



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Wilderness Station offers outdoor fun nestled in Barfield Crescent Park** *Wooded Waking Trails, Campsites, Kayaking, Connect City Dwellers to Nearby Nature*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 30, 2015

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** – Wilderness Station is one of the City of Murfreesboro’s best kept secrets, especially for newer residents, but the City Parks & Recreation Department much prefers that the outdoor venue be well-known and more utilized. Now is the perfect time to schedule a day or weekend trip. Learn more on YouTube <https://youtu.be/Le5crXw9xxU>.

“We are tucked in the back of Barfield Crescent Park which has its ups and downs,” said Wilderness Station Program Coordinator Rachel Singer. “It’s great because we’re back here in the woods, which is where we want to be to promote all the wonderful outdoor and nature activities, but as a result of the location, many people aren’t able to find us easily.”

Wilderness Station is the City’s unique outdoor awareness venue nestled along the edge of beautiful woods in Barfield Crescent Park just off Veterans Parkway (697 Veterans Pkwy, Murfreesboro, 37128). The park and Wilderness station opened in 2001.

“We’ve got great walking trails, said Singer. “We have over five miles of walking track in the back of the park that links into the front of the park’s ball fields.”

The walking track includes one and a half miles of paved trail and the remaining trails are single-track dirt trails that wind through beautiful hardwood forests along the Stones River.

Some Wilderness Station programs operate year-round including toddler programs such as ‘Wild Things’ and ‘Tails & Trails’ scheduled on Wednesday morning. On Saturday mornings, ‘Animal Encounters’ features an educational animal like an owl or snake.

During the spring and summer season, Wilderness Station provides additional programs for children on Saturday including ‘Puppets on the Porch,’ a fantastic program for all ages. ‘World Turtle Day’ is coming up on Saturday, May 23, a popular event Wilderness Station schedules annually on that date.

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“This year World Turtle Day falls on a Saturday, so we’re really excited about that opportunity for participants to enjoy these friendly creatures, said Singer.”

Wilderness Station also features a beautiful camp ground, adds Singer. “Its walk-in only so sometimes that tends to intimidate some people who prefer to be able to drive-in to unload their gear. This is a backpacking-type campground.”

Adventurous families, scouts and youth groups can camp in the primitive Backcountry Campground. The Parks & Recreation Department offers camping gear for rent including tents and backpacks and even food for family campouts throughout the year. The rental facility is fully staffed and employees help families’ set-up tents and provide activities through the weekend.

“We camp on Friday and Saturday nights by reservation-only for families and organized groups,” said Singer. “We do require a free, 20-minute ‘Leave No Trace’ workshop to educate youth and adults on nationally-recognized outdoor ethics and also includes campground specific instruction as well.”

In addition to camping supplies and campsites, Wilderness Station has two educational classrooms. One relatively new citywide program is ‘Outdoor Murfreesboro’ recently initiated by Wilderness Station and the Parks & Recreation Department. Singer said the main objective is to connect residents to the outdoors in a culture that tends to push people indoors, creating a disconnect people humans and nature.

“We do a lot of kayaking with a great fleet of kayaks and scheduled trips for groups as well as programs for the general public to sign-up for kayaking trips.”

For more information on Wilderness Station, call 615-217-3017 or e-mail [rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov). The Wilderness Station Facebook page is located at [facebook.com/outdoormurfreesboro](https://facebook.com/outdoormurfreesboro). Programs are also available on the City Parks and Recreation webpage at [www.murfreesborotn.gov/parks](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/parks).

*For City News online, visit [www.Murfreesborotn.gov](http://www.Murfreesborotn.gov).*

**Photo attached captions:**

1. *Wilderness Station Turtle Day.jpg*