

Austin American-Statesman

TEXAS

Rest a spell in downtown Dallas' new backyard



HELEN ANDERS

Traffic pours out from under Dallas' Woodall Rodgers Freeway in the background as people enjoy a sunny day in the new Klyde Warren Park.

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At Klyde Warren Park in Dallas, traffic is ignored as friends enjoy a game of table tennis



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Kids play on a putting green with the Dallas skyline in the background at Klyde Warren Parkway, built over the Woodall Rodgers Freeway.

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Dogs share a communal trough on a sunny day at Dallas' new Klyde Warren Park.

By [Helen Anders](#)

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Dallas — There's no keeping off the grass here. Kids putt golf balls and play badminton on it, adults chat at folding chairs set up on it, and smiling dogs trot happily across it to a cute little dog park enclosure, where they affably share little water troughs.

All this takes place amid the roar of cars passing by the park, as well as underneath it. This is Klyde Warren Park, built in the midst of the Dallas skyline. Dallas, it seems, has a new communal backyard. Backyard and family room, actually, because you can play table tennis and read here, too. The park serves the purpose of linking Dallas' cultural district with Uptown, the part of Dallas where the Perot Museum of Nature and Science just opened. It's a quick walk from the museum to the park, which you might as well visit while you're in town. On the way there, you'll no doubt run into a lot of Dallas urban dwellers walking to the park with their dogs.

What if you want to park your car and walk? The park has no parking for itself, but on weekends you'll find plenty of nearby deserted banks whose lots can be used, and there's street parking. You're likely to pay about \$5. Or do what we did: Park at a nearby restaurant, eat and walk over. (Do ambulate carefully. There's a whole lot of traffic surrounding the park.)

Speaking of food, on many days, food trucks park at Klyde Warren Park, and I'm told they're quite popular lunch options for downtown Dallas business workers. Next summer, a restaurant is expected to open in the park itself.

Events — musical performances, children's activities, yoga, zumba, YMCA boot camps — pop up in the park all the time. Find a schedule at klydewarrenpark.org.

You'll find equipment on hand for table tennis, golf putting, croquet, badminton and more. It's available to park-goers every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Dallas Public Library has an outpost here where you can find a book to read. And, of course, there are restrooms. (There will be more when the restaurant opens). The dog park, clearly one of the most popular parts of the park, has both dirt and grassy little hills, all surrounded by a little picket fence. There's free WiFi if you'd like to get a little work done.

Swaths of native plants and grasses remind me a bit of New York's High Line. Right now, the grass is brown, and some of the plants are, too — the drought just won't let go, and, besides, it's winter. Look for things to green up in the spring. But brown grass or not, winter's one of my favorite times to be outside in Dallas, simply because it's not hot. The park is open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Feels like a good place to watch the sun rise.