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Tasty Eats and Views on the Riverfront: The Taste of River North

Tasty Eats and Nice Views on the Riverfront: The Taste of River North

With its relaxing atmosphere, the [Taste of River North](#) is the perfect place to unwind after a long week. Different food and drink options as well as other booths awaited event goers from July 19 through 21 at Ward Park in River North. As they sipped on their Chicago-based beer, heard the swell of familiar tunes by the energized bands and felt the breeze from the river, it felt like a weekend in the city.





The event's tents formed in a T-shape, with the main stage at the entrance. It was at the middle of the T and made it easy to navigate. There were a lot of people there enjoying themselves but it was not difficult to get anywhere and the lines weren't too long for each tent. One event goer said, "The music is good. It's not super crowded. It's spread out really nicely."

Tastes

I sampled some of the food items and was impressed. I was not disappointed by any of the things I tried. They all had a unique flavor and were the right size for a taste. The first thing I tried was the pulled chicken en mole taco from [Taco Joint](#). It was tangy, juicy and had a sweet taste.



Another thing I sampled was the elotes from [Moe's Cantina](#). It hit the spot with its queso and hints of chili pepper and lime. Next was the maple glazed pulled pork on a chipotle profiterole from [Kinzie Chophouse](#). It tasted like a meaty pancake sandwich, sweet yet with nice texture. The most interesting thing I had was the watermelon and feta salad from [Stout Barrel House and Galley](#). I say interesting because I didn't know that odd combination could go together so well. The watermelon was refreshing and the feta added nice flavor.

Some of the most popular drinks were Goose Island's 312 and Green Line. 312 is a popular local favorite and has a lighter taste. Green line was more bitter. Mexican Sangria from Moe's Cantina was also popular. I'm not usually a fan of wine, but it was cold and quenched my thirst on the hot day.

Surroundings

Going towards the river, it seemed like the Taste was divided into three sections. One part was near the main stage and entrance, another was towards the back with seating and drinks, the third was the leftmost area of Ward Park and a view of the riverfront. The main stage was sunny and lively with the energizing music of [Rod Tuffcurls and the Bench Press](#) and their funky socks and fun songs like "Hold On" by Wilson Phillips and "I Believe I Can Fly" by R. Kelly.

The seating area was shaded by trees and had people talking and relaxing, eating some homemade chips and guacamole from Taco Joint or sipping on their beers/Sangrias. The third area in Ward Park had swings, activity tents and a kids zone stage. The park also had vendors for dresses, candles, jewelry and refreshments, as well as an area for kids and adults to hula hoop. One of the dress vendors had boutique-style clothes, while the other had more festival-like woven clothing. This area was not as loud as the main stage and gave people the chance to lay in the grass or sit in a lawn chair as they admire the river with the ducks swimming and boats passing by. There was also a more intimate stage with a duet singing with an acoustic guitar. This was a good environment to let kids run around and play and give people who want less excitement a place to relax.

Overall

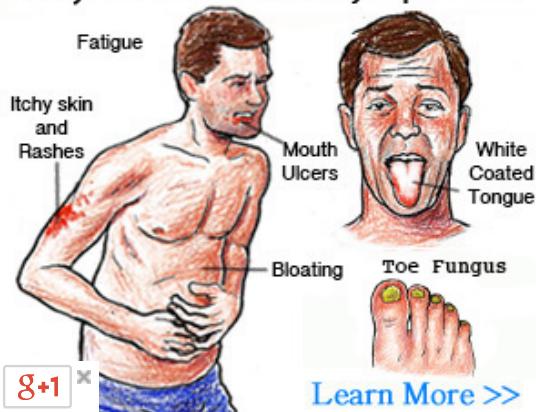
The Taste of River North was able to cater to all different age groups with its choices in food, music and kids area with a playground and activities.

Someone who attended said there were more families than in the past and there were less vendors. "But it doesn't matter how many vendors there are as long as there's good food," she said.

It was also a dog friendly environment with a dog activity fun center and plenty of dogs walking with their owners. It gave it a come-one-come-all environment to the event.

People were dancing and trying different types of food as well as relaxing and spending time with friends and family. Another event goer said, "I thought it was going to be boring and crowded. It was a pleasant surprise."

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