



# Friends of Deerfield Island Park

September 2021 Newsletter

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday Sept 10 at 10:00 am.  
Watch for a Zoom link to the meeting

## News and Events

Well.. the good news is: "There are news and events to report this month".

No, we still do not have an opening date for the island.....but



Saturday, September 18 is a scheduled waterway cleanup around Deerfield Island and we have been asked to help in registering participants at Sullivan Park. More details will be forthcoming at our next Zoom meeting on Friday, Sept 10

The City of Deerfield Beach has given us permission to fly the two flags that we purchased at Sullivan Island whenever the Shuttle is in service to the public. This will help increase visibility of the Island Shuttle, both from the bridge and Sullivan Park.



## FLORA and FAUNA

### Green Herons

While kayaking around Deerfield Island and the Hillsboro canal, we have had many sightings of one or two Green Herons. We have seen one outside the Mangrove Lagoon on the island and often, perched on a branch in West Harbor at the Hillsboro Cove community. We were able to get close enough to take pictures without disturbing the bird.

Last month, we came across a Mama sitting on a nest nestled in a clump of branches in West Harbor. Again, we got close enough to take pictures and then moved on.

A week or two later, when we paddled past the nest, lo and behold, Mama was sitting on the nest, but her body was sheltering a baby. We were really excited. We paddled on, and later, on our return, we saw the baby hopping from branch to branch with Mama nearby. Unfortunately, the family wouldn't stay still together and pose for us this time. The nest is still there, but empty now.

Helene Wechterman  
Photos: Ira Wechterman



Baby in Nest



P.S. Several weeks later, we came across a little green heron on the lawn at Hillsboro Cove Condos. Could it be our "baby" on its own now?



### About Green Herons

From a distance, the Green Heron is a dark, stocky bird hunched on slender yellow legs at the water's edge, often hidden behind a tangle of leaves. Seen up close, it is a striking bird with a velvet-green back, rich chestnut body, and a dark cap often raised into a short crest. These small herons crouch patiently to surprise fish with a snatch of their daggerlike bill. They sometimes lure in fish using small items such as twigs or insects as bait.

The Green Heron is one of the world's few tool-using bird species. It often creates fishing lures with bread crusts, insects, and feathers, dropping them on the surface of the water to entice small fish.

Green Herons usually hunt by wading in shallow water, but occasionally they dive for deep-water prey and need to swim back to shore—probably with help from the webs between their middle and outer toes. One juvenile heron was seen swimming gracefully for more than 60 feet, sitting upright "like a little swan," according to one observer.

Like many herons, the Green Heron tends to wander outside of its breeding range after the nesting season is over. Most of the wanderers stay nearby as they search for good feeding habitat, but some travel long distances. Individuals have turned up as far away as England and France.

You can now view the past 2021 newsletters on our website. [Click here](#)



### Friends of Deerfield Island Park (FODIP)

Formed in March 2015

We are dedicated to preserving and protecting our unique green island as a natural habitat for native plants and for the island's animal inhabitants. We have been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for this purpose.

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