



photo: BOBBY GILBOY PHOTOGRAPHY

by Hilary Creamer Downtown Covington Parks

ONE OF THE THINGS I have come to value most about living on the northshore is its variety of shopping, dining, nature parks, events and art—it has it all. And this is especially evident in Downtown Covington.

There is a beautiful balance in this quaint area that offers such a variety of things to do and see. One could plan a perfect day here. Looking for a great dining experience? Downtown Covington

has it. In need of some retail therapy at unique local boutiques and antique shops? Downtown Covington has it. Beautiful homes and gardens and art galleries? Yep, it's got those, too. But what balances it all are the beautiful pockets of nature nestled in this historic area.

One minute you are browsing in boutiques or grabbing a latte at St. John's Coffee House and the next you are at the entrance to Columbia Street Landing. This charming park, located at 100 N. Columbia St., blooms between Downtown Covington and the Bogue Falaya River. The park is open from 6 am to 10 pm, and is the site of the popular Sunset at the Landing concert series. This was likely once the busiest spot in Covington, as it was the site of the main port of the city. It's hard to imagine this serene riverscape full of steamboats unloading goods and visitors. On my latest visit, it was just me, the river and the garden. The sound of water splashing down the fountain, the fresh air and the new green growth of the various plants placed with obvious care add to the tranquility of this space.

Just a few blocks over, you will find Bogue Falaya Wayside Park. Opened in 1909, today the 13-acre park at the end of N. New Hampshire St. still offers the fundamental elements that first attracted visitors over one hundred years ago—rest, recreation and fresh air. It is a popular location for big and



photo: HILARY CREAMER



small events. The park has a launch for canoeing/kayaking, a pavilion available to rent, an impressive ADA-compliant playground and plenty of prime places to sit amongst the tall cypress trees and watch the river run by.

Yet another option for recreation and a beautiful river vista is just a short drive away. The 1st Avenue Park, known locally as “Nose Park,” is open from 6 am to 10 pm and is located at 401 E. 1st Ave. Dubbed “Nose Park” because of the large sculpture of a nose near the entrance, this park offers playground equipment and a circular, paved track that is perfect for walking, running and skating. There is also a covered pavilion with a short, wheelchair-accessible boardwalk that grants a sweeping view of the Tchefuncte River.

So, next time you are in Downtown Covington and want to walk off that amazing meal you just had, or mix in a little nature therapy with your retail therapy or maybe just do a little people (or dog) watching, remember these parks and the gifts that they are ready to give you. From the immortal words of Petula Clark, “Things will be great when you’re downtown...Everything’s waiting for you.” (I bet you just sang that last part, didn’t you?) 🌿

For a full list of parks (and dog parks!) and recreation sites in Covington, visit covla.com.



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