

IN FOCUS

# Jones Creek Hammock project nears completion

**Amenities include gravel nature trail, 162-foot boardwalk.**

By JOE BONIKOWSKI  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

JUPITER — Urban oasis. Island of green. Refuge from the rest of the world.

Any of those descriptions can easily be linked to Jones Creek Hammock, a 17.83-acre natural area surrounding the North County Aquatic Center. Construction on the \$450,000 project is wrapping up and town officials expect it to be completed in time for a mid-May grand opening.

"This is part of the overall Open Space Program, which is aimed at preserving greenspace and natural areas in Jupiter," said Kate Moretto, the town's external affairs manager. "This particular property, once opened to the public, will be the most accessible of the Open Space properties. It's not only a preserve but there will be amenities for public use."

The town paid \$225,000 for the project and the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative paid the other \$225,000.

Native Technologies, a Fort Lauderdale-based company, is supervising construction of the amenities, which will include an 850-foot gravel nature trail with an information kiosk, and a 162-foot boardwalk with two overlooks. Those overlooks offer views of the headwaters of Jones Creek, a Loxahatchee River tributary.

"The project included a



MARK HEMPHILL/Staff Artist



THOMAS CORDY/Staff Photographer

Ryan Goltzene of Native Technologies works on the irrigation system at Jones Creek Hammock, one of Jupiter's Open Spaces

lot of exotic removal and planting of native vegetation," said Amanda Barnes, the town's assistant director of utilities.

When it's complete, the public will be able to visit the hammock at the nature trail's main trailhead, at the north end of the aquatic center parking lot, and at a secondary trailhead on Pennock Lane.

"They're about 98 percent done," Barnes said. She said four parking spaces including one for the disabled have been added.

"The environmental work itself is fine," said Shawn Nieman, the natural resources supervisor in the town's Planning and Zoning Department. "Things look clean. Most of the work was getting the exotics out of the property."

The Jones Creek Hammock property is home to four types of plant communities: cypress slough; mangrove swamp; pine flatwoods and oak hammock.

"When you get in there and look, it's unlike any

conglomeration of things you've ever seen," Nieman said.

Those communities are attracting wildlife such as

blue jays, cardinals, gopher tortoises, owls, ospreys, woodpeckers and common backyard animals.

There are probably some

migrating birds in there, too," he said. "It's right in the middle of town. It's very unique to South Florida. I don't know of anything

of this kind from Miami."

That uniqueness, diversity of plant and life, will present numerous educational and recreational opportunities, Nieman said.

"If people want some classes or field trips, they can contact Nieman, who can be reached at (561) 741-4300 or [joebonikowski@pbpost.com](mailto:joebonikowski@pbpost.com).

### Jupiter Open Space Program sites

**Jones Creek Hammock** (along South Pennock Lane and Toney Penna Drive)

**Jones Creek Preserve** (south of Indiantown Road and west of South Pennock Lane)

**Sims Creek Preserve** (Center Street north of Indiantown Road)

**Delaware Scrub** (Indiantown Road at Delaware Boulevard)

**On the Web:** [www.jupiter.fl.us](http://www.jupiter.fl.us), go to 'Quick Links' and click on 'The Jupiter Open Space Program.'

## Need It Delivered?

THE LARGEST LOCAL SHOPPER

Florida PENNYSAVER  
FlaPennysaver.com

# Neighborhood Post

A weekly section of The Palm Beach Post  
[neighborhood-post.com](http://neighborhood-post.com)

## Jupiter - Tequesta



### SPORTS

**Marlins announcer does double duty as T-ball coach**

PAGE 26



### YOUR NEIGHBOR

**Man honored for attitude, work ethic**

PAGE 7

### INSIDE

Police Blotter	2
Activities	15
Seniors	18
Dining Out	21
Real Estate	36

### ABOUT THE PHOTO

This boardwalk is among the new amenities at Jones Creek Hammock, one of Jupiter's Open Spaces Project sites. The site, expected to be complete by May, will give residents access to a naturally diverse area. **Story, page 10.**

THOMAS CORDY/Staff Photographer