



NEWS RELEASE

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Charleston County Parks opens West County Aquatic Center in Hollywood

[HOLLYWOOD, SC] – The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) officially opened the West County Aquatic Center on Friday, June 21. The complex is located near the new Hollywood Town Hall off Highway 165.

The aquatic center features a 6,000-square-foot seasonal outdoor pool for beginner and seasoned swimmers, called The Genesis Pool. The pool was named in honor of Genesis Holmes, a young Hollywood resident who drowned in 2014. The approximately \$3 million complex was funded by CCPRC, with CCPRC's nonprofit partner the Charleston County Parks Foundation raising funds to support programming at the site through its Genesis Project.

The Genesis Pool is 25 yards long, with a zero depth entry area, and other areas with depths of up to 4.5 feet, and features eight lanes for lap swimming. Lifeguards will be on duty at the pool. The facility will also feature restrooms, showers and a changing area.

Programming at the West County Aquatic Center will include swimming lessons, water fitness, and the eventual development of youth swim teams. It is expected to serve as many as 10,000 people each season in the Hollywood/Baptist Hill area and surrounding communities. The pool will be open daily this season through Labor Day 2019. Admission is \$2 per person and season-long memberships are available for \$25 plus tax. CCPRC Gold Passes will be accepted and will admit up to four guests per pass. Hours and open swim times vary; for details visit CharlestonCountyParks.com. The pool is located at 5156 Highway 165, Hollywood, SC, on a parcel of land provided by the Town of Hollywood.



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

“As the 2019 summer swim season begins, CCPRC is proud to offer the first public pool in the Hollywood area,” said CCPRC Executive Director David Bennett. “This facility represents significant progress toward supporting drowning prevention initiatives by offering swim safety and recreation programs to the community. We look forward to the community taking full advantage of the aquatic center this summer.”

CCPRC broke ground on the pool in August 2018. This is 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 Charleston County Parks Foundation continues to raise funds to support programming, including swimming lessons, at the pool. The public can contribute to this funding by supporting the 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 CharlestonCountyParksFoundation.org and donating to The Genesis Project.

A nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization, Charleston County Parks Foundation, formerly known as 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 Charleston County Parks Foundation, visit www.CharlestonCountyParksFoundation.org.

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 six 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.