



NEWS RELEASE

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Charleston County Parks announces plans for the Folly Beach Pier replacement project

[FOLLY BEACH] – At a press conference on Sept. 11, 2020, the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) announced plans for the replacement of the Edwin S. Taylor Folly Beach Fishing Pier.

The Folly Beach Pier will close to the public starting Oct. 19, 2020. The last day for public access and fishing will be Sunday, Oct. 18. Construction is expected to take 28 months, with the new pier expecting to open in approximately Spring of 2023.

The current Folly Beach Pier, which opened in 1995, has been maintained regularly but is deteriorating due to marine borers and wear from the ocean environment. CCPRC will replace the existing structure with one reminiscent of the old pier that will also provide unobstructed views of the ocean, modern improvements and a longer lifespan. It will continue to offer all of the elements visitors love about the existing pier including public restrooms, retail facilities, benches and a shade structure over the pier head. Two locations along the pier walkway will be slightly widened to allow additional fishing opportunities and more efficient pedestrian access. The new pier will be designed and constructed using a combination of concrete pilings, and wooden decking, benches and shade structures.

“This pier has been a Lowcountry landmark for 25 years - a place where thousands of locals and visitors have made their own special memories. But the time has come for it to be replaced,” said CCPRC Executive Director David Bennett. “For the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission and the entire Lowcountry, this is an exciting endeavor. We are very proud to be creating a new pier that will serve generations to come.”

The walkway section of the Folly Beach Pier will be closed throughout the entire construction period starting Oct. 19. The “apron” area of the pier - which is the rectangular deck area behind the Pier 101 restaurant, the pier’s gift shop and restrooms - will be replaced first. Pier 101 closed for the season on Sept. 7. The new apron area, along with the restaurant, gift shop and restrooms, will reopen in Spring 2021. Beach access will be affected at times due to loading of equipment and material onto the pier. Public parking at the pier will be impacted throughout the construction period. During the apron closure and the first phase of construction (Oct. 19 through Spring 2021), no parking will be available at the pier. Beginning approximately Spring 2021, about half of the pier’s parking lot will reopen for public use.



Permits were filed last May with SCDHEC’s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The state permit was received in October 2019. The federal permit was received Sept. 2, 2020. The contract with Cape Romain Contractors was signed in March 2020. Cape Romain will mobilize following the pier’s closure on October 19, 2020. This timeline allows construction to begin following the end of turtle nesting season on Folly Beach.

For people wishing to keep a souvenir of the former pier, the construction firm will be salvaging pilings from the current pier, and pieces of those will be made available for purchase from Charleston County Parks at a later date. Proceeds from the sale of piling pieces will benefit the Charleston County Parks Foundation.

The history of a pier on Folly Beach dates back to the 1930s. The original Folly Pier was a green and white structure built with Palmetto tree logs and just 97 feet long. Known for its sheltered dance floor the size of a basketball court, the pier attracted many famous bands and artists, including Jerry Lee Lewis and The Drifters. Following a fire at a nearby hotel, the pier and pavilion area reopened as the Ocean Plaza in 1960 and featured a boardwalk, amusement rides, a roller-skating rink and concessions. The pier and pavilion were lost to another fire in January 1977. In 1992, CCPRC was able to purchase the 1.4 acres of beachfront property on Folly Beach where the former pier stood. CCPRC opened the Edwin S. Taylor Folly Beach Fishing Pier on July 4, 1995, nearly 20 years after the previous pier burned down.

For updates on the status of the Folly Beach Fishing Pier construction, visit CharlestonCountyParks.com/pierprogress. The website will be updated regularly with information and photos of the pier progress.

Owned and operated by the Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission (CCPRC), the Folly Beach Fishing Pier is located at 101 East Arctic Avenue on Folly Beach. The mission of the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (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, three beach parks, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three waterparks, a historic plantation site, a skate park, 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. CCPRC also offers a wide variety of recreational services – festivals, camps, classes, programs and much more. For more information on CCPRC, call 843-795-4386 or visit www.charlestoncountyparks.com.