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Holiday Festival of Lights offering Santa and gift shop visits during daytime hours *Visit James Island County Park during the day to safely experience two of the festival's popular attractions*

[JAMES ISLAND] – Charleston County Parks is happy to announce that two of the Holiday Festival of Lights' most popular attractions that will not be offered during the evening event this year will instead be available for guests during alternative hours. In order to provide a safe experience, visits with Santa as well as the official festival gift shop will be available for guests during daytime hours at James Island County Park.

While Jolly Old St. Nick will not be at the Holiday Festival of Lights during the evening hours, he will be in the park during the day on weekends! Families can now make an appointment to visit with Santa between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 12 – 4 p.m. Sundays, from **Nov. 21 – Dec. 20**. Registration is \$11.99 per group of up to 5 people. The session will feature professional photographer Gary Coleman and includes one 5x7 souvenir photo with the opportunity to upgrade to a photo package on site. Admission to James Island County Park is included.

Inclusive visits with Santa will also be available on the morning of Sunday, Dec. 6. Children with disabilities and their families are invited to a special photo session in a calming, subdued environment. Santa will be fluent in American Sign Language, and groups can register for a visit between the hours of 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Santa will encourage social distancing and masks will be required. For additional details and to register a visit with Santa, visit HolidayFestivalofLights.com.

Also during daytime hours at James Island County Park, the official Holiday Festival of Lights gift shop, Santa's Attic, will be open for shoppers. Known for its unique selection of gifts and personalized ornaments, Santa's Attic will also sell the popular annual Holiday Festival of Lights ornament. The pop-up gift shop is now open **daily from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. through the end of the festival on Dec. 31** (park will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas). The official Holiday Festival of Lights ornament can also be purchased online at HolidayFestivalofLights.com.

Visitors to this year's Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park will remain in their cars; attractions outside of the vehicle will be closed this year. Take a heartwarming cruise along a three-mile trek featuring over 700 light displays, most of which were created in-house by park staff. Restrooms will be available at one location within the park, and the festival will also feature a new drive through concessions area. The 2020 Holiday Festival of Lights is open nightly from 5:30 – 10 p.m. Nov. 13 through Dec. 31.

To encourage contactless transactions, new this year is the opportunity to purchase advance festival tickets online at HolidayFestivalofLights.com. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the gate for \$20 per vehicle of up to 15 guests.

More than four million people have toured the Holiday Festival of Lights, which is hosted by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission at the agency's James Island County Park. The event is presented by The Boeing Company and REV Federal Credit Union. For more information, call 843-795-4386 or visit HolidayFestivalofLights.com.

Owned and managed by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC), James Island County Park is located at 871 Riverland Drive. 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, a skate park, four seasonally-lifeguarded beach areas, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three waterparks, 19 boat landings, a climbing wall, a challenge course, an interpretive center, an equestrian center, a historic plantation site, cottages, a campground, a marina, as well as wedding, meeting and event facilities. The park system also offers a wide variety of recreational services - festivals, camps, classes, programs, and more. For more information on CCPRC, call 843-795-4386 or visit www.charlestoncountyparks.com.

