

Press Release

Contact Information

Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ICRC to Celebrate Opening of New Saluda Shoals Riverwalk Trail and Trailhead

Columbia, SC, July 22, 2026 – The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC) is excited to announce the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Saluda Shoals Riverwalk Trail on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 10:00 a.m. at Dreher Shoals Landing, 6181 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC. This milestone celebration marks the grand opening of the Saluda Shoals Riverwalk and highlights the community partnerships that have helped bring this transformational regional project to life.

The Saluda Shoals Riverwalk, formerly known as the Lower Saluda Greenway, is a proposed 8.5-mile multi-use paved path that runs along the north side of the Lower Saluda River. Designed to connect the Lexington and Irmo communities with neighboring cities including Columbia, West Columbia, and Cayce, the Riverwalk provides increased access to parks, trails, and recreational destinations while promoting safe, active transportation throughout the region.

The new trailhead building located at Dreher Shoals Landing will serve as a welcoming gateway to the Riverwalk, offering visitors improved access, amenities, and information as they explore one of the Midlands' premier outdoor destinations.

"This ribbon cutting represents another exciting step forward in enhancing connectivity and outdoor recreation for our community," said Mark Smyers, Executive Director of the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission. "The Riverwalk continues to create opportunities for residents and visitors to walk, bike, and experience the natural beauty of the Lower Saluda River while strengthening connections between neighborhoods, businesses, and recreational spaces."

Strengthening Regional Connectivity

The Saluda Shoals Riverwalk was developed in response to strong community support for safer, non-motorized transportation and recreational pathways throughout the Midlands. By expanding access to outdoor spaces and connecting key destinations, the Riverwalk supports healthier lifestyles and long-term regional growth.

“This project reflects our commitment to creating accessible spaces that improve quality of life for residents across the region,” Smyers added. “The new trailhead building will enhance the visitor experience while supporting the continued growth and success of the Riverwalk.”

Community Partnerships

The success of the Saluda Shoals Riverwalk continues to be made possible through the collaboration and support of numerous community partners, including the Central Midlands Council of Governments, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, County of Lexington, Dominion Energy, Midlands Business Leadership Group, State of South Carolina, and The Mungo Foundation.

“We are grateful for the partnerships that continue to make projects like this possible,” said Smyers. “This ribbon cutting is a celebration of what can be accomplished when organizations come together with a shared vision for our community.”

Dominion Energy’s Continued Commitment

Dominion Energy remains a key partner in the Riverwalk project, with approximately 95% of Phase One located on Dominion property between Lake Murray Dam and Saluda Shoals Park. Through easements, planning support, and environmental stewardship, Dominion Energy has played a vital role in advancing the project and preserving public access to the river corridor.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Dreher Shoals Landing, 6181 Bush River Rd., Columbia, SC

For more information about the Saluda Shoals Riverwalk project, please visit www.icrc.net/saluda-shoals-park/saluda-shoals-riverwalk.

About The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission

The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission seeks to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of the district through the development of recreation programs that promote a lifestyle of wellness, physical activities and cultural experiences for all ages. For more information, call (803) 772-1228.