

RV parking in Tulsa for the ICBDA and/or Roundalab Conventions

Many dancers travel in RVs during the summers and live in their RVs while attending summer dance conventions. The ICBDA Convention typically has from 15 to 30 RVs in attendance. Many of these dancers enjoy getting together for social gatherings at the campground some evenings after dancing, so would like to coordinate with others and choose a "preferred" RV campground for a dance group. Since we passed through Tulsa on our way home from our 2017 summer travels we did some "scouting" of local RV parks. This is a summary of what we found.

Looking at websites, reviews, and distance from the Renaissance, we narrowed our choices to three RV parks: Mingo RV Park, Cherry Hill Mobile Home/RV Park, and Warrior Campground. All three of these parks are residential rather than recreational so the atmosphere at all of them will be different from where most of us like to stay. The majority of their residents are long term, some permanent, most 3-6 month visitors working temporary jobs. All three have a number of spaces where short term visitors can stay.

Warrior and Cherry Hill are 12-13 miles west of the Renaissance off I-44, only about a mile apart. Our drive to either from the Renaissance took about 16 minutes.

Warrior is a small park, with concrete slab spaces and no trees. A 45 foot RV could fit in some of the spaces, but the tow car would have to park on the grass or in parking down the row. The owner told us she couldn't accommodate as many as 15 RVs because most of her spaces were committed to long term residents. She immediately recommended Cherry Hill. Although Warrior is not suitable for group dancer activities, it may work for a few who prefer to stay on their own.

Next we visited Cherry Hill. Like Warrior, it's a very old property. There were many mobile homes, some very old and some new. Periodically they remove the oldest homes and either install new ones or convert to RV spaces, so the RV spaces are scattered around the park. The interior streets are concrete, with concrete pad for car parking at each site. Sites are grass with gravel under part of the RV. Sites seem pretty level. There are only a few pull-through sites, but the back-in sites are typically very long. A few are so long you could park two RVs lengthwise. Sites are also wide and grassy. There are some old trailers, some newer 5th wheels, and some motor homes (even saw a Winnebago Tour, with lots of elbow room). There are mature trees disbursed through the neighborhood. Sites are all full hookup with 30 and 50 amp. Their website claims 132 RV sites but quite a few have long term (several months) residents, so early reservations are important. As late as March would probably be ok, but the earlier the better. We saw evidence of some families in the park (playground, some small bikes parked at patios, school bus stop). Rate for back-in sites is \$35/night (\$31.50 with Good Sam or military discount). Weekly rate is \$210 (Good Sam doesn't allow discount for weekly). Campground is located along the river and there is a pleasant walking path along the river that supposedly goes for 5 miles. There is free Tingo wifi, a nice laundry room, and swimming pool. The park is pet friendly except they don't allow pit bull, rottweiler, doberman, chow or other danger dog breeds. A RR track runs through the middle of the park! Supposedly the train only runs after about 10:00am and before about 6:00pm and never on weekends. A review we read said they saw only one train during a three-day stay. There is an excellent "party room" with chairs and adjacent kitchen that we could use in evenings for socializing. The manager, Dora, seemed very pleasant and accommodating. Website: cherryhillmhc.com; Phone: 918-446-9342. Reservations must be made by phone, and no deposit is required.

Mingo is the closest park to the Renaissance, a short distance from Rt 169, straight north of the Renaissance, about 8 miles away. Our drive there from the Renaissance took about 13 minutes, only a couple minutes shorter than to Cherry Hill because of some stoplights near the park. Mingo is also an old property. We spoke with the owner, who said that many of their sites were occupied by long term residents who worked in the area, usually for several months at a time. For a group as large as 20 RVs reservations as early as possible would be important, although he considered February or March to be early enough for July camping. He showed us on his map which areas would be the typical sites he would put us in if we came (other areas of the park are entirely long term residents). All sites are back-in, but he holds some opposites open to convert to pull-through. All sites are full hookup, with 30 and 50 amp. The interior streets are paved, and sites are grass with gravel under part of the RV. Sites seem pretty level. The area he pointed us toward has long sites, sufficient for big rigs, but they are all narrow. Many of those sites had wooden privacy fences between sites, and you'd have to be careful backing in. We saw a couple 5th wheels with slides on both sides - clearance to the fence on the door side was only about 3 feet and you'd have to turn sideways to walk along the other side. The privacy fences are mainly to separate your stuff - they were about 6 feet tall, and your windows are above that. You'll want to get along with your neighbors. We saw a couple Class A's and some larger 5th wheels, but the vast majority of the sites were occupied by small, mostly very old and very well-used trailers. The atmosphere we felt was like a "work camp". The surrounding neighborhood is industrial, but the park is surrounded by chain link fence for security. Walking the dogs could take place inside the park. There are some mature trees, but not between the RVs. They have cable tv, free Tingo wifi, and free ice. The owner said the city prohibits all campfires within the limits (applies to all three parks we visited). They have a nice laundry room, with a picnic table, a pool table, and a small sitting area with couches that would be available for evening get-togethers, but would be also available to others since it is the laundry room. It was interesting that the managers at both Warrior and Cherry Hill told us that a number of campers had come to their place after staying a night or two at Mingo with complaints that some of the other Mingo campers were noisy and rowdy. Rate is \$40/night (\$36 with Good Sam discount), or \$205/week. Website: mingorvpark.com; Phone: 918-832-8824.

After visiting and discussing with several other dancer campers, we strongly favor Cherry Hill for our stay during the Roundalab and ICBDA conventions. It's not among the best parks we've stayed in, but for us it's the best Tulsa has to offer reasonably near the Renaissance. The other two parks we visited are not terrible and may be a good fit some dancers, but group socializing will take place at Cherry Hill during the dance events.