



PRESS RELEASE

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 31, 2017

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City Park Rangers Offer Free Outdoor Programs in September

The Columbia Parks & Recreation Department invites the public to learn how to identify trees at Riverfront Park, kayak on the Columbia Canal, and learn how Columbia used our waterways in the past during a series of free events in September.

All activities are open to youth and adults.

Schedule

Shady Tree I.D. | Saturday, September 2 | 4-5:30 p.m. | Riverfront Park, 4122 River Dr.

Take a walk with a ranger to learn about trees under the canopy of our floodplain forest.

Meet at the Riverfront Park's north parking lot, 4122 River Dr.

Rain Barrel Workshop | Saturday, September 9 | By Reservation Only | Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Dr.

The City of Columbia wants to help you save money on your water bills by using rainwater instead of treated water to irrigate your garden. City of Columbia residents can qualify for one FREE rain barrel per household by attending a free rain barrel workshop. Park Rangers will demonstrate how to put together and install your rain barrel. The workshop is open to residents outside the City of Columbia in the Midlands area. **Those residents must purchase their discounted rain barrels online prior to the event.** To register for the free workshop, visit www.bluethumbbrainbarrel.com.

One City, Two Canals & Three Rivers | Sunday, September 10 | 4-5:30 p.m. | Riverfront Park, 312 Laurel St.

Walk with us to learn how Columbia used our waterways in the past; hear about the evaluation of the Columbia Canal following 2015's flood and discover details about the Three Rivers Greenway along the beautiful Lower Saluda River.

Meet at the Red Schoolhouse at Riverfront Park's south end, 312 Laurel St.

Summer Celebration of Water | Saturday, September 16 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Riverfront Park, 312 Laurel St.

This water-themed festival provides Midlands residents with free access to kayaking, boating and paddle boarding on the Columbia Canal. There will be kid-friendly splash activities and hands-on exhibits that demonstrate ways everyone can keep our waterways beautiful, swimmable and fishable. Visit www.summercelebrationofwater.com for more information.

Meet at Riverfront Park's south end, 312 Laurel St.

Canal History Tour | Saturdays on September 23 and 30 | 4-5:30 p.m. | Riverfront Park, 312 Laurel St.

Join the rangers for a guided tour along the historic Columbia Canal and learn how it played a part in Columbia's growth for almost 200 years. We'll discuss the original canal, Columbia's Waterworks, the earliest hydropower plants, and the SC State Penitentiary (CCI).

Meet at the Red Schoolhouse at Riverfront Park's south end, 312 Laurel St.

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.

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

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