FY 2025 - 2026

FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



CHARLESTON COUNTY PARKS

FOUNDATION



Portable Pool at
Lincoln Recreation Center

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Executive Director, Kevin Bowie

Dear Charleston County Parks Foundation Supporters:

This year has brought exciting progress and new opportunities for the Charleston County Parks Foundation to expand our impact on our community. All of this is captured in our annual report for fiscal year 2025–2026, which I proudly share with you.

Our community partnerships continued to grow as we broadened our reach to organizations serving veterans, military families, and individuals experiencing homelessness. An example of this is our partnership with Veterans on Deck, an organization that works to prevent and treat the invisible wounds that affect members of our Armed Forces, during and after their service, through a therapeutic sailing program. In their words:

"Veterans on Deck is 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."

This year, we also reinforced our mission to empower all people to experience Charleston County Parks and programs by serving 9,051 people through complimentary admission to parks, special events, and educational, cultural, historical, and recreational programs.

We launched the Portable Pool Capital Campaign, with a goal of raising $125,000 to build a new portable pool that will bring swimming lessons and water-safety programming to communities without access to public pools.

Our parks are not only a great place to relax and recreate but can also be a place to honor and celebrate loved ones. The Charleston County Parks Foundation Giving Tree at the newly opened Old Towne Creek County Park is an art installation that offers opportunities to purchase a leaf or other adornments while supporting the Foundation's work.

We are overjoyed to report this was a record-breaking year. You helped us raise over $264,000! Your support directly fuels meaningful experiences and creates opportunities for thousands of people throughout our community.

Thank you for being an important part of the Charleston County Parks Foundation and for helping us ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience and enjoy the parks we love.

With gratitude,

Kevin Bowie
Executive Director

Kevin F. Bowie



Bridgeview Youth Citizens Academy,
McLeod Plantation Historic Site

MISSION

Empower all people to experience the Charleston County Parks and programs.

VISION

Create opportunities for all to access and experience the benefits of our park system while preserving and protecting it.

FOUNDATION FUNDS

The establishment of Foundation funds allows for greater focus on certain aspects of Charleston County Parks that require additional support.

SUPPORTING YOUR COUNTY PARKS - UNRESTRICTED FUND

Provides opportunities for those in the community who encounter barriers to access our parks, facilities, programs and services

GENESIS SWIM SAFETY FUND

Supports aquatic safety programs to prevent drownings

NATURE STEWARDSHIP FUND

Focuses on preserving, protecting and managing the natural resources throughout Charleston County Parks

CULTURAL HISTORY FUND

Supports the cultural and historical research, preservation, interpretation, and education throughout Charleston County Parks

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

PEOPLE SERVED FY 2025- 2026: 9,051



Ashley Hall Horizons Camp

1 UNRESTRICTED FUND	$128,573 FUNDED	4,651 SERVED

SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Funded a variety of summer camp scholarships throughout the county park system.

TITLE 1 SCHOOL EDUCATION AND ADVENTURE PROGRAMS

Provided support to offset the expense associated with participating in an educational and/or adventure field trip for Charleston County Title I schools.

LEADERSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVENTURE PROGRAM (LEAP)

Funded participation for local youth in this program, which focuses on teambuilding, environmental education, stewardship, outdoor adventure and a community service project.



Veterans on Deck, The First Light



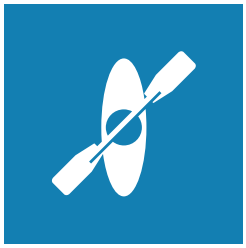
PARK AND PLAY

Provided support for mobile environmental education, fitness and outdoor activities in underserved communities using partner sites.



ACCESSIBILITY

Funded equipment in the parks for people with disabilities: self operated wheelchair, beach mats, communication boards for the nonverbal and equipment to manage sensory overload.



SPECIAL OLYMPIC KAYAK TEAM

Funded athletes for one training session weekly for the 8-week summer season; ending with a statewide competition held at James Island County Park.



SENIOR PROGRAMS

Provided funding for senior citizen programs for rural East and West Counties. Includes dances, fitness series, interpretation programs, trips to the Holiday Festival of Lights and McLeod Plantation Historic Site.



SK8 FORWARD

Introduced skateboarding to young people who may encounter barriers accessing proper instruction, equipment, and access to SK8 Charleston.

2 GENESIS SWIM SAFETY FUND	$37,910 FUNDED	461 SERVED

SWIM LESSONS AT WEST COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER

Scholarships offered to children and adults in the summer at West County Aquatic Center in Hollywood, SC.

PORTABLE POOL

Supported the mobile pool and swim instruction to children in under-resourced areas of Charleston County.

SWIM TEAM

Sponsored the West County Wahoos swim team as they competed in the Coastal Carolina Aquatic Association Summer Swim league.

SWIM CLUB

Offered opportunities for Charleston County Parks Summer Camp children to become better swimmers and increased participation and diversity on the Wahoo Swim Team.



Portable Pool

3 NATURE STEWARDSHIP FUND	$35,000 FUNDED	N/A SERVED

CHARLESTON COUNTY PARKS NATURAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENTS

Funded the removal of invasive plants and the planting of new indigenous trees, shrubs, and flowers throughout the park system, ensuring sustained access and opportunities for years to come.

4 CULTURAL HISTORY FUND	$32,442 FUNDED	276 SERVED

MCLEOD PLANTATION HISTORIC SITE RECREATION PROJECT AND CEMETERY INITIATIVES

Funded cultural and historical field trips and art programs at McLeod as well as the preservation of cemeteries at Caw Caw Interpretive Center and the Sankofa Memorial Garden at McLeod.



Wild Flowers at McLeod Plantation Historic Site

PROVIDING PARK ACCESS FOR OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

SERVED FY 2025-2026: 3,663

Ashley Hall's Horizon Camp

Camp Happy Days

Camp Rise Above

Charleston Beach Olympics

CCSD Head Start Program

Charleston Promise Neighborhood

City of Charleston's Camp Hope

Community In Schools SC

Community Options

Delancey Street Foundation

Disabilities Board of Charleston County

Doors To Freedom

EB Ellington Elementary

Great Macedonia AME

HEART SC

Johns Island Rural Housing

Joint Base Charleston

Kids Pickle Foundation

Lady Like Way

Landmarks for Families

Metanoia

Minnie Hughes Elementary School

Parents as Teachers Charleston County, First Steps

Pattison's Academy

South Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy

South Carolina Department of Mental Health

Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S

Veterans On Deck

> "We thank you and appreciate what you do for us; we love the Charleston County Parks Foundation! P.S. I've never been to Whirlin' Waters. I am so very happy for this experience and forever memory."
>
> *Doors to Freedom, Non-Profit*

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS



HOLIDAY CARD

Raised $53,281

Each year the Foundation's holiday card features a custom illustration highlighting the natural beauty of one of our parks. It is sent to over 30,000 of Charleston County Park's Gold Pass Members and Foundation supporters as a holiday greeting and opportunity to donate. The 2025 card featured an image of Wannamaker County Park Dog Park.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Raised: $35,500

The Foundation hosted its 3rd annual golf tournament on April 13 at Charleston National Golf Club.



COTTAGE GIVEAWAY

Raised $3,950

In June, the Foundation raffled off a weekend stay in a 3-bedroom cottage at James Island County Park during the opening weekend of the Holiday Festival of Lights.



EVENING AT McLEOD

Raised $10,009

The special event, featuring musicians from the Charleston Symphony in support of the Foundation's Cultural History Fund, invited guests to experience the rich historical significance of McLeod Plantation Historic Site. This cover event helped the costs for Cultural History programs in the parks and some restoration of the Sankofa Memorial Garden at McLeod.

THE GIVING TREE

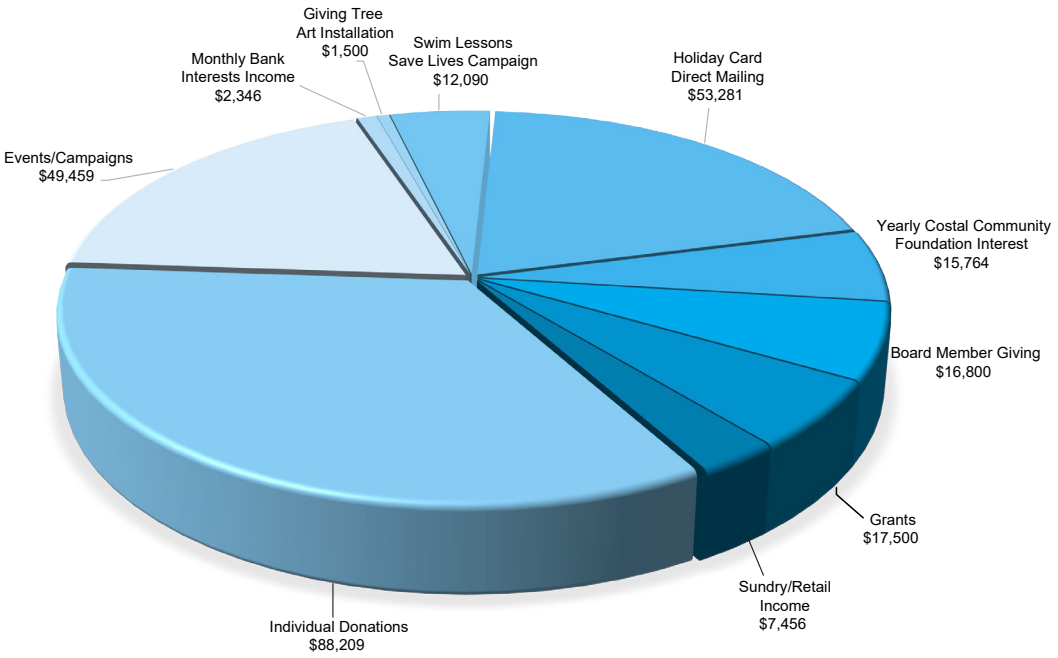
Old Towne Creek County Park opened to the public on June 30, 2026. This new County Park in West Ashley features trails, scenic marsh views, an arboretum, a playground, and the Foundation's Giving Tree! The park was generously gifted by mother and daughter Emily Simmons Ravenel and Emily Ravenel Farrow as a place of learning, reflection, and public enjoyment. The Giving Tree is a great way to celebrate and cherish loved ones - from a birth to an anniversary, to honoring a dear one's memory. The outdoor art installation is located in the Fox Field at Old Towne Creek County Park. Donors can purchase a custom engraved leaf or other adornments onsite or by visiting charlestoncountyparksfoundation.org.



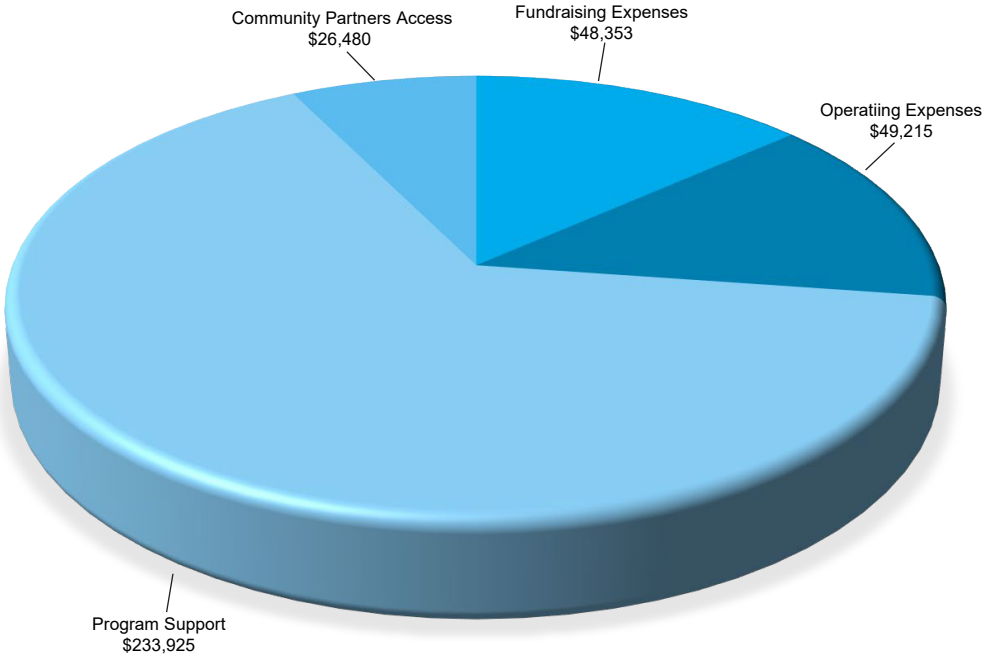
The Giving Tree at Old Towne Creek County Park

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

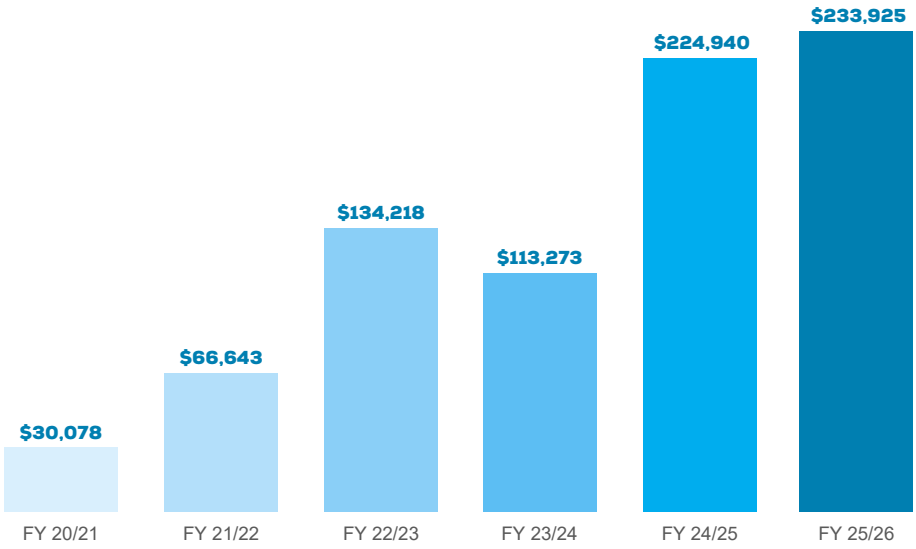
FY 25/26 REVENUES - $264,405



FY 25/26 EXPENSES - $357,973



FOUNDATION SUPPORT TO CHARLESTON COUNTY PARKS





Metanoia

WAYS TO GIVE

The Charleston County Parks Foundation has several funds for the betterment of the community. Your gift to the Foundation helps us to provide access for all to enjoy Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission's facilities, programs and services. Donations to the Charleston County Parks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our Federal ID is 57-0913949.

DONATE TO OUR FUNDS

- Unrestricted Fund
- Genesis Swim Safety Fund
- Cultural History Fund
- Nature Stewardship Fund

HONOR & MEMORIAL GIVING

- Nature Stewardship Fund
- The Giving Tree
- Planned Giving
- Legacy Giving

SCAN TO DONATE



SK8 Forward

CHARLESTON COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION BOARD

BOARD OFFICERS

Stephanie Monroe Pervall
Chair

Jeff Odom
Treasurer

Seth Levy
Vice Chair

Lisa King
Commission Liaison

BOARD

Gary Christmas | Barbara Denton | Jacquelyn Smashum Heyward
David Bennett | Eva Ravenel | Ronald A. Ravenell



Jeff Odom and Barbara Denton

FAMILY EXPERIENCE AT INCLUSIVE SWIM NIGHT

Each year, more than 100 people receive Inclusive Swim Night Scholarships to all three waterparks and the West County Aquatic Center. Feedback from an Inclusive Swim Night Family that attended Whirlin' Waters:

"I wanted to reach out to express my sincere gratitude! I am a therapeutic foster parent and a mother to six boys, ages 3 to 21, and the scholarships mean more to our family than I can put into words. This will be a wonderful way to give them a stress-free, fun day before the school routine sets in. As a single parent working full-time, I don't often get the chance to take my entire family somewhere special. The scholarships lift such a heavy weight off my shoulders. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for your generosity!"







Inclusive Swim Night

WHY PEOPLE GIVE TO THE CHARLESTON COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION

"Love Charleston and I want to help a child go to Summer Camp."

"To keep parks possible!"

"I love the Dog Parks! Y'all do such a good job with them!!"

"Because Charleston County Parks are important to everyone."

"I like the work that you do and stand for."

"Staff in the field work hard as I visit a lot of parks with my dog."

"To support Parks in Charleston."

"Love that you have so many activities for families with children with disabilities."

"I support parks and swimming lessons for everyone!"

"Send a child to camp." "To help all kids enjoy the summer."

"We love the Parks." "I love to walk on the park paths, go to the Dog Park, and look at the birds in the marsh."

"Great cause! I enjoy visiting and enjoying all your parks have to offer!"

"Your support of programs."

"It's so important to respect and maintain nature on the planet – Thank you for holding the space."

"Keep Parks accessible, thank you for all you do!"

"Very good cause!"



CHARLESTON COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION

CHARLESTON COUNTY PARKS FOUNDATION
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CharlestonCountyParksFoundation.org | (843) 762-8061

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