

*Interpretive Guide to:*

# TYLER

## STATE PARK



PHOTO: TXDOT

WELCOME TO TYLER STATE PARK,  
A QUIET RETREAT ON A CLEAR  
SPRING-FED LAKE LOCATED IN  
THE RELAXING BEAUTY OF EAST  
TEXAS. TIMELESS CRAFTSMAN-  
SHIP IN THE STONE WORK AND  
WOODEN BUILDINGS BUILT BY  
THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION  
CORPS (CCC) MAKE THE PARK A  
HISTORIC TREASURE.



### THANK YOU FOR VISITING!

While enjoying this natural beauty, please remember that everything you see in the park is protected. Artifacts, rocks, plants and animals (even snakes) are all part of the region's rich natural and cultural heritage. Help us keep park recreational use sustainable for the future and protect these resources by leaving things as you find them.

We hope you will visit these CCC developed parks and other state parks while visiting East Texas:

Bonham State Park  
1363 Park Road 24  
Bonham, Texas 75418  
(903) 583-5022

Daingerfield State Park  
455 Park Road 17  
Daingerfield, Texas 75638  
(903) 645-2921

Caddo Lake State Park  
245 Park Road 2  
Karnack, Texas 75661  
(903) 679-3351

Tyler State Park  
789 Park Road 16  
Tyler, Texas 75706  
(903) 597-5338

Visit [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park) for more information on these and other Texas state parks and historic sites.



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HELP US CONSERVE  
PLEASE TURN IN FOR REUSE

## FLORA AND FAUNA



The park sits in a mature pine-hardwood forest. Many of the trees are 75 to 100 years old. A variety of mixed flowering plants and grasses are common throughout the park. The setting provides habitat for wildlife species characteristic of East Texas including white-tailed deer, raccoon, squirrel, fox, coyote and opossum. During the colorful spring months and throughout the summer season, the Eastern bluebird is frequently seen—one of over 135 bird species identified in the park. Restoration efforts throughout the park dramatically increase plant and wildflower diversity. Maintaining this diversity sometimes requires the reintroduction of powerful natural elements. In an attempt to restore an open shortleaf pine-oak community with a distinct grassy understory and a post oak savannah, management practices such as selective thinning and prescribed fire are ongoing. Healthy plant communities with increased numbers of wildflowers and grasses result in greater numbers of animal species. Some colorful flowering plants growing in the park are brown-eyed susans, spiderwort (pictured above), butterfly weed, beebalm, standing cypress, coreopsis, verbena, yucca, fleabane, goldenrod and purple coneflower.

## WITH HELP FROM THE CCC

Imagine yourself during the 1930s with no food, no job and no money. During the Great Depression, many Americans faced this dilemma. In response to this predicament and to help preserve the natural resources of the country, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933. The CCC provided employment and vocational education for unemployed young men while providing necessary labor for conservation projects. Enrollees were men between the ages of 17 and 25 who qualified for public assistance. The program provided clothing, food, medical care and \$30 a month, of which \$25 was sent home to their families.

Utilizing the National Park Service (NPS) natural design style, CCC Company 2888 developed over 980 acres in Tyler State Park between 1935 and 1941. CCC enrollees constructed roads and buildings, planted trees and built check dams for erosion control and constructed an earthen dam for the park lake. The design of culverts and bridges incorporates natural materials to blend with the surrounding landscape.

The men enjoyed recreational activities just as visitors do today. In the Beauchamp Springs area they developed group picnic grounds, a lily pond, a child's wading pool and a man-made rock outcropping disguising the diversion of the spring to the area. The bathhouse, concession, dance pavilion, boathouse and



O.C. Gunn works on the children's wading pool in the Beauchamp Springs area in the 1930s. Remnants of the pool remain on the interpretive trail.

caretaker's home were built in the modernistic style rather than the rustic NPS style. Several of these structures have withstood time and are used today by park visitors. A complete restoration of the bath and boat houses began in the spring of 2004.

## HIT THE TRAIL!

PHOTO: RANDY MALLORY



Hike and bike on approximately 16 miles of very popular trails, some meandering and others venturing through steep terrain surrounding the clear spring-fed lake.

Two vastly different habitat types may be seen along the Blackjack

Trail—a native tall grass prairie on one side and a mixed pine-hardwood forest on the other. The clear water of the 64-acre lake is excellent for year-round bass fishing, winter fly-fishing for stocked trout, swimming and scuba diving.

Built to last, the CCC constructed this bridge with natural materials that blend with the landscape.