

Living in the Brazos Valley

GREAT PARKS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Dear Jen,

I just moved my family to the Bryan/College Station area in the fall. Now that the weather is warming up a little, we're looking for places to spend time as a family outdoors. Do you have any recommendations on parks, trails, or outdoor activities in the area?

Thanks,
Bryce
College Station

Dear Bryce,

Welcome to Bryan/College Station! I think that you will be thrilled with all of the parks, nature trails, and outdoor entertainment offered by the cities of Bryan and College Station. I'll tell you about a few of my favorites below!

Wolf Pen Creek Park & Amphitheater

The park offers a variety of outdoor recreation experiences including walking, picnicking and playground activities. Enjoy a cool Texas evening at the Amphitheater which offers a wide variety of outdoor concerts, plays and festivals.

Lick Creek Park

The park offers several miles of trails and provides an excellent opportunity for hiking, cycling, bird watching, equestrian activities, and nature study.

Lake Bryan

This park offers a 1,000 acre recreational lake, mountain bike trails, RV sites, and camping. It's an ideal site for water sports, picnicking and camping. You might also enjoy a sunset, live music and a delicious Hook Burger at the Lakeside Icehouse.

Bryan Aquatic Center

The Bryan Aquatic Center features an Olympic-sized pool with a 175-foot water slide, baby pool, two diving boards, and plenty of space for sunbathing. Enjoy the Aquatic Center with a daily admission price of \$2 or get an annual family pass for an entire summer of fun in the sun!

Bee Creek Park

Bee Creek Park is the location of College Station's first swimming pool. You'll find Adamson Lagoon (A 50-meter pool with separate wading pool), four lighted tennis courts, two lighted softball fields, a pavilion, sand volleyball court, picnic area, and walking trails all in the heart of College Station.

Sue Haswell Memorial Park

Sue Haswell is one of the most popular parks in Bryan. The park has been recently renovated to include the historic Path of Presidents and Aquatic Liberty Garden. You'll also find three large picnic pavilions,

a 24-court horseshoe complex, swimming pool, a large playground, and numerous picnic tables with BBQ grills.

Stephen C. Beachy Central Park

Central Park is a great place to spend the day with your family! You may enjoy the meandering nature and biking trails through the woods and around two large ponds. You'll also find a pavilion with kitchen and restroom facilities, four lighted softball fields, three adult soccer fields, two lighted tennis courts, sand volleyball court, basketball court, and a fishing pier.

Veterans Park and Athletic Complex

Veterans Park is a large, open athletic complex. It has many athletic fields (soccer, softball, and baseball), bike trails, a playground, a 500 capacity pavilion, and American History Mile Trail. 12 acres of Veterans Park is designated as a Veterans Memorial where you will find a Veterans Memorial sculpture designed by Robert Eccleston and a garden plaza. It is dedicated to all of the veterans of the Brazos Valley who have served in all US wars. Be sure to visit the Richard Carter Water Oak while you are in the park. It is thought to be the largest tree in Brazos County!

University Park

University Park is, by far, my dog's favorite park. You'll find many of the normal neighborhood park amenities here such as a walking trail and play equipment. However, this park's most unique feature is the four-acre fenced canine station built specifically for dogs to socialize and exercise safely off-leash with separate areas for small and large dogs. The unleashed portion of the park has a variety of amenities for your furry friends, including swimming ponds, agility equipment, and open space to run and play!

I hope you find all of this information helpful in your search for fun outdoor activities! For all of the information contained here, maps of area parks, and so much more, please visit the Bryan and College Station city websites: bryantx.gov and cstx.gov. Best Wishes and Welcome to the Brazos Valley!



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