



Sequoyah Hills Dogwood Trail

Welcome to the Sequoyah Hills Dogwood Trail, which begins and ends on Cherokee Boulevard. This street was named for the Indians who were Knoxville's original "first settlers," and Knoxville's first Dogwood Trail opened here in 1955.

The route turns right beneath overarching trees on Kenesaw Avenue and returns to the Boulevard via Woodland Drive. Then a right turn leads to large azaleas of many colors on Iskagna, Kenesaw, and Talahi.

The trail dips down to Talahi Mall, skirting a tall ornamental fountain to pass an enclosed playground that rejoiced in the early-day name of Papoose Park. The mall plantings include azaleas (white and dark red), and a gigantic American holly; pink is the preferred color for lawn plantings with redbud, flowering crabapple, and Japanese cherry trees abounding.

After a right turn onto Cherokee Boulevard at the large circular Talahi Fountain, be on the lookout for the Indian burial mound in the center of the boulevard. Sequoyah Hills was named for a Cherokee chieftain who was born a few miles from here on the Little Tennessee River. Although he could neither read nor write and knew no language except the Cherokee tongue, Sequoyah invented a phonetic alphabet for his people in 1820. Through its use, all Indian dialects have since become written languages. In his honor, the Sequoyah Hills Trail celebrated the Bicentennial Year by planting a young Sequoia tree at the base of the Indian Mound.

The trail turns right on Kenesaw Avenue, left on Taliluna Avenue and left on Agawela with their views of the rolling hills that give this residential area the second half of its name.

Rejoining Cherokee Boulevard, the large building in the distance ahead is Cherokee Country Club seen from riverside.

The Trail leaves the Boulevard on South Garden Road to begin a meandering climb by way of Navaho and Cedarhill to the crest of Scenic Drive. Next, the trail turns right off of Scenic Drive onto Kenilworth Drive, then left on Oakhurst Drive to Glenfield where both pink and white dogwoods are old and very large.

Back on Scenic Drive, turn left onto Towanda Trail where Night Dogwood Trails originated. In 1957, six members of the Knoxville Garden Club living on this street lighted their trees for viewing after dark. The effect was spectacular. Some residents still light their blooms at night from dusk to 10:00 p.m.

Take an immediate left turn onto Hiawatha, then left on Noelton Drive, right on Alta Vista Way, and left on Blows Ferry Road, returning to the Boulevard past brilliant azaleas and drifts of dogwood trees.

Here the boulevard parallels the shore of Fort Loudon Lake, one of the Tennessee Valley Authority's "Great Lakes of the South". Fort Loudon Dam, 25 miles below Knoxville on the Tennessee River, has the

highest river locks in America and Knoxville, at the headwaters of this lake, is linked to the sea by a 9-foot shipping channel winding more than 900 miles to the mouth of the Mississippi. A city park borders the lakeshore and a Stop and Stroll sign invites visitors to leave their cars and walk down to the water's edge for a closer view of the towering palisades across the lake.

The trail repasses the Indian Mound and the large round fountain at the entrance of Talahi Mall. One block ahead on the right is the red brick Georgian style residence of the President of the University of Tennessee.

After a right turn onto Bluff Drive and Cheowa Circle and a descent through clouds of snowy dogwood blooms, the trail rejoins the boulevard and returns to Kingston Pike. Downtown Knoxville is to the right as Trail and Boulevard end together.