



PRESS RELEASE

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Park Rangers to Offer Free Ranger-Guided Programs in March

The City of Columbia's Parks Rangers will host a variety of free ranger-guided programs for the public to learn about the history and features of our local parks as well as the animals who call our parks home, the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department announced.

Guests are encouraged to dress comfortably, bring binoculars and field guides as well as any essentials like water, sunscreen, insect repellent and sturdy walking footwear when participating in the programs.

The following activities are free, and open to both youth and adults:

Ranger Program Schedule

Riverfront History Series: 1820s Columbia Canal | Sunday, March 3, 1 p.m. | Granby Park, 100 Catawba Circle

Join park rangers at Granby Park for a glimpse into the history of the original 1820s Columbia Canal. Explore one of the few visible remnants of the original canal that helped the young city of Columbia thrive in the early 19th century. Visitors will also hear about the local culture and geography of the surrounding area and how it has changed into what we see today.

Guests should meet at Granby Park's gazebo near the park's restrooms.

Be a B.A.R.K. Ranger | Saturday, March 9, 1-2p.m. | Riverfront Park (south), 312 Laurel St.

Park Rangers are here to help dogs and their people enjoy our greenway safely; let us show you how to have fun at the park. From Mutt Mitt dispensers to water bowls, we welcome our four-legged friends! Tails will wag and biscuits will factor in during this afternoon amble.

Guests should meet at Riverfront Park South beside the Red Schoolhouse.

Spring Birding Walk | Sunday, March 17, 1 p.m. | Riverfront Park (north), 4122 River Dr.

Spring is an exciting time of year for birding in the Midlands because it's when many species of neotropical songbirds travel through heading northward. We'll look around to find different species that are passing through, so bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. There is always avian activity along the water, and this is the perfect time of year to spy some of our favorite raptors.

Guests should meet at the Riverfront Park North parking lot.

One City, Two Canals & Three Rivers | Sunday, March 24, 1-2p.m. | Riverfront Park (south), 312 Laurel St.

Walk with us to learn how geography shaped us and how residents used our waterways in the past. Hear about the evaluation of the Columbia Canal following 2015's flood, and discover details about construction of the Saluda Riverwalk.

Guests should meet at Riverfront Park South beside the Red Schoolhouse.

Meet the Rangers | Tuesday Evening Series: March 5, 12 and 19 at 6 p.m. | Riverfront Park (south), 312 Laurel St.

If you are new to the park or hesitant to venture out on your own, this is a perfect way to explore our park and meet our wonderful staff! These walks will provide a general overview of the park's cultural and natural history, and allow you a chance to ask the rangers questions.

Guests should meet at Riverfront Park South beside the Red Schoolhouse.

Spring Tree I.D. | Tuesday, March 26, 6-7 p.m. | Riverfront Park (north), 4122 River Dr.

Leaves and blooms are popping as spring progresses, and it's easier to identify trees as buds, blooms and leaves emerge. Stroll along with a ranger to learn about the species on our floodplain forest, and take home a guide to help you identify trees that you have growing in your neighborhood.

Guests should meet at the Canal Headgates at Riverfront Park North.

Fish Passage Tuesday | Tuesday, April 2, 6 p.m. | Riverfront Park (north), 4122 River Dr.

Learn about the species including American Shad that make the journey from the North Atlantic Ocean into the Broad River, and look for fish as they swim past the observation window of the passage built to accommodate this migration.

Guests should meet at the Canal Headgates at Riverfront Park North.

For more information, contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

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