

CITY OF WILDWOOD, MISSOURI



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WILDWOOD

WILDWOOD POINTS OF INTEREST

[A continuation from the 38 Points of Interest identified in 2018]

1 Babler State Park

800 Guy Park Drive, Wildwood, MO 63005, #: (636) 458-3813
<https://mostateparks.com/park/dr-edmund-babler-memorial-state-park>

2 Big Chief Roadhouse

17352 Manchester Rd, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-3200
<http://www.bigchiefstl.com>

3 Community Park-Wildwood

2153 State Route 109, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-0440
www.cityofwildwood.com

4 Equine Assisted Therapy (E.A.T.)

3369 State Route 109, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (314) 971-0605
<http://eatherapy.org/>

5 Greensfelder County Park

4515 Hencken Road, Wildwood, MO 63069
<http://www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation/ParkPages/Greensfelder>

6 Hidden Valley Ski Resort

17049 Hidden Valley Drive, Wildwood, MO 63025, #: (636) 938-5373
<http://hiddenvalleyski.com>

7 LaSalle Retreat & Conference Center

2101 Rue De LaSalle, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 938-5374
<http://www.lasalleretreat.org>

8 Metro West Fire Protection District Headquarters

17065 Manchester Road, Wildwood, MO 63040, #: (636) 458-2100
<http://www.metrowest-fire.org>

9 Rockwoods Range

Parking areas - 5035 Fox Creek Road and 4360 Fox Creek Road, Wildwood, MO 63069
<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/rockwoods-range>

10 Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-2236
<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/rockwoods-reservation>

11 Stovall's Grove

18720 Stovall Lane, Wildwood, MO 63039, #: (636) 405-3024
<http://www.stovallsgrove.com>

12 Wabash, Frisco, & Pacific (WF&P) Railroad

101 Grand Avenue, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 587-3538
www.wfpr.com

13 Wildwood Historical Society (WHS)

18750 State Route 100, Wildwood, MO 63069, #: (636) 458-2860
<http://www.wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org>

14 The Wyman Center (Camp Wyman)

600 Kiwanis Drive, Wildwood, MO 63025, #: (636) 938-5245
<http://wymancenter.org>

15 Al Foster Memorial Trail

225 Grand Avenue, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-0440
<http://www.cityofwildwood.com>

16 Anniversary Park

16511 Clayton Road, Wildwood, MO 63011, #: (636) 458-0440
<http://www.cityofwildwood.com>

17 Bethel Church

17500 Manchester Road, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-2255
<http://bethelunitedmethodist.org>

18 Bluff View Park & Trail

1900 Old State Road, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-0440
<http://www.cityofwildwood.com>

19 Glencoe City Park

505 Washington Avenue, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-0440
<http://www.cityofwildwood.com>

20 Marianist Retreat Center

4000 Highway 109, Wildwood, MO 63025, #: (636) 938-5390
<http://mretreat.org>

21 Old Pond School & Park

17123 Manchester Road, Wildwood, MO 63040, #: (636) 458-0440
<http://www.cityofwildwood.com>

22 Pond Athletic Association

1725 Pond Road, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-9627
<http://pondathletic.com>

23 Rock Hollow Trail

777 Ridge Road, Wildwood, MO 63021, #: (636) 458-0440
<http://www.cityofwildwood.com>

24 Wildwood Municipal Building

16860 Main Street, Wildwood, MO 63040, #: (636) 458-0440
<http://www.cityofwildwood.com>

25 Wildwood Original City Hall

16962 Manchester Road, Wildwood, MO 63040

26 Fox Creek Veterinary Hospital

18962 Hwy 100, Wildwood, Missouri, 63069, #: (636) 458-6569
<https://foxcreekveterinaryhospital.com>

27 Kreienkamp Store

(no public access; now a private residence)

19160 Melrose Road, Wildwood, MO 63038

SCENIC BYWAYS

28 Alt Road

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2017poimap>

29 Historic Route 66 - The Mother Road (Manchester Road)

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2017poimap>

30 Old State Road

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2017poimap>

31 Ridge Road

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2017poimap>

32 St. Paul Road

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2017poimap>

33 Woods Road

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2017poimap>

34 Allenton Road

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2018poimap>

35 Bouquet Road

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2018poimap>

36 Fox Creek Road

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2018poimap>

37 Hencken Road

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2018poimap>

38 Melrose Road

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com/2018poimap>

39 Babler Park Drive

Babler Park Drive (State Route BA), named after Babler State Park, which is accessed from this roadway, is a State-maintained rural highway. Today, it is a 2-lane paved surface, with shoulders, and earthen ditches for stormwater management. It serves a generally residential, low-density area of the City and terminates on its north and south at State Route 109.

Based upon both an 1878 and 1909 Atlases, it appears the northern portion of the roadway was originally part of Pond Road. The southern portion didn't exist on either Atlas and wasn't officially commissioned, until the Missouri Highway Department (circa 1913) had it paved in 1934. Today, Pond Road connects to State Route BA, just south of Babler State Park. According to the Missouri Department of Transportation, Route BA, was originally named Route 109 AP and constructed around 1937 to 1939. In more recent years, Route 109 was also south and north of Route BA, with the connecting segment named Route C. Around 1994, the State renamed Route 109 AP to Route BA (Babler Park Drive) and changed Route C to Route 109, for a consistent naming of the main traveled roadway from Interstate 44 on the south to Wild Horse Creek Road on the north.

This roadway serves Rockwood Valley Middle School, a church, large-lot single family residential homesites and subdivisions, and, of course, Babler State Park. Babler State Park encompasses 2,441 acres of 'rugged Missouri River hills,' per the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This program was described by Jo Beck, in her book, *Wildwood*, as, "Young men serving in the military-style, New Deal program were paid twenty-five dollars a month, with twenty dollars of that going to their families, who were hard pressed to survive during the Depression." The group built "stone bridges, gates and walls, rustic building, roads, walkways, and more using native stone and timber." Many of these structures still exist within the park today. The park was donated to the State in 1937 by Jacob L. Babler, in honor of his brother, Edmund L. Babler, a prominent St. Louis surgeon.

40 Centaur Road

The Bonhomme Bottom was one of the first areas to be settled in the west St. Louis County Area. Near what is now the Centaur Area, a Spanish Village known as St. Andre (St. Andrews) was settled in 1798. As early as the 1830's, Centaur was an area for commerce, when the Bates & Sons Sawmill located there. But, the area truly flourished when the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, built in the late 1870's, operated along the foothills within what is today the Chesterfield Valley (historically called the Bonhomme Bottom and Gumbo Flats), and small settlements grew up along its route. One such settlement was the town of Centaur.

The community of Centaur is located just east of the Missouri River, along this rail line, and was founded by Anton Leiweke in 1889. Centaur was a bustling business area and included a whistle-stop depot and a post office, which operated until 1959. St. Anthony's Catholic Church and School opened in Centaur in 1903. The Centaur Area was a noted lime manufacturing center (Centaur Lime Company), a landing area for both riverboats serving Port Royal (a now defunct village) and steamboats taking goods to sawmills in St. Louis and other locations, home to a steady business in slaves, and boasted a quarry that opened in 1909. At its peak, the Centaur Lime Company employed over 100 workers. The area also served as a

prisoner of war camp during World War II. But, today, nearly all of these activities and improvements are now just memories, with the area now a quaint and peaceful grouping of properties and buildings offering a respite from the hustle and bustle of the Chesterfield Valley.

Centaur Road, named for this area in the 19th and early 20th Century, follows the railroad line and connects the historic communities of Monarch and Centaur. Today, this road serves a mixed pattern of uses, including a concrete batch plant, agricultural uses, the City's undeveloped Kohn Park, a number of restored historic structures used for personal residences, and the City's recently opened John L. LeCave Memorial Trailhead, which serves bicyclists, runners, and hikers using the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee Trail.

41 Ossenfort Road

Ossenfort Road is named for a mid-nineteenth-century settler, C. Frederick Ossenfort, who emigrated from Germany in 1844 and settled in the Melrose Area. Ossenfort enlisted to serve the Union on October 20, 1861. Ossenfort, who achieved the rank of Sergeant, served in a number of capacities, including in Captain King's Company, Railroad Patrol Guard, U.S.R. Corp, Infantry (Pacific Battalion of the Home Guard), and the 1st Regiment Enrolled Missouri Militia. He was also a member of the union veterans' group, the Grand Army of the Republic.

Frederick's son was a successful farmer. His grandson was a deputy sheriff and then elected to the State Legislature. This grandson also became a lawyer and was the appointed Probation Officer of St. Louis County in 1909. Many German families that settled in the Ossenfort Road Area tended to set their roots and many generations followed, including the Ossenfort and Rieger Families. Ossenfort Road was named after this prominent soldier and his family.

At Ossenfort Road's southern terminus, where it intersects with Melrose Road, is the Kreienkamp Store, listed on the National Registry of Historic Places (See the 2018 Points of Interest Map for more information). Ossenfort Road's northern terminus is at Wild Horse Creek Road. The Wild Horse School was located near here, but is no longer standing.

Ossenfort Road, which was listed on the 1878 Atlas, today serves a low-density residential and agricultural land use pattern.

42 Pond Road

The Pond Area, for which the roadway is named, was originally known as Speers Pond, when Cyrus Speers, owner of a store and tavern, purchased property in the area. When he sold the land, the community flourished and the name changed to Pond. The heart of the Pond Area extends along Manchester Road, with some development extending north along Pond Road itself.

The Pond Road Area has always been a commerce hotbed and included the Pond Hotel, a stagecoach stop on Manchester Road, at its intersection with Pond, built in 1851, a general store built in 1910, the Big Chief Highway Hotel built in the 1920's when Manchester Road was Route 66 (1926-1932), and a number of other commercial developments. A limited number of commercial endeavors ventured north along Pond Road, from Manchester Road.

Pond Road today extends from Manchester Road, on the south, to State Route BA on the north. Its development pattern south of State Route 100, includes a number of commercial and institutional uses. As the roadway crosses State Route 100, its development pattern shifts to low-density residential uses, but does include Pond Athletic Association, which opened in the 1950's to provide a baseball/softball playing opportunity for the youth in the area. The roadway is a 2-lane, paved rural roadway, with limited shoulders and earthen ditches for stormwater management.

43 Rieger Road

The Rieger name dates back to a family of mid-nineteenth-century settlers. Many German families tended to establish long-standing ties, having three and four generations on the same land; including the Ossenfort and Rieger Families, and this family's long-standing presence in the community, which is why the roadway is named for them. While Rieger Road is not listed on the 1878 Atlas, its history dates back nearly that far.

Today, this roadway serves a low density residential and minimal agricultural land use pattern from Pond Road, at its eastern terminus, to Wild Horse Creek Road, at its western terminus. Rieger Road serves a number of large-lot single family residential subdivisions including Shiloh, Homestead Estates, and Three Sisters Farm. On the north side of the roadway, is a portion of Babler State Park, although access into the public holding is not available here.

44 Wild Horse Creek Road

Above the bottoms of what today is known as the Chesterfield Valley is Wild Horse Creek Road. This roadway is a main arterial following the tops of the hills west from what was the Chesterfield Depot to the small creek it is named after. The roadway then parallels that creek south, looping back to the east, at its southernmost point, where it intersects with State Route 100. This roadway, also known as the Old Kings Highway, is the oldest known road in the area.

Evidence of the first inhabitants along the Wild Horse Creek, date back to the Middle Archaic Period (6500 to 3500 B.C.). The area along the creek, and the top of the valley, has had consistent habitation for thousands of years. Large portions of it were used for farming, and some parcels of ground are still farmed today.

According to former St. Louis County Historian, Esley Hamilton, "The earliest readily identifiable structure in West County today, is a house on Laurey Lane built by William Tyler about 1837. It reflects the heritage of the Virginia Tidewater Country. Settlers of English background predominated in the early years of the century and, particularly, in the north part of the area." This structure is located at the intersection of Laurey Lane and Wild Horse Creek Road, just southwest of its intersection with State Route 109. A number of churches and schools were constructed along this roadway indicating its long-running pattern of inhabitants, including Antioch Baptist Church, the Old Rock Bethel Church – built in 1859 – and the oldest church structure still standing today in Wildwood, Mount Pleasant African Baptist Church, Mount Pleasant School, Wild Horse School, Chesterfield School, and Chesterfield Black School,

The western portion of this roadway, west of State Route 109, is maintained by the City of Wildwood and is a 2-lane, winding, paved rural roadway, with limited shoulders and earthen ditches for stormwater management. The roadway, east of State Route 109, is maintained by the Missouri Department of Transportation and has experienced a much higher level of development, both residential, institutional, and commercial, with the densities increasing toward the east. The roadway in this area is wider, with shoulders, turn-lanes, and sometimes additional driving lanes as well.