect the hammock's soil. Provides food for birds, butterflies, and several insects that eat its fruit.



Redberry Stopper

(Eugenia confusa)

This native and endangered plant lives naturally in coastal hammocks of South Florida and the West Indies, where it is sometimes called ironwood.

Simpson Park

Explore the wonder of our local forest



55 SW 17th Road
Miami, Florida 33129
(305) 533- 3577

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HISTORY

Historic Name: Jungle Park: 1914-1931
Simpson Park: 1931-present, Also appears on maps as "City Park" in 1919 and "Flagler Park" in 1925

Simpson Park is a natural preserve that encompasses over eight acres of tropical hardwood hammock in the center of Miami's urban core, one of the last remnants of the famous Brickell Hammock.

In 1913, a group of concerned citizens and environmentalists appeared before City Commission and requested that the 5.5 acres of native hardwood hammock, located at 15th Road (Broadway) and South Miami Avenue, be acquired from Mary Brickell, and that it be preserved as a natural area for future generations to learn from and enjoy.



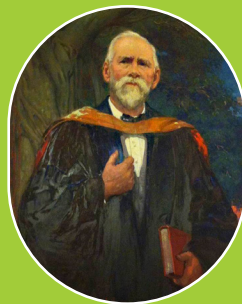
GARDEN CLUBS

The Council of Garden Club Presidents was formed in 1922 to serve as the mother organization of the individual garden clubs in the Miami area and was named "Presidents Council of Allied Garden Clubs."

At the request of the Council of Garden Club Presidents, 3 adjacent acres of hammock were incorporated into Simpson Park in 1940. The Council donated \$3,000 for construction materials and the Charles Torrey Simpson Memorial Garden Center was built in 1941. Simpson Park encompasses a total of 7.8 acres.



Newspaper photo of Charles Torrey Simpson Memorial Garden Center and the women who worked towards its creation; 1941
 Image Source: The Miami News



Charles Torrey Simpson (1846-1932), a noted naturalist and author who settled in South Florida in 1902, was instrumental in persuading officials to preserve some of Brickell Hammock with its indigenous growth. Due to his efforts, the Jungle Park (as it was named once) was replanted with native growth and somewhat restored to its original condition and the park's name was changed to Simpson Park dedicated in 1931.



Simpson Park

Northern Cardinal
(Cardinalis cardinalis)



Jamaica Dogwood
 7

Gray Fox
(Urocyon cinereoargenteus)



The Gray Fox is native of Florida. Normally found in wooded areas, it prefers to live in more dense, inaccessible cover.
 Note: Sometimes you see it, sometimes you don't.

- 1 Paradise Tree (*Champion Tree*)
- 2 Gulf Licaria
- 3 Mastic
- 4 Strangler Fig
- 5 Pond
- 6 Redberry Stopper
- 7 Jamaica Dogwood
- 8 Satinleaf
- 9 Calabash Tree
- E Entrance/Exit
- P Parking Lot
- Restrooms
- Picnic Table
- Bench
- Trash Can
- Dead End



0.14 Miles 0.12 Miles 0.24 Miles



ECOLOGY

SIMPSON PARK'S HARDWOOD HAMMOCK ECOSYSTEM

A tropical hardwood hammock is a dense forest that grows on a natural elevation. It is considered the highest point in Miami Dade County.

In the U.S., this ecosystem is found in South Florida and the Keys. Because their slight elevation, hammocks rarely flood. Acids from decaying plants dissolve the limestone around each tree island, creating a natural moat that protects the hammock plants from fire.

Hammocks are ideal for tropical and temperate plants. Plant diversity supports an array of wildlife. Shaded from the sun by the tall trees, ferns and air-plants thrive in the moisture-laden air of these hammocks.



In 1920, a man made two-tiered freshwater pond was constructed as a special feature in the park.



Trail running through Brickell hammock c. 1896
 Image Source: J. N Chamberlain, photographer.
 History Miami

S Miami Ave.

SW 15th Rd.

SW 17th Rd.