



A Scavenger Hunt to Discover Tyler's Parks

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The start of a process and just getting lost in thought, searching for the path that will lead you back to where you intended to travel, is an exciting journey because you often find something even more wonderful, something that you did not expect to locate; something you did not even know existed. Residents and visitors who drive, walk, or bike along South Broadway Avenue are very familiar with Bergfeld Park, especially since it now features four prominent letters 'PARK' that shine brightly. Lindsey, Faulkner and Pollard are well-known parks because they are host sites for many events, such as youth games, running events, birthday parties and more. Southside Park, nestled along the Rose Rudman Trail, is a multifunctional park for athletes, community events, and students who walk to and from school in South Tyler.

But have you ever visited Tatum Park or Griffith Park? Yes, these are parks within the City of Tyler. Even I am ashamed to admit that I was unaware these parks existed. I knew of them, but I only recognized them from my youth, playing tag and touch football when I visited friends who lived in these neighborhoods. Did you know about Peach Park? Well, its actual

name is Winters Park, but it is on Peach Avenue, just south of CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Rose Stadium, and is usually referred to as Peach Park.

Recent renovations were completed at Hillside Park, located at the intersection of South Fleishel and East Erwin, and this park now features an art wall, complete with vibrant displays of artistic imagination. The luster of natural beauty has also been restored at Woldert Park, situated next to the Glass Recreation Center, and at Gassaway Park, positioned inside the northeastern section of Loop 323. Gassaway Park is like an unexpectedly delicious menu item at one of your favorite restaurants. Either you decided to try something different or the restaurant was out of your favorite item. You gave it a try and now you are hooked.

The City of Tyler's Parks and Recreation Department recently partnered with Fit City Tyler and has developed a buffet—a Scavenger Hunt that encourages residents and visitors to visit all twenty-seven parks. "This is one of several projects that have evolved from the recent creation of the Fit City Tyler Active Living Plan," says George Roberts, co-founder of Fit City Tyler.



“A major component of healthy behavior involves the promotion of physical activity, and what better way to get some exercise than spending time at one of Tyler’s city parks.”

Visitors will find metal signs with QR codes prominently posted in each park. When the QR code is scanned, you will then see the clue for a task to complete or take a picture of yourself, in order to complete the Scavenger Hunt activity for that particular park. “The goal of the Scavenger Hunt Program is to increase usage and to create more awareness of our parks,” said Leanne Robinette, the City of Tyler’s Senior Manager of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. “We also wanted to make sure we developed a program that can grow and also maintains a minimal cost to participants.” After

completing all tasks at each park, go to FitCityTyler.com to submit your photos on the Scavenger Hunt page.

Plan to play the Scavenger Hunt with the Tyler Parks and Rec Department and get lost in nature to escape from your day, even if it’s just for a few minutes. Go to the park and enjoy the fresh air. Look at the clouds and enjoy the autumn breeze. Search for the Scavenger Hunt signs and take time to enjoy the ambiance of our hidden parks, with their walking paths shaded by trees, and rediscover the nostalgic joy of your childhood. The process of getting lost and searching for your original path is a normal occurrence when you visit one of Tyler’s twenty-seven parks; with twenty-seven journeys, just waiting to be taken.

