



CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK  
& RECREATION COMMISSION

**COMMISSIONERS:**

Brad Taggart, Chair

Michelle Brandt, Vice Chair

Leslie Skardon, Secretary-Treasurer

Eduardo Curry

Lisa King

Mattese Lecque

Merriweather Mulé

Kevin Bowie, Executive Director

# Commission Agenda

**Commission Regular Meeting**

**Monday, November 10, 2025**

**CCPRC Headquarters at 5:30 PM and  
online at [charlestoncountyparks.com](http://charlestoncountyparks.com)**

**Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission  
Regular Commission Meeting  
861 Riverland Drive, Charleston, SC, 29412  
Online at [www.charlestoncountyparks.com](http://www.charlestoncountyparks.com)  
Monday, November 10, 2025 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 Comments</b>   | <b>Taggart</b>          |
| <b>3. Presentations</b>   | <b>Taggart/Bowie</b>    |
| <b>4. (ACTION) Approval of October 13, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes</b>  | <b>Taggart</b>          |
| <b>5. Planning and Development Update</b>   | <b>Newshutz</b>         |
| <b>6. Financial Services Update</b>   | <b>McManus</b>          |
| <b>7. (ACTION) Contract Approval – Consultant Services for Natural Resource Management</b>  | <b>McManus/Newshutz</b> |
| <b>8. (ACTION) Contract Approval – Riverland Terrace Boat Landing Improvements</b>  | <b>McManus/Newshutz</b> |
| <b>9. (ACTION) Contract Approval – James Island County Park (JICP) Cottage Door Replacement</b>   | <b>McManus/Stewart</b>  |
| <b>10. Executive Session: Undeveloped Property Contractual/Legal Matters</b>  | <b>Taggart/Bowie</b>    |
| To discuss a potential legal matter involving a contract. Upon returning to open session, the Commission may take action upon matters discussed in Executive Session. |                         |
| <b>11. Next Meeting &amp; Announcements</b>   | <b>Taggart/Bowie</b>    |
| Regular Commission Meeting:<br>Monday, December 8, 2025, 5:30pm at CCPRC Headquarters, Charleston, SC   |                         |

**Unapproved Minutes**  
**Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission (CCPRC)**  
**Regular Commission Meeting**  
**861 Riverland Drive, Charleston, SC, 29412**  
**Monday, October 13, 2025 at 5:30 pm**

**Commission Members Present:** Brad Taggart, Leslie Skardon, Amy Adams, Garrett Lacy, Mattese Lecque and Merriweather Mulé.

**Commission Members Not Present:** Lisa King

**Staff Present:** Kevin Bowie, Phil Macchia, Charlie McManus, Gina Ellis-Strother, Steve Hutton, Christine Volousky, Eric Stewart, Mark Madden, Melissa Muse, Patty Newshutz, Tommy H., Shanté Ellis, and Nick Krueger.

**Legal Counsel Not Present:** Dwayne Green.

**Guests Present:** None

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

Introduction of Guests and Notification to Media

The Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission met on Monday, October 13, 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. Taggart welcomed Adams and Lacy to the Commission.

**2. Public Comments**

None.

**3. Motion to amend the agenda to add an action item for a change order for the Old Towne Creek County Park (OTCCP) Main House Renovation to follow the Financial update was made by Commissioner Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#018-2526)**

**4. (Action) Approval of September 8, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Skardon and approved by the Commission. (#019-2526)

**5. Planning and Development Update**

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

**6. (INFO) Future Capital Projects**

Bowie provided an update on where the Commission is within the bond process and how staff recommend future capital projects. Newshutz reviewed the mission, vision, values, comprehensive & strategic plan goals, and the projects that staff are considering asking the Commission to approve in November. Bowie noted that the Commission will receive the results of the feasibility studies. Bowie stated that the bond will not increase taxes. Macchia confirmed that the reservations for the Lake House at Bulow will be honored through December 2026, but no new reservations will be accepted at this time

as staff evaluate the best use for the property. Bowie confirmed that staff are fully flexible and available to answer Commissioner questions related to the draft prior to the November meeting.

## **7. Financial Services Update**

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

## **8. (Action) Change Order – Old Towne Creek County Park (OTCCP) Main House Renovation**

Motion to approve a change to MedPro Services contract in the amount of \$692,446.76 with funds coming from the approved CIP budget was made by Commissioner Adams and approved by the Commission. (#020-2526)

## **9. (Action) Award of Contract – AC Duct Replacement at the Cottages at James Island County Park (JICP)**

Motion to enter into a contract with Pardee Service Experts in the amount of \$59,500.00 with the funds coming from the approved General Agency Budget was made by Commissioner Skardon and approved by the Commission. (#021-2526)

## **10. (Action) 2026 Fees & Changes**

Adams noted multiple shelter rental fee typos. Mr. Hutton stated staff caught them after the packet was printed/mailed and provided updated copies of the proposal during the meeting. He reviewed staff's rationale for the updates proposed. Bowie noted that the proposal is a precursor for the budget. Bowie noted that the general gate admission rate hasn't changed, but once since the first park opened.

Motion to accept the amended 2026 Fees and Changes was made by Commissioner Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#022-2526)

## **11. (INFO) Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

Chief Administrative Officer, Gina Ellis-Strother shared information with the Commission about the updates to the Charleston Disaster Mitigation Plan. Lecque asked for an update on how the changes to FEMA will impact the agency. Bowie confirmed that the threshold to trigger a reimbursement from FEMA has tripled.

## **12. (INFO) Commission Report Changes**

Marketing Director, Renee Dickinson, the Commission Packet/Agenda cover page will change quarterly. The software used to create the current report is sunsetting. The staff are working on adopting new technology to create a more interactive report. The website is also currently being updated.

## **13. Next Meeting**

Regular Commission Meeting, Monday, November 10, 2025, 5:30pm at CCPRC Headquarters, Charleston, SC

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Brad Taggart, Commission Chair

---

Shanté Ellis, Executive Administrative Associate

September 2025 Checks over \$7,500

Date	Check #	Vendor	Description	Amount
<b>General Agency</b>				
09/03/25	3051308	Active Network LLC	Active.net Annual Subscription	\$ 174,200.53
09/11/25	3051335	Campground Consulting Group LLC	Campground Feasibility Study Invoice 3	\$ 13,937.04
09/11/25	3051336	Carolina Parks And Play	Communication Boards	\$ 10,294.70
09/11/25	3051345	Duffield Aquatics, Inc.	Replace And Upgraded Chemical Controlers	\$ 13,125.43
09/11/25	3051356	Marcotec	HFOL Train Deposit 50%	\$ 49,886.50
09/11/25	3051364	Pflug Law Firm LLC	August Legal Fees	\$ 23,042.50
09/11/25	3051368	Rike Roofing Service, Inc.	Repairs To Pier Metal Roofing	\$ 14,480.00
09/11/25	3051378	Tyler Technologies, Inc.	Disaster Recovery Service	\$ 11,052.50
09/17/25	3051425	Granicus LLC	Granicus Website Migration Implementation	\$ 24,999.50
09/18/25	3051430	Carlotan Talents	Latin American Festival Band	\$ 8,950.00
09/25/25	3051468	Carrier Enterprise, LLC	JICP Cottages 1-10 New HVAC Units	\$ 31,237.60
09/25/25	3051475	Deere & Company	Agrimetal Blower	\$ 38,238.42
09/25/25	3051486	Mauldin & Jenkins	6.30.25 Audit	\$ 18,000.00
<b>Capital Improvement Projects</b>				
09/11/25	479	GEL Engineering LLC	JICP-007 Edisto Hall Building Repairs, Design	\$ 17,607.95
09/11/25	480	TM Taylor Construction Company, Inc.	JICP-007 Edisto Hall Building Repairs, Construction	\$ 69,182.10
09/11/25	481	Brockington and Associates, Inc.	CCIC-003 Welcome Center Fire Repairs, Design	\$ 15,909.10
09/18/25	482	Modular Genius	WCP-003 Modular Office Replacement	\$ 17,869.63

**Combined General Agency Operations  
September, 2025**

Combined Revenues	Prior YTD Actuals	Year To date Actuals	Current Year Budget	% of Budget
Support Services	960,074	881,845	23,930,459	4%
Park Services	5,404,977	5,308,539	22,072,262	24%
Recreation Services	588,385	554,785	1,845,294	30%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6,953,436</b>	<b>6,745,169</b>	<b>47,848,015</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Combined Expenses</b>				
Support Services	3,219,291	3,438,859	13,217,578	26%
Park Services	6,059,565	6,237,585	27,815,441	22%
Recreation Services	1,283,142	1,370,074	6,165,643	22%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,561,998</b>	<b>11,046,518</b>	<b>47,198,662</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(3,608,562)</b>	<b>(4,301,349)</b>	<b>649,353</b>	
<b>Transfers In</b>	22,730	36,406	280,647	13%
<b>Transfers Out</b>	-	-	4,500,000	0%
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(3,585,832)</b>	<b>(4,264,943)</b>	<b>(3,570,000)</b>	
<b>Fund Balance Statement</b>				
Change in Fund Balance	(3,585,832)	(4,264,943)	(3,570,000)	
Fund Balance- Beginning of Year	28,163,941	28,646,630	28,646,630	
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>24,578,109</b>	<b>24,381,687</b>	<b>25,076,630</b>	

**Support Services  
September, 2025**

Revenues	Prior YTD Actuals	Year To date Actuals	Current Year Budget	% of Budget
Administration Millage	530,137	533,827	22,403,831	2%
Administration- Other	429,937	348,018	1,526,628	23%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>960,074</b>	<b>881,845</b>	<b>23,930,459</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Administration	1,053,213	1,047,289	1,672,950	63%
Executive	439,504	487,558	1,980,163	25%
Financial Services	204,736	204,251	1,051,673	19%
Human Resources	199,620	197,085	1,329,223	15%
Information Technology	541,153	712,895	2,763,327	26%
Marketing	267,332	258,525	1,504,694	17%
Park and Program Services	127,596	123,251	679,420	18%
Planning and Development	263,877	299,219	1,660,851	18%
Safety	122,260	108,786	575,277	19%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,219,291</b>	<b>3,438,859</b>	<b>13,217,578</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(2,259,217)</b>	<b>(2,557,014)</b>	<b>10,712,881</b>	
<b>Transfers In</b>	22,730	36,406	280,647	13%
<b>Transfers Out</b>	0	0	4,500,000	0%
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(2,236,487)</b>	<b>(2,520,608)</b>	<b>6,493,528</b>	

**Park Services  
September, 2025**

Revenues	Prior YTD Actuals	Year To date Actuals	Current Year Budget	% of Budget
Administration	14,406	8,196	37,084	22%
Caw Caw Interpretive Center	10,540	13,252	73,398	18%
Cooper River Marina	250,751	260,677	1,179,315	22%
Folly Beach County Park	331,630	343,276	1,066,887	32%
Folly Beach Fishing Pier	506,393	561,950	1,862,624	30%
Isle of Palms County Park	455,291	485,538	1,361,557	36%
James Island County Park	965,595	916,012	8,253,161	11%
Johns Island County Park	33,372	29,537	268,974	11%
Kiawah Beachwalker Park	185,860	183,427	610,883	30%
Lake House at Bulow	42,382	32,350	183,667	18%
Laurel Hill Plantation	2,595	2,352	6,353	37%
McLeod Plantation	147,821	141,664	666,933	21%
Mount Pleasant Palmetto Islands County Park	235,502	236,949	818,621	29%
Mount Pleasant Pier	149,452	152,267	511,380	30%
North Charleston Wannamaker County Park	2,038,858	1,906,688	4,941,965	39%
Old Towne Creek County Park	0	0	51,600	0%
SK8 Charleston	23,388	21,769	142,068	15%
Stono River Park	1,000	703	4,200	17%
West County Aquatics Center	10,142	11,931	31,593	38%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,404,978</b>	<b>5,308,538</b>	<b>22,072,263</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Administration	289,539	314,161	1,510,464	21%
Caw Caw Interpretive Center	87,165	106,812	616,922	17%
Cooper River Marina	166,510	130,851	713,400	18%
Folly Beach County Park	210,509	225,813	932,710	24%
Folly Beach Fishing Pier	415,751	349,848	1,561,603	22%
Isle of Palms County Park	293,907	274,104	1,228,772	22%
James Island County Park	1,419,496	1,474,116	6,854,293	22%
Johns Island County Park	110,285	108,767	856,089	13%
Kiawah Beachwalker Park	150,217	198,286	620,224	32%
Lake House at Bulow	24,841	23,299	155,106	15%
Laurel Hill Plantation	5,879	16,542	108,334	15%
McLeod Plantation	57,526	65,268	298,444	22%
Mount Pleasant Palmetto Islands County Park	353,617	361,364	1,630,737	22%
Mount Pleasant Pier	147,004	169,836	764,895	22%
North Charleston Wannamaker County Park	1,495,383	1,627,715	5,111,142	32%
Old Towne Creek County Park	73,350	7,553	387,554	2%
SK8 Charleston	97,675	89,357	472,724	19%
Stono River Park	10,864	14,605	23,285	63%
Undeveloped Properties & HQ Maintenance	534,008	597,156	3,610,789	17%
West County Aquatics Center	116,037	82,131	357,955	23%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,059,563</b>	<b>6,237,584</b>	<b>27,815,442</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(654,585)</b>	<b>(929,046)</b>	<b>(5,743,179)</b>	

**Recreation Services  
September, 2025**

Revenue	Prior YTD Actuals	Year To date Actuals	Current Year Budget	% of Budget
Accessibility	1,001	315	5,475	6%
Community Recreation	43,028	40,199	117,100	34%
Interpretive	25,943	24,889	104,240	24%
Outdoor	322,146	324,490	906,890	36%
Special Events	101,950	89,219	454,804	20%
Runs, Races & Fitness	94,318	75,673	256,785	29%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>588,386</b>	<b>554,785</b>	<b>1,845,294</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Administration	137,010	158,705	843,702	19%
Accessibility	306	3,346	45,325	7%
Community Recreation	332,773	390,298	1,313,633	30%
Interpretive	163,172	178,610	907,669	20%
Outdoor	406,727	377,685	1,781,602	21%
Special Events	152,872	167,214	831,570	20%
Runs, Races & Fitness	90,281	94,216	442,141	21%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,283,141</b>	<b>1,370,074</b>	<b>6,165,642</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(694,755)</b>	<b>(815,289)</b>	<b>(4,320,348)</b>	

**General Agency Balance Sheet**  
**September, 2025**

Assets	Prior YTD Actuals	Year To date Actuals
Cash & Cash Equivalents	27,010,455	26,622,573
Other Assets	1,364,018	1,350,570
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>28,374,473</b>	<b>27,973,143</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	806,907	948,781
Other Liabilities	2,989,457	2,642,675
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,796,364</b>	<b>3,591,456</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>		
Assigned Fund Balance	1,250,000	1,250,000
Unassigned Fund Balance	23,328,109	23,131,687
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>24,578,109</b>	<b>24,381,687</b>
<b>Total Fund Balance and Liabilities</b>	<b>28,374,473</b>	<b>27,973,143</b>



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kevin Bowie  
**FROM:** Charlie McManus  
**DATE:** November 4, 2025  
**RE:** Award of Contract – Consultant Services for Natural Resource Management

A Request for Proposal 2026-004 was issued and publicly advertised for Consultant Services for Natural Resource Management for an indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract for a period of one year, with options to renew for up to four additional years. Two firms responded.

Sabine & Waters, Inc., provided the best technical proposal as evaluated by staff. Staff therefore recommends the Commission approve a one-year contract with renewals for up to four additional years. The cost for the base year services is estimated to cost \$120,000. Future contracted services will be approved through the annual budget process.

The contract is budgeted to come from the approved Budget line #11350000-82100-0000 and approved CIP projects.

**Recommend approval to enter into a contract with Sabine & Waters, Inc. for Consultant Services for Natural Resource Management, for a base year with four additional one-year options.**



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Kevin Bowie  
**FROM:** Charlie McManus  
**DATE:** November 4, 2025  
**RE:** Award Contract – Riverland Terrace Boat Landing Improvements

An Invitation for Bid was issued and publicly advertised for Riverland Terrace Boat Landing Improvements. Three contractors responded.

R. L. Morrison and Sons, Inc. submitted the lowest bid for \$235,128.

The Riverland Terrace Boat Landing Improvement project is budgeted to come from the CIP Reserves GL Line #21350000-90070-0000.

**Recommend approval to enter into a contract with R. L. Morrison and Sons, Inc., for Riverland Terrace Boat Landing Improvements in the amount of \$235,128 with funds coming from the approved CIP budget.**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kevin Bowie  
**FROM:** Charlie McManus  
**DATE:** November 4, 2025  
**RE:** Award of Contract – Cottage Exterior Doors Replacement at James Island County Park

An Invitation for Bid was issued for the replacement of the cottage exterior doors replacement at JICP. Three bids were received.

Marsh Point Developers submitted the lowest bid in the amount of \$68,362.

The JICP Cottage Exterior Doors Replacement project is budgeted to come from the General Agency GL Line #12600201-82710-4080.

**Recommend approval of cottage exterior doors replacement at JICP to Marsh Point Developers, in the amount of \$68,362, with funds coming from the approved General Agency budget.**

# COMMISSION REPORT

---

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 5





## Charleston County moves forward with Hwy 41 expansion project despite opposition

by Jessica Klinger, Mon, October 6th 2025 at 8:36 PM

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (WCIV) — Charleston County appears to be moving forward with its current plan for the Highway 41 Corridor Improvement Project, despite the Mount Pleasant Town Council passing a resolution in July opposing the proposal.

On Monday, the town’s Transportation Committee invited county staff to provide an update on the project as residents continue to voice concerns about the design.

Staff were unable to attend the meeting but provided a written update outlining the project’s progress.

“They did provide a written report, which basically says they’re moving ahead with the project as is,” Councilmember Mike Tinkey said.

According to the county’s report, final right-of-way plans were approved on July 22, with the process expected to be completed by spring 2026.

Mount Pleasant residents and town leaders continue to raise objections to the proposal.

“When you break it down into a fact-based situation, [the plan] doesn’t make sense at all. It’s actually destroying another neighborhood and really not solving a problem,” said Park West resident David Spedden.

“Green space is limited in this town, and just because we’ve filled in wetlands and other places doesn’t mean we need to continue doing that. We need to save these precious areas,” Tinkey said.

The Highway 41 Corridor Project has been in development since 2017. Over the years, Charleston County and other stakeholders have evaluated more than 20 potential designs.

The current plan would widen Highway 41 to four lanes,



narrow it to three lanes through the Phillips Community, and add a two-lane road along the edge of **Laurel Hill County Park** in the Park West neighborhood.

A spokesperson for Charleston County said county officials remain committed to transparency and open communication throughout the process.

“I look forward to ongoing discussions with the county,” Tinkey said. “We really have to work together. All the water, the roads, the air — all those things we share.”

“I would just like the county to open its ears and listen and take the time, because a quarter-of-a-billion-dollar decision is not something that should be done in isolation, and it shouldn’t be done lightly,” Spedden added.

The county anticipates submitting a final plan to the South Carolina Department of Transportation in January and beginning construction by the end of 2026.



## How were 580 acres of James Island wilderness saved from development? It's traced back to 3 sisters.

By Jenny Peterson [jpeterson@postandcourier.com](mailto:jpeterson@postandcourier.com) | Oct 1, 2025

JAMES ISLAND — Motorists heading towards Folly Beach along Riverland Drive pass beneath a mile-long canopy of live oaks alongside one of James Island's most remarkable landscapes: nearly 600 acres of undeveloped marsh and hardwood forest edging the Stono River.

Behind the nearly hidden Dill Sanctuary sign at 1163 Riverland Drive lies a rare Lowcountry swath of land that escaped the bulldozer thanks to three Charleston-born sisters: Frances, Julia and Pauline Dill.

The only structure is a two-story, clapboard farmhouse built in the early 1900s and a freestanding screened-in porch overlooking pluff mud flats where crabs scurry among marsh grass and Spanish moss waves in the breeze.

Two Civil War fortifications, earthen Battery Fort Pringle and Battery Tynes, rise from the soil, hidden inside the hardwood forest.



**Dill Sanctuary** : The two-story farmhouse, built in the early 1900s, still stands on the land once referred to as Stono Farms. Megan Fernandes/Staff

Developers were no doubt salivating over the riverfront trophy property until Pauline Rivers Dill's last will and testament made front-page news.

When she died on April 12, 1985, at age 100, the last surviving sister directed that 1,149 acres of the family's plantation — once known as Stono Farms — be donated to the Charleston Museum for a permanent wildlife refuge.

For the past 40 years, the land, which was later halved by the creation of James Island County Park, has remained just that: a wildlife sanctuary closed to the general public except for a weeklong summer camp, select school field trips and the occasional special event.

The next opportunity for the public to explore it comes soon: Community Day on Oct. 4, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., a free event with guided nature walks, archaeology talks, and other tours and activities.

### A legacy of philanthropy

None of the sisters had children, and all shared a lifelong passion for philanthropy.

Julia and Frances married — Julia to William Davis Rogers and Frances to l'On Rhett, a descendant of wealthy merchant and South Carolina Gov. William Aiken Jr. (Frances Dill Rhett and l'On Rhett lived in — and she ultimately donated — the Aiken-Rhett House on Elizabeth Street to the Charleston Museum in 1975, which now serves as a museum house.)

Each sister's will left the James Island land to the surviving sister with the directive that anything that remained would go to the museum as a wildlife refuge.

Pauline Dill never married and outlived both her sisters. When

# The Post and Courier

FOUNDED 1803 WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

## James Island wilderness - continued



SECONDARY-Pauline Dill : Pauline Dill at her Legare Street home at age 97 in 1982. Lavinia Thaxton/Provided

her time came, she followed through with the promise the three made. It was a fitting last request for a

It was the sisters’ request that the roughly 1,149-acre land — then valued at about \$6.8 million — would 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,” states Pauline Dill’s last will and testament.

There was also a strict provision that did not allow caged birds, animals or reptiles on the land.

About 600 acres of the Dill Plantation eventually became the **James Island County Park**, which, despite community uproar at the time, was a carveout expressly outlined in Pauline Dill’s will.

The remaining acres form today’s Dill Sanctuary, a vision that the museum has faithfully stewarded to preserve the land’s wilderness, history and archaeology.

“At Community Day, we will have tours of the African American cemeteries and our curator of archaeology will talk

woman who donated her time and effort to philanthropic causes throughout her life.

In the early- to mid-1900s, she held committee positions with the Ladies Benevolent Society, Civic Club, Nurses Committee, Carolina Art Association and the Garden Club of Charleston.

She knitted sweaters to send to British soldiers during World War II, even heading up sewing workrooms inside the historic Dock Street Theatre.

Yet it was the Charleston Museum, founded downtown in 1773 and which now has more than 2.4 million artifacts, that would become the recipient of the sisters’ considerable real estate holding for preservation.

“They were pioneers,” said Carl Borick, museum director. “Conservation has really taken off in South Carolina, and they were at the forefront.”



Dill Sanctuary birds : An osprey nest along the Stono River at the Dill Sanctuary. Megan Fernandes/Staff

**The Post and Courier**

FOUNDED 1803 WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

### James Island wilderness - continued

about the Battery Pringle Civil War fortifications,” Borick said. “People can hike to our wildlife pond and see the different types of birds we have.”

#### Centuries of history

The land’s first recorded ownership stretches back to 1698, when colonel military official Jonathan Drake acquired 310 acres that would later become known most commonly as Stono Plantation.

Over the next century, it passed through prominent families — including the Hamiltons, who hosted British troops there during the Revolutionary War and were later banished as loyalists and had the land seized — and planter Thomas Rivers Sr., who bought hundreds of acres at public auction for “1,700 guineas,” according to Charleston Museum researchers.

His son, Capt. John Rivers, inherited the land around 1830 and greatly expanded the footprint, purchasing swaths of adjacent acreage and farmed it for Sea Island cotton, indigo, vegetables and dairy products bound for Charleston’s markets using the labor of dozens of enslaved people who lived on the property.

After the Civil War, in 1867, the land passed to Rivers’ daughters: Mary Hayes Rivers and Eleanor Rivers. The latter married Joseph T. Dill.

Upon Eleanor’s death, Dill inherited the property. He and his second wife, Frances Hinson Dill, had three daughters — Frances, Julia and Pauline.

Agriculture on James Island ran deep in the Hinson family. The sisters’ uncle, William G. Hinson, owned and farmed Stiles Point Plantation, now a residential development.

While the Dill family lived South of Broad in downtown Charleston, they farmed and leased out Dill Plantation to support their livelihood.

“When the museum took over, it was farmland,” Borick said. “It was a bit of a challenge for the museum to create a wildlife refuge, as birds generally don’t like farmland, other than crows. For the first few years, the museum planted millet, which attracted birds and created habitat.”

An early sign of the land’s future as a wildlife sanctuary came in 1910, when the Natural History Society, with the blessing of the Dill family, held a Thanksgiving field trip to observe birds and other wildlife before sharing a holiday meal on the waterfront property.

Tickets to the field trip were arranged through the Charleston Museum.

Pauline Dill had carefully planned how she wanted to disperse her assets and valuables upon her death, with the majority going to nonprofit organizations, museums and historic societies. In addition to the Dill Plantation property, Pauline Dill left her 19 Legare St. property to the Charleston Museum to sell.

Her 85-page last will and testament directed monetary gifts, along with furniture, art and other valuables to a host of charitable organizations, everything itemized meticulously, down to the last piece of antique silver.

#### A living archive

Archaeological surveys of the Dill Plantation led by the Charleston Museum document clear evidence of occupation dating back to the 17th century covering two American wars, enslaved labor and other artifacts buried beneath layers of soil.

Historians Debi Hacker and Martha Zierden, in a 1986 published archeological survey, noted the site’s potential to provide “extensive information on the history and



James Island wilderness - continued



Dill Sanctuary : Students study various human-made artifacts on the Dill Sanctuary property. Megan Fernandes/Staff



Coastal, other bird species in trouble : A wood stork flies over its nesting area at the Dill Sanctuary on James Island in 2010. Provided

development of the Lowcountry,” including possible prehistoric sites beneath the Stono River bed.

The Charleston Museum’s board of directors adopted a land management plan in 2023 to enhance its wildlife habitat, including planting native species to attract the 4.3 million birds that migrate through South Carolina each year, as well as plan prescribed burns to remove harmful invasive species.

A S.C. Department of Natural Resources caretaker now resides in the old farmhouse, keeping up with maintenance and security.

“Over the last few years, the Audubon Society has come out for their Christmas bird count and last year there were 130 species of birds in the area and it was one of the best rookeries in the state for wood storks,” Borick said.

The sanctuary remains a haven for wildlife, a classroom for archaeologists and a rare preserved landscape that, with the Dill sisters’ foresight, could have had a very different future on what was then a rapidly-developing James Island.

“We really feel that we're realizing their wishes,” Borick said. “We are committed to protecting the property and preserving the Dill sisters’ legacy.”



Dill Sanctuary summer camp Participants, A camp hosted by the Charleston Museum, scan the Pluff Mud for critters to observe Megan Fernandes/Staff

## Graffiti threatens preserve, gratitude to Beemok, stabilize housing market | Letters

From Our Post and Courier Readers | Oct 26, 2025

*Opinion : The Post and Courier provides a forum for our readers to share their opinions, and to hold up a mirror to our community. Publication does not imply endorsement by the newspaper; the editorial staff attempts to select a representative sample of letters because we believe it's important to let our readers see the range of opinions their neighbors submit for publication.*

### Graffiti threatens preserve

The gateway to the **Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve** has been covered in graffiti, some of which includes hateful messages. This acclaimed preserve has been experiencing chemical runoff from the graffiti paint for years, but local government officials have yet to take action.

Open to the public, this area is known for its natural habitat, magnificent views of the **Morris Island Lighthouse** and significance during the Civil War. The preserve is also home to more than 250 species of birds. It was acquired by Charleston County Parks and Recreation in 1989, and residents of Folly Beach and James Island fought potential developers in 1996 to successfully place this maritime forest in a conservation easement, only to now see local government neglect the environmentally sensitive and historically significant property.

I met with a **Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission** representative who acknowledged the problem but offered no plan to address the concern. The simple and cost-effective suggestion for the path was to apply sand over it, providing a twofold solution of covering the graffiti and



**After Hurricane Irma moved the Folly Boat from its roadside location in 2017, locals turned to a much larger canvas — the graffiti path at Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve.**

File/Andrew J. Whitaker/Staff

discouraging further illegal activity. Local officials could simply remove new graffiti as it appears. The city of Charleston's Livability and Tourism Division has been a model for eliminating graffiti. Meanwhile, Folly Beach's city government has not addressed this particular problem.

I am hopeful that, with a newly elected Folly Beach mayor and three City Council members, this significant property can be protected and preserved for the future.

ALLEN BOYD

Folly Beach

## Editorial: Keep Haynie as Mount Pleasant mayor

By the Editorial Staff | Oct 18, 2025

*Opinion : Editorials represent the institutional view of the newspaper. They are written and edited by the editorial staff, which operates separately from the news department. Editorial writers are not involved in newsroom operations.*

When Will Haynie was first sworn in as mayor of Mount Pleasant eight years ago, he was the new kid among the mayors of the largest cities in this corner of South Carolina. Now he's the dean of them all.

We urge town voters to return him to office a third time not because of his relative longevity in office but because of his experience and vision for the next four years. He tells us he is seeking a third term to continue the town's low-impact development standards, to find new ways to pay for needed drainage and resiliency work, to address "the never-ending matters of traffic management and attainable housing" and to continue work toward purchasing the Republic Tract, an undeveloped parcel at S.C. Highway 41 and the Wando River.

Under his leadership, the town was recently named an All-America City, one of the safest cities in the state by the website Safewise and the best place to live in South Carolina by US News Real Estate, among other honors.

Mr. Haynie points to two recent attainable housing developments, Gregory Ferry and Carolina Towns, that he supported, as well as changing the town's zoning to include attainable housing units in certain mixed-use developments. And he favors creating a housing assistance supplement for town employees, such as police, firefighters and heavy equipment operators, so they can minimize their commute to work and live nearby when they're needed in an emergency.

He also supports the S.C. Highway 41 compromise solution but hopes to avoid a spur through **Laurel Hill County Park**. "The leadership question is whether Town Council will deny local consent to the entire Highway 41 improvement, with all of its safety enhancements, if permits are issued for the spur," he tells us. "In that case, it becomes a matter of overall public safety and a life and death matter. It is hard to imagine a majority of Town Council saying no under that circumstance."

He supports fixing the dysfunctional intersection where Johnnie Dodds Boulevard crosses Houston Northcutt Boulevard but not by building a flyover, "as overpasses are unsightly and create commercial dead zones." And he supports continued work on Mount Pleasant Way, a vision we strongly support for connecting the town through a network of bike-ped trails.

He already is working hard on what will be Charleston County's biggest issue in the coming year: a referendum to extend the existing half-cent transportation sales tax that is expected to be placed before county voters next fall. "Multi-modal transportation should be a key component along with adequate funding for green space that is greater than 20 percent of the total funding," he tells us. "Currently, the early stage outlook is for 52 percent to go to 'transportation infrastructure,' but that should include drainage and undergrounding of power lines as part of our resiliency priorities."

Mr. Haynie's second term in office has had its missteps. Late last year, he acknowledged mistakes in unveiling a well-intended but controversially concocted plan to raise the town's sales tax to finance several new Patriots Point projects. Importantly, he showed leadership by taking the blame for not making the public case for improving Patriots Point before proposing the higher tax. We wish more of our elected leaders would display such candor and honesty.

Four years ago, we gave him our endorsement as a centrist, practical, conservation-minded mayor who had delivered on his main pledge to improve planning for the town's growth. The challenges now facing South Carolina's fourth-largest municipality are arguably greater than they were four years ago, with ever-greater struggles to find ways to finance needed public infrastructure such as road improvements, drainage upgrades, public transit and new open space. It will take a steady hand to guide the town (and region) through these challenges, and Mr. Haynie has the vision, experience and temperament to do it.

## Commentary: On James Island, we need preservation and improvements

By Leslie Skardon | Oct 21, 2025

*Opinion : Editorials represent the institutional view of the newspaper. They are written and edited by the editorial staff, which operates separately from the news department. Editorial writers are not involved in newsroom operations.*

Preserve and improve. Those sound like opposite ideas, right? Then how is it that just about every voter I meet on James Island — myself included — wants both at the same time? Let me share two versions of the same story to help explain:

A few weeks ago, we picked up our twin boys from their pre-school and walked down our neighborhood sidewalk, under a canopy of oak trees, to our nearest city park and playground. I can't think of a better way to spend a Wednesday evening. It's why we love living on James Island, and I'm running for City Council to protect moments like those for generations to come.

But a moment worth preserving can still need improving.

The drive home from school is always more dangerous than it should be because two very busy intersections along the way are long-overdue for improvements. Our 3-year-old twins are fully capable of walking a few blocks, but we kept them in the stroller because — even under our supervision — this walk simply isn't safe for them.

There are no crosswalks anywhere along Fort Johnson Road near the park, and the narrow overgrown sidewalks come perilously close to the road — even when there isn't standing water to avoid. Finally, it's impossible not to see the massive

scars in the tree canopy from jumbled old power poles and utility lines.

Of course, this District 12 council race is about more than our family's walk to the playground, but I think the two versions of that story capture the paradox of James Island. We have a community that we love and want to protect, but we also recognize things need to get better.

For far too long, our island has waited for infrastructure, drainage and quality-of-life improvements. There have been endless plans and studies and commissions already. Now is the time for action. The Rethink Folly Road plan, originally created in 2016, is all but ignored. The Charleston Water Plan, which identified 46 flooding projects for James Island, sits largely untouched. I am running, and I ask for the votes of my fellow James Islanders, because I have the track record of an experienced leader who gets big things done.

As the CEO of a statewide environmental sustainability organization, my job is to bring together all levels of government, nonprofits and the private sector to ensure progress on clean energy, waste reduction, workforce and conservation. As a **Charleston County Parks and Recreation commissioner**, I'm proud to have played an active role in implementing paid family leave for our staff and acquiring 160 acres this year. Finally, I'm proud to have turned an important idea into reality by founding an extracurricular program for high-school students across Charleston County to teach the civil rights history of our region and the importance of civic engagement.

Preserve and improve. I would be honored if James Island would allow me to bring that focus on results oriented leadership to Charleston City Council, so that for generations to come, James Island families can still enjoy those quiet walks to the park, but they'll be a little safer thanks to the work we did together through our city government. Leslie Skardon is the CEO of a statewide sustainability nonprofit, a **Charleston County Parks and Recreation commissioner** and a candidate for Charleston City Council District 12.





## Charleston County Parks to host spooky family fun run and festival at Wannamaker Park

by Abigail Quinn Thu, October 16, 2025 at 9:51 AM

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV) — Charleston County Parks is inviting Lowcountry families out for a spook-tacular time at the second annual Trick, Treat & Trail family fun run and festival at Wannamaker County Park.

This fun run and festival is designed for the whole family with ghoulish music, trick-or-treating, jump castles, face painting, and crafts. Don't worry about dinner either because a variety of vendors will also be on site selling food and refreshments. Vendors include familiar faces like King of Pops, Donut Daddy, Miracle's Tasty Express, and Sweet But Not So Sweet.

Check in and trick-or-treat bag distribution will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Tupelo Shelter at the park, with the fun run beginning at 10 a.m. Once racers have crossed the finish line the course will re-open for trick-or-treating from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participants are invited to dress in their most show stopping costume and prizes will be awarded for the best Halloween costume.

Awards will also be given in the following categories:

- ◆ Best pet costume
- ◆ Best duo costume best group costumes of 3 or me



**OCT. 29, 2022 - Fletcher Parks and Recreation's Halloween Carnival, held Saturday, Oct. 29 at Bill Moore Community Park, was back on for the first time since 2019 -- and adults, kids and dogs all enjoyed the festivities!** (Photo credit: WLOS staff)

- ◆ Oct. 25, beginning at 10 a.m., at Wannamaker County Park.

Admission to the race and event is charged per vehicle. Advance registration is \$20 per vehicle and will close on Oct. 23. Come the day of the event, if not sold out, registration will be available on-site for \$25 per vehicle though advance registration is recommended. Registration includes a custom trick-or-treating bag, finisher medal, and candy.



## Charleston County Parks hosts national skateboarding event with cash prizes

by Abigail Quinn Fri, October 10, 2025 at 1:24 PM

CHARLESTON COUNTY, S.C. (WCIV) — Charleston County Parks will be hosting the The Boardr Series, a national skateboarding competition over Friday and Saturday, inviting residents out to participate in a friendly two-day contest for all ages and skill levels.

Beginning at 6 p.m. on Oct. 10 there will be bowl and street trick contests and then the following day the park will open at 8 a.m. with contests beginning at 10 a.m.

Saturday contests include Women's Street, Men's Street ages 8 & under, Men's Street 9 – 12, Men's Street 13 & up, and Street Open. Bowl competitions begin at 1:30 p.m. and will include Women's Bowl, Men's Bowl 12 & under, Men's Bowl 13 & up, and Bowl Open contests.

Cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$250 will be awarded for select contests.

Individuals interested in participating can register online for \$50 per division however the registration fee is waived for first time participants.

Formerly known as the Grind for Life series, a portion of the entry fees will go towards benefiting the Grind For Life non-profit organization.

Spectators are welcome to come out and watch and are given free entry.



---

Brazil's Augusto Akio Takahashi Dos Santos competes during the men's park final skateboarding event of the Pan American Games Santiago 2023 at the Urban Sports Esplanade of the National Stadium Sports Park in Santiago on October 22, 2023.

(Photo by Guillermo SALGADO / AFP) (Photo by GUILLERMO SALGADO/AFP via Getty Images)

---



## Trick, Treat & Trail hosted by CHS Co. Parks

Staff Report | Oct 2, 2025

Best costume prizes will be awarded at the Oct. 25 Trick, Treat & Trail Family Fun Run and Festival at Wannamaker County Park.

Get ready for a spook-tacular time at the second annual Trick, Treat & Trail Family Fun Run and Festival. Hosted by Charleston County Parks, the event will be held Oct. 25, beginning at 10 a.m., at Wannamaker County Park.

The festival includes ghoulish music, trick-or-treating, jump castles, face painting and a craft. A variety of vendors will be on site selling food and refreshments, including King of Pops, Donut Daddy, Miracle's Tasty Express, and Sweet But Not So Sweet.

Check-in for the event and trick-or-treat bag distribution will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Tupelo Shelter at Wannamaker County Park.

The fun run begins at 10 a.m. The course closes for runners at 10:45 a.m. The course will re-open for trick or treating from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Festival will be open for the entirety of the event 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A costume contest will be held at 12:15 p.m.

Registration includes a custom trick-or-treating bag, finisher medal and candy.

Participants are invited to dress in costume. Prizes will be awarded for the best Halloween costume in the following age categories: Under 6, 6-8, 9-10, 11-15, 16-20 and 20 and up. Awards will also be presented for the best pet costume, best duo costume and best group costumes of 3 or more. The costume contest will be held shortly after noon.



Admission to the race and event will be charged per vehicle of up to 15 people. Advance registration is \$20 per vehicle and ends Oct. 23. If not sold out, registration will be available on-site for \$25 per vehicle only until 12 p.m. Advance registration is recommended. Register for the event on the event webpage at <https://www.ccprc.com/3715/Trick-Treat-Trail>.

The fun run is open to runners and walkers of all levels, including beginners. Accessible parking and restrooms are available. The route includes a grass meadow and paved trails. This is a loop course with water stations and an optional shortcut route. Dogs are allowed at this event, but must remain leashed and under control at all times.

This event is presented by Epiphany Dermatology and hosted by Charleston County Parks. For more information about this event and to register, visit <https://www.ccprc.com/3715/Trick-Treat-Trail> or call (843)-795-4386.



HOME / ENTERTAINMENT

## Trick, Treat & Trail Family Fun Run and Festival Set for Oct. 25

by Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission , Oct. 2, 2025 7:50 PM



The festival will feature live music, trick-or-treating, jump castles, face painting, crafts and a variety of food vendors, including King of Pops, Donut Daddy, Miracle's Tasty Express and Sweet But Not So Sweet.

Check-in and trick-or-treat bag distribution will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at the Tupelo Shelter. The fun run starts at 10 a.m. and the course will close to runners at 10:45 a.m. The course reopens for trick-or-treating from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The festival itself runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A costume contest is scheduled for 12:15 p.m.

Registration includes a custom trick-or-treat bag, finisher medal and candy. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes. Prizes will be awarded in age categories under 6, 6-8, 9-10, 11-15, 16-20 and 20 and up, as well as for best pet costume, best duo costume and best group costume for three or more.

Admission is per vehicle, up to 15 people. Advance registration is \$20 per vehicle and ends Wednesday, Oct. 23. On-site registration is \$25 per vehicle, if spots remain, and will be available until noon. Advance registration is recommended at [ccprc.com](http://ccprc.com).

The fun run welcomes runners and walkers of all levels. The course includes grass meadows and paved trails, with a loop layout, water stations and an optional shortcut. Dogs are allowed but must be leashed at all times. Accessible parking and restrooms are available.



## Fall Family Festival returns to Hollywood with activities and fun for all ages

by Abigail Quinn Tue, October 14, 2025 at 10:24 AM

HOLLYWOOD, S.C. (WCIV) — The second annual Fall Family Festival in Hollywood will take place Saturday, with vendors, food and family activities galore.

This event, hosted by Charleston County Parks, will feature an afternoon of Fall themed fun for the whole family.

There will be jump castles, a climbing wall, face painting, and games for the kiddos, and for the whole family there will be music, food trucks, and crafts. Food vendors on site will include Old School Snowballs, J.A.R. Chili Dogs and more.

Alcohol is prohibited and pets will not be allowed. Attendees are invited and welcome to bring their own chairs or blankets for seating.

The Hollywood Fall Family Festival will be held at the West County Aquatic Center and Hollywood Town Hall on Oct. 18 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.



---

Jack-o'-lanterns fill the trees in downtown Conway ahead of the Fall into Conway Fall Festival happening Saturday, October 2 (Courtesy: Connor Ingalls)

---



## Experience the Holiday Festival of Lights from a dragon boat

October 28, 2025

**A unique view of the lights while paddling on the water**



On select evenings this holiday season, Charleston County Parks is offering a special opportunity: viewing the Holiday Festival of Lights from the cockpit of a dragon boat on the lake at James Island County Park!

As the sun goes down and the lights come on for the evening, participants will enjoy an on-the-water introduction to the ancient sport of dragon boating beginning at 4:30 p.m. They will also get an up-close and unique view of some of the most iconic light displays on the lake at James Island County Park.

Experience is not necessary. After the paddle is complete, guests will also enjoy a tasty hot chocolate and have the opportunity to enjoy the rest of their evening at the Holiday Festival of Lights.

The dragon boat program will be offered on select Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the Holiday Festival of Lights: Nov. 17, 18, 24 and 25, and Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16. Registration is available at this link or [HolidayFestivalofLights.com](http://HolidayFestivalofLights.com).

The program is offered for ages 10 and up. Ages 10-15 must be accompanied by a registered chaperone. Registration fees of \$30 per person includes dragon boating and a day-of Holiday

Festival of Lights admission. Advance registration is required and on-site registration will not be available.

The Holiday Festival of Lights will be open every evening from Nov. 14 – Dec. 31, 2025, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. nightly. Millions of visitors have toured the Holiday Festival of Lights, which is hosted by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission at James Island County Park. Families will make magical, lasting memories driving along the three-mile display of glimmering lights through the park. Guests can also park the car and explore family attractions, shopping, and more.

For more information on the Dragon Boat program, visit <https://ccprc.com/3614/Dragon-Boat-the-Holiday-Festival-of-Ligh>. For more information on the Holiday Festival of Lights, visit [HolidayFestivalofLights.com](http://HolidayFestivalofLights.com).

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 land parks, three beach parks, a historic plantation site, four seasonally-lifeguarded beach areas, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three waterparks, 19 boat landings, a climbing wall, a skate park, 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, camps, classes, programs, and more. For more information on CCPRC, call 843-795-4386 or visit [charlestoncounty-parks.com](http://charlestoncounty-parks.com).



## Holiday Calendar of Events 2025

October 24, 2025

### Holiday Festival of Lights

It's the most wonderful time of the year at the 36th annual Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park. Drive through the extensive light display, whirl on the carousel, share your wishes with Santa, ride the train, enjoy food and treats, and shop Santa's Village.

WHEN: Nightly Nov. 14 through Dec. 31, 5:30-10 p.m.

WHERE: James Island County Park, 871 Riverland Dr., Charleston

COST: \$15-\$40 per vehicle up to 15 passengers; admission varies depending on the night

MORE INFO: [holidayfestivaloflights.com](http://holidayfestivaloflights.com)



The annual Holiday Festival of Lights will be on display at James Island County Park nightly from Nov. 14 through Dec. 31. Charleston County Parks

## Customer Quotes

*This is our second time going to Birds of a Feather and we've enjoyed ourselves each time!  
I loved the raffle, getting the opportunity to not only meet Colin Hocking  
but get his autograph on the Caw Caw calendar! Which by the way we thought was so awesome  
that there is a calendar and think that should be a continued offering. Overall, 10s across the board.*

### **Birds of a Feather Attendee – Caw Caw Interpretive Center**

*So many passionate and informed bird enthusiasts! We learned a lot and  
I loved that the program could accommodate every population. They even had an ASL interpreter available!*

### **A Big Sit Participant – James Island County Park**

*Every time I am fortunate to attend a CCPRC outdoor nature or naturalist class it is wonderful.  
The staff is incredible and knowledgeable. Kristina Wheeler is one of the most enthusiastic  
and knowledgeable leaders in the entire Lowcountry. She cares, is passionate and always makes sure everyone  
is learning something- no matter what their level of knowledge.*

### **Early Morning Bird Walk Participant – Caw Caw Interpretive Center**

*Instructors were well spoken and were very knowledgeable.  
The park was clean and well-kept and really enjoyed both the archery target range and 3D range.  
I'm a lefty and was concerned they would not have a bow for me,  
but thankfully they did! I highly recommend this class!*

### **Intro to Archery Participant – Johns Island County Park**

*ELIZABETH & CORBIN were perfect as a Team. Their knowledge & ability with compound bows was impressive.  
They could communicate with ease all the instructions necessary to have fun & learn at the range.*

### **Lowcountry Senior Series Archery Participant – James Island County Park**

*Registration was very easy and check in was also extremely easy.  
There was adequate staff for the number of participants and they were all very professional.  
Instructions for the race were clear and there was also good support along the course.  
I thought the number of water stations along the course were adequate as well.  
Overall a great experience.*

### **Lowcountry Trail Half Marathon Participant – Johns Island County Park**

The Charleston County Parks Foundation is honored to partner with Veterans on Deck. The two organizations are committed to creating and promoting inclusion and access for recreation activities like sailing for individuals of all abilities and backgrounds. Bill Eiser, Veterans on Deck Chief Operating Officer says, “we’re glad to have our third sailboat moored at the Cooper River County Park, where we can better serve our veteran participants who live in North Charleston and West Ashley. 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”.



On October 15, Georgette Rivera provided an impactful interpretation tour for R.B. Stall High School's African American Studies class at McLeod Plantation Historic Site. The tour included moving stories that honor the resilience and legacy of those who lived and worked at McLeod, while observing the role of the Gullah Geechee people in shaping history. The Charleston County Parks Foundation funds field trips like this one to offset the expense associated with participating in a Charleston County Park's educational and/or adventure programs for Charleston County Title I schools.

The 2025 holiday season is quickly approaching! The Charleston County Parks Foundation works with many non-profit groups (and individuals) to provide access to CCPRC facilities and programs like the Holiday Festival of Lights. More information and public funding request forms can be found at [charlestoncountyparksfoundation.org](http://charlestoncountyparksfoundation.org). Please remind your friends and family remember the Foundation in their charitable giving!



## Community Recreation

### Community Recreation Participants Enjoy NBA Preseason Excitement

A total of 65 children and staff from all three Community Recreation areas attended a NBA preseason game on October 5 at the North Charleston Coliseum. The tickets were generously donated by the Charlotte Hornets, providing an unforgettable experience for everyone who attended.



## Festivals and Events

### Birds of a Feather

Caw Caw Interpretive Center hosted Birds of a Feather Toast Together on September 27. It was an intimate and memorable evening celebrating nature and good company. Guests enjoyed live music by Cathy Paty, food from Maryland Boys Crab Cakes, and a chance to see a canebrake rattlesnake. The Ask a Naturalist

table was present to educate visitors about the birds and wildlife in the park. The gloomy weather and rain didn't stop 109 attendees from enjoying beer, wine, and live music.



### Fall Family Festival

Fall Family Festival took place on October 18 at the West County Aquatic Center and Hollywood Town Hall from 1pm-4pm. The event featured family fun for all ages as DJ Jillybeatz kept the tunes playing throughout the day on a beautiful sunny afternoon. Families enjoyed a variety of activities that included face painting, crafts, games, jump castles, slides, portable climbing wall, and food trucks. Families also enjoyed visiting the St. Paul's Library, Vision to Learn, and St. Paul's Fire District booth for educational fun. The event was free to attend and an estimated 300 attendees came out to enjoy the event.



## Festivals and Events

### Latin American Festival

Thanks to the beautiful weather we had a great crowd for Latin American Festival on October 5. We had 2,115 people enjoy the sights and sounds of Latin America. Two bands along with DJ Luigi kept the dance floor busy throughout the event. The bands were Furia Tropikal and headliner Magic Juan. Rumbao Latin Dance Group's performance as well as the Salsa Dance Contest were also crowd favorites. Attendees enjoyed many authentic food and craft vendors, non-profits and sponsor booths. Thanks to everyone that helps make this event a memorable day for all our patrons!



## Fitness and Wellness

### Starlight Yoga

The evening of October 16 at Wannamaker County Park offered the perfect backdrop for our Starlight Yoga event. Led by the always inclusive and inspiring Tashi, 33 participants of all experience levels enjoyed an atmosphere of calm, connection, and community.



### Lowcountry Trail Half Marathon & 5K

October 4 turned out to be a perfect morning for the Lowcountry Trail Half Marathon and 5K at Johns Island County Park. With more than 300 participants and 20 enthusiastic Kids Dash runners, the event was a great success. We appreciate everyone who came out to support and celebrate recreation, wellness, and community together.



### Interpretation

October 4 marked the annual accessible birding program, A Big Sit, at James Island County Park. The Natural History team facilitated a full day of birding that was welcoming to all and encouraged participants to see how many birds they could identify while staying within a seventeen-foot diameter circle. Forty-eight folks accepted the challenge and some guest feedback included,

*“So many passionate and informed birding enthusiasts! We learned a lot and I loved that the program could accommodate every population. They even had an ASL interpreter available!” and “This low stakes birding program was great. The naturalists there were impressively knowledgeable and very kind and professional.”*

On October 10, the Interpretation Department, in partnership with The SC Sea Grant Consortium, held a BioDiscovery workshop at James Island County Park. The BioDiscovery program invites educators to participate in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) project where teachers and students create a marine sampling device called a biorack and use it to learn about the saltwater ecosystem. Twenty-one teachers from the Midlands and the Lowcountry attended and learned about fouling organisms, biorack construction, and how to use this project to inspire conservation among their students.



### Culture History

On October 11, the Cultural History team hosted Akua Page at McLeod Plantation Historic Site for a special program celebrating Gullah Geechee Heritage Month. *Gullah Geechee Studies: Healing Traditions from the Land* invited participants to explore culture through food, plants, and ancestral memory. The immersive workshop closed with a ceremony at the nearby river to honor the ancestors who carried the traditions across generations and created meaningful connections between the land, body, and spirit.

## Holiday Festival of Lights

Campground hosts and mini lights teams have been hard at work over the past month with HFOL set-up!



## James Island County Park

A few employees and patrons at JICP had the cool opportunity to see a Roseate Spoonbill in James Island County Park. Campground Manager, Yogi Spell, was more than excited to finally see one in person, as were the patrons who stood in awe watching. Yogi also happened to see a Great Egret, with his whole reflection in the water as he was hunting.



### Johns Island County Park

JOICP closed out the Sea Island Horse Show Saturday with a costume contest to celebrate Halloween. This was Sea Island's 5th show of the year, and riders of all ages had a great October at Mullet Hall Event Center!



## Outdoor Recreation

### New Features at the Outdoor Zone

The Outdoor Zone now features two exciting new additions! The Kid-Zip offers children ages 5–10 the perfect opportunity to challenge themselves and take their first step into the world of High Adventure. Meanwhile, the new boulder wall provides a creative space for climbers of all levels—whether first-timers, regulars, or competitive athletes—to build skills and have fun in a dynamic new way.



### Outdoor Club

The goals of the Outdoor Club are to build connections with peers, competence with outdoor activities, and confidence in themselves. Students from Camp Road Middle School participated in a series of activities including team building, climbing, canoeing, trail biking, and finished off the season with dragon boat paddle. We hope these students continue their friendships and carry forward the teamwork and support they've built together.



## Outdoor Recreation

### Archery

Our Archery Programs always hit the bullseye! Offered across four Charleston County regions—James Island, Johns Island, McClellanville, and Baptist Hill—these programs give participants the chance to learn proper form, practice focus, and build confidence while having fun outdoors.



### Bike and Board



Another successful Bikes and Boards season in the books! For 5 weeks, these little ones were able to engage in balance, coordination, and confidence while having fun learning how to ride. Through guided instruction and interactive play, our goal for this program is to play a role in building foundational skills that will help promote lifelong physical activity and healthy habits. Having the opportunity to create and implement these childhood experiences is the very essence of what our youth programs are all about. Even in the earliest stages of life.

## **OCTOBER SPONSORED EVENTS:**

- **Lowcountry Trail Half Marathon & 5K**
  - \* Sponsored by: StretchZone, The Foot Store and Renewal by Andersen
- **Latin American Festival**
  - \* Presented by: Figueroa Law
  - \* Supported by: 20 companies
- **Family Fall Festival**
  - \* Presented by: Autobel
  - \* Supported by: T-Mobile, Leafguard, Charleston Animal Society and Renewal by Andersen
- **Trick, Treat & Trial Fun Run**
  - \* Presented by: Epiphany Dermatology
  - \* Supported by: Charleston Animal Society, Renewal by Andersen, Leafguard, Crews Subaru, Kirar Superior Health, Foundation Family Chiro, South Carolina Blue and Foot Store



---

**Charleston Animal Society**

---



---

**Latin American Festival**  
**Presenting Sponsor *Figueroa Law***

---

# Recreation Stats & Attendance

## CCPRC ATTENDANCE REPORT

**SEPTEMBER 2025 vs SEPTEMBER 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	185	1,276	4,737	2,269	481	2,033	162	0	985	81	12,209
2024 Attendance	0	115	1,442	4,163	3,499	296	1,743	179	0	513	122	12,072
Variance	0	70	-166	574	-1,230	185	290	-17	0	472	-41	137
PUBLIC PROGRAMS												
2025 Programs Offered	0	0	13	7	153	5	5	4	0	20	14	221
2024 Programs Offered	0	0	15	3	149	3	5	2	0	18	17	212
% Implemented 2025	0%	0%	92%	86%	95%	100%	100%	100%	0%	85%	93%	94%
2024 Programs Implemented	0	0	10	3	148	3	5	2	0	16	13	200
% Implemented 2024	0%	0%	67%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	0%	89%	0%	94%
CUSTOM PROGRAMS												
	CHALLENGE COURSE	CLIMBING WALL	COMMUNITY RECREATION	CULTURAL HISTORY	EDUCATION	NATURAL HISTORY	TOTAL					
2025 Programs Implemented	5	6	2	14	18	4	49					
2024 Programs Implemented	3	3	2	15	12	4	39					
Variance	2	3	0	-1	6	0	10					

\*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	Stono River
YTD 2324 Attendance	47,672	173,448	185,907	5,191	22,296	165,041	94,650	48,056	80,409	109,738	745	445	0	9,699	38,000	5,115	6,375	5,629
YTD 2425 Attendance	49,433	136,624	153,621	3,800	16,964	199,720	95,445	38,042	54,354	86,198	1166	11,089	0	9,288	27,436	6,142	5,765	13,766
YTD 2526 Attendance	43,842	122,283	145,331	4,748	14,315	241,433	91,698	38,060	56,700	90,055	444	13,144	0	8,082	31,049	4,560	5,285	7,172
Variance	-5,591	-14,341	-8,290	948	-2,649	41,713	-3,747	18	2,346	3,857	-722	2,055	0	-1,186	3,613	-1,582	-480	-6,594
%	-11%	-10%	-5%	23%	-16%	21%	-4%	0%	4%	4%	-62%	19%	---	-13%	13%	-26%	-8%	-48%

all facilities continued

	SI	SZ	WW	TOTAL
YTD 2324 Attendance	15,968	42,433	108,933	167,334
YTD 2425 Attendance	11,063	26,670	83,535	121,268
YTD 2526 Attendance	11,521	27,056	80,220	118,797
Variance	458	386	-3,315	-2,471
%	4%	1%	-4%	-2%

	BWP	FBCP	IOP	TOTAL
YTD 2324 Attendance	19,346	33,246	42,244	94,836
YTD 2425 Attendance	17,292	27,177	35,916	80,385
YTD 2526 Attendance	17,300	28,350	37,523	83,173
Variance	8	1,173	1,607	2,788
%	0%	4%	4%	3%

	W North Trail*	Meggett**	TOTAL
YTD 2324 Attendance	339	44	998,799
YTD 2425 Attendance	7,147	424	916,405
YTD 2526 Attendance	7,114	100	925,415
Variance	-33	-324	9,011
%	0%	-76%	1%

	Campsites	Cottages	Marina
YTD 2324 Attendance	79%	61%	94%
YTD 2425 Attendance	70%	55%	92%
YTD 2526 Attendance	64%	64%	94%

# Human Resources

**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.



**Volunteers at Moonlight Mixer!**  
(above)

**Volunteers at Dancing on the Cooper!**  
(right)



## Current Staff Statistics: OCTOBER EEO Information

	FULL TIME EMPLOYEES	PART TIME EMPLOYEES	TOTAL OF ALL EMPLOYEES
<b>Number of Employees</b>	184	743	927
<b>White</b>	155	591	80.5%
<b>Hispanic</b>	7	26	3.6%
<b>African American</b>	15	94	11.8%
<b>Asian</b>	2	10	1.3%
<b>American Indian</b>	1	9	1.1%
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	0	2	<1%
<b>Two or more Races</b>	6	22	3%
<b>Other or Prefer not to Provide</b>	2	29	3.3%
<b>Male</b>	100	311	44.3%
<b>Female</b>	82	420	54.2%
<b>Prefer not to Provide</b>	2	12	1.5%

# Human Resources

## Volunteer Coordinator Report September 2024 VS September 2025 reported in October 2025

Activity Category	Hours	Volunteers
Call Me Handy!!!!@ Johns Island County Park/Mullet Hall Equestrian Center	31	2
McLeod Plantation Interpretive Host	23	3
Birds of a Feather Toast Together	18	6
Charleston County Parks Foundation Evening at McLeod	42	11
Dancing on the Cooper	61	14
KultureCity Training	4	4
Moonlight Mixer	43	11
SC Alcohol Server Training	6	2
Park Ambassador – Pine Straw Preparation	23	3
Holiday Festival of Lights Preparation	66	10
Meggett County Park Volunteer	2	1
Headquarters – Excel Assistance	2	1
Master Naturalist Docent at Caw-Caw	28	7
<b>Total Volunteer Hours:</b>	<b>349</b>	
<b>Current Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours:</b>	<b>1,512.00</b>	
<b>Previous Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours:</b>	<b>1,390.67</b>	
<b>Current vs Previous Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours:</b>	<b>121.33</b>	
<b>Value of Volunteer Hours</b>		
<b>Total Volunteer Full-time Employee Equivalent:</b>	<b>2.15</b>	
<b>Current Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Full-time Employee Equivalent:</b>	<b>9.31</b>	
<b>Previous Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Full-time Employee Equivalent</b>	<b>8.56</b>	
<b>Current vs Previous Fiscal YTD Volunteer Full-time Employee Equivalent:</b>	<b>.75</b>	
<b>Value of Volunteer Hours Formula:</b>		
<b># Volunteer hours / 162.5 (equivalent of one full time employee) = # full-time employee equivalent</b>		
<b>Monthly Employee Cost Savings</b>		
<b>Total Volunteer Hours Value:</b>	<b>\$8,606.45</b>	
<b>Current Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours Value:</b>	<b>\$37,505.11</b>	
<b>Previous Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours: Value</b>	<b>\$34,365.68</b>	
<b>Current vs Previous Fiscal Year to Date Volunteer Hours Value:</b>	<b>\$3,139.43</b>	
<b>Monthly Employee Cost Savings Formula:</b>		
<b>\$4003 (monthly cost with salary and benefits for a specialist level full time employee) x # of full-time employee equivalent = Monthly Employee Cost Savings</b>		

## Digital Marketing Summary

### EMAIL MARKETING

Sends	Opens	Clicks
295,130	169,157	4,567

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook	Instagram	X (Twitter)
Reach: 181,196	Followers: 42,833	Followers: 11,467
Content Interaction: 3,911	Engagement: 2,101	Impressions: 5,735

### Organic Social Media Post Samples



### Paid Social Media Advertising

Amount Spent	Reach	Impressions
\$2,299.56	142,900	434,800

## Park & Program Services

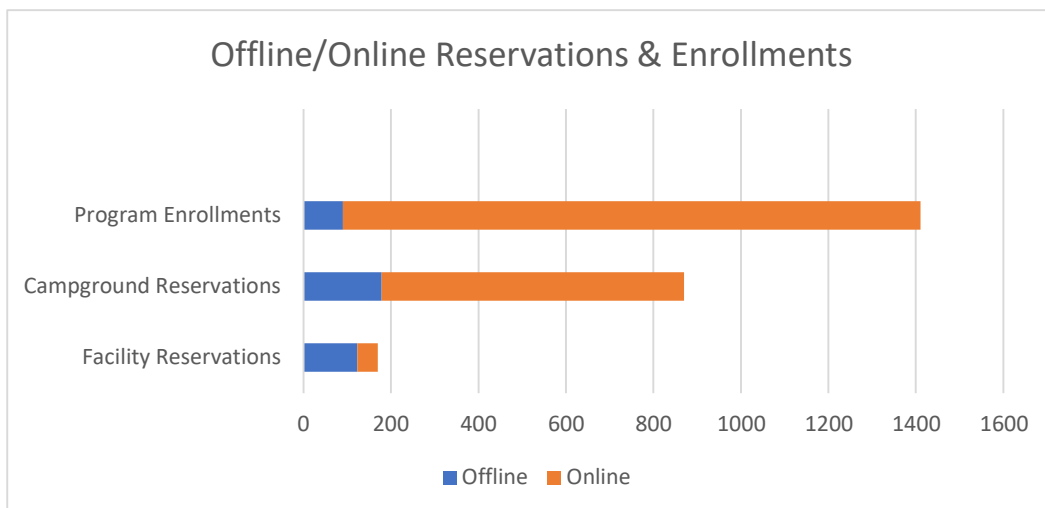
### INCOMING CALLS

Phone Calls
2,599

Incoming Call Topics	Total
Waterpark/HFoL	443
Camp	4
Passes	186
Program Registration	63
Reservations	261
General Information	316
Campground & Cottages	387
C&C Unavailable Dates	140
Festivals & Events	45
Other	43
Wrong Number	224

### Program Registration & Reservations

Enrollments	Memberships	Facility Reservations	Campground Reservations
1,411	1,297	170	705



## Whirlin' Waters: Roof Repairs

At Whirlin' Waters, roof repairs are under way on the M-1 pump and filtration building, which supports the mechanical features of the wave pool. The project got underway earlier this month, and the contractor is making great progress. Metal roof under deck and truss preparation and cleaning are complete, and primer and paint are being applied. The project is on track and moving smoothly.



**New primer and white paint on roof deck and trusses**

## Caw Caw Interpretive Center: Welcome Center Fire Recovery

The construction is complete and the contract has been closed out! The welcome center building envelope has been completely repaired from the fire damage. Now that its weather tight and climate controlled we can focus on replacing all the interior exhibit elements for the center.



### Riverland Terrace Boat Landing: Floating Dock Replacement

Riverland Terrace Boat Landing had a bid opening on October 28, 2025. The project is to replace the floating dock that was damaged last year. Something had hit the last section of the floating dock and tore it completely off its moorings. The missing floating dock section has yet to be found. The remaining floating dock and pilings were also damaged by the impact and due to the age of the dock, a full replacement is the best solution for sustainability of the boat landing.

Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission received three competitive bids. R. L. Morrison and Sons, Inc., had the lowest bid. Once the Commission approves the contract, the contractor will be issued the Notice to Proceed. The boat landing will need to be closed during the dock replacement. The schedule for closing will be announced once the dock manufacturing schedule is determined. Work will take place during the winter.

