



## NEWS RELEASE

Public Contact: 843-795-4386 / [www.charlestoncountyparks.com](http://www.charlestoncountyparks.com)

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# Forest Management activities planned at Laurel Hill County Park

*Timber thinning to be conducted by property's trustee; some trail closures may occur*

[MOUNT PLEASANT] – Forest management activities may soon be initiated at Laurel Hill County Park property near Highways 41 and 17 in Mount Pleasant. The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) leases Laurel Hill County Park from landowner Wells Fargo, and the park is open to the public for passive recreational uses.

On behalf of Wells Fargo, land management professionals have identified that much of the park is in need of forest management – specifically, “thinning.” Thinning is the process of removing trees to reduce the volume of wood to healthier levels, benefiting both people and wildlife. This is not a “clear cut.”

Pending favorable weather conditions, starting in late November a logging contractor will begin thinning the woods at Laurel Hill County Park. Trees removed will be mostly pine, but removal of some hardwood trees is unavoidable. CCPRC has been assured that the contractor will be sensitive to the public and historic nature of the property.

In consultation with CCPRC, land management professionals have directed loggers to:

- Avoid removing or damaging live oaks.
- Avoid sensitive cultural and ecological areas.
- Leave ‘no-cut’ buffers in certain areas, including along the historic oak allee.
- Clear all pine trees within 25 feet of living pecan trees (a portion of the property was historically a pecan orchard), enabling them to thrive.
- Attempt to maintain trails as passable for public use.

CCPRC and the contractor will make every effort to minimize trail closures during the duration of the project, but park patrons should look for and be aware of possible trail closures at the park. For their own safety, trail users should respect all closure signage. CCPRC will update trail closures as conditions allow.

Logging trucks may be seen entering and exiting the property from Highway 41, possibly starting in mid-to-late-November. No specific start and end date has been determined, however, as the planned work is weather-dependent.

Wells Fargo is the designated trustee of the former landowner, Mr. John D. Muller. Per Mr. Muller’s wishes, “It is my will and desire that my Trustee shall cause said Laurel Hill Plantation to be maintained in a natural state insofar as possible, while giving to my Trustee the right to remove timber therefrom from time to time...”

Laurel Hill County Park is a 747-acre property that is accessed via a trailhead at the Town of Mount Pleasant’s Park West Recreation Complex. Questions about the planned timber thinning should be directed to CCPRC Senior Planner Matt Moldenhauer at [mmoldenhauer@ccprc.com](mailto:mmoldenhauer@ccprc.com) or 843-762-2172. For more information on Laurel Hill County Park, visit [CharlestonCountyParks.com](http://CharlestonCountyParks.com) or call 843-795-4386.

*Laurel Hill County Park is leased by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC). 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 four land parks, a skate park, three beach parks, four seasonally-lifeguarded beach areas, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three waterparks, a historic plantation site, 19 boat landings, a climbing wall, a challenge course, an interpretive center, an equestrian 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, classes, programs, and more. For more information on CCPRC, call 843-795-4386, visit [CharlestonCountyParks.com](http://CharlestonCountyParks.com), or download the Charleston County Parks mobile app.*



EXISTING CONDITIONS



DESIRED CONDITIONS



*High-resolution photos available upon request.*

**Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission / 861 Riverland Dr./ Charleston, SC 29412 / 843-762-2172**