

# Charles Towne Landing Opens to Public

**Ceremony to be held 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 17**

**CHARLESTON** – The “new” Charles Towne Landing State Historic site will formally open to the public in a ceremony at 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, at the park’s new visitor center.

Expected to lead the ceremony are State Senate Pro Tempore Glenn McConnell and Speaker of the House, Rep. Bobby Harrell, both from Charleston. Joining them will be the Honourable Dame Billie Miller, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados, and Director Chad Prosser of the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, which manages the 665-acre park. All will be available for media interviews after the ceremony.

The ceremony will mark the “end of the beginning” of the redevelopment of the site, which was where a group of British settlers arrived from Barbados in 1670 and established the first permanent European settlement of the Carolinas. While a number of improvements have been completed, the park’s story will continue to unfold in the years ahead through the work of archaeologists and other researchers.

The opening celebration, which continues through Sunday, also will include day-long living history demonstrations and lectures, including live cannon firings, musket drilling, period farming and hand-crafting skills and more.

New facilities and attractions at the 36-year-old park include:

- A visitor center with amenities and extensive exhibits that recount the story of how Native Americans, Africans and Europeans interacted on this site to create what became Charleston and the beginnings of the plantation system of the American South. One highlight is a “digital dig,” an exhibit that allows visitors an interactive chance to explore and understand archaeology at the site.
- An interpretive trail around the 665-acre site, going by such highlights as the reconstructed palisade wall, remains of original and plantation-era structures, a cannon embrasure and a Native American ceremonial site. A new marsh boardwalk also has been completed. Visitors also can see the *Adventure*, a life-size replica of a 17<sup>th</sup>-century trading ship, being built on the park.
- New habitats and trail surfaces through the Animal Forest, a naturalistic zoo that is home to creatures the settlers would have encountered, such as otters, bears, pumas and bison.

Please contact Dawn Dawson-House at [ddawson@scprt.com](mailto:ddawson@scprt.com) or by phone at 803-734-1779 if special arrangements are needed.

Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site preserves and interprets the first permanent European settlement of the Carolinas. The state park is three miles north of Charleston on Old Towne Road (S.C. 171.)

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