Byerly Park

Byerly Park, a 93-acre multi-use recreation complex developed to improve the quality of life for residents of Hartsville and the surrounding areas, is one of the finest sports facilities in the Southeast. The result of land gifts to the City of Hartsville, the park is named for the Byerly Foundation, a longtime donor to the facility.

Byerly Park offers year-round activities for both youth and adult athletes. Venues such as soccer, softball, baseball, football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, track and field and horseshoes are all inclusive within Byerly Park. Those who would like to enjoy the outdoors and be healthy may use out 1.2 mile lighted walking trail, the Terrence J. Herrington Track or the fitness center in the Coach T.B. Thomas Sports Center. In addition, Byerly Park has two playgrounds for our future athletes to play on and be a part of the action.
Byerly Park’s newest addition is a multifunctional water play area including water jets, water cannons, dumping buckets and water slides. According to Phil Gardner, director of Parks and Leisure for the City of Hartsville, the 5100 square foot Piratesville Splash Pad is one of the largest in the state. It also includes a well-trained staff and concessions.

The splash pad operates every day except Monday when Darlington County schools are on summer vacation. One-day fees and season tickets are available during the operating season, as are private rentals before and after regular hours.
Kalmia Gardens

From blooms to banquets, there's always something happening...

Located in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina on a former 19th century plantation, Kalmia Gardens is a 35-acre public botanical garden and historic home open to the public. The Thomas E. Hart House and surrounding gardens are on the National Register of Historic Places. Kalmia Gardens boasts a wide array of rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas, wisteria, tea-olives, dogwood and the Gardens’ namesake — Kalmia latifolia, the Mountain Laurel.

Kalmia Gardens of Coker College has been open to the public since 1935 and includes many exotic ornamentals planted by Mrs. David Robert Coker, the garden’s founder. When the Coker family acquired the land in 1932, “Miss May” began transforming what was then a desolate area into a place of tranquility and beauty, creating many trails that lead down to Black Creek. She gave Kalmia Gardens to Coker College in 1965 as a memorial to her late husband.

From the Hart House and formal gardens there is a 60-ft drop in elevation to the Black Creek floodplain where trails and boardwalks guide you through laurel thickets, pine-oak-holly uplands and a beech bluff. The unusual terrain is responsible for creating Kalmia’s unique and diverse plant and animal life. The contrast between the formal house and gardens and the cypress swamp below makes for a distinctly enjoyable experience.
In 2008 Hartsville hosted a grand reopening to celebrate the completion of a $500,000 project to renovate the Pavilion and improve the park grounds. The Pavilion is completely updated with central heating and air, a caterer’s kitchen, elevator, restrooms and the addition of an upstairs patio balcony, overlooking the lake. The Southern-style Pavilion give a charm to the building not easily duplicated.

Lawton Park on beautiful Prestwood Lake in Hartsville has free tennis courts that are open to the public. Ample parking is located next to the courts. Lawton Park has a covered picnic table area, a playground with swings for the little ones, and a boardwalk for bird watching or fishing. The lovely Pavilion may be rented for meetings, seminars, conferences, and weddings.

Visit [www.kalmiagardens.org](http://www.kalmiagardens.org) or [www.hartsvillesc.org/lawtonpark2/](http://www.hartsvillesc.org/lawtonpark2/) for details.
Other Sporting Activities

Organizations such as the Hartsville Area Recreation Department, local churches, and other sanctioned leagues provide diverse, year-round activities for the citizens of the Hartsville area. Sports include baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, football, tennis, soccer, etc. and are geared for adults and children.