

CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK  
& RECREATION COMMISSION

**COMMISSIONERS:**

Brad Taggart, Chair

Amy Adams

Lisa King

Garrett Lacy

Mattese Lecque

Merriweather Mulé

Kevin Bowie, Executive Director

# Commission Agenda

**Commission Regular Meeting**

**Monday, January 12, 2026**

**5:30 p.m.**

**CCPRC Headquarters and online at [charlestoncountyparks.com](http://charlestoncountyparks.com)**



861 Riverland Drive, Charleston, SC 29412 (843) 762-2172 FAX (843) 762-2683

**Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission**  
**Public Hearing**  
**861 Riverland Drive, Charleston, SC, 29412**  
**Online at [www.charlestoncountyparks.com](http://www.charlestoncountyparks.com)**  
**Monday, January 12, 2026 at 5:30 pm**

**Agenda**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>1. Call to Order &amp; Welcome</b>                         | <b>Taggart</b>       |
| Introduction of Guests and Notification to Media              |                      |
| <b>2. Public Hearing Series 2026 General Obligation Bonds</b> | <b>McManus/Cooke</b> |
| <b>3. Public Comments</b>                                     | <b>Taggart/Bowie</b> |
| <b>4. Next Meeting</b>  | <b>Taggart/Bowie</b> |
- Regular Commission Meeting:  
Monday, January 12, 2026 directly following Public Hearing at CCPRC Headquarters, Charleston, SC

**Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission**  
**Regular Commission Meeting**  
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**Monday, January 12, 2026 directly following Public Hearing**

**Agenda**

- |            |   |                      |
|------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>1.</b>  | <b>Call to Order &amp; Welcome</b><br><br>Introduction of Guests and Notification to Media  | <b>Taggart</b>       |
| <b>2.</b>  | <b>Public Comments</b>  | <b>Taggart</b>       |
| <b>3.</b>  | <b>(ACTION) Approval of December 8, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes</b>   | <b>Taggart</b>       |
| <b>4.</b>  | <b>(ACTION) Election of Officers</b>  | <b>Taggart</b>       |
| <b>5.</b>  | <b>(ACTION) 2026 Bond – Petition to Charleston County</b>   | <b>Bowie/McManus</b> |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>Planning and Development Update</b>  | <b>Newshutz</b>      |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>(ACTION) Award Contract – Exterior Building Painting &amp; Exterior Stair Replacement at the Cooper River County Park (CRCP)</b>   | <b>Newshutz</b>      |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>Financial Services Update</b>  | <b>McManus</b>       |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Commission Report Update</b>   | <b>Dickinson</b>     |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Executive Session: Contractual Matter Folly Beach Fishing Pier (FBFP) /Personnel Matters</b>   | <b>Taggart/Bowie</b> |
|            | <p>To discuss a potential legal matter involving a contract and personnel matter. Upon returning to open session, the Commission may take action upon matters discussed in Executive Session.</p> |                      |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Next Meeting &amp; Announcements</b><br><br>Regular Commission Meeting:<br>Monday, February 23, 2026, 5:30pm at CCPRC Headquarters, Charleston, SC   | <b>Taggart/Bowie</b> |

**Unapproved Minutes**  
**Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission (CCPRC)**  
**Regular Commission Meeting**  
**861 Riverland Drive, Charleston, SC, 29412**  
**Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5:30 pm**

**Commission Members Present:** Brad Taggart, Leslie Skardon, Amy Adams, Garrett Lacy, Lisa King, Mattese Lecque and Merriweather Mulé (via teleconference).

**Staff Present:** Kevin Bowie, Phil Macchia, Charlie McManus, Gina Ellis-Strother, Steve Hutton, Christine Volousky, Eric Stewart, Mark Madden, Melissa Muse, Patty Newshutz, Renee Dickinson, Tommy H., Shanté Ellis, Randy Woodard, Robert Lavarney, Noel Williams, Elizabeth Homer, and Josh Blackstone.

**Legal Counsel Present:** Dwayne Green.

**Guests Present:** Jeremy Cook and Kollan Shuford.

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

Introduction of Guests and Notification to Media

The Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission met on Monday, December 8, 2025 at CCPRC's Headquarters, Charleston, SC and virtually via [www.charlestoncountyparks.com](http://www.charlestoncountyparks.com). Commission Chair, Brad Taggart, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meetings and agendas were posted and furnished to news media and persons requesting notification.

**2. Public Comments**

None.

**3. Presentations**

Mr. Taggart and Mr. Bowie recognized Ms. Skardon for her accomplishments while Commissioner and presented her with a service gratitude plaque.

Mr. Taggart and Mr. Bowie congratulated CCPRC's Assistant Director of Parks Randy Woodard was also honored as the SCRPA Professional of the Year. Randy began his career with CCPRC in 1998 and quickly grew into key leadership roles at both James Island and Palmetto Islands County Parks. A past SCRPA President as well, he now oversees a wide range of facilities and teams across the entire Charleston County Parks system.

Mr. Taggart and Mr. Bowie congratulated CCPRC's Associate Executive Director Phil Macchia for receiving South Carolina Park & Recreation Association's (SCPRA) prestigious Robert L. Reid Hall of Fame Award for lifetime achievement in the parks and recreation community. This honor recognizes Macchia's more than 30 years of service to parks and recreation in South Carolina. Macchia joined Charleston County Parks as an intern in 1991 and eventually became the first manager of Wannamaker County Park. A former SCRPA Professional of the Year, he has been a reliable source of leadership and support for both CCPRC and the statewide parks community.

**4. (Action) Approval of November 10, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#029-2526)

## 5. Audit Report

McManus introduced Shuford from Mauldin & Jenkins (CCPRC's current independent auditor) who oversaw the audit of the June 30, 2025 financial statements. He distributed 2025 financial statements and Auditor's Discussion & Analysis document. Shuford reviewed the highlights of the documents and confirmed that CCPRC received an unmodified opinion and no findings of deficient internal procedures or management points. The equity net position and fund balance are strong and in line with policy. He gave an overview of the required communications and recent changes in governmental accounting policies/procedures. He commended CCPRC's Finance Department and all the staff for their hard work.

## 6. (ACTION) Request for Public Hearing on Bond Issuance

Bowie introduced Cook to advise the Commission on the standards of the public debt issuance process. Cook described the procedures/rules for Special Purpose District to issue debt.

Motion to approve hosting a public hearing regarding the issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$70,000,000 was made by Commissioner Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#030-2526)

## 7. (ACTION) Reimbursement Resolution

Motion to authorize a reimbursement resolution under US Treasury regulations to allow the Commission to reimburse itself for project costs incurred prior to the issuance of the bonds in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 was made by Commissioner Adams and approved by the Commission. (#031-2526)

## 8. (ACTION) Acquisition of Awendaw Property

Motion to approve the Executive Director's execution of a Purchase Sale Agreement with GBSC FDN, LLC, for the purchase of the 5130 Highway 17 N property, TMS # 625-00-00-095 and TMS # 625-00-00-003 for the appraised value of \$7,510,000 and associated closing cost was made by Commissioner King and approved by the Commission. (#032-2526)

## 9. (ACTION) Riverland Drive Easement Request for a Multi-use Path

Motion to approve the donation of 0.597 acres of right-of-way on parcel number 341-00-00-053) for a permanent easement to Charleston County for the construction of a multi-use path was made by Commissioner Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#033-2526)

## 10. Planning and Development Update

Planning & Development Director, Patty Newshutz, reviewed the campground feasibility study and progress staff are making related to their assigned Capital Improvement Projects, project solicitations, and potential land acquisitions.

## 11. Financial Services Update

Chief Financial Officer, Charlie McManus, presented and reviewed the checks over \$7,500 and financial reports for the month of October.

**12. (Action) Award Contract – Kiawah Beachwalker Park (BWP) Boardwalk Replacement**

Motion to enter into a contract with TM Taylor Construction, Inc., for Kiawah Beachwalker Park’s Boardwalk Replacement in the amount of \$127,497.25 with funds coming from the approved CIP budget was made by Commissioner Lacy and approved by the Commission. (#034-2526)

**13. Next Meeting**

Mr. Taggart thanked the staff for Wished everyone safe travels and ha

Regular Commission Meeting, Monday, January 12, 2026, 5:30pm at CCPRC Headquarters, Charleston, SC

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brad Taggart, Commission Chair

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Shanté Ellis, Executive Administrative Associate



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kevin Bowie  
**FROM:** Charles McManus  
**DATE:** January 7, 2026  
**RE:** 2026 Bond- Petition to Charleston County

The Commission approved the request for a public hearing on the issuance of \$70,000,000 worth of General Obligation Bonds at the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Commission Meeting. The scheduled public hearing was held prior to the beginning of the January 12<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting.

The next step in the process is to petition Charleston County to hold their own public hearing to allow for input from the taxpayers regarding the issuance of the debt.

**Recommend authorizing a petition to Charleston County Council for a public hearing to authorize the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission to issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$70,000,000.**

A RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING A PETITION TO COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHARLESTON COUNTY FOR A PUBLIC HEARING PURSUANT TO ACT NO. 1189 OF THE 1974 ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO AUTHORIZE CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT TO ISSUE NOT EXCEEDING \$70,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN ONE OR MORE SERIES.

WHEREAS, the Charleston County Park and Recreation District (the “District”) pursuant to a Resolution of the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, the governing body of the District (the “Commission”) adopted on December 8, 2025, held a public hearing on the question of the issuance of not exceeding \$70,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds of the District in one or more series (the “Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, this public hearing was held on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:30 P.M., at the District Office, 861 Riverland Drive, James Island, South Carolina, after notice of said hearing was duly given by publication of the notice of said hearing for three consecutive weeks in The Post & Courier, a newspaper of general circulation in Charleston County, on December 14, 21 and 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Commission duly considered the comments received at said public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That a Petition substantially in the form as attached in Exhibit A hereto shall be submitted to the County Council of Charleston County and that the Chair and Secretary of the Commission, or those acting in their stead, are hereby authorized to execute said Petition on behalf of the Commission.

IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Charleston County Park and  
Recreation Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Charleston County Park and  
Recreation Commission

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

I, the undersigned, Secretary of Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, the governing body of Charleston County Park and Recreation District, in Charleston County, South Carolina, DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

That the foregoing is a true, correct and verbatim copy of a Resolution which was adopted by said Commission at a duly called and regularly held meeting on January 12, 2026, at which meeting a majority of the members were present and remained throughout, and the same is now in full force and effect and has not been modified, amended, repealed or rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and the Seal of the District this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Charleston County Park and Recreation  
Commission

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA        )  
  )  
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON         )

PETITION

PETITION OF CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT TO COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHARLESTON COUNTY FOR A PUBLIC HEARING PURSUANT TO ACT NO. 1189 OF THE 1974 ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, NOW CODIFIED AS ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 11, TITLE 6, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AND TO AUTHORIZE CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT TO ISSUE NOT EXCEEDING \$70,000,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT IN ONE OR MORE SERIES.

CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION (the “Commission”), the governing body of CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT, in Charleston County, South Carolina (the “District”) respectfully shows:

1. The District is a special purpose district created prior to March 7, 1973 (having been created pursuant to Act No. 1595 of 1972), located entirely within Charleston County. The Commission was charged with numerous powers chiefly relating to the responsibility of establishing and operating “county parks, tourist attractions and other facilities of like nature.”

2. In order to finance the costs of constructing, improving, expanding and renovating existing and new facilities and of undertaking other capital expenditures identified in the District’s capital improvements projects plan, including but not limited to (i) developing Cooper River County Park, (ii) constructing new welcome center exhibits at Caw Caw Interpretive Center, (iii) constructing a new playground at Wannamaker County Park and undertaking improvements to Whirlin’ Waters, (iv) acquiring land and constructing new rural parks, (v) constructing improvements to Palmetto Islands County Park, including to Splash Island, (vi) constructing and improving boat landings, (vii) constructing improvements to James Island County Park, including constructing a new climbing wall and undertaking improvements to Splash Zone, (viii) undertaking improvements to Lighthouse Inlet Historic Preserve and (ix) undertaking improvements pursuant to the ADA transition plan, as well as to pay costs of issuance (collectively, the “Project”), the Commission recommends that the District issue not exceeding \$70,000,000 of general obligation bonds in one or more series.

3. County Council of Charleston County (the “County Council”), as the governing body of Charleston County, South Carolina, is empowered by Act No. 1189, enacted at the 1974 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly, as amended by Act No. 212 of 1975, now codified as Article 5, Chapter 11, Title 6, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976 (hereinafter called the “Enabling Act”) to authorize the governing body of any special purpose district created prior to March 7, 1973, located within Charleston County to issue general obligation bonds of such district to provide funds to be used in the furtherance of any power or function committed to such special purpose district and in effect on March 7, 1973.

4. Under date of July 20, 1982, County Council adopted a Resolution (hereinafter referred to as the “Resolution of 1982”) which provides that no proposed bond issue of any public body (excluding Charleston County) requiring the approval of County Council shall be considered by County Council until a public hearing has been held by the public body proposing to issue the bonds and certain information is submitted to County Council in writing.

In compliance with Item I of the Resolution of 1982, a Public Hearing was held by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:30 P.M. at the District Office, 861 Riverland Drive, James Island, South Carolina, notice of which was published in The Post & Courier for three consecutive weeks on December 14, 21 and 28, 2026, in compliance with the requirements of South Carolina Code Section 6-11-840 (see Affidavit of Publication attached hereto as Appendix 1). The Hearing was held in accordance with South Carolina Code Section 6-11-850 having been conducted publicly and both proponents and opponents of the above Bond issue were given full opportunity to be heard.

The following information is supplied in compliance with Item II of the Resolution of 1982 and the numbered paragraphs used herein correspond to the numbering used in Item II of the Resolution of 1982:

(1) The Public Hearing was held at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, January 12, 2026, at the District Office, 861 Riverland Drive, James Island, South Carolina. Following the Public Hearing on January 12, 2026, the Resolution adopted by the Commissioners authorizing this Petition was approved.

(2) No one from the public raised any concerns at the public hearing.

(3) The sole purpose of the Bond issue is to pay for the Project more fully described hereinabove and the full amount of the Bond issue will be used to pay for said Project.

(4) The Project does not duplicate any service provided by any other public or private agency.

(5) The District has the following general obligation indebtedness outstanding:

(a) the now outstanding \$4,950,000 of an original issue of \$17,500,000 General Obligation Bonds of 2013, dated April 9, 2013;

(b) the now outstanding \$15,710,000 of an original issue of \$25,000,000 General Obligation Bonds of 2017, dated August 23, 2017; and

(c) the now outstanding \$13,350,000 of an original issue of \$20,000,000 General Obligation Bonds of 2020, dated October 29, 2020.

The following table provides the general obligation indebtedness of the District outstanding at the end of each of the past five fiscal years:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>
2021	\$52,760,000
2022	56,440,000
2023	43,615,000
2024	38,675,000
2025	34,010,000

(6) The legal debt limit for the issuance of bonds by the District is 8% of the assessed value of all taxable property in the District. The assessed value figure of the District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, is not less than \$6,600,000,000, 8% of which equals \$528,000,000. The District has outstanding debt in the amount of \$34,010,000 chargeable to its 8% debt limitation. Therefore, the proposed Bond issue is within the amount permitted by the 8% debt limit imposed by Section 14(7)(a) of Article X of the South Carolina Constitution.

(7) Pro forma debt service table on the initial bond issue that is a portion of the proposed Bond issue is attached hereto as Appendix 2. Based on an assumed assessed value of \$6,600,000,000, which would cause the value of a mill to be \$6.6 million, projected millage requirements for the first five years of the borrowing will be as follows. Please note this calculation does not reflect an increase in assessed value. It is expected that the millage requirements for the new bond issue will be met by a corresponding decrease in the

millage requirements of the current debt service requirements; accordingly, no additional millage will be necessary for the new bond issue.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Millage Related to Proposed Bond Issue</u>
2027	1.7
2028	1.7
2029	1.0
2030	1.0
2031	0.7

(8) All operating expenses and debt service requirements for the District are paid with the proceeds of ad valorem taxes levied within the District as well as revenues generated by operation of recreational facilities of the District.

(III) If any further information is desired by County Council, the Commission will be happy to provide the same to the County's staff.

Pursuant to Section 6-11-830 of the Enabling Act, County Council may order a public hearing to be held upon the question of the issuance of general obligation bonds of the District.

WHEREFORE, the Commission prays that the County Council of Charleston County order a public hearing to be held on the question of the issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the District.

CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission

Attest:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission

January 12, 2026



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kevin Bowie  
**FROM:** Patty Newshutz  
**DATE:** January 5, 2026  
**RE:** Award of Contract – Exterior Building Painting and Exterior Stair Replacement at the Cooper River County Park

An Invitation for Bid was issued for exterior building painting and stair replacement at Cooper River County Park. Three bids were received.

Roofing USA submitted the lowest bid in the amount of \$223,550.

The Cooper River County Park Painting and Exterior Stair Replacement project is budgeted to come from the CIP Reserves GL Line (21350000-90070-0000).

**Recommend approval to enter into a contract with Roofing USA for painting and stair replacement at the Cooper River County Park in the amount of \$223,550 with funds coming from the CIP budget.**

**Combined General Agency Operations  
November, 2025**

<b>Combined Revenues</b>	<b>Prior YTD Actuals</b>	<b>Year To date Actuals</b>	<b>Current Year Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
Support Services	2,452,430	2,716,598	23,930,458	11%
Park Services	7,934,640	8,000,689	22,072,263	36%
Recreation Services	826,918	777,487	1,844,214	42%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>11,213,988</b>	<b>11,494,774</b>	<b>47,846,935</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Combined Expenses</b>				
Support Services	5,111,359	6,202,842	13,217,578	47%
Park Services	9,773,293	10,832,000	27,815,442	39%
Recreation Services	2,228,346	2,400,868	6,164,562	39%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>17,112,998</b>	<b>19,435,710</b>	<b>47,197,582</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(5,899,010)</b>	<b>(7,940,936)</b>	<b>649,353</b>	
<b>Transfers In</b>	22,730	36,406	280,647	13%
<b>Transfers Out</b>	2,650,000	-	4,500,000	0%
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(8,526,280)</b>	<b>(7,904,530)</b>	<b>(3,570,000)</b>	
<b>Fund Balance Statement</b>				
Change in Fund Balance	(8,526,280)	(7,904,530)	(3,570,000)	
Fund Balance- Beginning of Year	28,163,941	28,672,553	28,672,553	
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>19,637,661</b>	<b>20,768,023</b>	<b>25,102,553</b>	

**Support Services  
November, 2025**

Revenues	Prior YTD Actuals	Year To date Actuals	Current Year Budget	% of Budget
Administration Millage	1,787,893	2,067,265	22,403,831	9%
Administration- Other	664,537	649,333	1,526,627	43%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,452,430</b>	<b>2,716,598</b>	<b>23,930,458</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Administration	1,144,507	1,150,494	1,672,950	69%
Executive	824,451	1,300,856	1,980,163	66%
Financial Services	383,624	405,596	1,051,673	39%
Human Resources	397,603	418,229	1,329,223	31%
Information Technology	873,126	1,416,231	2,763,327	51%
Marketing	542,090	524,863	1,504,694	35%
Park and Program Services	243,457	246,754	679,420	36%
Planning and Development	525,970	568,872	1,660,851	34%
Safety	176,531	170,947	575,277	30%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,111,359</b>	<b>6,202,842</b>	<b>13,217,578</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(2,658,929)</b>	<b>(3,486,244)</b>	<b>10,712,880</b>	
<b>Transfers In</b>	22,730	36,406	280,647	13%
<b>Transfers Out</b>	2,650,000	0	4,500,000	0%
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(5,286,199)</b>	<b>(3,449,838)</b>	<b>6,493,527</b>	

**Park Services  
November, 2025**

Revenues	Prior YTD Actuals	Year To date Actuals	Current Year Budget	% of Budget
Administration	15,521	50,699	37,084	137%
Caw Caw Interpretive Center	18,174	18,432	73,398	25%
Cooper River Marina	426,923	434,289	1,179,315	37%
Folly Beach County Park	422,935	428,431	1,066,887	40%
Folly Beach Fishing Pier	706,466	723,167	1,862,624	39%
Isle of Palms County Park	524,871	544,876	1,361,557	40%
James Island County Park	2,448,368	2,611,797	8,253,161	32%
Johns Island County Park	67,183	56,140	268,974	21%
Kiawah Beachwalker Park	221,847	215,970	610,883	35%
Lake House at Bulow	93,982	83,150	183,667	45%
Laurel Hill Plantation	4,887	2,706	6,353	43%
McLeod Plantation	239,652	235,877	666,933	35%
Mount Pleasant Palmetto Islands County Park	300,028	302,512	818,621	37%
Mount Pleasant Pier	218,251	211,555	511,380	41%
North Charleston Wannamaker County Park	2,165,721	2,019,002	4,941,965	41%
Old Towne Creek County Park	0	0	51,600	0%
SK8 Charleston	47,717	47,518	142,068	33%
Stono River Park	1,516	1,558	4,200	37%
West County Aquatics Center	10,598	13,010	31,593	41%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>7,934,640</b>	<b>8,000,689</b>	<b>22,072,263</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Administration	554,433	579,253	1,510,464	38%
Caw Caw Interpretive Center	159,998	230,668	616,922	37%
Cooper River Marina	290,960	232,278	713,400	33%
Folly Beach County Park	323,788	346,982	932,710	37%
Folly Beach Fishing Pier	634,672	600,612	1,561,603	38%
Isle of Palms County Park	423,823	423,825	1,228,772	34%
James Island County Park	2,413,476	2,657,422	6,854,293	39%
Johns Island County Park	224,084	272,388	856,089	32%
Kiawah Beachwalker Park	231,950	267,631	620,224	43%
Lake House at Bulow	50,247	47,729	155,106	31%
Laurel Hill Plantation	14,993	36,995	108,334	34%
McLeod Plantation	89,009	110,807	298,444	37%
Mount Pleasant Palmetto Islands County Park	549,335	569,741	1,630,737	35%
Mount Pleasant Pier	274,380	299,957	764,895	39%
North Charleston Wannamaker County Park	2,054,361	2,218,025	5,111,142	43%
Old Towne Creek County Park	75,253	49,424	387,554	13%
SK8 Charleston	185,714	161,561	472,724	34%
Stono River Park	21,748	12,665	23,285	54%
Undeveloped Properties & HQ Maintenance	1,066,447	1,624,871	3,610,789	45%
West County Aquatics Center	134,622	89,166	357,955	25%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>9,773,293</b>	<b>10,832,000</b>	<b>27,815,442</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(1,838,653)</b>	<b>(2,831,311)</b>	<b>(5,743,179)</b>	

**Recreation Services  
November, 2025**

Revenue	Prior YTD Actuals	Year To date Actuals	Current Year Budget	% of Budget
Accessibility	1,911	1,236	5,475	23%
Community Recreation	44,391	41,524	117,100	35%
Interpretive	47,173	59,781	104,240	57%
Outdoor	394,787	387,659	906,890	43%
Special Events	214,338	168,930	453,724	37%
Runs, Races & Fitness	124,318	118,357	256,785	46%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>826,918</b>	<b>777,487</b>	<b>1,844,214</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Administration	290,313	296,209	843,702	35%
Accessibility	6,265	4,614	45,325	10%
Community Recreation	538,600	580,008	1,313,633	44%
Interpretive	310,690	356,186	907,669	39%
Outdoor	638,868	641,833	1,781,702	36%
Special Events	260,901	340,088	830,390	41%
Runs, Races & Fitness	182,709	181,930	442,141	41%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,228,346</b>	<b>2,400,868</b>	<b>6,164,562</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(1,401,428)</b>	<b>(1,623,381)</b>	<b>(4,320,348)</b>	

**General Agency Balance Sheet**  
**November, 2025**

Assets	Prior YTD Actuals	Year To date Actuals
Cash & Cash Equivalents	21,561,697	23,420,661
Other Assets	1,213,826	1,189,078
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>22,775,523</b>	<b>24,609,739</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	587,603	1,576,407
Other Liabilities	2,550,259	2,265,309
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,137,862</b>	<b>3,841,716</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>		
Assigned Fund Balance	1,250,000	1,250,000
Unassigned Fund Balance	18,387,661	19,518,023
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>19,637,661</b>	<b>20,768,023</b>
<b>Total Fund Balance and Liabilities</b>	<b>22,775,523</b>	<b>24,609,739</b>

November 2025 Checks over \$7,500

Date	Check #	Vendor	Description	Amount
<b>General Agency</b>				
11/06/25	3051828	4Imprint	HR/Marketing Promos - Cotton Pouches	\$ 12,148.82
11/06/25	3051833	Carolina Parks And Play	Communication Boards	\$ 12,114.79
11/06/25	3051838	Custom Mobile Food Equipment	IOP Kiosk Deposit	\$ 28,993.00
11/06/25	3051850	Jamis Bicycles	Replacement Bikes - WCP, PICP, JICP, Outdoor Rec	\$ 13,594.25
11/06/25	3051875	United Rentals Inc.	Boom Lift 40-50' Articulating	\$ 86,223.48
11/13/25	3051883	Adams Outdoor Advertising	HFOL Digital Outdoor Advertisement, November	\$ 8,000.00
11/13/25	3051899	Hometown Roofing Services Inc.	Roofing for WW Splash Office and Concessions	\$ 46,600.00
11/13/25	3051922	Sabine and Waters Inc.	JICP Mulching	\$ 11,000.00
11/20/25	3051950	Applied Data Technologies	FY26 Workstation Replacement	\$ 65,177.64
11/20/25	3051957	Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau	GA & Waterparks - Explore Chs, Full and 1/2 Page	\$ 18,000.00
11/20/25	3051958	Charleston County Treasurer	Folly Pier Property Taxes	\$ 16,847.61
11/20/25	3051960	DCG Solutions LLC	CCIC Painting	\$ 21,200.00
11/20/25	3051968	Lakeland Direct Farm & Ranch Inc.	Horse Stalls for Barn #1	\$ 72,763.25
11/20/25	3051971	Pardee Heating and Air	Lincoln High - Replace 2 HVAC Units	\$ 29,296.00
11/20/25	3051972	Pflug Law Firm LLC	October Legal Fees	\$ 35,186.50
11/20/25	3051979	Live Productions LLC	HFOL Fun Run Audio/Starlight Yoga Stages	\$ 8,242.98
11/24/25	3051985	Rick Hendrick Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram	2025 Ram Promaster 3500	\$ 53,623.00
11/24/25	3051986	Rick Hendrick Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram	2025 Ram 1500	\$ 49,087.00
11/24/25	3051987	Rick Hendrick Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram	2025 Chrysler Voyager Van	\$ 43,011.00
11/24/25	3051988	Rick Hendrick Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram	2025 Ram Promaster 2500	\$ 52,261.00
11/24/25	3051989	Rick Hendrick Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram	2025 Ram 1500	\$ 47,110.00
11/24/25	3051990	Rick Hendrick Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram	2025 Ram 1500	\$ 49,187.00
11/25/25	3051997	Atcom Inc.	Annual UC Managed Services/IP Phone Remote	\$ 38,933.55
11/25/25	3051998	B & C Utilities Inc.	SK8 Plumbing Repair	\$ 9,100.00
11/25/25	3052007	DCG Solutions LLC	Paint Pelican Watch Shelter	\$ 10,664.00
11/25/25	3052013	Hub International Ltd.	Cyber Insurance Policy	\$ 13,250.00
11/25/25	3052014	J Evans Services LLC	WCP Trail Improvements	\$ 8,420.00
11/25/25	3052027	State Accident Fund	State Accident Fund Workers Compensation Premium	\$ 444,000.00
11/25/25	3052031	Tyler Technologies Inc.	Tyler Employee Migration & Maintenance	\$ 55,356.88
<b>Capital Improvement Projects</b>				
11/20/25	56	Stantec Consulting Services	OTCCP-001 Park Master Plan, Design	\$ 9,035.75
11/25/25	58	Johnson, Laschober & Associates	CRCP-001 Construction Admin Consultant Services	\$ 14,979.30
11/25/25	59	Medpro Systems LLC	OTCCP-001 Phase 1 Development, Construction	\$ 383,295.73
11/13/25	497	Palmetto Outdoor Restoration	PICP New Deck and ADA Ramp	\$ 27,500.00
11/25/25	500	A Morton Thomas and Associates Inc.	PRC-005 ADA Parking Improvements, Design	\$ 20,157.80
11/25/25	501	Artigues Landscape & Maintenance	IOP-002 Irrigation System Renovations	\$ 9,472.65
11/25/25	502	Associates Roofing & Construction Inc.	WCP-002 WW M1 Roof Repairs	\$ 107,421.25
11/25/25	503	GEL Engineering LLC	JICP-007 Edisto Hall Structure Repairs	\$ 10,603.87
11/25/25	505	Kompan Inc.	PICP-003 PICP Playground Renovations	\$ 125,358.45

# COMMISSION REPORT

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J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 6





## 25 of the best holiday activities around Charleston this December

By Wyatt Barczak wbarczak@postandcourier.com | Nov 28, 2025



**Santa Claus will be available for meet-and-greets at the Charleston County Festival of Lights at James Island Country Park.** Andrew Whitaker/Staff

Garland drapes down streetlamps. Colorful bulbs glitter in trees. Joyous caroling and festive earworms sing through the radio. Everywhere you look, the Holy City can be seen preparing for another holiday season.

Many of us locals relate these familiar and nostalgic sights and sounds to the James Island Festival of Lights. Whether it be the toasty hot cocoa warming our hands or the wondrous drive-thru light show, the festival has delighted us all for more than 30 years now.

Sarah Reynolds, public information coordinator for the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission, has been helping with the festival since 2010.

“Since I started working here in my 20s and going to the festival with friends, I’ve now grown and had the opportunity to bring my own kids to the festival and see the progression of the event through the years,” Reynolds told The Post and Courier.

This and so many other meaningful holiday traditions, plus some fun new merry activities, await around the Lowcountry this time of year.

If you’re not sure where to get started, then you’re in luck because we’ve rounded up 25 fun and festive activities to grow your hearts three sizes this season!

### A different way to experience the Festival of Lights

What: Nearly everyone makes the pilgrimage to see all of the brilliant light displays at James Island’s Festival of Lights. However, this year attendees can sign up for a different path through the winter wonderland. Most come by car, some by bike and even a few along the Festive Express train, but not many can say they’ve seen the festival via dragon boat.

Attendees can sign up solo or with a friend for a 10-person dragon boating experience. Explore the yuletide decorations from the water, enjoy live drumming and learn more about the water sport. Spots are limited. After the rowing experience, admittance to the festival is included, so guests



**Dragon boating at the Festival of Lights: Sign up for Dragon Boating at the Holiday Festival of Lights, happening on Monday and Tuesday evenings this season.** CCPRC/Provided



**holiday activities** — continued

can enjoy roasting marshmallows over firepits, explore the walking trails or get photos with Santa.

When: Mondays and Tuesdays through Dec. 16

Where: James Island County Park, 871 Riverland Drive

Price: \$30 per person (includes festival admission)

More Info: [tinyurl.com/2s4jxazt](http://tinyurl.com/2s4jxazt)

**Holiday Hoedown**

What: At this disability-inclusive country-style festivity from Charleston County Parks attendees can dress in their favorite Western outfits to welcome in the holidays with live music plus Santa and Mrs. Claus photo ops.

When: 6-8 p.m. Dec. 3

Where: Park Circle Community Building, 4800 Park Circle, North Charleston



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**The Festival of Lights will be open 5:30-10 p.m. every night for curious festival-goers this holiday season until Dec. 31.** Andrew Whitaker/Staff

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Price: \$4 advance, \$5 day-of

More Info: [tinyurl.com/39yk6c2w](http://tinyurl.com/39yk6c2w)



## 2 Million Twinkling Lights Are Waiting For You at The Holiday Festival of Lights in Charleston, SC

Posted on December 4th, 2025 by Kidding Around Team |

Thinking about heading to the coast for some holiday cheer? The Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park in Charleston, SC is a family favorite—and for good reason! This drive-through light display is packed with glowing holiday magic, twinkling extras, and tons of fun for all ages.

Here’s what to expect for the 2025 season and why your family will love it.



**2025 Festival Dates: November 14 – December 31, 2025**

This article was updated with current 2025 dates and pricing.

### The Drive-Through Light Show

Plan ahead if you’re visiting on a weekend—traffic to enter the park can back up fast. We visited on a weeknight and arrived around 5 pm (gates open at 5:30 pm). We were the third car in line!

Pro Tip: Buy your ticket in advance. It’s cheaper and helps you get through the gate faster. You can even buy it on your phone while you’re waiting in line.

### Holiday Festival of Lights

Once you pass the ranger station, the lights begin almost immediately. Cars travel in two lanes, and you’ll want to turn on your parking lights to enjoy the full glow. Don’t forget to tune your radio to 102.5 FM for holiday music to set the mood!

Time it takes: If there’s no traffic, the route takes about 20 minutes to drive. About halfway through, there’s a pull-off for Winter Wonderland. We suggest doing the full drive first, then looping back for the extra fun!

Weekend Perks: If you go Friday–Sunday, you’ll find live entertainment, storytellers, character meet-and-greets, and even Dragon Boat events! Dragon Boat participants receive free admission to the light festival after their sunset paddle.

### Take a Drive With Us: Watch!



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTfZBgCv7E0&embeds\\_referring\\_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fkiddingaroundcharleston.com%2F](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTfZBgCv7E0&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fkiddingaroundcharleston.com%2F)

### Winter Wonderland Walkthrough

After your drive, head back to explore Winter Wonderland—a stroller-friendly, walk-around area packed with goodies.

Walk-through light at Holiday Festival of Lights

Bathroom break? There are two restrooms: one by the fire pits behind the s’mores area, and one upstairs to the left of the gift shop.





## 2 Million Twinkling Lights — continued

Here's what you'll find:

- ◆ Sled photo op
- ◆ Snack vendors
- ◆ Two gift shops
- ◆ Ice cream shop
- ◆ S'mores fire pits



### Visit With Santa

Dates: November 14 – December 23, 2025

Time: 6 pm – 10 pm nightly

Santa's snack break: 8 pm sharp (Blitzen gets cranky if his belly isn't full!)

Santa's elves will sign your family up for a virtual queue, and when it's your turn, you'll get a text alert. No fee to visit Santa, but photo packages are available to purchase if you want a keepsake.

### Inclusive Santa Visits

Dates: December 7 & 14, 2025

Cost: \$40 per family of five

Includes:

- ◆ A private, sensory-friendly visit
- ◆ A professional photographer
- ◆ All digital images from your session

These visits must be booked in advance.

### Fun Extras (Open Nightly from 6–10 pm)

These activities do have a small fee, but they're big on fun! Here's what your family can enjoy in Winter Wonderland:



### Carousel at Holiday Festival of Lights Charleston

- ◆ Everyone else needs a ticket
- ◆ \$2 per ride
- ◆ Kids under 42" must ride with an adult (adult rides free)



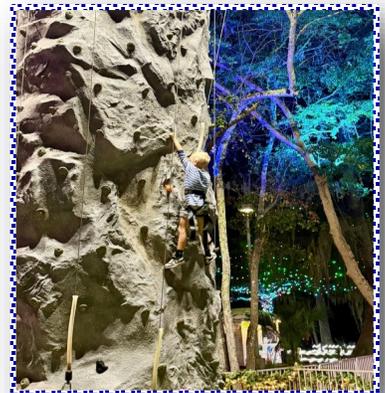
### Festival Express Train Ride

- ◆ \$5 per rider (2 & under ride free on a lap)
- ◆ Catch the open-air tram and enjoy more lights!
- ◆ Be sure to buy tickets before 9:40 pm



### Portable Rock Climbing Wall

- ◆ Friendly staff on-site to assist climbers
- ◆ \$4 for two climbs
- ◆ Closed-toe shoes required





## 2 Million Twinkling Lights — continued

### Stay Overnight at James Island County Park

Want to wake up to holiday cheer? Stay in the park!

For the ultimate holiday experience, you can book a campsite or cabin at James Island County Park, and have unlimited access to the lights and all of the other fun, during your stay.

The park has cottages, full hook-up RV sites, primitive camping, and campsites with water/power access. The most popular option for campsites with utility access is \$60 a night. More information on camping options and booking availability can be found on the [James Island County Park](#) website.

- ◆ Cottages
- ◆ Full hook-up RV sites
- ◆ Primitive camping
- ◆ Water/power campsites (most popular: \$60/night)

Bonus: If you stay in the park, you can enjoy the lights and festivities as often as you like during your visit.

### 2025 Holiday Festival of Lights Info at a Glance



Location: James Island County Park



Dates: November 14 – December 31, 2025



Hours: 5:30 – 10 pm nightly



Ticket Prices (Per Vehicle): Vary from \$15-\$45, depending on date and whether or not you purchase your ticket in advance or at the gate. Bring a canned food team and get \$5 off your admission Monday- Thursday.

[See ticket prices by date and purchase in advance.](#)



### Directions to James Island County Park

Address: 871 Riverland Drive

Charleston, SC 29412

Use your GPS or favorite maps app, and look for signs once you're close. Be prepared for traffic on peak nights—pack snacks and holiday tunes!

### Ready for a Magical Holiday Night?

The Holiday Festival of Lights is one of the most festive ways to celebrate the season in the Lowcountry. Whether you're there for the drive-thru display, Santa, or s'mores by the fire, it's an easy and joyful tradition your family won't want to miss.



Been before? Tell us your favorite part in the comments! Or check out more holiday fun on our Charleston holiday guide.

Lights, cocoa, and a car full of giggles.

WHERE TO SEE HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN CHARLESTON, SC

Want to see more lights? WE DO!

Here's the [full guide to Christmas Lights in Charleston, SC](#)

It has drive-thru displays, walk-thru options. FREE places to see Christmas Lights & MORE.



Charleston County News

**Holiday Festival of Lights to end season with fireworks display**

by: Tim Renaud | Posted: Dec 31, 2025 / 05:58 AM EST

CHARLESTON COUNTY, S.C. (WCBD) – Enjoy fireworks on Wednesday as the Holiday Festival of Lights concludes for the 2025 holiday season.

If you are looking for a family-friendly way to end the year, you have just one more night to celebrate at the Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park.

Wednesday marks the last day of the annual festival, which features more than 750 light displays along a three-mile drive.

Guests attending the final night of the festival can also enjoy a fireworks display at 8 p.m. to ring in the new year.

The park will welcome visitors beginning at 5:30 p.m. and will close at 10 p.m. You can check the Charleston County Parks website for the best times to visit and to purchase tickets in advance.



## This Day in History: Dec. 26, 2022: Folly Beach reopens after rebuild

By Live 5 Web Staff | Published: Dec. 26, 2025 at 5:00 AM EST | Updated: Dec. 26, 2025 at 5:46 AM EST



A massive construction project to rebuild the famed Folly Beach Pier wrapped up ahead of schedule, allowing the pier to reopen three years ago.  
(Live 5/File)

FOLLY BEACH, S.C. (WCSC) — A massive construction project to rebuild the famed Folly Beach Pier wrapped up ahead of schedule, allowing the pier to reopen three years ago.

The old pier, officially known as the Edwin S. Taylor Folly Beach Fishing Pier, closed on Oct. 19, 2020, for the rebuild.

Officials touted the new pier's unobstructed views of the

ocean, better access and an expected lifespan of about 65 years, which is much longer than the 20-to-25-year lifespan of most piers. Amenities include restrooms, the Pier 101 Restaurant and Bar, beach access, and the Gangplank Gift & Tackle Shop.

The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission said most of the pier is 25 feet wide. The 1,049-foot-long pier consists of concrete pilings and substructure with wooden walkways and railings. Wooden walkway panels are designed to break away in the event of large storms like hurricanes.

The pier stands 22 feet above sea level on 228 concrete pilings. The Diamond Head platform at the end of the pier is 7,500 square feet in size and the pier includes shade structures and benches.

The pier dates back to the 1930s, but the most recent Folly Beach Pier, which is owned by CCPRC, opened on July 4, 1995. The entirely wooden pier eventually began deteriorating because of marine borers and wear and tear from the ocean environment.



## Charleston City Council shows support for preserving over 700 acres of land on James Island

By Maddy Quon [mquon@postandcourier.com](mailto:mquon@postandcourier.com) | Dec 22, 2025



Live oaks stand near a screened-in porch at the Dill Sanctuary.

Megan Fernandes/Staff

CHARLESTON — City Council is taking steps to preserve a historically significant sanctuary on James Island.

Dill Sanctuary, which borders the Stono River and Riverland Drive, has been owned and preserved by the Charleston Museum for 40 years. While the museum has no intention of developing the 725-acre property, it wants to ensure it will be protected from development pressures in the future.

City Council unanimously approved a resolution at its Dec. 16 meeting in a show of support of the Lowcountry Land Trust applying for \$3 million greenbelt funds from Charleston County. The money would be used to purchase a conservation easement and protect Dill Sanctuary from development forever.

The city, Charleston Museum and Lowcountry Land Trust have been working to permanently preserve Dill Sanctuary since the late summer, city parks Director Jason Kronsberg told The Post and Courier.

When the land was donated to the museum in the late 1980s, it came with a restriction on development for 35 years, Carl Borick, museum director, said. Now that it's expired, the museum wants to ensure the land will be protected in the future, he said.

"Fifty years down the road, you won't have 300 houses out there," Borick said. "Even 10 years down the road, you wouldn't have that. That's exciting for the museum."

The three Dill sisters who owned the property — Julia, Frances and Pauline — had put in their will that the 1,149 acres of the family plantation, once known as Stono Farms, should go to the surviving sister with the directive that whatever remained be donated to the Charleston Museum.

Pauline Rivers Dill, the last surviving sister, died in 1985 and followed through with the family's promise. The land should be transformed into a restricted recreational sanctuary "to educate persons interested in the work of the museum for field trips, research and other education purposes," according to her last will and testament.

The land was later split to create **James Island County Park**, as Dill had outlined in her will. The remaining 725 acres have stayed a wildlife sanctuary that is mostly closed to the public but opens for events like summer camps, school trips, indigo-dyeing workshops and bird walks.

Since taking ownership of the property, Borick said the museum's board of directors implemented a land management plan to enhance wildlife habitat, including planting native species to attract the 4.3 million birds that migrate through South Carolina each year. The plan also includes prescribed burns to remove harmful invasive species, he said.



**preserving over 700 acres of land** — continued

Borick added that the land contains significant historical resources. The museum has identified 15 archeology sites on the property, including two African American cemeteries, four Civil War fortifications and enslaved people's quarters, he said.

The county's greenbelt application cycle is open and closes Jan. 30, said Eric Davis, the director of Charleston County's Housing Development and Land Management department.



## Charleston County Parks hosts holiday hoedown in Park Circle Dec. 3

by Abigail Quinn Mon, December 1, 2025 at 7:01 AM

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV) — Charleston County Parks is inviting people with disabilities and their families and friends to the annual Inclusive Holiday Hoedown, held in Park Circle.

This special country-style holiday event invites attendees to welcome in the holiday season with a big "yee-haw", dressed to the nines in their favorite western gear.

During the event, a DJ will be on sites to keep things rocking, and pizza, snacks and refreshments will be served.

The man of the hour, Santa Claus, will even be in attendance, helping to kick off the holidays in a merry way.

The Inclusive Holiday Hoedown will be held on Dec. 3 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Park Circle Community Building in North Charleston. Tickets are \$4 in advance or \$5 at the event, and event organizers recommend that tickets be purchased in advance. Chaperones are required to register, but are free with a participant's registration.



## Duathlon returns to Laurel Hill Co. Park

Staff report | Nov 27, 2025

Charleston County Parks will host the annual Off-Road Duathlon on the trails of Laurel Hill County Park in Mount Pleasant on **Jan. 10**. Registration for the run-bike-run event is open through Jan. 7.

This beginner-friendly, three-part race features a two-mile run followed by a seven-mile bike ride and finishes with another two-mile run, all held on the scenic off-road trails of Laurel Hill County Park. The race is hosted by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) in partnership with Anne Moore Endurance Coaching.

"This is a great event for beginners who are looking to venture into triathlons or other multi-sport races," said Anne Moore, endurance coach and partner with the Off-Road Duathlon. "It's also a fun option for current athletes who are looking for some cross-training in the off-season."

The duathlon is open to bikers and runners of all levels, including beginners. The race will begin at 8:30 a.m. A transition area will be used for set-up between legs of the race. The bike leg of the event is best suited for knobby, wide-tired bikes. All trails are of a natural, unimproved surface. A map of the race course is available at [CharlestonCountyParks.com](https://ccprc.com/3263/Off-Road-Duathlon) (<https://ccprc.com/3263/Off-Road-Duathlon>).

Finisher medals will be given out, and awards will be given to the top three male/female finishers overall, as well as age group winners and first place in the master category.

"This low-key race draws a good mix of serious competitors and beginners. No matter their experience or their fitness levels and abilities, they are genuinely supportive of one another," said CCPRC Fitness and Wellness Manager Allison Foster.

The race is open to ages 10 and up. Participants ages 10-15 must be accompanied by an adult chaperone. Helmets are required, and earbuds, pets and strollers will not be allowed on the race course. Water stations will be available on the course; however, pre-filled, personal water bottles are highly recommended.



Registration is \$60 per person and is available now at [CharlestonCountyParks.com](https://CharlestonCountyParks.com) (direct link). Registration for the race must be made in advance, and registration closes Wednesday, Jan. 7. On-site registration will not be available.

Laurel Hill County Park is located between Highway 17N and Highway 41 in Mount Pleasant. For the duathlon, runners will enter through the special event entrance location, at 1400 Highway 41, and will be directed to the race start from that entrance. Access through Park West will not be permitted for this event.

Laurel Hill County Park features several miles of running, walking and biking trails that wind through a variety of landscapes. The property is over 745 acres in total size and features an oak allée, large open meadows, a small lake and gorgeous scenery. General admission to the park for trail usage is \$1 per person.

For more information or to register for the Off-Road Duathlon, visit [CharlestonCountyParks.com](https://CharlestonCountyParks.com) or call 843-795-4386. This event is supported by Anne Moore Endurance Coaching and your Charleston County Parks.



## Fairy House Day set for Jan. 24

December 11, 2025



Courtesy of Charleston County Parks

The popular family event Fairy House Day returns to Mount Pleasant Palmetto Islands County Park on Jan. 24. Kids of all ages are invited to join Charleston County Parks for the greatest, tiniest building project ever.

Fairy House Day celebrates fairies, gnomes, nature discovery, creative expression and family fun. The adorable fairies and mischievous gnomes of Palmetto Islands County Park are back, and they need kids' creative sparkle to build them new, cozy and enchanting houses and homes. Participants will use non-living treasures like twigs, leaves, moss, pebbles and anything else Mother Nature has to offer to create magical miniature mansions.

Two time slots will be available for registration: from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 12 to 2 p.m. Space is limited and the event is expected to sell out, so participants are encouraged to register in advance. Registration is \$7 per person and is available at [CharlestonCountyParks.com](http://CharlestonCountyParks.com).

Event highlights include the chance to build a fairy house, plus story time hosted by the Charleston County Public Library, a kids' nature craft, a kids' bubble area and live kids' music from The V-Tones. A "real" fairy will also be on site for photos. Children are encouraged to come dressed as a fairy or gnome for extra fun. Food truck fare will be available for purchase on site, and face painting for an additional fee as well. An American Sign Language Interpreter will be on site for story time.

Registration includes park admission fee. All family members must register in order to attend, and a chaperone is required to remain on site with children. Pets are permitted, but must remain on a leash. Accessible parking, restrooms, picnic tables and sensory bags will be available on site.

For more information on Fairy House Day, including a schedule of events, or to register, call visit [CharlestonCountyParks.com](http://CharlestonCountyParks.com).



## Silent Disco returns Jan. 31

Courtesy of Charleston County Parks | Dec 22, 2025

Get ready to dance! Charleston County Parks is bringing back its Inclusive Silent Disco. This music event for people with disabilities and their families and friends will be held Jan. 31 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Cypress Hall within North Charleston Wannamaker County Park.

The Silent Disco is a unique party experience where guests can choose their own vibe. All guests wear wireless glowing headphones, provided free of charge with event admission. Two live DJs will play a variety of music, and attendees will have the opportunity to switch between the two genres of music in their headphones. Headphones will be provided by QuietKingz; participants will not be able to bring their own headphones. Refreshments including pizza, non-alcoholic drinks and snacks will also be served.

This event is specifically offered for people with disabilities, ages 4 and up and their families and friends. Chaperones are free and are required for ages 15 and under. Admission is \$4 per participant in advance and \$5 on site. Early registration can be made by calling 843-795-4386.

Accessible parking spots on gravel are available at Cypress Hall, as well as accessible restrooms. An UbiDuo deaf and hard-of-hearing communication device will be available. KultureCity sensory bags may be checked out at the event on a first-come, first-served basis. For additional information on accessibility highlights at the Inclusive Silent Disco, visit [CharlestonCountyParks.com](http://CharlestonCountyParks.com).

The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) is committed to creating and promoting inclusion for individuals of all abilities through Inclusive Recreation programs like the Inclusive Silent Disco. Other CCPRC Inclusive Recreation programs include the Inclusive Superhero Dance, Wheel to Surf Adaptive Surfing, Inclusive Swim Nights at the waterparks, the Inclusive Prom, the Holiday Hoedown and Inclusive Visits with Santa.

Contact [admin@CharlestonCountyParksFoundation.org](mailto:admin@CharlestonCountyParksFoundation.org). For more information on the Inclusive Silent Disco and other Inclusive Recreation programs offered by Charleston County Parks, visit [CharlestonCountyParks.com](http://CharlestonCountyParks.com) or call 843-795-4386.



### Travelers Have Voted: Here's Where to Play, Eat, and Stay in Charleston, SC

## Insider Guides

by Atoosa Ryanne Arfa Dec 5, 2025

Growing up, my references to Charleston, South Carolina, were high-level history lessons about the start of the Civil War and as Rhett Butler's hometown in *Gone with the Wind*. As an adult, I mostly associated the city with bachelorette trips and the pastel stretch of Rainbow Row seen on brochures and social feeds.

But Charleston is far more than surface-level history, parties, and Instagrammable streets. Founded in 1670 as Charles Towne by English settlers, the city grew through French Huguenot immigration and became a major port in the transatlantic slave trade, shaping its cultural and economic foundation. Today, it continues to evolve and embrace its traditions while reckoning with the weight of that history.

This depth is a large part of what helped Charleston earn top accolades in [TripAdvisor's 2025 Travelers' Choice Awards](#), an awards series that recognizes the best in travel and dining based on authentic reviews from millions of travelers over 12 months. Charleston ranked ninth among US destinations, with its hotels, restaurants, and tours receiving additional recognition.

Below are some of the top highlights in Charleston that Tripadvisor travelers love and that I experienced firsthand.

### The best things to do in Charleston

#### Take a historic walking tour

My group joined the Tripadvisor top-rated [Historic Charleston Guided Sightseeing Walking Tour](#) with Walks of Charleston, led by Dennis, a licensed local guide.

Dennis explained Charleston's history in a way that you wouldn't be able to fully understand if you walked the streets yourself, such as pointing out fingerprints pressed into old bricks by enslaved children in Philadelphia Alley.



Photo: Atoosa Ryanne Arfa

"Once you've seen it, you can't unsee it," he said. At the Old Slave Mart Museum (more on that below), he noted that Sullivan's Island is sometimes described as the "Ellis Island of the slave trade," a place where an estimated 40 percent of all enslaved Africans brought to North America first arrived.

Other sites visited during our two-hour tour included — but were not limited to — St. Michael's Church, a prominent Anglican Church that features distinct pew boxes; the homes of prominent slave traders, such as [Nathaniel Russell House](#); the Battery, which overlooks Charleston Harbor and Fort Sumter; and the iconic [Rainbow Row's](#) pastel homes, which we learned were influenced from Charleston's longstanding Caribbean connections.

[Walks of Charleston](#): 45 Pinckney Street, Charleston, SC 29401

#### Do a food tour with a renowned local chef

Chef Forrest Parker, head chef of Revival (more on that below), leads the Tripadvisor top-rated tour [Undiscovered Charleston: Half Day Food, Wine & History Tour with Cooking Class](#).

**Insider Guides** — continued



**Photo: Atoosa Ryanne Arfa**

He kicked off the tour by describing his inspiration from decades in the kitchen.

“I kept asking myself: what is it about Charleston’s dining scene that makes it so special?” Parker said. “And how did we get here in the first place?”

We joined the 90-minute walk, which starts at the city’s iconic Pineapple Fountain and passes through historic sites connected to Charleston’s culinary evolution. Throughout the tour, Parker blended insights with his quirky brand of humor.

“Charleston has a long-standing reputation as a restaurant city with a drinking problem,” he joked. “Savannah, our sister city, has a long-standing reputation as a drinking city with a restaurant problem.”

The experience concluded at a private kitchen adjacent to the prominent restaurant Azur, where Parker led a live cooking demonstration. We watched him prepare delicious Lowcountry classic recipes such as pimento cheese biscuits, shrimp and grits, and the Huguenot Tart with benne wafers. Using heritage ingredients and techniques he’s refined over two decades, he turned lunch into a masterclass and history lesson all in one.

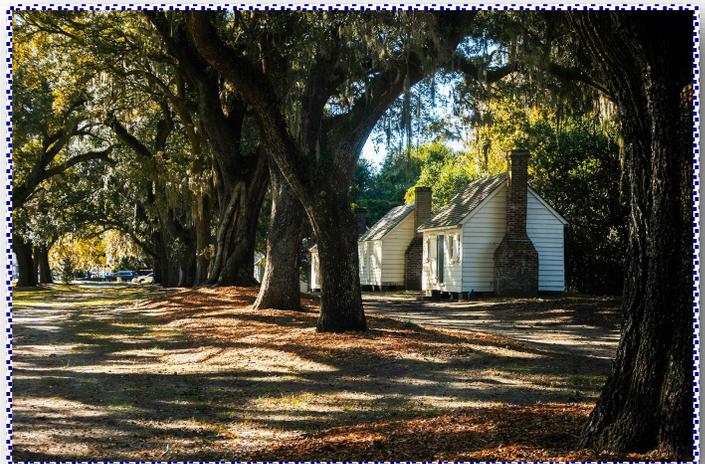
[Undiscovered Charleston](#): Various

**Visit the McLeod Plantation Historic Site**

I’ll admit: I was hesitant about visiting a historic plantation. Having lived in the South, I’m aware of how plantation culture is romanticized in classic films such as *Gone with the Wind* and even in subtle ways today. That said, the tour at the McLeod Plantation Historic Site, a 37-acre Gullah/Geechee heritage site, pleasantly surprised me and explained why it was so highly rated on Tripadvisor.

From the start, our guide made it clear that this tour wouldn’t sugarcoat history. The narrative centered less on the McLeod family and more on the lives and labor of the enslaved — and later freed, though still constrained — people who lived and worked on the property, with stories carried through first-person accounts across the Civil War, Reconstruction, and well into (and even after) the Civil Rights era.

[McLeod Plantation Historic Site](#): 325 Country Club Dr, Charleston, SC 29412



**Photo: Atoosa Ryanne Arfa**



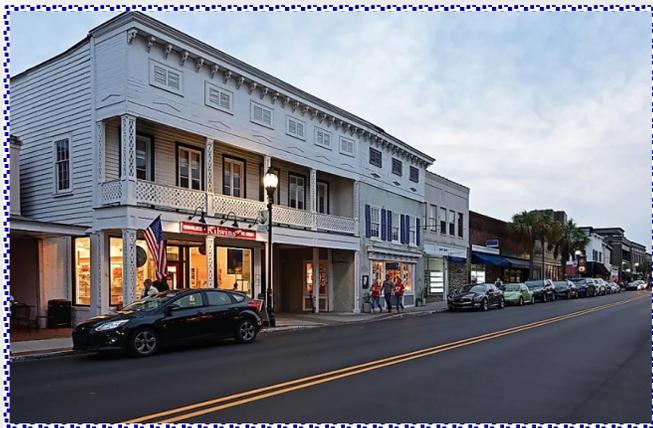
## 12 Small Towns In South Carolina To Visit For A Weekend Getaway

December 11, 2026

The small towns in South Carolina to visit for a weekend getaway are each bright, surprising places of history, coastline serenity, and mountain air that begs to be savored. From the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the beloved plains and forests of the lowlands, these towns blend film-ready façades, deep Gullah Geechee traditions, and a wild, unspoiled shoreline that make them perfect itinerary spots for the upcoming 2026. You should expect to walk through preserved antebellum neighborhoods, learn at community-run cultural centers, and paddle tranquil creeks where sea turtles sometimes nest. We've picked the best of the many small towns in South Carolina that are perfect for a weekend getaway.

### Beaufort

Beaufort is a stunning small town in the Lowcountry, where moss-draped oaks, tidy historic streets, and a waterfront that encourages beautiful weekend vacations for all. For history, Old Sheldon Church Ruins offers haunting brick walls and photo-perfect ruins that are viewable from the roadside and open during daylight hours. Penn Center on St. Helena Island preserves Gullah/Geechee history through exhibits and community programs, complete with guided tours and



Downtown historic district of Beaufort,  
South Carolina, at dusk.

seasonal events that run regularly at different times of the year.

Walking the waterfront at Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park gives you plenty of river views and even has a promenade with restaurants and art galleries nearby. For military history, the remains of Fort Frederick and other nearby historic fort sites provide insight into coastal defenses and stories from the Reconstruction era. Best of all, lovely accommodation options, such as the Cuthbert House Inn, ensure you have a grand and gallant occasion in Beaufort.

### Isle of Palms

Isle of Palms delivers newcomers to classic barrier-island vacations, where an abundance of broad beaches, seaside attractions, and a small-town strip of shops and cafés can be experienced in leisure. Isle of Palms County Park provides beach access with picnic areas, seasonal sensations, and large swathes of sand that throng with beachgoers early on summer weekends. The Wild Dunes Resort offers full-service recreation, featuring golf, pools, and family programming that are all conveniently and comfortably accessible to everyone. Interestingly, Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island offers a comprehensive tour of both the American Revolutionary War and the American Civil War, with scheduled exhibits highlighting the fort's military significance during these two eras of conflict. For comfortable oceanfront stays, properties such as The Palms Oceanfront Hotel book early in summer. If you want fewer crowds, consider visiting on autumn weekends for cooler weather and calmer beaches.

### Folly Beach

Folly Beach maintains a breezy, surf-friendly personality, with fishing piers, surf shops, and a handful of attractions that reward newcomers with amicable wanderings and wonders. A walk through the **Folly Beach Pier** gifts you with

**Towns to visit** — continued



**Aerial panorama view of Folly Beach, South Carolina.**

mesmerizing ocean views. Likewise, Center Street features surf shops, cafés, and a lively street energy that's perfect for daytime and nighttime meanderings. Whenever you have the time and the enthusiasm, you ought to explore the **Folly Beach County Park** with its pristine beaches and shorelines. Furthermore, you can go adventuring through the **Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve**, which offers an excellent vantage point to gaze out over the land from the **Morris Island Lighthouse**. Folly's easygoing surf-town sceneries, plus its amicable establishments like the Water's Edge Inn, make it one of the best small towns to visit for a weekend getaway.

**Georgetown**

Georgetown's atmosphere is brimming with maritime mysteries and historic riverfront warehouses, where visitors can immerse themselves in the rich histories of rice and the reef in the region. You can start your lessons at the Georgetown County Museum, where regional colonial and antebellum history is on full display. Meanwhile, the Rice Museum (and other rice-plantation interpretation in the area) explains why Georgetown shaped the region's economy and landscape. You can also step into the Kaminski House Museum to experience period furnishings and portraits that shine

a light on 18th- and 19th-century domestic life. Additionally, you can visit the Gullah Museum to understand the living Gullah traditions that are still celebrated in the area. In a site where the Black, Great Pee Dee, Waccamaw, and Sampit rivers mingle, Georgetown is a well-accomplished and well-praised vacation spot for a weekend getaway, and you can stay a long while in wholesome locales like the Baxter's Brewhouse Inn or the George Hotel.

**Bluffton**

The amazing and exquisite town of Bluffton unfurls with innumerable art galleries, mossy churches, and laidback charms and amenities to appreciate. The Heyward House Museum & Welcome Center is a compact primer on the town's past, as well as a great starting point for self-guided walking tours. On the other hand, the Old Town Bluffton Historic District contains galleries, the Church of the Cross, and riverside viewpoints that further give you a good glimpse into the town's history. If you time it right, the May River Shrimp Festival and the Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival are signature community celebrations that give you delicious seafood, juried artworks and masterpieces, and live music to



**May River in Bluffton, South Carolina.**



## Towns to visit — continued

adore. Bluffton also functions as a gateway to Hilton Head Island for beaches and larger-scale dining or events, while lovely accommodation options such as the May River Manor provide daily and nightly comforts in your stay in Bluffton.

### Newberry

The charming South Carolina town of Newberry guides newcomers to lovely streets, year-round performances, and botanical surprises that make it an excellent weekend getaway for you. The restored Newberry Opera House promotes and preserves local arts, while also hosting concerts and community theater productions. For verdant and vivacious respite, the Wells Japanese Garden offers a peaceful stroll among carefully tended plantings and koi ponds. Nearby, expansive regions of the Sumter National Forest are undaunted spots for hiking and trailblazing. At the same time, the Carter & Holmes Orchids thrives as a family-run nursery with one of the region's most extensive orchid displays and visiting hours. Furthermore, Newberry's festivals (Oktoberfest and seasonal markets) and lodgings such as the Hampton Inn Newberry-Opera House or Quality Inn Newberry make it easy to spend a weekend in this wonderful small town in South Carolina.

### Travelers Rest

Prospering at the Blue Ridge foothills, Travelers Rest is an outdoor haven and camping ground for grander adventures in South Carolina's natural sceneries. As the perfect weekend base camp, travelers at Travelers Rest can head over to Caesars Head State Park for dramatic overlooks and to traverse the immersive trail system that leads to new locations and areas of interest. The Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail runs through town, connecting Travelers Rest to Greenville via a long greenway perfect for biking and hiking. In town, the History Museum of Travelers Rest tells the story of Travelers Rest, from its time when the Cherokee once roamed the area to its current relevance as a resting spot for travelers. With

quaint establishments like The Station by Compo Hotels making everything nice and cozy, you will have a gorgeous weekend in Travelers Rest.

### Edisto Beach

Edisto Beach is a laidback and leisurely beachfront town on Edisto Island, where blissful and uncrowded beaches boast plenty of fun and adventures for all. The Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve (aka Botany Bay) showcases boneyard beaches, maritime forests, and photographic driftwood. Meanwhile, Edisto Beach State Park leads you toward scenic trails, camping sites, and an environmental education center ideal for families. Protectors and volunteers support sea turtle conservation on Edisto's shores, and visitors are encouraged to respect and protect their welfare through education and awareness. For more whimsical moments in South Carolina's wilderness, the Edisto Island Serpentarium displays native reptiles and runs educational programs for families. Finally, if you want a more extended nature excursion, the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge contains creeks and salt marshes for more exhilarating expeditions in the outdoors. Those of you who grow tired from all the walking can rest and recharge at places like the Wyndham Ocean Ridge Marsh Point.

### Aiken



South Boundary Street in Aiken, South Carolina.



**Towns to visit** — continued

The elegant town of Aiken lives at the intersection of equestrian tradition and vibrant arts. At the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame & Museum, visitors can explore how the town celebrates its horse-training legacy through artifacts and enjoy free admission on posted visiting days. Many ought to go hiking through Hitchcock Woods, one of the country’s largest urban forests, with miles of equestrian and walking trails open throughout the year. The manicured Hopelands Gardens shelters fountains, paths, and even hosts concerts on a seasonal schedule. For historical context on plantation life and its legacy, the Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site interprets the diverse stories of the region, including those of enslaved people and the changes of the Reconstruction era. Aiken’s equine landmarks and cozy accommodations like the Clarion Inn & Suites Aiken South continue to draw visitors from all over, ensuring that no matter when you visit, you will have a grand weekend in this whimsical small town.



A stunning waterfall near Walhalla, South Carolina, a town known for its great outdoors.

**Walhalla**

Walhalla is a gorgeous gateway to German-themed festivals and delightful natural landscapes in South Carolina’s countryside. Hiking through the Stumphouse Mountain Park allows you to photograph the serene Issaqueena Falls, one of

the most memorable waterfalls to adore. In contrast, Lake Keowee is a magnificent site for kayaking, swimming, and scenic picnic spots for all. Amateur historians should check out Oconee Station State Historic Site, where preserved frontier structures and scheduled guided tours explain the area’s 18th- and 19th-century frontier role. Most of all, the Museum of the Cherokee in South Carolina highlights Native American heritage in the region. Visitors can spend a humble and amicable weekend in idyllic establishments like the Rodeway Inn & Suites Walhalla.

**Anderson**

Anderson comforts newcomers with a surprising roster of outdoor options. As one of the most lowkey and satisfying summer stops in South Carolina, travelers can treat themselves to lessons of the past at the Anderson County Museum, where rotating exhibits and research resources enlighten curious individuals. For waterfront leisure, Sadlers Creek State Park puts you on Lake Hartwell for boating escapades and leisurely picnics beneath the sun and the stars. Those of you with an affinity for artistry will definitely appreciate the Anderson Arts Center, with exhibits and educational workshops that many aspiring artists will certainly like. Complete with lodgings such as the Horizon Inn & Suites, Anderson amazes and astounds with its laidback airs and comfortable weekend attractions.

**Landrum**

Landrum, situated near the North Carolina border, functions as a serene launch pad for visiting waterfalls and walking on equestrian trails that will leave indelible memories to cherish. Visitors can traverse several historic bridges, such as the Campbell’s Historic Covered Bridge, for a beautiful and bodacious occasion in the quaint countryside. Meanwhile, the Blue Wall Preserve is a local favorite for its views of the pond,

## Towns to visit — continued



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**Historic Campbells Covered Bridge in Landrum, South Carolina.**

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short waterfalls to photograph, and ridge trails that traverse at your own pace. Best of all, for equestrian and birdwatching opportunities, the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center (FENCE) offers guided rides, events, and trails that welcome families and riders. If the Poinsett Bridge is offline, lean into Blue Wall hikes, FENCE trail rides, or nearby state forest trails for your upcountry fix. Many of you will also appreciate staying in outdoor retreats and inns like The Red Horse Inn, further proving how excellent and simplistic Landrum is as a weekend getaway.

## A Weekend Getaway In South Carolina

The various small towns in South Carolina are idyllic destinations for a weekend getaway, where antebellum buildings and quiet barrier islands are just some of the many things to see in the state. Where culture, conservation, and easygoing summer fun can be gained from towns like Edisto Beach, or where wellness and wholesomeness can easily be attained in towns like Travelers Rest and Newberry, these small towns in South Carolina ought to be visited this upcoming winter or this upcoming new year. Amidst the historic landmarks and naturally beautiful landscapes to cherish in South Carolina's countryside, you will come across some of the best small towns to visit for a weekend getaway.

## Customer Quotes

*I did not know anything about the Dragon Boats and was a little apprehensive. The staff was very calm and made me feel at ease! Every event that I have done with Charleston County Parks has been done very well and the staff are super helpful and kind and that is very rare these days. I have done a variety of activities and I am never disappointed! You do a great job of hiring people!!!*

### **Dragon Boat at the Holiday Festival of Lights Participant – James Island County Park**

*Andrea was really knowledgeable about seashells. More than I ever thought there could be. Now when I walk on the beach it is a completely new experience.*

### **Seashore Exploration Participant – Isle of Palms County Park**

*I had a very enjoyable experience taking this Gullah doll making class. It was a great cultural experience that should be offered again. It was well organized. Thanks to the Parks Foundation for the deduction in the cost to attend. It makes it affordable for all.*

### **Gullah Doll Making Workshop Participant – McLeod Plantation Historic Site**

*This was our third year bringing our son for pictures. It was more so for exposure to be able to spend time with Santa. Everyone from the staff, definitely the photographer (this is our third year with him- he is always professional. I shared with him about past experiences and he was able to make this year VERY special for not just our son but all of us. I left in tears. Santa - this was our second year...please keep him he is phenomenal. Very patient and loving. The entire experience was a dance of love and patience. I will never forget our experience. The staff as always was patient, warm, and did everything they could to help us with our son. I will always remember this year's photos. I will continue to bring my son to experience the love and care that we only experience with the Inclusive Santa Experience. We arrived at the very end and was sure we would be turned away. We arrived at 1:50pm. We were greeted with love and kindness. And everything we asked for to assist my son with his sensory issues were met above and beyond. Everyone was all hands on deck (my son is a runner and staff actually helped us chase him down and guide him back to get photos). This was truly a family moment with everyone involved and I am very blessed and grateful this program is offered. This is the only place and photographer that can actually catch my son smiling. He does not sit still and does not smile often but this year everyone worked hard so that we could capture that one special photo (which we did) and I am truly grateful for Charleston County parks and James Island staff. Thank you for making this year very special for my family. We actually got a photo with all us and Santa in it. I will never forget this. Thank you again.*

### **Inclusive Santa Participant/Parent – James Island County Park**

*Walking this event is a tradition our family has enjoyed for years and it keeps getting better! Thank you for all the hard work and effort that goes into this incredible gift of an event.*

### **Holiday Festival of Lights Fun Run Participant – James Island County Park**

## Charleston County Parks Foundation

The Charleston County Parks Foundation raised \$2,650 on Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025! Giving Tuesday is a global initiative that encourages people and organizations to donate their time and money to charitable causes on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving in the United States.

The image for this year's Charleston County Parks Foundation Holiday Mailing Campaign to Gold Pass holders and Foundation supporters was designed by Rachel Willson, CCPRC's Marketing Brand Coordinator. It features a few happy dogs at Wannamaker County Park's dog park! A Charleston County Parks Foundation Donor recently responded to the card and was especially complimentary of James Island County Park. As of mid-December, the campaign has raised nearly \$30,000!

*"We love enjoying the James Island County Park with our son and want to make sure others can too."*



# Charleston County Parks Foundation

So far this holiday season, the Charleston County Parks Foundation has provided Holiday Festival of Lights passes and experiences to groups and families like Pattison's Academy, Camp Rise Above, Camp Happy Days, and The Kids Pickle Foundation to name a few. The Foundation remains a vital resource for non-profit groups and individuals needing access to our parks and programs.



Post Office Box 177  
John Island, SC 29457

**December 12, 2025**

**Mr. Matthew Rosenbrock  
Business Development Manager  
Charleston County Park Foundation  
861 Riverland Drive  
Charleston, SC 29412**

**Dear Matt,**

**We would like to express our most sincere appreciate to you for making the Holiday Festival of Lights a wonderful experience for the Kids Pickle Foundation Children. The streamline process for the vendors worked great. The children enjoyed themselves immensely and were so excited riding the train, carousel, climbing wall and eating the popcorn, pretzels, s'mores and drinking hot chocolate.**

**Your continued partnership with us demonstrates a commitment to making a difference and supporting the community. We look forward to exploring more opportunities to collaborate in the future.**

**Thank you once again for your invaluable support and partnership.**

**With Much Gratitude,**

*Maxine*

**Maxine Jones, Executive Director  
Kids Pickle Foundation**

## Community Recreation

On December 12, Lincoln Community Recreation took 13 program participants to attend the Holiday Festival of Lights. During the visit, students enjoyed viewing festive light displays, walking through illuminated pathways, listening to holiday music, and participating in seasonal photo opportunities while engaging positively with their peers.



## Festivals and Events

### Holiday Hoedown

On Wednesday, December 3, we hosted the Inclusive Holiday Hoedown at the Park Circle Community Building. More than 100 attendees filled the dance floor and celebrated throughout the evening. Lowcountry Entertainment kept the energy high with a lively mix of holiday favorites and today's hits. It was a magical night featuring special appearances by Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Bandit. Guests also enjoyed a festive photo station where they could capture keepsake moments from the event. Refreshments and cookies were served, and Papa Johns generously provided pizza through their sponsorship.



## Festivals and Events

### Inclusive Santa

Two Inclusive Santa events were held on December 7 and December 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at James Island County Park. The December 7 event served 18 families with a total attendance of 70 individuals, while the December 14 event served 14 families with 50 individuals in attendance. These sensory-friendly events provided individuals with disabilities and their families an opportunity to visit with Santa in a calm, welcoming environment. Each family received a full digital image package from their visit and a pass to return for the Holiday Festival of Lights in the evening.



## Holiday Festival of Lights

### Wonderful compliment PPS received on the Holiday Festival of Lights:

*"Hi there, On Monday November 17, a few volunteers from Church Coastal Community brought some folks from Joseph Floyd Manor and Brighton Place to the Holiday lights. Both places are low income housing with mostly Senior and disabled folks who reside there. They were completely blown away by the park, not just the lights, and none of the 15 people had ever been to the park at any time! Your staff was very accommodating, even letting us enter and park early so our folks could go to the bathroom.*

*We go through the lights every year, however seeing them through the eyes of a first timer is very heartwarming. Keep up the great work.*

*Thank you."*



## Interpretation

### Gullah Doll Making Workshop

The Cultural History Interpretation team hosted a Gullah Doll Making Workshop at MPHS on December 5. The program was part of the cultural history arts series which is funded by the Charleston County Parks Foundation. Folks traveled from as far away as Myrtle Beach to attend and it was a wonderful day spent celebrating culture and community.



### Master Naturalist Program

Congratulations to the graduates of the Fall 2025 Charleston Master Naturalist Program, led by CCPRC's Natural History Interpretation Team in partnership with Clemson University. This course is for adults of all ages who want to better understand and protect the rich natural resources of South Carolina. While focusing on the coastal environments in and surrounding Charleston County, participants sharpen their identification skills, learn to "read" landscapes, and develop an understanding of ecological relationships and issues across the SC Lowcountry.



## Johns Island County Park

When the expansion of the disc golf facilities at Johns Island County Park was announced, few anticipated just how transformative it would be. The upgrade from a modest 9-hole layout to a full 18-hole course has proved to be a game-changer, not just for disc golf enthusiasts, but for the park's overall foot traffic. The disc golf upgrade has not only enhanced the sport's footprint in the Lowcountry but also helped boost daily usage of Johns Island County Park, making it a more vibrant and active gathering place for locals.

The revamped course, known as the Old Grove Disc Golf Course, offers double tee pads on each hole, separated by varied terrain that challenges both beginners and experienced players. The course features 18 holes with a mix of open field throws and technical wooded lines. The Old Grove Disc Golf Course has put JoICP on the map for a different audience and is an amenity that has proven to be a recreation destination.

The visitation of the disc golf facilities has gone from about 20 users a week to roughly 20 a day, with that number being bigger on weekends. The disc golf community has truly embraced the new course.



## McLeod Plantation Historic Site

Around 6 acres of wildflowers and native grasses were planted at MPHS in the large field that borders Folly Rd and Tatum St. This project is a collaboration between Adam Ronan and Joel Thompson and is outlined in the land management plan for the park. This enhancement will provide native pollinators, birds and other wildlife a home and MPHS guests a relaxing space to stroll after a tour. The seeds that were spread were purchased and donated by the Charleston County Park Foundation. A big shout out to Matt Rosebrock and the Foundation for their support as well. December marked a huge milestone for the project, considering Joel and Adam have been researching and planning for nearly two years and field preparations had been ongoing since September 2024. Staff have done their part; it's all up to mother nature now!



## Outdoor Recreation

### Outdoor Adventure at Holiday Festival of Lights

There is a lot to see at the Holiday Festival of Lights, and the views are splendid from both the climbing wall and a dragon boat. With the new location of the climbing wall this year, it serves as an activity anchor to Santa's Village. With over 3500 climbers, it has been a nightly highlight of the show. Dragon boating is offered on select nights throughout the festival and has been especially popular with first-time visitors, while also providing a fresh experience for long-time attendees.



## Outdoor Recreation

### USA Climbing Regional Climbing Competitions

December offered our climbing team the opportunity to test their skills for bouldering in Morganton, NC and most recently top rope in Asheville, NC. Our team sent 15 competitors and had three 1st Place and one 3rd Place finisher(s). Congrats to all the competitors and coaches with their success on the rock face!



### **DECEMBER SPONSORED EVENTS:**

- **Holiday Festival of Lights**
  - \* Presented by: Boeing and South Carolina Federal Credit Union
  - \* Boeing is in their 13th year and SCFCU is in their second year
  - \* Supported by: 110 companies (96 repeat sponsors, 14 new sponsors)
  - \* A couple of lights displays featured in a 2025 photo shoot.



# Recreation Stats & Attendance

## CCPRC ATTENDANCE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025 vs NOVEMBER 2024

ATTENDANCE FOR PROGRAMS												
	CAMP	CHALLENGE COURSE	CLIMBING WALL	COMMUNITY RECREATION	CULTURAL HISTORY	EDUCATION	FESTIVALS AND EVENTS	HEALTH AND WELLNESS	INCLUSIVE RECREATION	NATURAL HISTORY	OUTDOOR ADVENTURE	TOTAL
2025 Attendance	0	399	4,681	1,987	2,487	1,099	2,870	3,834	0	1,300	237	18,844
2024 Attendance	0	216	3,910	2,128	2,692	573	3,018	4,012	71	1,307	191	17,518
Variance	0	183	771	-141	395	476	-148	-178	-71	-7	46	1,326

PUBLIC PROGRAMS												
	CAMP	CHALLENGE COURSE	CLIMBING WALL	COMMUNITY RECREATION	CULTURAL HISTORY	EDUCATION	FESTIVALS AND EVENTS	HEALTH AND WELLNESS	INCLUSIVE RECREATION	NATURAL HISTORY	OUTDOOR ADVENTURE	TOTAL
2025 Programs Offered	0	0	21	4	133	4	1	7	0	16	6	212
2025 Programs Implemented	0	0	19	4	142	4	1	7	0	14	6	197
% Implemented 2025	-	-	90%	100%	93%	100%	100%	100%	-	88%	100%	93%
2024 Programs Offered	0	0	21	6	85	3	1	6	8	17	12	159
2024 Programs Implemented	0	0	18	6	84	3	1	6	8	17	12	155
% Implemented 2024	-	-	86%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	97%

CUSTOM PROGRAMS										
	CHALLENGE COURSE	CLIMBING WALL	CULTURAL HISTORY	EDUCATION	INCLUSIVE RECREATION	NATURAL HISTORY	OUTDOOR ADVENTURE	TOTAL		
2025 Programs Implemented	12	11	11	43	0	4	0	82		
2024 Programs Implemented	7	4	7	24	0	4	0	47		
Variance	5	7	4	19	0	0	0	35		

\*Attendance for the Climbing Wall reflects daily facility attendance as well as program attendance (when programs are offered).

\*\*Some departments primarily offer Custom Programs, while others departments rarely offer Custom Programs because of differences in the audiences they serve.

# Parks Stats & Attendance

## Total Facility Attendance 25-26 vs. 24-25

	PICP	JICP	WCP	CAW	JoICP	FB Pier	MP Pier	BWP	FBCP	IOP	Bulow	Laurel Hill	Old Towne	McLeod	LHP	SK8	WCAC	Sono River
YTD 23/24 Attendance	70,702	301,407	225,214	10,356	44,571	223,359	135,542	60,507	101,180	128,662	1447	1,005	0	16,266	56,500	8,591	6,375	5,629
YTD 24/25 Attendance	80,005	260,394	191,744	8,712	32,328	306,021	144,740	52,703	74,652	112,970	2098	20,813	0	14,861	44,121	9,864	5,765	20,241
<b>YTD 25/26 Attendance</b>	<b>70,129</b>	<b>254,675</b>	<b>178,954</b>	<b>10,031</b>	<b>28,434</b>	<b>339,277</b>	<b>135,013</b>	<b>52,041</b>	<b>72,658</b>	<b>114,067</b>	<b>1326</b>	<b>23,192</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,376</b>	<b>46,811</b>	<b>8,341</b>	<b>5,285</b>	<b>12,307</b>
Variance	-9,876	-5,719	-12,790	1,319	-3,894	33,256	-9,727	-662	-1,994	1,097	-772	2,379	0	-485	2,690	-1,523	-480	-7,934
%	-12%	-2%	-7%	15%	-12%	11%	-7%	-1%	-3%	1%	-37%	11%	---	-3%	6%	-15%	-8%	-39%

all facilities continued

	SI	SZ	WW	TOTAL
YTD 23/24 Attendance	15,968	42,433	108,933	167,334
YTD 24/25 Attendance	11,063	26,670	83,535	121,268
<b>YTD 25/26 Attendance</b>	<b>11,521</b>	<b>27,056</b>	<b>80,220</b>	<b>118,797</b>
Variance	458	386	-3,315	-2,471
%	4%	1%	-4%	-2%

	BWP	FBCP	IOP	TOTAL
YTD 23/24 Attendance	25,250	42,689	51,568	119,507
YTD 24/25 Attendance	23,956	37,326	47,071	108,353
<b>YTD 25/26 Attendance</b>	<b>23,655</b>	<b>36,329</b>	<b>47,528</b>	<b>107,512</b>
Variance	-301	-997	457	-841
%	-1%	-3%	1%	-1%

	W North Trail*	Meggett*	TOTAL
YTD 23/24 Attendance	645	129	1,398,087
YTD 24/25 Attendance	13,172	1,542	1,396,746
<b>YTD 25/26 Attendance</b>	<b>12,828</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>1,379,952</b>
Variance	-344	-1,335	-16,794
%	-3%	-87%	-1%

	Campsites	Cottages	Marina
YTD 23/24 Attendance	83%	59%	94%
YTD 24/25 Attendance	75%	54%	92%
<b>YTD 25/26 Attendance</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>94%</b>

**Diversity Mission Statement:** The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission will provide high quality park facilities, programs, and services to the ever-changing community we serve by recruiting, training, and retaining a qualified and diverse staff.



Above : Volunteers at Soda Tent  
at Harvest Festival



Right : Volunteers at ID Check/Wristband  
at Harvest Festival

### Current Staff Statistics: DECEMBER EEO Information

	FULL TIME EMPLOYEES	PART TIME EMPLOYEES	TOTAL OF ALL EMPLOYEES
<b>Number of Employees</b>	184	773	957
<b>White</b>	155	609	79.8%
<b>Hispanic</b>	7	28	3.7%
<b>African American</b>	15	104	12.4%
<b>Asian</b>	2	10	1.3%
<b>American Indian</b>	1	9	1.0%
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	0	2	<1%
<b>Two or more Races</b>	6	21	2.8%
<b>Other or Prefer not to Provide</b>	2	31	3.4%
<b>Male</b>	99	312	42.9%
<b>Female</b>	83	449	55.6%
<b>Prefer not to Provide</b>	2	12	1.5%

# Human Resources

## Volunteer Coordinator Report November 2024 VS November 2025 reported in December 2025

Activity Category	Hours	Volunteers
Call Me Handy!!!!@ Johns Island County Park/Mullet Hall Equestrian Center	9	1
McLeod Plantation Interpretive Host	37	5
Chili 5k	24	6
Harvest Festival	165	24
Climbing Wall Holiday Festival of Lights	60	8
KultureCity Training	1	1
Marshmallow & Smores Kits Holiday Festival of Lights	104	17
Fun Run Holiday Festival of Lights	144	25
Holiday Festival of Lights Gift Shop Help	18	6
Meggett County Park Volunteer	3	1
Master Naturalist Docent at Caw-Caw	46	9
<b>Total Volunteer Hours:</b>	<b>611</b>	
<b>Current Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours:</b>	<b>2,796.00</b>	
<b>Previous Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours:</b>	<b>2,573.67</b>	
<b>Current vs Previous Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours:</b>	<b>222.33</b>	

### Value of Volunteer Hours

<b>Total Volunteer Full-time Employee Equivalent:</b>	<b>3.76</b>	
<b>Current Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Full-time Employee Equivalent:</b>	<b>17.21</b>	
<b>Previous Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Full-time Employee Equivalent</b>	<b>15.84</b>	
<b>Current vs Previous Fiscal YTD Volunteer Full-time Employee Equivalent:</b>	<b>1.37</b>	

### Value of Volunteer Hours Formula:

# Volunteer hours / 162.5 (equivalent of one full time employee) = # full-time employee equivalent

### Monthly Employee Cost Savings

<b>Total Volunteer Hours Value:</b>	<b>\$15,051.28</b>	
<b>Current Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours Value:</b>	<b>\$69,128.81</b>	
<b>Previous Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours: Value</b>	<b>\$63,407.13</b>	
<b>Current vs Previous Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours Value:</b>	<b>\$5,721.68</b>	

### Monthly Employee Cost Savings Formula:

\$4003 (monthly cost with salary and benefits for a specialist level full time employee) x # of full-time employee equivalent = Monthly Employee Cost Savings

# Digital Marketing Summary

## EMAIL MARKETING

Sends	Average Open Rate	Clicks
529,526	295,373	8,600

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook	Instagram	X (Twitter)
Reach: 953,695	Followers: 43,459	Followers: 11,289
Content Interaction: 5,829	Engagement: 2,694	Impressions: 5,468

## Organic Social Media Post Samples

**Charleston County Parks** Published by Hootsuite · November 29 at 10:00 AM ·

Everyone has a favorite display at the Holiday Festival of Lights, and we want to know yours!

With millions of lights sparkling across the park, there's always that one you look for first.




**charlestoncountyparks**

This Veterans Day, we're proud to highlight a meaningful partnership that helps serve those who served our country.

The Charleston County Parks Foundation has partnered with Veterans on Deck to provide a 20% discount on docking fees at Cooper River County Park.

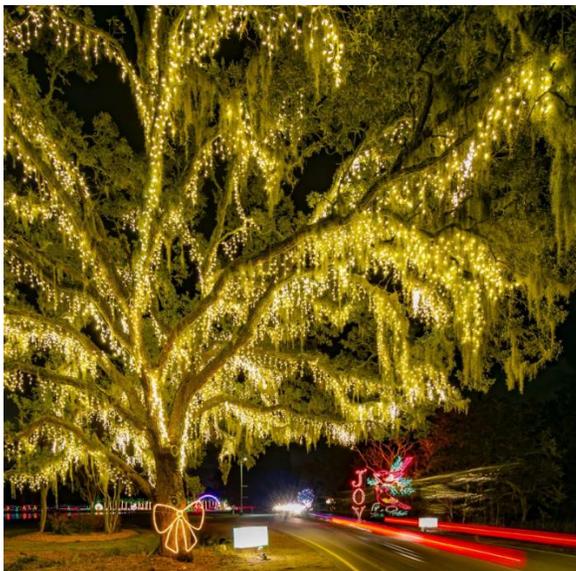
This support allows the organization to keep one of its sailboats moored there, offering local veterans free, two-hour therapeutic sailing trips in Charleston Harbor.

"Veterans on Deck is glad to have our third sailboat moored at Cooper River County Park, where we can better serve our veteran participants who live in North Charleston and West Ashley," Veterans On Deck Chief Operating Officer Bill Eiser said. "We are grateful to the Charleston County Parks Foundation for the support they are providing us, and we look forward to a successful partnership with them."

View insights Boost post

Liked by beemokhospitalitycollection and 29 others  
November 11

Add a comment...



**charlestoncountyparks**

Opening night has arrived, and the glow is glorious at James Island County Park!

Every display is ready, every bulb is shining, and memories are waiting to be made. The Holiday Festival of Lights officially opens tonight! Grab your tickets through the link in our bio.

2w

**harmonfoxbank** Gorgeous! Always so well done!!  
2w Reply

**kayandco** our favorite christmas activity!  
2w Reply

**catch23fb**  
2w Reply

View insights Boost post

Liked by lisa\_knisley\_white and 372 others  
November 14

Add a comment... Post

## Park & Program Services

### INCOMING CALLS

Phone Calls
2,804

Incoming Call Topics	Total
Waterpark/HFoL	577
Camp	4
Passes	214
Program Registration	39
Reservations	133
General Information	261
Campground & Cottages	332
C&C Unavailable Dates	144
Festivals & Events	32
Other	20
Wrong Number	302

### Program Registration & Reservations

Enrollments	Memberships	Facility Reservations	Campground Reservations
1,357	1,338	117	1,131

# Planning & Development Projects Update

## Old Towne Creek County Park: Phase I Development

Construction continues at the Welcome Center building and the adjacent rain garden in the central pedestrian gathering area, as well as the pedestrian entrance, the vehicular entrance, along with bench installation and way-finding signage throughout the park. The maintenance building and yard compound, which will be used as a District 1 hub is seeing much progress.

Renovation of the Main House is well underway, which will be used for CCPRC offices, saving the agency operational funds from leased office space. Recreation will be vacating the Executive Hall for these offices.



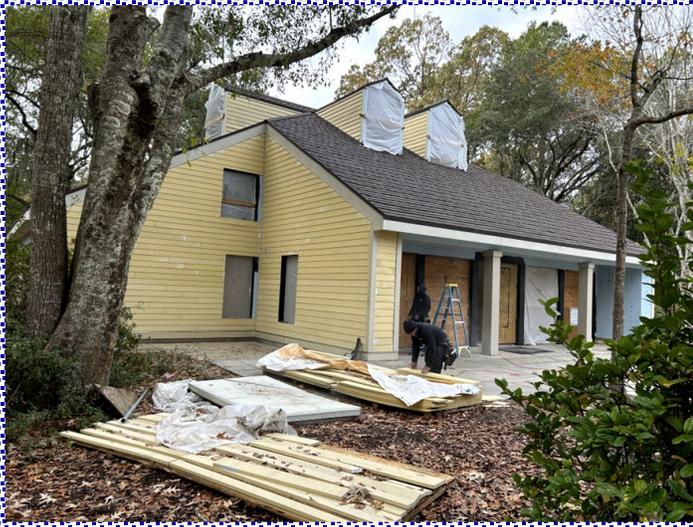
*Main House Renovations*



*Local Resident Checking Out the Rainwater Cistern at the Welcome Center*

### James Island County Park: Edisto Hall Repairs

Interior sheetrock installation has been completed on the walls and ceiling. Construction is progressing on several key improvements, which include, enhanced ADA-compliant access, the addition of durable fiber-cement siding, and the installation of a new stone-coated steel roof to ensure long-term resilience and aesthetic appeal.



### Wannamaker County Park: Whirlin' Waters M-1 Building Roof Repairs

The M-1 Roof Repair project at Whirlin' Waters focuses on repairing and upgrading the roof that supports the mechanical systems for the wave pool. The work includes removing corrosion, painting and priming, replacing corroded metal framing used as supports for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems (Unistrut), and addressing additional structural improvements and bracing.

The project got underway in October is progressing smoothly and is on track to be completed ahead of schedule.



## Agencywide: Water Park Electrical Upgrades

In the coming weeks, work at Whirlin' Waters will focus on removing existing transformer pads, pouring new foundations, and installing transformers for the M-2 and M-3 buildings.

Meanwhile, at Splash Zone, crews will be setting up racks and supports for the electrical panels and starter motors to prepare for upcoming electrical upgrades.

## Riverland Terrace Boat Landing: Floating Dock Replacement

R.L. Morrison & Sons, the contractor for the Riverland Terrace boat landing repairs, will begin work in mid-January. The project includes replacing the damaged floating dock with new aluminum docks and installing a new concrete abutment to address the cracking caused when the dock tore away.

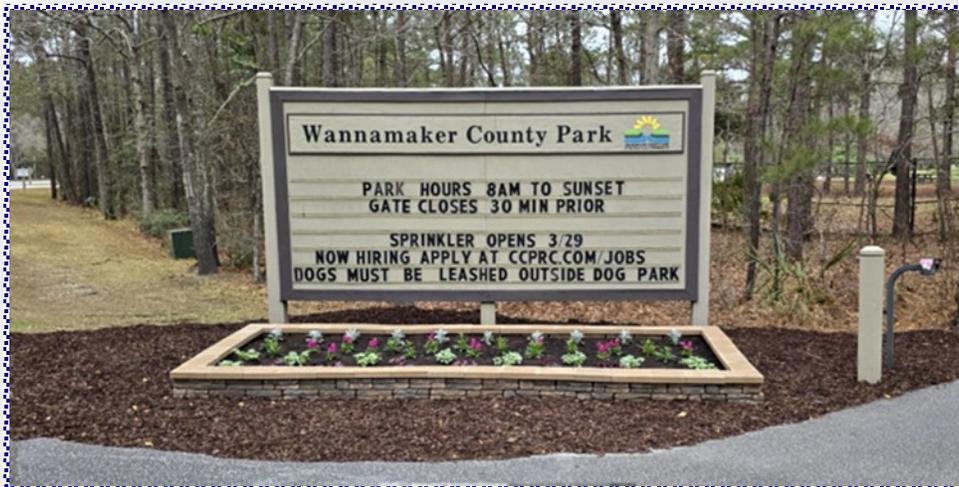
The boat landing will be closed for the during the work, and the specific closure dates will be widely publicized once they are confirmed.

## Design Review & Project Assistance

The Project Design Manager provides assistance with the planning of some projects and facilitates the agency's internal Design Review Process. The following project were reviewed and approved since the last Commission Meeting:

### Wannamaker County Park: Marquee Sign Plantings

To enhance the visual appeal of the marquee sign near the entrance to the park, a raised planter for seasonal color has been added, and planting to help blend the sign with its surroundings is to be installed this winter/spring or next.



*New Raised Planter*