



Big Cypress Tree
State Natural Area
is located a few miles
northwest of Greenfield, between
US Highways 45E and 45W.



Tennessee Department of Environment and
Conservation authorization no. 32752, 5,000
copies. This public document was promulgated
at a cost of \$.04 per copy, November 2005.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is
committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access and
affirmative action. Contact the Tennessee Department of
Environment and Conservation EEO/AA coordinator at (888)
867-2757 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 592-0059 for further
information. Hearing-impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay
Service at (800) 848-0298.

Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. until sundown during the summer
8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. during the winter months
For Further Information, Contact: Big Cypress Tree State Natural Area
295 Big Cypress Road / Greenfield, TN 38230 / Phone (731) 235-2700.
Or Contact: Tennessee State Parks / 401 Church St., 7th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243 / Phone (888) 867-2757 / www.tnstateparks.com

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

BIG CYPRESS TREE

STATE NATURAL AREA





Big Cypress Tree State Natural Area

is named for the national champion bald cypress tree that once lived on the park. The tree was the largest bald cypress in the U.S.A. and the largest tree of any species east of the Mississippi River. The tree's diameter was 13 feet and its circumference was 40 feet. The tree lived to be 1,350 years old before lightning struck and killed the tree in 1976. The lightning knocked the top out of the tree and the tree smoldered for two weeks.

The tree began its life about the time of the fall of the Roman Empire and was already 850 years old when Columbus discovered America. The tree is no longer present due to natural degeneration. A goal of the park is to create a replica of the old cypress tree and erect it in the picnic area where visitors can see just how large the tree was.

Visitors to the 27-acre Big Cypress Tree State Park will find a clean and peaceful park where they can relax and enjoy nature. Having a picnic in the picnic shelter is a popular activity. A variety of plant life ranging from native wild flowers to native trees may be seen here. Examples are showy evening primrose, Black-eyed Susans, yellow poplar, bald cypress, and dogwood. Wildlife seen at Big Cypress includes bluebirds, doves, hawks, owls, deer, squirrels, butterflies, bats, and many others. During the Fall Festival, held each fall during the month of September, visitors may see up close several birds of prey including a bald eagle.

Camping

Camping is not allowed at this park with the exception of Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups who have special permission to camp, conduct scouting events, and do scout projects.

Hiking

One tree identification trail .3 miles long is available. It is paved, easy walking, and handicapped accessible.

Picnic Pavilions and Playgrounds

One picnic shelter with five tables, two grills, electricity, water, and restrooms is available. No charge for use. May be reserved for large groups by calling the park office, otherwise it's first-come first-serve. Six other picnic tables on concrete pads with grills are available. One play structure for young (10 and under) children is available. Also, a ball field for softball and any other activity requiring an open area is available.

Planned Programs

Programs are available on request from the park's manager. During the Fall Festival in September, several park programs are scheduled including birds of prey, storytelling, and plant or tree identification.

Nearby Attractions

- Davy Crockett's last home place, Rutherford, TN, 9 miles
- Humboldt Strawberry Festival/Historical Museum, Humboldt, TN 27 miles

Other Nearby State Parks

- Reelfoot Lake State Park, Tiptonville, 50 miles

Annual Events

- West Tennessee Strawberry Festival, Humboldt -May
- Tennessee Soybean Festival, Martin, TN, September
- Big Cypress Tree Fall Festival, 3rd weekend in September
- Greenfield Fire Prevention Festival – October
- Fall Folklore Jamboree, Milan – October

