



City of West Columbia  
*Bridging Past, Present and Future*  
P.O. Box 4044, West Columbia, SC 20171-4044

## **News Release**

# **West Columbia Dedicates Riverwalk Park To the Late Mayor Mac Rish**

Mayor Mac Rish's dream to make the Congaree River accessible to everyone will come full circle when the City of West Columbia dedicates its Riverwalk Park and Amphitheater to his memory on Thursday, August 22, 2013. The dedication ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. beside a brick monument placed inside the amphitheater area of the West Columbia Riverwalk Park in honor of the well-known mayor who served on the West Columbia City Council from 1989 until he died in office in December 2003. Joe Owens, the current West Columbia mayor and a close friend of Mac Rish, summed up the dedication ceremony as, "a fitting tribute to a man who greatly loved his hometown and worked diligently toward his vision that all citizens should be able to come down and enjoy the river."

Under Mayor Rish's guidance West Columbia grew to be the second largest municipality in Lexington County. During his tenure, the city built a second water plant located on Lake Murray, Northside Middle School relocated into new facilities, and Tri-City Leisure Center and Howard Sports Complex were completed. He played a significant role in the development of Riverbanks Botanical Gardens in 1998, which is considered one of the premier facilities of its kind in the South. However, Mayor Rish's dream of making the Congaree River accessible to everyone became his greatest accomplishment through his leadership in transforming a kudzu entangled, densely overgrown inaccessible riverbank into the immensely popular and serenely beautiful West Columbia Riverwalk Park and Amphitheater that all people enjoy today.

The West Columbia Riverwalk Park is located at 109 Alexander Road beside the Gervais Street Bridge (US Highway 1). The park is dog-friendly and ADA accessible.

For further information contact Mardi Valentino, Public Information Officer, at (803) 939-8603 or by e-mail at [mvalentino@westcolumbiasc.gov](mailto:mvalentino@westcolumbiasc.gov).

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