

### Town Lake Park and Trails / Butler Park



Don't be surprised if you forget that you're at an events facility when visiting the Palmer Events Center. Since Palmer is nestled in the middle of Butler Park, you can step out of a meeting, expo or conference and instantly be surrounded by a gorgeous urban park. Within the park you will find beautiful live oak and cypress trees, green grass, an illuminated water fountain programmed for afternoon and evening water shows, an observation hill overlooking Lady Bird Lake and Austin's famous hike and bike trail.

Imagine a picnic lunch between meetings, a stroll through the park during breaks or an unforgettable outdoor banquet. At Palmer, you have the freedom and flexibility to take advantage of an award winning facility and a remarkable area of Austin.

The City of Austin owns Butler Park and established it in 2007 to be an environmentally friendly area. The land is irrigated using non-potable water from Lady Bird Lake and all the maintenance equipment operates on electricity or propane. The property was originally owned by Michael Butler, an immigrant from Ireland who ran a brick-making business in South Austin in the late 1800s. His heirs donated the land to Austin in 1941 and the Park is named in honor of Mr. Butler.

Located across Riverside Drive, north of Palmer Events Center, is Town Lake Park. Town Lake Park borders Lady Bird Lake (formerly Town Lake) – a dammed up section of the Colorado River. This metropolitan park contains fields used for a variety of activities ranging from soccer games, volleyball matches and yoga sessions to dog training and Frisbee golf tournaments. Outdoor festivals and concerts also claim Town Lake Park as their home. The famous Austin City Limits Music Festival attracts thousands of people every year to Zilker Park, located on the south end of this expansive park. During the summer, the Austin Symphony also conducts a "Concerts in the Park" series. The lake itself is perfect for kayaking, rowing and other sporting activities. Also, on occasion, the adventurous athlete jumps in and undertakes an open water swim during local triathlons.

A 10.1 mile hike and bike trail runs along Lady Bird Lake and is loved by Austinites and visitors alike. Not only does it cater to the active Austin lifestyle, it's also a great place to check out some of what makes Austin so unique. Stop under the Congress Avenue Bridge on a summer evening and you're sure to see nearly 1 million Mexican free-tailed bats flying out from the bridge's infrastructure to begin their nightly outing for food. Do this, and you've just witnessed the largest urban bat colony in the United States take flight. Another popular spot along the trail is the Stevie Ray Vaughn statue. The statue pays tribute to one of the many legendary Austin home-grown musicians.

All of this and more is just a few steps away from your event at the Palmer Events Center.

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