



CHAPMAN HIGHWAY DOGWOOD TRAIL

Welcome to Chapman Highway Dogwood Trail, where wild red bud trees vie with the dogwoods in beauty. Established in 1957, this trail is a two-part story; please follow the pink lines through Colonial Village and Lake Forest Neighborhoods.

On the left is the natural spring-fed Butterfly Lake where Great Blue Herons, ducks and geese are often seen along the edges of the quiet water. A variety of birds and wildlife are drawn to this area because of the old established trees and large wooded areas.

Notice the lovely rock gardens with bright candytuft, tulips and creeping phlox. Built in the 1940s, these modest cottage-style houses offer the convenience of easy access to downtown and are a favorite with those who like the feeling of privacy and seclusion. At street intersections, it is possible to look down on drifts of wild dogwood trees whose massed blooms turn the hillside white. Dogwood branches almost meet overhead as the trail dips down West Redbud Drive.

Crossing at the light, you enter Lake Forest and passing the other half of the original spring-fed lake, which was split when Chapman Highway was constructed. The trail follows the winding road around Lake Forest Presbyterian Church, which hosts several seasonal social events for attendees as well as residents.

When you turn left onto Centerwood, behind the third house on the right, there is a fenced-in graveyard where relatives of Sam Houston are buried. Sam Houston lived near here in his youth and became Governor of Tennessee in 1827 before moving to Texas to "Remember the Alamo" in 1836.

As you come down the hill on East Lake Forest Drive, you are only a block away from the Post Oak neighborhood entrance to The Urban Wilderness Loop, which connects William Hastie Natural Area (4.7 miles of trails) with Ijams Nature Center and Mead's Quarry.

Throughout the neighborhood, you will see examples of Tennessee Pink Marble, once quarried in the Knoxville area. Larger blocks were used in buildings all over the U.S. or carved into monuments, such as the famous lion statues in front of the New York Public Library. Local builders used the smaller left over pieces to construct retaining walls, arched doorways, chimneys, patios, and whole houses.

As the trail comes to an end, turn left and in 30 minutes you will be in the Smokies and turn right and in 3 miles you will be in downtown Knoxville.

For more information about the Dogwood Arts special events and festivals, visit www.dogwoodarts.com.

