

Account: South Carolina State Parks

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South Carolina State Parks

at 15:51:39 on 7/20/2016 UTC · 🌐

As many know, Huntington Beach State Park is a beautiful example of South Carolina's upper coastal environment, featuring oceanfront, dunes, saltmarsh, freshwater pond and maritime forest habitats that support a wide variety of wildlife.

The nature center was an iconic structure that helped interpret this natural beauty and significance. Thousands of visitors came not only to learn more about Huntington Beach, but to find inspiration and make memories.

The SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism is currently assessing the loss of the center from an early-morning fire and will determine short-term as well as long-term goals once that assessment is complete.

Most of the park remains open, including the campground and the south end that includes the historic Atalaya home, park bathhouse, visitor center and trails into the maritime forest. The north end, including a picnic shelter and beach access, and the boardwalk / wildlife observation decks, will re-open once the incident site is secured.

SCPRT will continue to prioritize visitor service and safety, and will return to normal operations as soon as possible.



Jim Trimble Just awful. So sorry to hear this news.

at 16:01:16 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Larry Fulmer Jr That's sad news to lose the center. I always visited the center on my trips there.

at 16:04:38 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Jane Cunningham Derrick Thanks for the update.

at 16:05:57 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Cindy Harmon Oh no...what happened

at 16:06:09 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Troy LeBoeuf



at 16:10:01 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Kaye Baker Marsh Oh no! We love that park!

at 16:12:19 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Brad Johnson So many people love HBSP. Just start a GoFundMe. Rebuild, replace, recycle. Hopefully the building was insured, but a fund to cover what's not, along with enhancements to exhibits and features, would undoubtedly be very well crowd funded. It's our park...for everyone.

at 16:14:27 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Sheila Mosley So sorry to hear this. The nature center was one of our favorites. My kids loved visiting there.

at 16:14:50 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Linda LeVay Martin So sad, I love that park

at 16:19:35 on 7/20/2016 UTC

Linda LeVay Martin The Nature Center burned down this morning 😞



at 16:20:24 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Steve Lilly Please post when the North is reopened I love it out there! So sorry for the loss of the wildlife..

at 16:29:41 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Julianne Harman Watts We LOVE HB and it's nature center. We were just there camping in June. My entire family grieves over the loss!

at 16:34:06 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Cindy Harmon Oh no!!!! How did that happen?

at 16:41:01 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Twila Ehrfeld Cindy Harmon , as nothing is set in stone yet, they THINK lightening hit it

at 16:43:33 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Cindy Harmon Dang! Sure hate to hear this!!! Prayers that everyone is safe!!!

at 16:50:04 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Lisa Mclamb Singer So sad...beautiful place..

at 16:51:34 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Jennifer Cutchins-Nimocks Such a tragedy! My kids love the education center and visit it many times a year when we camp. We will be there at the end of the month and it will be so sad not to get to visit. ☹️ I agree that a GoFundMe or something should be set up to help rebuild!

at 16:52:24 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Renee Mathis Swann 🙏

at 17:16:05 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Leslie Thomas Dave! ☹️

at 17:16:29 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Debbie Smith So sad. Such a great place. So sorry about the loss of marine and animal life. Condolences to all the workers who are affected.

at 17:32:07 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Fran Clarke So sorry for the loss of the building and the animals. Hope you can rebuild quickly.

at 17:45:52 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Heidi Dufresne DiFranco Brad DiFranco wow! What a loss. I am glad you took us there in the Spring.

at 17:46:49 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Mary Brooks Very sad. Hopefully, it will be rebuilt

at 17:48:44 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Kristin Hawkins So sorry to hear this!

at 17:50:54 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Susan Ralston Susan Robertson

at 17:52:33 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Chris Brimlow Alissa Wallace

at 17:55:58 on 7/20/2016 UTC

Kevin Conn Terry Pat Conn Kimberly Branham Amy Heywood Kneece



at 18:24:19 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Mike Miller Carla Arnold Humphrey
at 18:29:30 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Carla Arnold Humphrey I know I saw that . My-in laws r still there. She said they had a bad storm last nite
at 18:30:32 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Mike Miller My favorite beach in SC. Used to tent camp there alot years ago. That's a shame...
at 18:31:35 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Carla Arnold Humphrey Mike Miller yep I know it. It was a very pretty place. It was my first time there. Adam and his family used to camp there as well when he was growing up.
at 18:32:49 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Mike Miller For a bird watchers, its paradise. More species than anywhere else in the state.
at 18:38:59 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Christyne Powell Joe Croft Marianne Croft
at 18:40:14 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Kaci Powell So sad to hear about this. The nature center was one of our favorite places. ☹️
at 18:47:14 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Gary L Reeves Rebuild,
at 19:01:10 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Rebekah Higingbottom Chrischristy Tyler Ron Jackson
at 19:20:33 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Amber Meredith-Davis We were just there the other week! One of my favorite parks, this breaks our hearts. Please keep us posted about any fund raisers that may happen in the future. Rebuilding is a must!
at 19:20:34 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Luke Harris Hannah Harris.....
at 19:30:38 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Margaret Crane Tammy Parker
at 19:35:01 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Linda Harris Thank you for the update, so sad. I sure hope it was well insured.
at 19:42:35 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Lisa Fulmer I can't stop thinking about the animals who lost their lives. It's so sad.
at 19:50:13 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Becky Abraham Oh so sad to hear this. We always loved going in the center when there. We made special trips to walk the ramp outside to see the Painted Buntings at the feeders. I hope a new center will be built.
at 19:51:30 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Hannah Harris ☹️
at 19:55:53 on 7/20/2016 UTC

Deborah Sue Jones Lyon We came by earlier and told some park employees that we appreciate you all. We love our state park family.



at 20:45:39 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Susan Long Cash Heartbroken 😞

at 20:47:53 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Tammy Stephens Parker We were heart broken after seeing this on the news this morning.

The storms have been rough the last few weeks.
Sad for all the animals.
Hope they rebuild soon. We really enjoy going to HBSP.

at 21:01:35 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Margaret Crane How you doing? Coming October.

at 21:06:10 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Kelly Reece Carman Our favorite park!! We are so sad to hear about the loss of the nature center and the animals there. My girls feel like those animals belong to them.

at 21:15:33 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Susan Robertson Sheila posted early this morning about. Sad 😞

at 22:13:40 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Bucky DaVega Great state park. It was the one where I originally purchased my Ultimate Outsider guide book! Unfortunate to hear but at least no one was injured. I'm sure the place will bounce back and I'm even going to call to see about what I can possibly do about volunteering to help.

at 22:22:07 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Julie Mike Fleming Tonya Shaw Williams

at 22:33:57 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Brandi Turner Gregory I'm glad most of the park is still open but so sad about the nature center. We love Huntington.

at 22:34:52 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Tammy Stephens Parker Doing good. Richard is here this week. I am coming to Clemson for a for days.

at 22:50:58 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Allie Frierson Dang. Love that place. Camped there. That's the place that got me started camping. Mike Walker is amazing.

at 23:24:03 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Dorothy A. Hemenway Wells SO SAD./

at 23:44:22 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Glynese Ronquille so sad



at 23:48:15 on 7/20/2016 UTC



Christine Ann McCloskey oh how sad. I live here and just found out :'(

at 0:01:41 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Marianne Croft Erin Donovan Bailey

at 0:19:08 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Jim Montgomery We are there and this loss affects us personally and deeply. Hope they rebuild bigger and better soon!
at 0:20:32 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Julie Martin Mitchell Lynn Barnett Head 😊
at 0:26:20 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Johnnie Nelson ❤️❤️❤️❤️
at 1:05:49 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Lynn Barnett Head Great idea!
at 1:10:08 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Nancy Bales Elliott Buffi Hammond Jones
at 1:17:56 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Lower Savannah River Alliance Sad news. We hope you find a path forward, and rebuild.
at 1:23:41 on 7/21/2016 UTC



24 Hour Local Plumber Call Today Awesome<3
at 1:30:11 on 7/21/2016 UTC



24 Hour Local Plumber Call Today heck yes<3
at 1:30:18 on 7/21/2016 UTC



24 Hour Local Plumber Call Today <3
at 1:30:25 on 7/21/2016 UTC



24 Hour Local Plumber Call Today Anyone else agree?
at 1:30:31 on 7/21/2016 UTC



24 Hour Local Plumber Call Today +1 Nice reply
at 1:30:37 on 7/21/2016 UTC



24 Hour Local Plumber Call Today anyone love South Carolina as much as i do
at 1:30:44 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Erin Donovan Bailey Oh, no!!!
at 1:30:47 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Glenna Kreiser-Stitt My children and I spent our last day there yesterday, after a 5 day glorious stay!!! When we woke up to this am and heard the news we all were in complete shock and disbelief. All three of my children fell in love with the reptiles and sea life at the science center. Any word on Sassy or Scooter?? They were very loved by us.
at 1:33:57 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Pamela Cooney Mac Such a tragedy ... I frequent this state park often for hiking and beaching.....it's a beautiful park for our community...so sad to lose the exhibits and animals😊.....hope there are funds to rebuild soon..
at 1:40:30 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Dorus Fotohorse : (
at 1:44:21 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Elysia Batya What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:27-28)
20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly.
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20

at 2:00:46 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Rachael Smith-Shotwell Awww. My boys and I visited about 2 months ago but the nature center was closed. ☹️

at 2:31:47 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Ernie D. Bailey Sr. Rory Bailey

at 2:38:55 on 7/21/2016 UTC



PhyllisAdelle Sherer Im so sorry :(

at 2:55:00 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Angela Faye Martin I'm so sorry to hear this -- had a wonderful visit there a couple of years ago -- wonderful interpretive work was getting done there. I'm so sorry for the animals and those who had a close connection to that wonderful place. :(

at 3:03:43 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Jessica Brown Very sad to hear.

at 3:18:11 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Amanda Parris This was one of our favorite educational centers in the state parks because it incorporated the animals, history of the Huntington family, and aspects of art and lowcountry life. I'm glad the rangers and staff were safe and hope that a similar center can be put in place.

at 3:42:33 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Patricia Whelan



at 4:05:27 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Jennifer Griffiths Orudjev Gutted to hear of this. Huntington Beach is such a special and beloved park.

at 4:20:07 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Shannon Rouisse Aw, poor animals. I love it there, wish someone had been there to try and save them. :(

at 5:37:55 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Joyce Topping This breaks my heart!

at 6:34:59 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Jonelle Bowden So sad to hear! We'll miss Cornelius!

at 6:52:30 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Brad Bellah We love Huntington - it's a local gem! Crossing the causeway is always a relaxing passage for us.

I have a Question: when is the second campground loop scheduled to be opened? I read a few years ago that it was going to be reopened but have not heard anything since then. We're the plans put off?

at 10:18:49 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Matt-Sonya Genobles So sad to hear, our kids loved visiting the center every summer

at 10:23:12 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Steve Everts This is so tragic to see. I have never been there, but, the loss of animals used to educate the public is devastating. I hope they can raise enough money to rebuild as soon as possible.

at 11:16:28 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Evelyn Jones Johnson Oh, this hurt my heart to know that none of the animals survived this tragedy. I have animals myself and it saddened me to loss one , but all at once it hurt more..
at 12:51:28 on 7/21/2016 UTC



Jerri Gingrich I hope a future nature center will only have interactive discussions, colorful and informative displays, and videos rather than any confined animals.
at 14:33:59 on 7/22/2016 UTC