

# Edgar Evins State Park ❁

**Edgar Evins State Park**, dedicated in 1975, is one of the prettiest state parks in the Middle Tennessee region and is located on the shores of Center Hill Lake on the Eastern Highland Rim. You will find spectacular beauty and rugged terrain.

It is a great place for some excellent hiking, boating, fishing and many other outdoor adventures. Local businessman and visionary, honorable James Edgar Evins, former 2-term Tennessee State Senator and former Mayor of Smithville in DeKalb County was instrumental in the development of the Center Hill Dam, the Edgar Evins Park, the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for

Craft, and many more programs in the region. This state acclaimed park, with over 6,000 acres of developed and undeveloped land, offers direct access to Center Hill Lake, with year-round lakeside camping, hiking trails, fishing, hunting, cabin rentals, and many picnic pavilions and shelter areas for family reunions, group gatherings, vacationers, and day visitors. The Friends of Edgar Evins State Park promote and support the park with activities and projects that improve the facilities and the experience of the visitor. Some of the annual activities that the Edgar Evins State Park offer include pontoon rides, waterfall tours, wildflower walks in the spring, bird watching and trail building programs. One of the favorite fall activities is the History Hayride which highlights the local history and special characters of the region. The butterfly garden is a hit in mid to late March along with the Waterfall Tour which is normally scheduled for March. This tour offers rides on easy access, 15 passenger vans to visit many of the approximately 200 waterfalls within a couple of hours drive. Waterfalls in the Upper Cumberland/Highland Rim area are spectacular in the spring, when water cascades down through the geological wonders of the terrain. The Edgar Evins Marina ([www.edgarevinsmarina.com](http://www.edgarevinsmarina.com)) offers boat launching, houseboat and boat rentals, boat slips, and more. The Galley restaurant, located within the marina (owned and operated separately) is a great place to dine. Try out The Galley. Enjoy the lakeside dining with delicious meals, spectacular views and superb service, open spring through fall. Check their website for hours of operation, [www.thegalley.cc](http://www.thegalley.cc) and up-to-date information. Fishing is a year round activity with largemouth and smallmouth bass, Kentucky bass, Walleye, black crappie, catfish (all three varieties), bluegill and various other fish species. There are five playground areas within the park, a swimming pool for cabin guests, and they are open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. There is an excellent trail system with six trails, from an easy trail of about 100 yards to a 5 ½ mile loop which is considered moderate to strenuous. Many types of wildlife are accessible for viewing with beautiful spring wildflowers and ferns along the trails. Bring your binoculars, as whitetail deer, raccoons, squirrels, woodchucks, rabbits,

opossums, skunks, foxes and bobcats inhabit the area. Many assorted birds can be spotted throughout the park, including wild turkey, hawks, and owls, as well as the rare Cerulean Warbler which nests in the park during the summer. Enjoy the weekend at Edgar Evins State Park, or grab a picnic and come over to the park for the day and enjoy the many activities. Make sure to stop at the park's office on the way in and say hello to Carl Halfacre and his staff. Tell him "Annie" sent you. For more information on the park, call 931.858.2446.

