



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Crews Expected to Complete New House Mountain Parking Lot this Week**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— Knox County Parks and Recreation crews plan to wrap up work on a new parking lot at House Mountain that will double the spaces that the Corryton park currently has.

The new overflow parking lot – located less than a quarter mile from the current lot at the park’s 9601 Hogskin Road entrance – will add another 15 parking spots.

The state, which leases the 500-acre park to the county, oversaw the expansion and grading work on the lot last month. County crews last week then began hauling and spreading the road. The project is expected to cost Knox County less than \$3,000.

“This will really help with our parking issue,” said Chuck James, director of parks for Knox County. “Right now, we have folks parking on all sides of Hogskin Road, so this new lot should help alleviate that problem.”

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, people have flocked to House Mountain to enjoy its almost six miles of natural looping trails or check out the overlook and views from the Mountain’s 2,100-foot crest.

The Mountain is known for its heavily wooded terrain that’s dotted with impressive rock outcrops. At the top, visitors can see the parallel ranges of the Unakas and the Cumberlands – each roughly 30 miles away.

House Mountain, which includes a picnic area, shelter and restrooms, is also a favorite place for birdwatchers.

“People always say that Knox County is the gateway to the Smoky Mountains,” said Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. “But a lot of people don’t realize what incredible hiking we have right here in our own community. It’s great that access to this park has been expanded so that more people can access it safely.”

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