



We Are Columbia

PRESS RELEASE

Public and Media Relations Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Park Rangers to Lead Free Guided Walks

The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department invites the public to discover the diverse wildlife and learn about the history of some of the City's parks during free park ranger-guided walks in the month of May.

Eight guided tours have been scheduled throughout the month that will focus on the history of the Riverfront Park including the Columbia Canal, the Broad River Diversion Dam and the Fish Passage as well as Granby Park. The walks will also include nature and wildlife themes.

Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars and field guides as well as any essentials like water, sunscreen, bug repellent, hats and sturdy walking footwear.

The following walks are **free and open to the public**:

- **Tuesdays, May 3, May 17 and May 31**: Wildlife Walk at Riverfront Park, 312 Laurel Street, from 6-7 p.m. Discover the abundant and diverse wildlife that inhabit Riverfront Park. Meet at Riverfront's Laurel Street parking lot at 6 pm.
- **Saturday, May 7**: Fish Passage Tour at Riverfront Park, 4122 River Drive, from 10-11 a.m. Learn about the historic Columbia Canal, the Broad River Diversion Dam and the Fish Passage. Participants will discuss the history, design and ecological importance of the Fish Passage. Meet at Riverfront Park's River Drive parking lot at 10 a.m.
- **Tuesdays, May 10 and May 24**: Fish Passage: Wildlife Walk Tour at Riverfront Park from 6 to 7 p.m. On this ranger-guided tour, participants will learn about the historic Columbia Canal, the Broad River Diversion Dam and the Fish Passage. Rangers will discuss the history, design and ecological importance of

this structure. Participants should meet at Riverfront Park's River Drive parking lot (4122 River Drive) at 6 p.m.

- **Thursday, May 12:** Granby Park Walk from 6-7 p.m. Participants will walk through this wooded park along the Congaree River, and discuss the cultural and natural history of the park and the area. Meet in the park's parking lot located at 100 Catawba Circle.
- **Saturday, May 21:** Canal History Tour from 10-11 a.m. Take a tour along the historic Columbia Canal and learn how it has been a part of Columbia's growth and innovation 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 Riverfront Park's Laurel Street parking lot (312 Laurel Street, Columbia, SC 29201) at 10 a.m.

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

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