



FOUNTAIN CITY DOGWOOD TRAIL GARDEN SIDE

Welcome to the Garden Side of the Fountain City Dogwood Trail, where spring comes a little later and lingers longer. Because of Fountain City's high elevation, dogwood blossoms often are just opening here when other Trails have passed their peak.

The Garden Side of the Trail begins on Gibbs Road, noted since the early 1920's for its double row of bright pink dogwoods. (There are native pink dogwood trees in Knoxville's woodlands but are very pale in color. Pink and red dogwoods have been commercially developed by grafting the wild pink on white dogwood rootstock.) At the end of this street, the Trail turns left onto Jacksboro Pike.

Stone columns mark the right turn into Harrill Hills, where clouds of white blossoms overhang colorful plantings of azaleas and wisteria, with an occasional dark red maple tree for contrast and emphasis. On Dogwood, Crestwood, and Briarcliff Roads, wildflowers carpet the shady glens. Look for violets – blue, purple white and particolored – wild blue phlox, may apples and trillium.

Leaving Garden Drive, the Trail climbs halfway up the steep side of Black Oak Ridge to enter Beverly Acres, where handsome houses blend into their forest setting and acid-loving azaleas flourish in the rich woodland loam.

The lovely "weeping dogwood" is unique to the Knoxville area. Its slender, pliant branches sweep down from the top of the trunk. Whenever it chooses to grow, a weeping dogwood must be left undisturbed. It cannot be transplanted.

A right turn from Garden Drive onto Briarcliff leads into an area of concentrated beauty known as "Fantasyland." Beneath white canopies of dogwood blossoms, dooryard gardens glow with candytuft, tulips, iris (Tennessee's state flower), narcissae, and perhaps late daffodils. Go slow on Forrest Lane, between masses of brilliant azaleas in unusual shades.

The route continues on Garden Drive to North Broadway, where a charming garden triangle is planted and maintained by the Fountain City Council of Garden Clubs.

The Fountain City Dogwood Trail continues on the other side of the highway. Turn left on Broadway to the stoplight at Hotel Avenue, where signs mark the entrance of the Trail's Panorama Side.

Dogwood Arts promotes & celebrates our region's art, culture, and natural beauty. For more information and a full calendar of events, visit dogwoodarts.com

