

Tyler Azalea and Spring Flower Trails

NEW DATE – SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

DATE CHANGE BECAUSE OF WEATHER

With an 60% chance of morning thunderstorms predicted for Saturday, March 30, the date for this field trip is being changed to Sunday, March 31 which currently shows a 10% chance of rain.

Understandably this will not work for everyone's schedule, so please re-register on our website for this event.

DESTINATION:

Tyler is about 2 hours east of Dallas. The 10-mile long annual **Tyler Azalea Trail** guides visitors through neighborhoods of quaint brick streets, historic homes, and residential gardens filled with blooming azaleas, dogwoods, wisteria and tulips and other spring-blooming flowers. The "trails" are either a driving or walking experience – your choice. (Don't panic – most of it is "driving".)

TIME:

10:00 a.m. Sunday

We will meet at the front of the First Presbyterian Church near the corner of Dobbs and South Broadway (230 W Rusk St, Tyler, TX 75701) then proceed to the 212 W. Dobbs Street garden.

Please check in with me before we're off on to the first house and let me know whether or not you will be joining the group for lunch!

(I plan to be there at 9:00 a.m. to check in those who prefer to arrive earlier.)

Plot your driving directions and estimated drive time on googlemaps.com from your origination point. Driving the Azalea trails on a Saturday is limited to 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

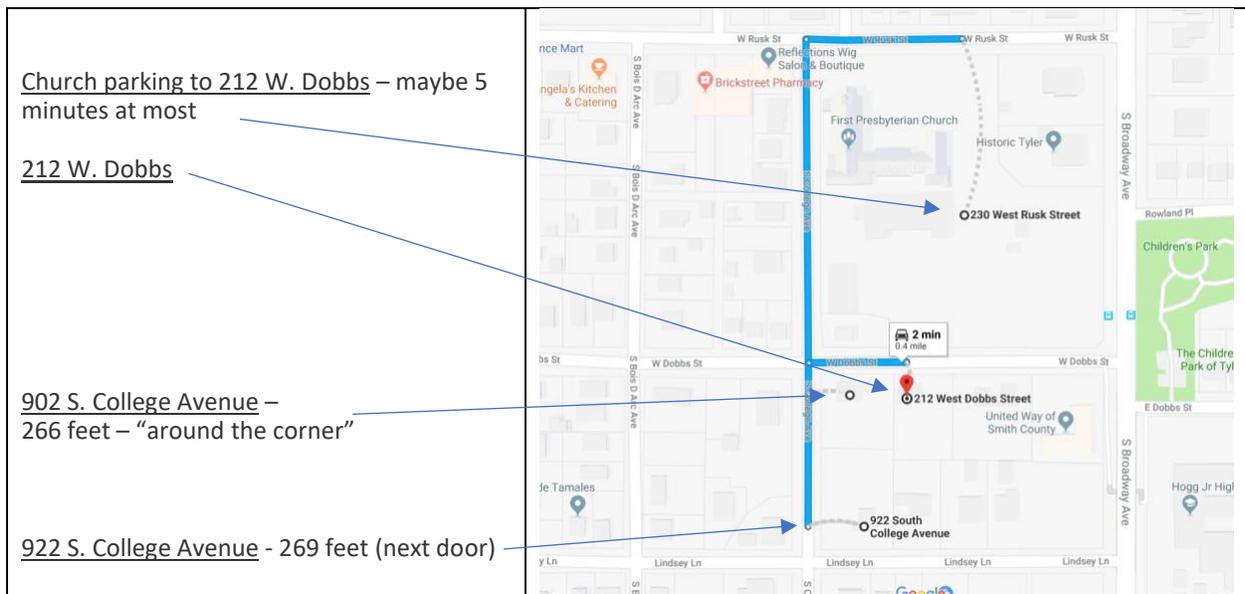
(Depending on tour traffic, street parking may also be an option). After photographing the three gardens listed below, everyone should follow whichever of the two driving trails work best for them.



- The **Pyron gardens** - 212 W. Dobbs Street
- The **Davis gardens** - 902 S. College Avenue
- The **McGuire gardens** - 922 S. College Avenue

Back story: When President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to put the country back to work, WPA employees took on all kinds of projects. In Tyler, they built some of the beautiful redbrick streets and oversaw the construction of a big drainage project. Spanned by stone bridges, it runs through the backyards of homes in a community that was once surrounded by cotton fields – these three homes have this stonework.

Parking for these three gardens is generously provided (for free) by the First Presbyterian Church. Street parking is available throughout most of the driving tour areas and in the area shown in the map below. Just a reminder that these garden locations are private homes whose owners are more than generous in allowing visitors!



EVENT BROCHURE: <https://visitt Tyler.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/AzaleaTrail19-fullweb.pdf>

The third page of the brochure in this link shows not only the trails but the individual houses that are open for touring and the associated cost to tour the interior of each of these homes. (These interior home tours are optional and not a part of our field trip).

The two driving trails officially begin at the Tyler Convention & Visitors Bureau, at 315 N. Broadway, and travel south. A good starting point is the corner of Houston Street and South Broadway Avenue.

Markers designate the routes that meander through the area streets for motorists. You can begin anywhere along the routes and not be disappointed.

COST: There is no cost to drive/walk the trails or to visit the three gardens mentioned earlier.

GARDEN ACCESS: Other gardens along the tour are not open for walking among the flowers or in the yards; however, photography from the street or sidewalk is permitted.

DON'T WANT TO DRIVE THE TRAILS?

For those who prefer a shuttle for viewing the gardens, a shuttle service is available from 9am – 4pm. Those tours last about 45 minutes and leave on the hour. (For shuttle information and rates, call 903-330-8262.)

LUNCH – 12:00 p.m.:

We will meet at 1836 Texas Kitchen, 2467 Crow Road, Tyler, TX 75703 (903/630-7725). From there, returning to the trails or other activities is convenient.

SUGGESTED PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT:

Your favorite walk-around lens, macro and/or wide angle.

Tripods (and even monopods) will be close to impossible in the Pyron gardens on Dobbs Street. It's the most heavily visited part of the tour but is also the "absolutely don't miss" part of it! Care should be taken to remain on the walkways (not the grass). In my experience, it's still possible to get some very nice shots. Tripods at other times will depend upon the walking traffic when you arrive at particular locations.

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO PHOTOGRAPH?

- **Palestine Davey Dogwood Park** (information copied from their website). This is about an hour south/southwest of Tyler.



Davey Dogwood Park is home to more than 200 acres of picturesque roads meander throughout the park. The park is featured during the annual Texas Dogwood Trails Festival from late March to early April. This area includes over five and one-half miles of hard-surfaced roads. The park is especially beautiful in the spring with the dazzling white blossoms of the Dogwood trees and many other native area wildflowers. In the fall, the beauty of the area changes to the autumn colors of the native trees and the rich red of the Dogwood trees. Picnic areas are provided at Manley Mountain (near the entrance of the park) and also near the center of the park. Visitors may view the scenic beauty along walking trails located around the picnic areas.

<https://texasforesttrail.com/plan-your-adventure/historic-sites-and-cities/sites/davey-dogwood-park>

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- **Rose City Artisans & Flower Market** March 29-30 / 10am-4pm
Admission: FREE

Enjoy this annual open-air market where you can purchase unique handcrafted items such as oil on canvas, wooden toys, and ceramic pottery. Plan out your garden with flora and décor. Music and concessions are on-site. Self-guided tours of the Goodman Museum are available during this two-day event. 1859 Goodman-LeGrand House & Museum, 624 N Broadway Ave, 903.531.1286, www.GoodmanMuseum.com

I've been to this – interesting flowers/floral arrangements to photograph and for non-nature-related items, another good photo opportunity.

- **Caldwell Zoo** - 2203 W Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Tyler

That's it! Call if you have questions!

Jackie Ranney
Field Trip Coordinator
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