



# Allentown, Pennsylvania

Allentown, Pennsylvania, was founded by William Allen, who originally named his city Northampton. Later, it was renamed in his honor. The Liberty Bell was secretly hidden in Allentown during the Revolutionary War.

The following museums are located in Allentown: the Allentown Art Museum; Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum; Liberty Bell Shrine Museum in Zion's Church, where the Liberty Bell was hidden; America On Wheels, which displays examples of over-the-road transportation; Da Vinci Science Center; and Museum of Indian Culture, which provides information about the Lenape (also known as "Delaware") and other Northeastern Woodland Indian cultures.

Live performances are available at the Civic Theatre, which features Broadway-style stage shows, and the historic Symphony Hall, which offers various musical and dance presentations. Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre Festival offers productions of Broadway musicals with professional artistic staff in the Dorothy Hess Baker or Paul C. Empie Theatre. Children's musicals are performed in the Studio Theatre in the Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance.

## ALLENTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS

Allentown's three historic districts, Old Allentown, Old Fairgrounds, and West Park, are located near the city's hospitals. Row houses in Italianate, Queen Anne, and East Lake styles are dominant in Old Allentown, which is in the downtown area. The Façade Restoration Program provides single-family homeowners with grants to return the front exterior of their properties to their original historic charm. West Park and Old Fairgrounds have mostly twin houses. West Park, the newest historic district in the city and the first outside of the center city area, is centered around and named after the city's first park, West Park. The homes in this district are built in the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles. The West End Theater District is centered around the historic Civic Theater and is close to Muhlenberg College. This neighborhood, one of the first streetcar suburbs, is dominated by single-family detached homes. The Estates at Trexler Park is a newer neighborhood that features large houses on large lots and is located near Trexler Park and the Allentown Golf Course.

The city has little available land for new growth. New housing in Allentown consists primarily of infill houses, which have been built in established neighborhoods on land that had previously been undeveloped or underdeveloped, or loft conversions. The 18 town homes that comprise the Townes at Trexler Square are an example of new infill housing. Allentown's loft conversions are mainly rentals; Farr Lofts is a converted shoe store and factory with 20 apartments, and the P&P Mill Building is a red-brick former silk mill with 64 apartments.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Allentown has 2,000 acres of parks and provides recreational opportunities that include bike paths, hiking trails, golf courses, swimming pools, ball fields and courts, and rivers and streams for fishing. The Old-Fashioned Garden and the Rose Garden in the Cedar Beach Park contain more than 100 varieties of roses, water plants, and many other flowers, with peak bloom seasons in the spring and fall. Mayfair Festival of the Arts is an



annual event in Cedar Beach Park. West Park is home to more than 200 species of trees and hosts band concerts throughout the summer. Trexler Memorial Park is an English-style passive recreation park. Lehigh Parkway has the primary running and biking trails along the Lehigh Creek.

Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom is a large amusement and water park located within the city's boundaries.

Allentown is also home to the Lehigh Valley IronPigs (baseball) and Philadelphia Force (softball).

## EDUCATION

The Allentown School District serves approximately 18,000 students in 22 educational facilities: 16 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 2 high schools. The high schools offer academies for students with particular interests in the arts, health science, pre-engineering/applied science, law and law enforcement, and information technology. The Lehigh Career & Technical Institute prepares high school students for careers in numerous technical fields. In addition, the district has alternative programs for students with at-risk or behavioral problems.

The area of the city west of Cedar Crest Boulevard is served by the schools of the Parkland School District. Approximately 640 students attend the Parkland elementary school that is located in Allentown.

Opportunities for higher education are available at Muhlenberg College, a private 4-year college, and Cedar Crest College, a private 4-year college for women. Lehigh Carbon Community College and Pennsylvania School of Business offer associate's degrees and diplomas.

## HEALTH CARE

Allentown is served by approximately 1,100 acute-care hospital beds located in four hospitals. In addition, the city has a state psychiatric facility (which is scheduled to close this year) and a rehabilitation facility.

### CITY STATS

2007

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| City Population  | 106,913  |
| Metropolitan Statistical Area                                    | 802,496  |
| Per Capita Personal Income, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA (MSA) | \$37,037 |