

# PARKS

**Greenbrook Park** in Smithville is a multi-purpose facility located on College Street. The park was originally created in 1952 by the Smithville Business and Professional Women's club, and expansion began in the 1970s after land behind the park was donated by the P.E. Summers family.

Upon completion in 1979, during the administration of Mayor Edward Frazier, the park more than doubled in size, and now includes five picnic shelters, an amphitheater (with seating provided by Anderson Webb's 2006 Eagle Scout Project), children's play area, and a duck pond. It is also home to the Sam Houston Black Walnut Tree, developed by James G. Driver from trees growing at the Sam Houston Schoolhouse in Maryville. The tree was planted in 1993.

Greenbrook is host to the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life each May, as well as countless reunions, birthday parties, class reunions and other get-togethers.

The park was funded in part by a grant from the Local Parks and Recreation Fund, administered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Those seeking to reserve a picnic shelter at the park should contact Royce Odom at the park office, or call 597-5540. A minimum donation to the BPW of \$25 is appreciated, and all money is returned to the upkeep of the park.

**Edgar Evins State Park**, located on the shores of Center Hill Lake at 1630



Edgar Evins State Park Road in Silver Point, is a 6,000 acre park, which provides many recreational opportunities and accommodations on one of the most beautiful reservoirs in Tennessee.

James Edgar Evins (1883–1954), the park's namesake, was a Smithville businessman and state senator who played a vital role in the development of the Center Hill Dam and Reservoir in the 1940s. He was the father of former United States Representative Joe L. Evins.

There are three boat launch ramps within the park. Two are located on the developed side of the park, and the third is off of Highway 70 on Indian Creek Road. The park offers seasonal pontoon boat rides. Fishing is plentiful. Center Hill Lake is an 18,000 acre reservoir of the Caney Fork River with rocky shorelines supporting three species of bass as well as crappie, Walleye, catfish and trout. Bass fishing is best in spring and fall; although, many bass anglers fish at night in the summer. Several professional fishing tournaments are held annually on the lake. Immediately below the dam and just minutes from

the park are the coldwater tailwaters of the Caney Fork River. Fishing the Caney Fork during non-generation periods is very productive for rainbow, rook and brown trout.

There are approximately 11 miles of trails at Edgar Evins from moderate to strenuous. Of the five trails, the longest and most challenging is the 5.5 mile Merritt Ridge Trail, which rises upon the ridges from an intersection along the 2.5 mile Jack Clayborn Millennium Trail Loop.

By combining the two trails a hiker can enjoy approximately eight miles of diverse terrain. Both the Millennium Trail and the Merritt Ridge Registration is required at this trail head. Other trails vary in length and do not require registration. The Highland Rim Nature Trail, located at the Visitor Center, is especially noted for an abundance of spring wildflowers. Other trails include Cemetery Trail — 0.1 miles with a natural service and moderate difficulty, Evins Ridge Trail, 0.5 miles with a natural surface and moderate difficulty; Campground/Marina Trail, 1.0 miles with natural sur-

face and easy-moderate difficulty; Highland Rim Loop Trail, 2.0 miles with natural surface and moderate-difficulty with water by trail.

The park features 34 economy suites across a six-building lodging complex. Five buildings house six one-bedroom suites and one building houses four one-bedroom suites.

The suites are a split-level design, with the kitchen and living area being on the upper level and the bedroom being on the lower level, with the bathroom on the entrance foyer. Each suite can accommodate six adults, with two double beds in the bedroom and a sofa sleeper in the living room. Rates run from \$80 to \$110 not including taxes, and rates are subject to change.

There are 16 boat slips on the suite courtesy dock that are available on a first come first served basis. There are no assigned slips per unit.

The campground consists of 60 tent and trailer campsites with electrical and water hookups. These wooden platform-type sites, which are reinforced with concrete and steel, are built around the slopes of Center Hill Lake and are equipped with a picnic table, grill and fire ring.

There are three bathhouses with hot showers throughout the campground. A sewage dump station is centrally located in the campground as well. Approximately 20 sites and one bathhouse are open year-round.

Pets are allowed in the campground, but must be kept on a leash and not left unattended on the camp-sites. Nine primitive walk-in

sites are also available with parking at the camp building. Volunteer campground host site is number 31. Rates run from \$11 to \$35 with taxes not included and prices subject to change.

The park also offers venues such as The Tower which can be rented for \$50 a day overlooks Center Hill Lake and is a perfect wedding setting. Sunset Point Peninsula on Center Hill Lake can be rented for \$150 per day.

Reservations may be made online or by calling 931-858-2618 through October.

The park has three picnic shelters/pavilions that may be reserved for your next event or gathering. The maximum capacity for each shelter is 50 people. The shelters are equipped with picnic tables, a grill and access to restrooms. Each shelter is near the marina and there is a trail to the water.

Full day shelter reservations may be made online or by calling the park. If you are interested in reserving a shelter for less than a full day, please contact the park office for availability information.

Picnic shelters or pavilions may be reserved online up to one year in advance with a paid reservation fee. There is a \$3 cancellation fee for picnic shelter or pavilion reservations cancelled eight days or more in advance of the reserved date. Reservations cancelled seven days or less in advance of the reserved date forfeit all paid fees.

Contact the park at 931-858-2115, or visit <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/edgar-evins> for more info.