

W Floyd Allison Award

Woodland Park Campground located off highway 5 in Smyrna SC was established in 1961. At that time, they had 72 camping sites and amenities such as two bath houses, pool and store. It provided great camping with memories that last a lifetime. Most people thought that after Mr. And Mrs. Simmonds closed the park in the early 1990's, the park was gone forever. However, in 2020 our family purchased and restored the park to prestige condition with forty newly renovated camping sites, bath houses, store, pool, and added a few family favorites such as mini golf, golf cart trails, a basketball court, and a playground.

This campground has so many fond memories from everyone who has visited it in the last sixty years. Most of the memories were created at the Woodland Park swimming pool, where kids in the community learned to swim. If they needed a cool down, the kids would run down to the store where slushies were sold by the campground owners at the time. We've also heard fond memories of kids at the time who are now adults, playing in the creek and fishing in the pond. I remember the man who came to restore the pool at the campground, had a childhood memory of their brother accidentally hooking him with a fishing hook. We've also heard stories about people meeting their future husbands and wives here. Others remember the pavilion where there was music and dancing. Before we had to take down the Pavilion, we found many carvings on the walls of people's names and phone numbers. You can also find name carvings in some of the trees here. A story that has been in my family for years that everyone still laughs about is my great uncle being dropped on his head at the pavilion. He still has a scar to show from the accident.

The Campground was a hotspot for York County residents and so many others. We've had campers from all over the country and even one from London. It shocked me and I'm still amazed that someone from London found our little hometown campground. I have grown and learned so much by helping revamp the campground and I hope that it is a place that the community and beyond can come together and create lifelong memories as their parents and grandparents did. It's such a great feeling of accomplishment to have been a part of bringing back life to something that was almost forgotten. Woodland Park is definitely a hidden gem in western York County and holds so much history. I can't wait to hear more stories in the years to come about this historic place.