

“Adventure in a good trail” series pt 4

Topic: *Fielder Park* in Arlington, TX

Author: Eoin Donovan

Bargaining – This is the stage of grief I am entering as I plead with the great outdoors to chill our Texas weather. Can we flip the switch from Summer to Fall, please? This is great weather to ease a dog owner’s responsibility, but the sun’s UV rays take a tremendous toll on energy. Hot tip: One walk outside in this weather is bound to settle a pup down into a nap for the rest of the day. For this article, I teamed up with my mom (Carrie Donovan), my partner (Vanessa Martinez), and our dogs (Covey, Paloma, and Joe Dirt) for an afternoon of adventure through the trees of Fielder Park in Arlington.

Fielder Park

Neighborhood: Near Swift Elementary

Street Address: 1100 S. Fielder Rd Arlington, TX 76013

Park hours: 5am-10pm

Website:

https://www.arlingtontx.gov/city_hall/departments/parks_recreation/parks_trails/park_finder/fielder_park

The truck was chocked full of anticipation today as we drove down Fielder Road, slowly approaching the a large field coming into view. Looking back to the days of my childhood, I would wait for the crossing guard at the end of the school day to confirm it was safe to cross over from Swift Elementary’s side of the intersection to this field. I have countless memories of activities happening ranging from soccer to ultimate frisbee to baseball to a game of tag. Turning into the parking lot even sparked some memories of excitement from when we would attend a friend’s birthday party or small field trip. The park had a much different setting back then. I recall a merry-go-round, a seesaw, and drink machine stocked full of All Sport Body Quencher. Pulling into the parking spot helped ground my thoughts as Vanessa and I prepared the dogs to meet up with my mom and her dog, Joe Dirt, waiting for us at one of the many picnic tables at Fielder Park.

The parking lot is cuts into the park itself. To the west, a three-story playground with slides and a swing set among other amenities sits in front of a tennis court. Beyond that is a field of trees and a short trail which serves as a border between the park and the surrounding neighborhood. To the east of our parking spot lies the large field that can be seen from Fielder Road.

Leaving the car, we walked down a trail to meet my mom at the picnic table in a shady spot where we felt safe and secure enough to leave our bags while we explore the park. Heading west down the trail towards the trees, we alongside an empty basketball court attached to the edge of the tennis court. It is way too hot to spend the energy playing a game of HORSE on this day. Much to our surprise – Paloma the dog had gotten loose from her collar and darted across around the park. Fielder Park is a large enough space for a dog to run loose, but small enough for us to keep track of her exploration while devising a plan to get her back in her collar. Her exploit led us into the back of the park to be greeted by

another shaded area with picnic table and accessible trash can. Successfully re-leashing her enabled us for a rest where we enjoyed some cold drinks and took some pictures of the dogs playing together.

We made our way back to the front of the park where we ended up finding yet another accessible seating area next to the playground. I felt a pull from my inner child to climb up into the 3rd story of the playground towering in front of us, but at this point the heat had already sapped everyone's energy enough to call it a day.

A visit up at Fielder Park makes for a very special day no matter what the weather entails. There's something for everyone from adults to families to sports teams to dogs. The invitation is wide open for those seeking a local adventure in such an easy-going park. I believe bringing water and snacks to share, comfortable footwear, and an entire party of loved ones would make for an unforgettable time up at Fielder Park.



Fielder Park 1



Fielder Park 2



Fielder Park 3



Fielder Park 4