A Plethora of Petals

By Angela Shoultz

Just north of Charleston, you’ll find Summerville, SC—an almost secret sanctuary where three centuries of stately Southern homes sit perched on tree-lined streets, hidden by an abundance of green foliage. And like most quaint towns of the sort, private and public gardens play a large role in the community.

Known as “The Flower Town in the Pines,” Summerville has served as an oasis for Charlestonians since the late 1700s when plantation families traveled there to enjoy its higher elevation during Lowcountry summers. Today, visitors from Charleston and beyond flock to the town, but for different reasons—to enjoy the beauty and solace of Azalea Park.

At the corner of Main and 5th Streets, just a few blocks from downtown Summerville, you’ll find Azalea Park. Beyond its entrance is a relaxing and well-kept city garden complete with picnic tables, pathways and plenty of shade. It’s a delightful place to stroll any time of year, especially when the azalea bushes spring magnificent blooms, turning the lush, green landscape into a sea of pink, purple and white petals. But it’s not only the inherent beauty that attracts flocks of flower fanatics—Azalea Park hosts a variety of annual events every year, including the Flowertown Festival, Taste of Summerville and Sculpture in the South.

A stunning specimen of nature all by itself, Azalea Park is a haven for those who love to relax in the great outdoors. Just a hop and two skips from Charleston, Summerville is a great place to visit when you’re in the Holy City. But it’s also the perfect locale to hang your hat if you’re looking for a quiet location to spend a weekend. Next time you’re in the Lowcountry, stop by Azalea Park and bring a picnic, enjoy the view or hang out for one of the park’s spectacular events.