



NEWS RELEASE

Public Contact: 843-795-4386 / www.charlestoncountyparks.com

Media Contact: Sarah Reynolds / (843) 762-8089 / sreynolds@ccprc.com

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The 31st Annual Holiday Festival of Lights kicks off Nov. 13 at James Island County Park

[CHARLESTON, SC] – For the 31st year, the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) invites you to a magical evening at the Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park! Let your heart be light while enjoying the festival's renowned displays, featuring approximately two million dazzling lights.

The Holiday Festival of Lights is held every evening, rain or shine, from Nov. 13 – Dec. 31, 2020. The festival will open nightly at 5:30 and close at 10 p.m.

“Charleston County Parks is thrilled to offer the Holiday Festival of Lights to the community this year,” said CCPRC Executive Director David Bennett. “While the event has been modified for these challenging times, the heart of the festival – its driving tour – remains unchanged to safely delight families and guests of all ages.”

Take a heartwarming cruise along the three-mile display of glimmering lights with your closest companions. The driving tour features over 700 light displays, most of which were created in-house by park staff. Displays range from traditional holiday scenes to Lowcountry icons such as Rainbow Row and the Cooper River and Ravenel Bridges; to various themed sections that delight all ages like Sea Land, Dinosaur Land, Candy Land and Toy Land.

After touring the lights, drive through a concessions area to pick up treats including the festival's famous hot chocolate. Restrooms will be available at one location within the park, but otherwise guests will remain in their cars at this year's Holiday Festival of Lights.

While on-site visits with Santa will not take place during the Holiday Festival of Lights, Charleston County Parks will still offer photos with the very popular Old St. Nick during select daytime visits. Families can sign up for a timeframe visit with Santa during the day at James Island County Park. Sessions come complete with a private visit and a photo package from the official Holiday Festival of Lights photographer Gary Coleman. For details or to register, visit HolidayFestivalofLights.com.

The Santa's Attic gift shop will be open during the day only (from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) for holiday shopping, from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. Santa's Attic is located at James Island County Park's Park Center.

Also new this year, to encourage contactless transactions, will be the opportunity to purchase advance festival tickets online at HolidayFestivalofLights.com. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the gate for \$20 per vehicle of up to 15 guests.

One of Charleston's favorite holiday events, the Holiday Festival of Lights has attracted millions of visitors during its 31 years running. The holiday hotspot has earned many awards and mentions throughout the country, and was a 2019 finalist for Charleston's Choice best Lowcountry event by *The Post & Courier*.

As the Holiday Festival of Lights can be very busy on weekends and holidays, Charleston County Parks encourages visitors to consider visiting on weeknights. For additional tips on coming to the event as well as less-traveled driving routes, visit HolidayFestivalofLights.com. For more information on the Holiday Festival of Lights call 843-795-4386, or visit HolidayFestivalofLights.com or CharlestonCountyParks.com. This event is co-presented by Boeing, REV Federal Credit Union, your Charleston County Parks and many supporting sponsors.

Owned and managed by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC), James Island County Park is located at 871 Riverland Drive. The mission of CCPRC is to improve the quality of life in Charleston County by offering a diverse system of park facilities, programs and services. The large park system features over 11,000 acres of property and includes six regional parks, a skate park, three beach parks, four seasonally-lifeguarded beach areas, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three waterparks, 19 boat landings, a climbing wall, a challenge course, an interpretive center, a historic plantation site, an equestrian center, an aquatic center, cottages, a campground, a marina, as well as wedding, meeting and event facilities. The park system also offers a wide variety of recreational services – festivals, camps, classes, programs, and more. For more information on CCPRC, call 843-795-4386, visit CharlestonCountyParks.com or download the Charleston County Parks mobile app.



Photo by Sea Island Media

Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission / 861 Riverland Drive / Charleston, SC 29412 / (843) 762-2172 / www.CharlestonCountyParks.com