

CITY OF WILDWOOD, MISSOURI



WILDWOOD

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 ● Town Center Area
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WILDWOOD POINTS OF INTEREST

[A continuation from the 44 Points of Interest identified in 2019]

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

28 St. Louis Cycling Club Markers (2)

<https://www.stlouiscyclingclub.com/>

Smith's Hill – 1921 (At the intersection of Old Manchester Road and Rem Lane, turn right on Rem Lane and go several hundred yards; the marker is on the left, set back in a grove of trees)

Pond – 1923 (Southwestern corner of Manchester Road and Pond Road, near Big Chief Roadhouse)

SCENIC BYWAYS

See past road descriptions on 2017, 2018, and 2019 maps found at
www.cityofwildwood.com/540/Our-History-and-Historic-Communities-Map

29 Alt Road

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

31 Old State Road

32 Ridge Road

33 St. Paul Road

34 Woods Road

35 Allenton Road

36 Bouquet Road

37 Fox Creek Road

38 Hencken Road

39 Melrose Road

40 Babler Park Drive

41 Centaur Road

42 Ossenfort Road

43 Pond Road

44 Rieger Road

45 Wild Horse Creek Road

46 Church Road

At the end of a narrow, meandering, and ascending country road, Church Road, are the historically significant Union Baptist Church and John W. West Cemetery (formerly known as West-Gumbo Cemetery). Church Road provides access to the historic community of Westland Acres, one of the few African American communities that remained in western St. Louis County after the Great Migration during which former slaves and their decedents moved from farms to big cities (1910-1930). It is named for William West, a freed slave who purchased approximately 133 acres of land from his former owner, white settler Norris Long, in 1879. The land was then divided up among his decedents. There were 45 families living along what was then a dirt road in the 1950s in two-to-three-bedroom wood frame houses. Westland Acres is known as "The Hill," due to the community's location atop a lofty, tree-covered hill. Church Road, now paved, but with no lines or shoulders, can be accessed from Strecker Road, at its southeastern terminus. The eastern half of the road straddles the border between northeastern Wildwood and western Chesterfield.

The history of the road is tied to the history of the Union Baptist Church, which has its roots in the original Antioch Baptist Church, located at Wild Horse Creek Road and Eatherton Road. Founded in 1841 by white Baptist plantation owners, with holdings in what is today Wild Horse Creek Valley and Babler State Park, Antioch Baptist Church welcomed both white and black worshipers. After the Civil War, the plantation owners deeded the church and its grounds to newly freed slaves, constructing their new church further east. The church then became known in 1872 as Mt. Pleasant Colored Baptist Church or the "African Free Colored Church." The building was abandoned in the early twentieth century, with some of the membership migrating to Union Baptist Church at the Church Road location. Union Baptist Church was formally established in 1921, the first church consisting of a one room log cabin that served as sanctuary, meeting hall, and schoolhouse. It was rebuilt in 1984 after a fire tragically destroyed the original building in 1977. The church remains on lands originally owned by William West and his family.

Today, there are fewer than ten families living in the area with ties to its heritage. Though surrounded by suburban residential clusters with large homes on approximately half acre lots, the properties served by Church Road continue to remain largely undeveloped. Cresting the long hill from Strecker Road, are a few industrial uses, such as paving and excavating services and a tire lot. The community was listed by Missouri Preservation as one of Missouri's Historic 2019 Places in Peril due to the development pressures and increasing tax burden on the residents. As one enters onto Church Road from Strecker Road, a Historic Community Marker for Westland Acres can be viewed on the left.

47 Old Eatherton Road

Historically an important route connecting the Missouri River ferry to Manchester Road, Old Eatherton Road was named for the Eatherton Family from Virginia. William Eatherton came to Missouri in 1839, settling in Pond. His son, James Robert Eatherton, owned a mill in Orrville and held title to the historic Captain

Tyler Farm. James Robert Eatherton married Martha Ball, the daughter of John Ball, who founded the City of Ballwin in 1837.

The Hoppenberg-Fick Store, within the Orrville Historic Community (see description for Orrville Road), at 526 Old Eatherton Road, is one of Wildwood's best-preserved structures and is on the National Register of Historic Places. John Orr and his wife sold land to Gustav Hoppenberg in 1866, and he began a general store and post office on the site. Gustav sold the store to Phillip Fick in 1883. The Fick Family had emigrated from Bavaria in 1851. The Hoppenberg-Fick Store served the community for more than 70 years, until 1940, when it closed. Gerald Carson writes in his book, "The Old Country Store," about the importance of the general store in a rural community. "In the days when men lived separate and solitary lives, it was the country store that tied the scattered farms into a community."

The other principal building from the earliest era of Orrville is the Kesselring-Werther House at 538 Eatherton Road. It dates from 1867 and is also on the National Register. The Kesselring burial ground is also located along the road in this area

In the 1930s, segments of Old Eatherton Road were realigned to Highway 109. What remains of the historic road in Wildwood now includes a section that terminates at Wild Horse Creek Road in the north and reenters Highway 109 in the south, after passing through Historic Orrville. Further south, the old road picks up again to the west, crossing over a one lane bridge near the Essen burial ground, and ends at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Cemetery, only to begin again still further south past the southern terminus of Babler Park Drive and veering west, then terminating at Shepard Road. There are portions still further south, passing through Wildwood's Town Center. Today, most of the "old" road maintains its rural character as an unstriped, paved roadway, winding through hills and valleys, adjoined by residential structures on large lots.

48 Orrville Road

Orrville Road was named after the rural village of Orrville, situated in a wooded valley at the intersection of Eatherton Road, Orrville Road, and Bonhomme Creek. The Orrville Historic Community was named for John and James Orr, brothers who emigrated from Glasgow, Scotland in the mid-1850s. Their children married into the Bacon and Caulks families. John's son Robert was postmaster of Orrville from 1858 to 1871 and part owner of a grist mill. The mill, located on the west side of Eatherton Road, burned after one year, but was quickly rebuilt.

Orrville White School (Orrville Black School being located off Strecker on Church Road), a one-room schoolhouse, was built in 1880 on land purchased for \$37.50 from John Orr's widow, Margaret. It permanently closed in 1949, when rural schools were consolidating across the county. The building was also used as a voting precinct in 1872. The building is now a private residence.

By the mid-1890s, Orrville's population had reached 50, including three carpenters, two shoemakers, a meat market, a barber, a blacksmith, and a basket manufacturer. Nearby, Erich Essen established a nursery, which specialized in peaches and grapes. Today, the core of the historic hamlet is still intact, and includes a large house-store, a small single pen house, four outbuildings, and a large stone foundation. Structures still in existence, but with less historical integrity, include a blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse, and another residence. Two of the principal buildings, the Hoppenburg-Fick General Store and Post Office and Kesselring-Werther House, are on the National Register of Historic Places (see description for Old Eatherton Road).

Orrville Road in present day is a narrow rural road, paved, but with no center striping or much of a shoulder, winding up and down past large lot residential subdivisions. Its western terminus is at Eatherton Road, where the Orrville Historic Community is located, and its eastern terminus is Shepard Road right before it ends at Strecker Road. The road crosses over the West Branch of Caulks Creek.

49 Shepard Road

Shepard Road was officially named in 1893 after Samuel Shepard (1782-1851), who settled in the area with his wife, Anna Stewart, in the 1830s. He was born in New Hampshire and served in the War of 1812 as a private under Captain Jacob Howell. Samuel's daughter, Sarah, married John O. Bacon.

The southwestern terminus of Shepard Road intersects with Highway 109 at Babler Elementary School. The two-lane arterial road, with center striping and shoulders, then winds its way northeast, ending at Strecker Road, with a bridge that crosses Caulks Creek. Some notable landmarks along this hilly, wooded, and winding byway include Baskin Farms, an equestrian facility, and the Dinsmore Family Burial Ground, a private cemetery located about mid-way (neither are visible along the drive), though most of the road is abutted by low-density residential properties on large lots. Right before Strecker Road, one can turn onto Orrville Road, which loops back to Eatherton Road just ahead of where it meets with Highway 109.

50 Strecker Road

Strecker Road is named after the Strecker Family, who came to the area as German immigrants. George Reinhardt Strecker migrated to America in 1833. He resided in Pennsylvania and Kentucky, before settling in this area around 1842. Louis Strecker, one of his sons, served in the Missouri Home Guard during the Civil War, later marrying Virginia Eatherton. Louis eventually became Constable for the Meramec Township. In 1999, the tombstone of George Reinhardt Strecker, Jr. was discovered by his great-great niece by marriage on the grounds of the "old Strecker place" (on Strecker Road) and was then taken to be stored at City Hall. Strecker Road now crosses directly over the original Strecker Cemetery, where 34 graves were uncovered by a local expert in 2005.

Off Strecker Road, "on the hill," is the notable Church Road that leads to the historic community of Westland Acres (see Church Road description). An individual having ties to that community heritage, but having resided on Strecker Road, is Walter Madison (1914-1983). Madison was the grandson of former slaves from Wild Horse Creek Valley. He served in World War II during a time when the Armed Forces was still segregated. His grandfather served in the United States Colored Troops (USCT) during the Civil War.

A notable local landmark, the Ben Baumer House, can be viewed from the road at the intersection of Strecker Road and Clayton Woods Court, south of Clayton Road. The private residence was built circa 1891. Benjamin Baumer was born in Missouri in June 1866. His wife, Elizabeth (Lizzie), was also born in Missouri in December 1866. They were married in 1891 at the age of 26, then purchasing 80 acres along Strecker Road and building the first portion of this dwelling. Benjamin and his son, Irvin, farmed the property for several decades, with Benjamin and Lizzie retiring by the age of 63. The home has been altered several times over the years due to room additions and other improvements. The house now is located on a half-acre parcel.

Earlier in its history, Strecker Road was called Kehr's Mill Road, which is Strecker Road's northern terminus. However, it is identified as Strecker Road on the 1878 Atlas. From the north, Strecker Road generally follows Caulks Creek, then deviates to the east as it crosses Clayton Road, soon reaching its southern terminus at Manchester Road. Today, Strecker Road is a City-maintained, two-lane arterial road way, with center striping, but thin shoulders in most places. Segments of the road are still rural in character, predominately northward, where it more closely hugs Caulks Creek, with denser suburban residential development as it approaches Manchester Road.