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## Congaree National Park News Release

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### Congaree National Park Announces Visitor Services for 2019 Synchronized Fireflies

HOPKINS, SOUTH CAROLINA –Congaree National Park will offer extended hours at the Harry Hampton Visitor Center for the 2019 synchronized fireflies starting May 10, 2019 and running through May 27. “We are thrilled to make this experience available to visitors who otherwise might only visit the park during the daylight hours,” said Superintendent K. Lynn Berry. “This unique phenomenon is only seen in a few places, and visitors to the park during this period will witness an amazing natural light show like no other.”

During synchronization, the Harry Hampton Visitor Center will be open until 10:00 PM. Due to the extremely high visitation and limited availability of parking, visitors planning on coming to this event are highly encouraged to carpool. RV’s and buses will not be permitted to park at the visitor center during this event due to the limited availability of parking spaces.

Congaree National Park will also be piloting a new shuttle service during this year’s event. Over the Memorial Day weekend (May 24-26), the park, in partnership with COMET and the South Carolina State Fair, will offer shuttle service from the State Fairgrounds to the park, in order to help alleviate congestion at the park on one of our busiest weekends. Additional information will be available on the park’s website.

Pets, with the exception of service animals, will not be permitted on the designated Firefly Trail during evening hours. Visitors are encouraged to wear insect repellent and be prepared for forecasted weather with appropriate clothing. During firefly viewing, the boardwalk outside of the visitor center will only be available for those with mobility impairments.

For event updates, shuttle location, schedule, and information, as well as additional park information, please visit our website at [www.nps.gov/cong/fireflies.htm](http://www.nps.gov/cong/fireflies.htm), or call 803-776-4396. Updates and

information are also available through our social media pages:  
[www.facebook.com/CongareeNP](http://www.facebook.com/CongareeNP) and [www.twitter.com/CongareeNPS](http://www.twitter.com/CongareeNPS).

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One of 419 National Park Service units, Congaree National Park protects, studies and interprets the resources, history, stories and wilderness character of the nation's largest remaining tract of southern old-growth bottomland forest and its associated ecosystems. You can learn more at [www.nps.gov/cong](http://www.nps.gov/cong).