



We Are Columbia

PRESS RELEASE

Parks & Recreation Department | 803-545-3100 | www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 02, 2018

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City of Columbia Residents Invited to Discover City Parks *Month-long celebration includes Passport Challenge*

Summer is here, which means it's time to get out and discover the great things happening at your local parks and recreation centers. This July, explore the local parks and recreation system with the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department as we celebrate Park and Recreation Month, *A Lifetime of Discovery*.

Playgrounds, rec centers, sports leagues, summer camps are just a few of the things that come to mind when we think of parks and recreation. But, parks and recreation is so much more than that. During Park and Recreation Month, discover all the ways parks and recreation can improve quality of life, like senior programs; innovative health and wellness opportunities; community celebrations; outdoor education; flood mitigation; maintenance; and more.

"Our parks and recreations centers are the hubs of activity in a community, from playing on a basketball court to learning about the history of the Columbia Canal," Columbia Parks & Recreation Director Randy Davis said. "We provide spaces for seniors to exercise or fellowship together, programs where children can learn a new skill in computing or opportunities for the public to learn about local watersheds."

"We encourage everyone to visit a City park to learn how Parks & Recreation plays a major role in one's quality of life and is key to a thriving community," Davis said.

The department is celebrating Park and Recreation Month, an initiative of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), by inviting citizens to explore various City parks through a citywide Passport Challenge. Participants can complete the passport by answering a series of questions related to the features or history of a park or facility.

The Passport to Columbia's Parks is available online to download at www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation. Passports are also available at the Parks & Recreation Department administration office (inside Earlewood Park), 1111 Recreation Drive, Columbia, SC, 29201.

Completed passports must be turned in to the department's administration office Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The first 100 participants to complete a passport and submit it will earn a prize. All completed passports will be entered in a drawing for a Grand Prize. Only one entry per person will be accepted.

Completed passports will be collected through Tuesday, July 31 at 5 p.m. The winner will be announced on Wednesday, August 1 via the department's social media account @ColaSCParksRec on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Participants under the age of 16 should be accompanied by an adult while completing the Passport Challenge. Challenge participants must follow all park rules, including all posted park hours.

Participants are encouraged to take a #parkselfie and share it with the department using the hashtags: #playexplore-grow and #DiscoverJuly.

New Activity Guide

The Columbia Parks & Recreation Department released its new online Summer Activity Guide. The guide serves as a source for upcoming events and programs in the City of Columbia. Valuable information about park hours, exercise programs for seniors, summer programming and more can be found in the online guide.

The guide is available for download at www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation.

July Events Calendar

The Columbia Parks & Recreation Department is hosting several events and programs during the month of July. Events include the following:

Columbia Art Center's Rhythm of Kenya Showcase

The Columbia Art Center invites the public to its **Rhythm of Kenya** showcase on Thursday, July 5 from 6-8 p.m. The event will feature dancing, drums and visual arts. The free event is part of the Art Center's monthly series, Worlds of Creativity. The series was created to expose guests to various cultures in the City through art and music. The Art Center is located at 1227 Taylor St., Ste. C, Columbia, SC. For more information, call the Columbia Art Center at 803-545-3093.

Farmday Funday

Join us for a day of fun on the urban farm! This family-friendly event includes games, cooking demos, and activities to engage the young and old in urban agriculture. Resources for healthy eating, including SNAP benefit support and food boxes, also available. The event will be held on Sunday, July 8 from 2-5 p.m. at Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Ave.

This event is a collaboration between the following:

- Serve & Connect
- Harvest Hope
- Columbia Police Department
- Columbia Parks & Recreation Department

Summer Movies & Concerts at Finlay Park

The City of Columbia's free Summer Movies Series continues at Finlay Park! The following movies are free and open to the public: July 13 – "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" and July 27 – "Justice League." Pre-show activities begin at 7:45 p.m. Movies will begin at sunset.

National recording artists The Dazz Band and Confunkshun are set to heat up the Finlay Park stage at the City of Columbia's live outdoor concert series. The free **Summer Concert Series** will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. on the following dates: July 14– The Dazz Band (R&B/Funk) and July 28– Confunkshun (R&B/Funk).

Family Tennis Nights at Greenview Park

Aimed at introducing new families to tennis, USTA Southern is bringing back and expanding the Family Tennis Night series. Tennis coaches, pros and volunteers will introduce families to tennis through a series of fun activities -- including elementary skills like bouncing a ball on a racquet – along with providing local programming. **No tennis experience is required; it is preferred that participants have not played!**

Family Tennis Night will be held on Saturday, July 21 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Greenview Park, 6700 David St. Participants should register at FamilyTennisNight.com.

Visit www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation/calendar to view a full calendar of events.

About the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department

The Columbia Parks & Recreation Department maintains and operates 60 parks and green spaces which include approximately 600 acres of City-owned park land. The department provides a variety of programming from youth and adult sports to senior programs and outdoor adventure to summer camps.

About the National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all Americans have access to parks and recreation for health, conservation and social equity. Through its network of 60,000 recreation and park professionals and advocates, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.

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