***City of Miami’s Simpson Park Hammock Inducted as an Old-Growth Forest***

 **(Miami, FL November 30, 2018)** - The City of Miami Parks and Recreation Department will be celebrating the designation of the Simpson Park Hammock as an Old-Growth Forest. Officiated by Dr. Melissa Abdo, managing director of the Old-Growth Forest Network, Simpson Park will become the first of two parks in Miami-Dade County to be recognized by this national network of exceptional forests.

Please join us as we celebrate the designation of this unique forest as part of the Old-Growth Forest Network. Simpson Park Hammock encompasses over eight acres of tropical hardwood hammock in the center of Miami’s urban core and represents one of the last remnants of the famous Brickell Hammock forest. Home to rare and state-listed endangered plants, such as the Red Berry Stopper tree (*Eugenia confusa*) and the Gulf Licaria tree (*Licaria triandra),* Simpson Park continues to hold a special place in the heart of Miami residents. The inclusion of Simpson Park Hammock into the Old-Growth Forest Network is an opportunity to recognize the achievements that many locals have made to conserve nature within their city. Join us on Saturday, December 8th to celebrate the tropical biodiversity that makes this urban old-growth forest remnant remarkable. The Old-Growth Forest Network is the nation’s only alliance of forever-preserved mature forests.

**What:** The dedication of Simpson Park Hammock (the native hardwood hammock forest within the Park) as an Old-Growth Forest. A “first” for Miami-Dade County to be represented in the Old-Growth Forest Network of exceptional forests across the U.S. A ceremony will be held and followed by a nature walk through the forest.

**When**: December 8, 2018 from 10:00 am-11:30 am

**Where**: Simpson Park, 55 SW 17th Rd. Miami, FL 33129

**Cost**: Free

**How to Register**: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebration-of-simpson-park-hammock-visitor-center-old-growth-forest-designation-tickets-52605404180>