

Topic: *Pirie Park and Veteran's Park back-forest trail* in Arlington, TX

Section: Either "Explore More" or "From the Heart"

Title: "Adventure in a good trail series"

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### **Pirie Park**

There's many things that make a walk memorable, but there's three that I've come to appreciate. Fresh air. Ease of access. Intimacy. I found a park in my neighborhood recently that colored me impressed. After a Google search for "parks nearby" and sorting through options, I came across a no-nonsense park enveloped within the confines of a quiet neighborhood. There's a sidewalk trail that borders a small field, a playground, and outdoor workout equipment. Pirie Park - just northwest of Downtown Arlington is a local treasure just small enough to be hidden from the hustle and bustle of the city, but big enough to leave a heartfelt impact on my day.

Depending on the time of day, the park can either be lively with the local neighborhood park-goers walking the trail, playing frisbee, cooking on the outdoor grill, or just sitting and enjoying the outdoors. Everyone I encounter at the park is friendly and typically keeps to themselves – which really helps a Pirie visit stay a personal experience.

Many of the houses surrounding Pirie have gates that open up to the park which really speaks to the idea that the homeowners are very proud of it. Nothing too exciting seems to happen at this well-maintained park and I believe this to be a good thing. Because of the proximity to the community, I feel very safe coming here all hours of the day that Pirie is open.

If you're considering a visit to Pirie Park, I would definitely recommend it for anyone wanting a light walk and any outdoor family fun.

[https://www.arlingtontx.gov/city\\_hall/departments/parks\\_recreation/parks\\_trails/park\\_finder/pirie\\_park](https://www.arlingtontx.gov/city_hall/departments/parks_recreation/parks_trails/park_finder/pirie_park)



*Pirie Park*

### **Veteran's Park back-forest trail**

My lust for local adventure led me to a place in Arlington that depending on which acre I am standing in gives the illusion that I am miles away. This place holds a lot of nostalgia for me as I have been coming here since I was a little kid. There really is something here for everybody seeking outdoor fun whether it be volunteering, having an outdoor birthday party, playing on the performing arts stage, light hiking, enjoying the flowers, playing frisbee golf, and much more. There is one part of Veteran's park that has kept me coming back for adventure time and time again and that is the off beaten path of the back-forest trail behind it all.

Ranging back to my teenage days, I have always heard talk of the elusive rope swing with location known only by an esoteric few. For as long as I can remember, it has been a local legend through the generations even today where the remains of it can be found hidden in the back-forest of Veteran's Park. Having been so out of sight definitely has its upsides, but also downsides as this spot typically isn't without evidence of recent gatherings in the form of litter.

The swing is only the tip of the iceberg that can be found behind it all in this park. Beyond the swing, a trail leads into a very green, very beautiful path encompassed by trees. Feeling the pull of the forest, each step enables me to forget that I am within city limits because I only hear the sounds of the trees



and wildlife around me. The trail is long, sometimes narrow, and filled with many obstacles to hike over so it is not for the person looking for a casual walk. This is a great place to get lost for 45 minutes and take in the all surroundings while trying to find a way back out. It isn't often that I end up seeing another person braving this forest trail but when I do, they are typically polite and stick to enjoying their own experience.

If exploring the back-forest trail of Veteran's Park is in the books for you, I would definitely recommend bringing a charged phone, plenty of water, a reliable friend, and a mind for adventure.

<https://www.arlington.org/listings/veterans-park/391/>



*Veterans Park 1*



*Veterans Park 2*