

Preserve to be dedicated Monday

Mayor, state senator to
help open Jones Creek
Hammock

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On Monday, July 9, at 2 p.m. the Town of Jupiter and the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative will co-host a ceremony and nature walk to celebrate the opening of Jones Creek Hammock, one of Jupiter's Open Space Program properties.

The hammock, which has been recently restored and equipped with ADA accessible paths and boardwalks, is next to the North County Aquatic Center on Pennock Lane.

In a brief ceremony, Sen. Ken Pruitt, Mayor Karen Golonka, and David Brown, director of Utilities for the Town of Jupiter and LRPI's Chairman, will share remarks on the property and the initiatives to restore and preserve Jones Creek and the surrounding areas.

Following the remarks visitors will be invited to participate in guided tours or use the Trail Guide to enjoy wildlife and foliage along the pathways and boardwalks.

The Town of Jupiter's Open Space Program is the result of a land conservation referendum brought forward by Jupiter's mayor and Town Council to protect environmentally sensitive lands, set aside vacant parcels for open space uses, mitigate future traffic levels, and improve the public's access to Jupiter's natural assets.

In August 2004, Jupiter voters approved a \$17 million dollar bond referendum to purchase some of the remaining

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vacant land in town, which resulted in the purchase of three properties: Delaware Scrub, Jones Creek Preserve, and Sims Creek Preserve.

In 2006, the Town of Jupiter's Open Space program added Jones Creek Hammock to its list of natural preserves.

The Hammock property, which was acquired by the Town in 1987 as part of a land transfer, contains just under 20 acres of natural habitat.

A unique variety of upland and wetland plant communities — including cypress slough, pine flatwoods, oak hammock and mangrove swamp — make the preserve an ideal place for many species of native wildlife, and is unique in South Florida. Jones Creek, which runs through the heart of the preserve, is an integral part of the historic headwaters that flow into the Loxahatchee River through the Town of Jupiter.

In 2006 and 2007, the Town of Jupiter and the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative, together with support from Pruitt, funded a series of restoration projects on Jones Creek and the Jones Creek Hammock property.

The result is the Town of Jupiter's first Open Space property with amenities and access for residents and visitors to enjoy the area's unique natural beauty.

Residents and press are invited to attend the ceremony and tours. Limited parking is available at the North County Aquatic Center parking lot at the corner of Pennock Lane and Toney Penna Drive, and the property is sidewalk-accessible from many neighboring communities.

For more information on this event, please contact Kate Moretto at (561) 741-2575 or katem@jupiter.fl.us.