

Urban Wilderness Gateway + James White Parkway

In the early 1980's, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) began construction of James White Parkway, a controlled access four-lane highway which bisected South Knoxville in order to link Downtown Knoxville to a broader highway network and series of destinations southeast of Knoxville including the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The project was never completed and only a 2-mile portion of this seldom used four-lane highway exists today extending Downtown Knoxville south across the Tennessee River where it terminates in a dead-end. In and around property acquired for the highway's completion, a series of outdoor recreation destinations began to develop which together has evolved to become Knoxville's Urban Wilderness, one of the most popular and dynamic outdoor recreation destinations in the United States.

The spectacular 1000-acre outdoor adventure area includes over 50 miles of trails and greenways, a nature center, lakes, historic sites, dramatic quarries, adventure playgrounds, five city parks, and a 500-acre wildlife area. It is composed of two major areas, the South Loop and the Battlefield Loop.

