Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
National Park Service

City of Waynesville
Pulaski County Tourism Bureau

Discover a Hidden History

Welcome to Waynesville's lush Laughlin Park, along the banks of the historic Roubidoux Creek. Along with its beauty and recreational opportunities, this place also played a part in one of the most tragic periods in American history, the Trail of Tears.

From 1837 to 1839, the US government forced the Cherokee and four other Indian nations to leave their homelands and relocate to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. Cherokee who had been driven from their homes in the East passed through this area on the Trail of Tears, and some camped along Roubidoux Creek in what is now Laughlin Park.

As you explore this one-mile trail, look for exhibits to learn more about the Trail of Tears and the history of this area.

Explore Laughlin Park to discover numerous opportunities for recreation and relaxation, including a mile-long path that commemorates the nearby Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Roubidoux Spring is a well-known and popular location for cave and cavern scuba diving for certified divers. (Permission from the Waynesville Police Department is required.)

Fishing in Roubidoux Creek can yield both brown and rainbow trout, stocked by the Missouri Department of Conservation. (Missouri fishing license required.)

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