

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attachments: logos, map, flier, social post

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Mayor Barry to Launch Whitsett Park Celebration at Mill Creek Greenway

Nashville, TN — Five years after Nashville's great flood swallowed its shores, Mill Creek may again be flooded – this time with people gathered in celebration. Mayor Megan Barry will cut the ribbon to officially open Whitsett Park which adjoins Mill Creek Greenway at East Thompson Lane and Old Glenrose Ave — just 5 miles southeast of downtown Nashville. The Saturday, October 24, event will mark a new beginning for this sliver of creekside land. And the community will celebrate with a family-fun festival featuring music, activities and food.

The Grand Opening Celebration of Whitsett Park is a free community festival organized by The Office of the Mayor and East Thompson Community (ETC) with help from 16th District Councilman Mike Freeman. Highlights of the festival will include:

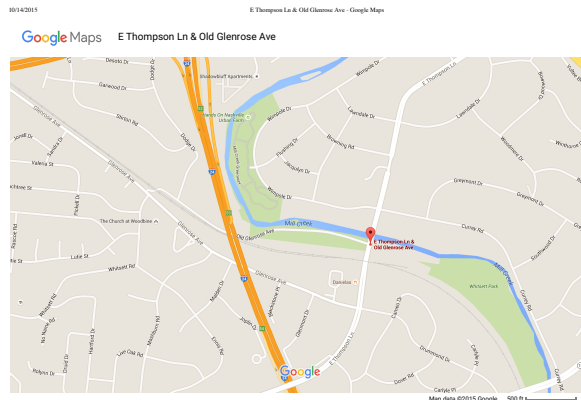
- **Mayor Barry's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** starting at 10 a.m.
- **"Walk, Run, or Sprint the Greenway,"** a 2.5K fun run along Mill Creek Greenway at 10:30 a.m., which will lead participants from Whitsett Park to the Urban Farm and back.
- **Urban Farm Tours.** Visit Hands On Nashville's 5-acre gardens bordering the greenway on Wimpole Drive to learn about the Farm's sustainable features and ways the community can get plugged in.
- **Yoga in the Park.** Certified yoga instructor Will Graham of StrongestWILL Fitness and Yoga, will introduce powerful Vinyasa yoga to all ages and fitness levels at 11:00 a.m.
- **Play Hot Lava,** winner of Nashville's recent 2015 Battle of the Neighborhood Bands, will fill the park with power pop rock starting at 11:30 a.m.
- **Fun for kids.** A 1K fun run starts at 10:20 a.m. Organized games, chalk drawing, and new playground equipment will ensure fun for the little ones!
- **Food** will be available for purchase starting at 10:30 a.m.

The park opening represents a happy ending to neighbors who lived through the 2010 flood. The land where this beautiful new park now sits was once home to favorite neighborhood diner, Dairy King, which was forced to relocate after the flood. Residents on nearby Wimpole Drive were also among the city's hardest hit during the flood. The area was designated for the city's floodplain buyout program and repurposed first as Mill Creek Blueway river access point and now as Mill Creek Greenway at Whitsett Park. The park is trailhead to two paved sections of greenway totaling approximately 1.5 miles, connected by a bridge over Mill Creek. Signage at the park commemorates the flood and the businesses and residents who lost their property.

Residents of ETC didn't take long to start enjoying the new park. "It's become part of my regular running route now," said long-time area resident Kristen Beahm. "There are always people out enjoying the park—getting some exercise, playing with their kids — just having fun. It's really nice to have such a clean and beautiful place in our community to enjoy the outdoors."

East Thompson Community was organized in 2014 to connect people who live, work, or play in the Southeast Nashville neighborhoods flanking East Thompson Lane between Murfreesboro Pike, Mill Creek and Briley Parkway.

Marianne Mashburn, president of ETC said "Our community is becoming recognized as one of Nashville's great neighborhoods. This is a beautiful, friendly, residential area — full of tree-lined streets and neighborhood parks. The area is made more special by the Mill Creek Greenway at Whitsett Park, The Urban Farm, and a growing variety of neighborhood restaurants and businesses—and it's only 10 minutes from Music City Center and Nashville's international airport."



<https://www.google.com/maps/place/E+Thompson+Ln+Old+Glenrose+Ave,+Nashville,+TN+37211/@36.1181028,-86.722489,14t/data=!3m1!1e3!1s0x8846f868f868f868f8:0x8846f868f868f868f8>

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

AT THE CORNER OF EAST THOMPSON LANE AND OLD GLENROSE AVENUE

MAYOR BARRY'S
RIBBON CUTTING
CEREMONY

@
10:00 AM

SPONSORED BY
THE OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR

CELEBRATION AT
MILL CREEK
GREENWAY

@
10:30 AM

SPONSORED BY
EAST THOMPSON
COMMUNITY

*Whitsett
Park*

.....AT.....
MILL CREEK GREENWAY

GRAND OPENING

**"WALK, RUN,
OR SPRINT"**

GREENWAY FUN RUN • 10:30 AM
KIDS' FUN RUN • 10:20 AM

VINYASA YOGA

With STRONGEST WILL FITNESS
ALL AGES • 11:00 AM

PLAY HOT LAVA

POWER POP ROCK • 11:30 AM

HANDS ON NASHVILLE'S

URBAN FARM

TOURS • 11:00 AM & 12:00 PM

KIDS GAMES

CHALK DRAWING & MORE!

