



ROSE GARDEN

TYLER, TEXAS

GREAT PUBLIC SPACE DESIGNEE—2018

The 22-acre Tyler Municipal Rose Garden, the nation's largest municipal rose garden, displays over 38,000 rose bushes with 500 varieties that attracts an estimated 500,000 visitors annually. Intended to be the "Rose Center of the Southwest," per the 1945 City Plan, the rose garden retains a high degree of historic and architectural integrity from its period making it a "living catalog of Smith County roses." Roses have been associated with Smith County since the 1840's when rose cultivation became the chief agricultural crop of the County.

The garden was established in 1952, however actual construction of the garden began in 1938 as a part of the federal Work Projects Administration (WPA) under the Roosevelt administration. Since its completion in 1952, the park has become a principal attraction drawing visitors from all over the world, becoming the single greatest tourist destination in East Texas.

The Rose Garden is the hub for the annual Tyler Rose Festival, an event inaugurated in 1933 to celebrate roses and its popularity in East Texas. The highlights of the four-day festival include a three-mile parade, displays of roses, tours, and coronation of the Rose Festival Queen and her court. The festival brings residents and visitors together to experience and celebrate the local culture and history.

Several plans have been developed over the garden's 66 years, including the recent 2017 Rose Complex Master Plan. The park is the crown jewel of East Texas and serves as the economic, social, cultural, and environmental focal point of the Tyler community.

