



City of East Ridge

1517 Tombras Avenue
East Ridge, Tennessee 37412
(423)867-7711 • www.eastridgetn.gov

Media Contact

Cameron McAllister
Administration | Public Relations
cmcallister@eastridgetn.gov
423-664-2576

Press Release

Release ID: PR-27-101

Department: Administration/Parks and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, July 6, 2026

City of East Ridge, Tennessee American Water, and WaterWays to Celebrate Grand Re-Opening of the Newly Renovated Camp Jordan Canoe Launches

EAST RIDGE, TN — The City of East Ridge, Tennessee American Water, and WaterWays will celebrate the official grand opening of the newly renovated Camp Jordan Canoe Launches with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 11:30am at Camp Jordan Park.

The enhanced canoe launches provide residents and visitors with improved access to South and West Chickamauga Creeks while expanding opportunities for paddling, outdoor recreation, environmental education, and exploration of one of the region's most valuable natural resources. The project was spearheaded by Shawna Skiles, Director of East Ridge Parks and Recreation, in partnership with WaterWays and made possible through funding provided by the American Water Charitable Foundation.

The project reflects a shared commitment among the City of East Ridge, Tennessee American Water, and WaterWays to improve public access to local waterways while encouraging responsible recreation, environmental stewardship, and healthy outdoor lifestyles. The launch reconfiguration further strengthens Camp Jordan's role as a regional destination for outdoor recreation and supports East Ridge's continued investment in expanding recreational opportunities, improving public access to waterways, and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

"The launch improvements provide residents and visitors another way to experience South and West Chickamauga Creeks and connect with the natural resources in our community," said MaryBeth Sutton, Executive Director of WaterWays. "Partnerships like this are essential to bringing such positive projects to completion."

Representatives from the City of East Ridge, Tennessee American Water, and WaterWays will participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Local paddlers will also be on hand to demonstrate the improved launches and showcase enhanced access to the creek. Community members and members of the media are encouraged to attend and learn more about the project and future opportunities for outdoor recreation in East Ridge.

"Camp Jordan has long served as one of East Ridge's premier recreational destinations, and the newly renovated canoe launches expand opportunities for residents and visitors to experience East Ridge from a new perspective," said Shawna Skiles, Director of East Ridge Parks and Recreation. "We are grateful for the partnership with WaterWays and Tennessee American Water in helping make outdoor recreation and environmental education more accessible for everyone."

Event Details

What: Camp Jordan Canoe Launch Grand Re-Opening/Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

When: Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Camp Jordan Park, 323 Camp Jordan Parkway, East Ridge, TN 37412

(Canoe Launch Location - 34°59'59.6"N 85°12'08.3"W)

Parking: Camp Jordan RV Lot **(Across from the Arena)**

The Camp Jordan Canoe Launch project was made possible through funding provided by the American Water Charitable Foundation through Tennessee American Water, along with the continued partnership and collaboration of the City of East Ridge and WaterWays.

About WaterWays

WaterWays is a Chattanooga-area nonprofit organization that empowers communities to protect and improve their local watersheds. Through education, restoration, community engagement, and sustainable water-management initiatives, WaterWays works to ensure cleaner and healthier waterways for current and future generations.

About Tennessee American Water

Tennessee American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, is the largest regulated water utility in the state with approximately 100 dedicated employees working to provide safe, clean, reliable and affordable water services to approximately 425,000 people in Tennessee and north Georgia. Additionally, Tennessee American Water supports initiatives that protect water resources, strengthen communities, and promote environmental stewardship.

About the City of East Ridge

Known as the Gateway to Tennessee, the City of East Ridge strives to be the pioneer of economic progress, where all people can reach their full potential while embracing culture, recreation, and family values. East Ridge is committed to enhancing quality of life through exceptional public services, vibrant parks and recreational amenities, and strategic investments that foster a connected, welcoming, and thriving community for residents and visitors alike.

WaterWays Media Contact

MaryBeth Sutton

Executive Director, WaterWays

marybeth@mywaterways.org

(423) 413-0471

www.mywaterways.org

###

Attached: East Ridge Canoe Launch Location (Map)

Attachment: East Ridge Canoe Launch Location (Map)

