

# **Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park**

### Tennessee Map Plaza

This 200-foot granite state map highlights the major roads, 95 counties, rivers, interesting geographic formations and prominent cities and towns within the state. It is located at the entrance point of the park on James Robertson Parkway.

### **Rivers of Tennessee Fountain**

This area contains 31 vertical water fountains, one for each of the predominant waterways in the state. The river walk is accented with a bowed and arched granite wall with inscriptions about Tennessee waterways.

Also featured nearby are 18 Tennessee state flags. The two large state flags represent 100 years of statehood each. The 16 smaller state flags represent Tennessee's admittance to the Union as the sixteenth state.

### **Tennessee Amphitheater**

This center section of the park features a 2,000-seat amphitheater, composed of terraced lawns, providing dramatic views of the State Capitol building. Its design is patterned after Greek amphitheaters, such as the one at Epidaurus.

### Sulphur Spring

This historical spring is represented by three fountains that flow into a rocky water garden. Sulphur Spring is located at the park's eastern end of the greenway path. Along the pathway are various forms representing wetland wildlife typical of the area and interpretive signage. The Sulphur Dell Minor League Baseball Park was once located in the area.

### Walkway of Counties

This 95-county historical journey along the east side of the park highlights the topographical features of each area depicting the flat, mountainous and rolling hills sections of the state. Native trees, shrubs, ferns, grasses and wild-flowers along the walkway represent the diverse vegetation found across the state. This is also the site of 95 county time capsules. They are to be opened on June 1, 2096, during the tri-centennial celebrations.

### Pathway of History

Along the west side of the park, a 1,400-foot Wall of History is engraved with historic events that have occurred over the past two centuries. Each 10-year period along the wall is marked with a granite pylon. The wall breaks at the time of the Civil War to represent the divisive nature of the war on the state. A 1796 monument and fountain represent the founding of Tennessee, while an 1896 monument highlights the Centennial Exposition.

### World War II Memorial

The Word War II Memorial Globe is an 18,000 lb. granite globe of the world that floats on 1.8 inch of water, which allows visitors to physically rotate the globe in order to view all areas of the world as it was during World War II.

### Path of Volunteers

As part of the bicentennial celebration, many Tennesseans reserved their place in history by purchasing a commemorative brick. These granite bricks were placed along the Path of Volunteers, a central tree lined granite walkway extending down both sides of the park and terminating at the northern end.

### **Centennial Memorial**

Located along the Pathway of History at the 1896 marker, is a structure designed to attract all visitors. The centerpiece has paths that extend in the cardinal directions. At the end of each short path is a granite marker with written text and a laser-etched picture depicting several aspects of Tennessee's Centennial Celebration and International Exposition.

### Statehood Memorial/McNairy Spring

This memorial is placed in alignment with the 1796 pylon along the Pathway of History. Engraved text tells of Tennessee's birth into statehood. A fountain, the centerpiece of the memorial, serves as a reminder that Nashville was originally founded by trappers who called the land the French Lick area due to the presence of McNairy and Sulphur Springs. These two springs and the creek still flow underground below the pathway.

# Court of 3 Stars and Bell Carillon

The Court of 3 Stars is a focal point of the park located at the northern end near Jefferson Street. Made of red, white and blue granite, this area represents the three grand divisions of the state – East, Middle and West Tennessee. The 95-bell carillon represents the people of Tennessee, its 95 counties and its musical heritage. A 96th bell, known as the answer bell, is located on the grounds of the State Capitol and rings in answer to the 95 bells, symbolizing government answering to the people.

## **Parking**

There is park visitor parking designated along the 6th and 7th Avenues between Jackson Street and Jefferson Street.

Note: Visitors may park in state parking lots on holidays, weekends and after 4:30 p.m. CT any day. Schools should call ahead to arrange for bus parking.

Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park 600 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243 615-741-5280



Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Authorization No. 327127, 2000 copies. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.15 per copy. January, 2014.