



NEWS RELEASE

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Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission breaks ground on public pool and aquatics center in Hollywood

[HOLLYWOOD, SC] – The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) broke ground on a pool construction project in Hollywood on Wednesday, Aug. 29. The complex will be called the West County Aquatic Center and will be located near the new Hollywood Town Center off Highway 165.

The pool will be named in honor of Genesis Holmes, a local who drowned in Hollywood in 2014. The \$3 million complex is expected to open in spring of 2019, with funding provided by CCPRC. The Parklands Foundation, a non-profit arm of CCPRC, is raising funds to support programming at the site through its Genesis Project.

The Genesis Pool will have a capacity of 128 people, and will serve an estimated 10,000 people each season in the Hollywood/Baptist Hill area and surrounding communities. It is a 25-yard-long outdoor pool, with areas at a depth of three to four feet, and featuring six to eight lanes for lap swimming. Lifeguards will be on duty at the pool. Programming will include swimming lessons and summer camps.

The West County Aquatic Center will offer the first public pool in the Hollywood area. According to a report from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 10 people die every day from unintentional drowning. Of these, two are aged 14 or younger.

“Drowning is a real problem in the rural communities of Charleston County, and access to public pools in these areas is mostly nonexistent,” said CCPRC Executive Director David Bennett. “Bringing swimming instruction directly to these areas is a big step towards preventing drowning. The town of Hollywood is the perfect location to build our first pool, and we are thrilled to soon be able to offer these residents the opportunity to learn to swim.”



This will be the first public pool operated by CCPRC; however, the agency does own and operate three lifeguarded waterparks and three ocean access parks throughout the county. CCPRC also currently operates a portable pool, which rotates between camps in rural areas throughout the summer for swimming instruction for an estimated 300 youth campers.

The public can contribute to the funding of programming at the pool by supporting The Parklands Foundation in two ways: by donating to the Swim For It Campaign at one of CCPRC’s waterparks between now and Labor Day, or by visiting TheParklandsFoundation.org and donating to The Genesis Project.

A nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization, The Parklands Foundation was created in May 1990 by CCPRC to generate funding for the continued growth and development of the county park system, and to support increased leisure opportunities for residents. The Genesis Project was established in 2014 after the tragic drowning of a 13-year-old boy named Genesis Holmes. The project’s vision is to eliminate the number of drowning victims in Charleston County by providing the community with access to pools for swimming lessons, water safety classes, recreational programming and leisure activities. For more information on The Parklands Foundation, call 843-640-5451 or visit www.TheParklandsFoundation.org.

Charleston County Parks is celebrating 50 years and still shining in 2018! The mission of CCPRC is to improve the quality of life in Charleston County by offering a diverse system of park facilities, programs and services. The large park system features over 11,000 acres of property and includes four land parks, three beach parks, four seasonally-lifeguarded beach areas, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three waterparks, 19 boat landings, a skate park, a historic plantation site, a climbing wall, a challenge course, an interpretive center, an equestrian center, cottages, a campground, a marina, as well as wedding, meeting and event facilities. CCPRC also offers a wide variety of recreational services – festivals, camps, classes, programs, and much more. For more information on CCPRC, call 843-795-4386, download the Charleston County Parks mobile app, or visit www.charlestoncountyparks.com.

*Groundbreaking photo caption: Pictured from Left: Mattese Lecque, CCPRC Commissioner; Colin Bruner, CCPRC Commissioner; David Bennett, CCPRC Executive Director; Andy Thomas, CCPRC Commission Chair; Teddy Manos, CCPRC Commission Vice-Chairman; Dale Aren, CCPRC Commissioner; and Lisa King, CCPRC Commissioner
Pool Rendering: West County Aquatic Center Site Plan by Jerry Regenbogen Consulting - Site Planning and Landscape Architecture.*

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