

ORBISON PARK FAMILY AQUATICS CENTER

Orbison Park Family Aquatics Center is open during the summer and will close the day after Labor Day. Open to the public 6 days a week, weather permitting.

Hours of Operation
Tuesday-Saturday 12pm - 6pm
Sunday 1pm - 6pm
Closed Monday for cleaning

ADMISSION \$5

VERNONTX.GOV

Parks & Recreation

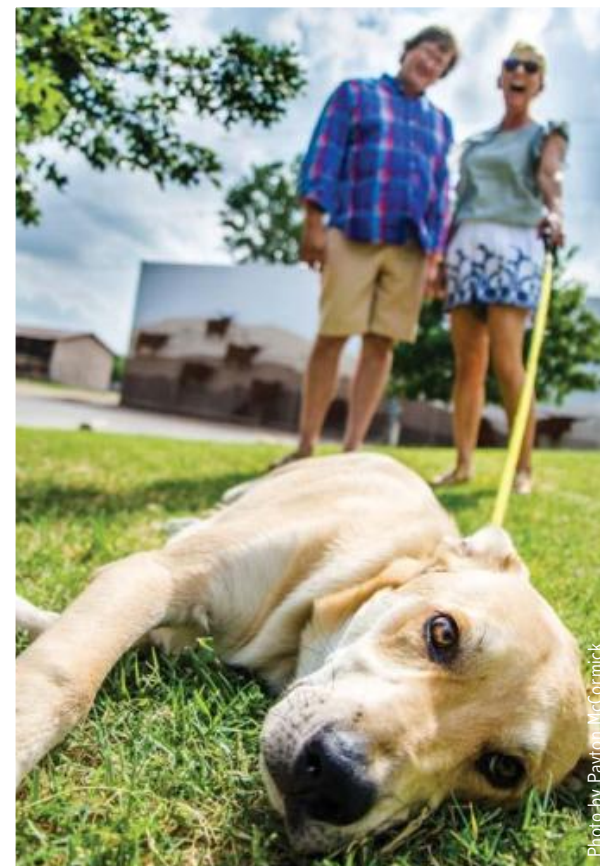


Photo by Payton McCormick

Residents and visitors don't have to go far for recreational opportunities in and around Vernon. There are four public parks, including a state-of-the-art aquatic center in Vernon as well as other activities within a short driving distance offer many recreational fun and opportunities.

LAKES, STATE PARKS

Lake Kemp, a popular North Texas fishing and recreational site, is located approximately

25 miles south of Vernon. Cara Blanca Park, the recreational park surrounding the lake, is owned by W. T. Waggoner Estate.

The reservoir covers an area of over 16,540 acres. Tracts of land around the lake are leased on an annual lease rental basis. Entrance to the park area may be gained through either of three toll gates: Flippen Creek Gate Entrance and Moonshine Gate Entrance are directly off highway 183/283 approximately 28 miles south of Vernon; Pony Creek Gate Entrance is seven miles north of Seymour off Highway 1919. Highway signs mark the route.

For a minimal daily fee, visitors may enjoy fishing, boating or relaxing in the sun. There are several public boat ramps on the lake.

Copper Breaks State Park consists of 1898.8 acres, and is located 38 miles west of Vernon, 12 miles south of Quanah or nine miles north of Crowell, in Hardeman County.

Activities include camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, mountain biking, swimming, wildlife viewing, backpacking, kite flying, summer educational/interpretive programs, horseback riding (horse rental not available), astronomy, and natural and historical exhibits. A portion of the official Texas longhorn herd is maintained at the park. Call 940-839-4331.

The Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus is located about 15 miles west of Crowell and 45 miles west of Vernon as part of the Three

Rivers Institute (3RF). Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus (CSAC) offers an array of observatories, telescopes and other viewing equipment. All star parties are free to the public. Contact 940-684-1670.

Quartz Mountain State Park is located some 65 miles north of Vernon in southwestern Oklahoma on the western shores of Lake Altus-Lugert. Call (580) 563-2238.

CITY PARKS

Vernon has four city parks with shaded picnic areas, barbecue pits, playground equipment, and a clubhouse and pavilion available for rental from the City of Vernon (940-552-2581). The parks are Allingham Park, 2700 block of Yamparika; D. L. Green Park, 201 Wilbarger; Orbison Park, South Sand Road; Christine Lyday Park, located at the corner Houston and Dawson.

Additionally, the '55 Park on Main Street provides a shaded area for visitors to enjoy as well as scenery kept up by members of the VHS Class of 1955.

GOLF COURSE

Hillcrest Country Club has been in operation for more than 80 years, the country club encompasses an 84-acre site that includes a nine-hole golf course, three tennis courts and a swimming pool. The golf course is open to members and their families for unlimited golfing while non-members can golf at nine or 18-hole rates.

Hillcrest Country Club also includes a golf house with a pro shop, which stocks golf balls and tees along with a variety of snacks and drinks. Membership applications are available at the club. For additional information, call 940-552-5406.

Vernon unveiled the attractive aquatic center, located at Orbison Park, 4400 Sand Road, during the summer of 2012.

The pool is open to the public six days a week beginning Memorial Day, weather permitting. The pool is closed each Monday for cleaning. Hours of operation are from noon to 6 p.m. Pool parties can also be scheduled on specific evenings. The Aquatic Center includes a state-of-the-art pool house, a water slide, three swimming lanes, diving board, beach entry access, a mushroom shower and a lazy river as well as free Wi-Fi access for patrons. The Aquatic Center has a capacity to hold 425 people with an average expected attendance of 325 a day. It holds 180,000 gallons of water and takes up 75,000 square feet. The Orbison Clubhouse and Flora Belle Gazebo at Orbison Park are also available for family reunions, banquets, and meetings. For reservation scheduling and fee information about any of the parks and recreation facilities, contact City Hall at (940) 552-2581.

The aquatic center was paid off in October 2017.



Photo by Payton McCormick