Riverside, California, became the center of the state’s citrus industry after the planting of the first navel orange trees in the early 1870s. One of the original trees, known as the Parent Washington Navel Orange Tree, still stands in Riverside’s Magnolia Center neighborhood.

Riverside Metropolitan Museum exhibits cultural and natural history and is responsible for 3 historic sites: the main building, which is a former post office; Heritage House, which is a 1891 Victorian house depicting 19th century life; and the National Historic Landmark Harada House, which was home to a Japanese family and depicts their struggles with discrimination from their arrival in 1905 through their internment during World War 2. The Mission Inn is a functioning hotel and a museum with a diverse collection that ranges from art to aviation to citrus culture and is also a National Historic Landmark. Other museums include the Riverside Art Museum; March Field Air Museum, which exhibits over 70 historic aircraft; Riverside Community Arts Association, which promotes the works of its artist members; and the Sherman Indian Museum, which is located in the Sherman Indian High School and features traditional Native American art and history.

The Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts is located on the campus of the University of California, Riverside and provides exhibition space to the California Museum of Photography and Sweeney Art Gallery in the renovated Rouse Building, an 1895 department store. At La Sierra University, the World Museum of Natural History contains displays of amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles, and the Brandtler Gallery exhibits professional and student art.

The Fox Performing Art Center is home to the Riverside County Philharmonic and features Broadway shows and national touring performers. The California Riverside Ballet, Riverside Children’s Theatre, Performance Riverside, and Riverside Community Players produce shows with local talent.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Riverside has a strong network of neighborhoods. Downtown Riverside includes many historic neighborhoods and newer condominiums and apartments. The Evergreen Quarter Historic District features primarily one- and two-story, single-family residences and duplexes representing architectural styles from the 1880s to the 1930s—including Queen Anne, American Foursquare, Craftsman, Spanish Colonial Revival, Mission Revival, and Classical Revival—and some architectural styles of the 1950s. The primarily one- and two-story, single-family houses built in the Colony Heights Historic District include the popular styles of the early decades of the 20th century, such as Craftsman, Turn-of-the-Century, and Period Revival. Both of these neighborhoods feature mature street trees planted within the parkway and historic pedestrian streetlights. Most of the historic homes in the Mount Rubidoux Historic District were constructed between 1903 and 1935 in one of three styles: Mediterranean Revival or Craftsman, which emphasized indoor-outdoor living, or Period Revival (non-Mediterranean). Heritage Square Historic District houses were built primarily between 1880 and 1920 in French Second Empire. Victorian, Stick, Shingle, Queen Anne, Eastlake, Mission Revival, Classical Revival, and Craftsman styles. Adjacent to downtown Riverside, the Wood Streets Historic District neighborhoods—most with names including “wood” or named for various woods—were built in the late 1910s through the 1920s and consist of single-family homes in Craftsman, California Bungalow, Tudor Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, Pueblo Revival, and Mission Revival styles.

Riverside’s newer neighborhoods include Arlington Heights, which was built between 1961 and 1980. This neighborhood is primarily agricultural, with most homes built on multi-acre lots. Mission Grove consists primarily of single-family homes built in the 1990s and is located adjacent to Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park. The neighborhood also has some condominiums and apartments. Orangecrest is a master-planned community of single-family homes that have similar architecture styles and are built on streets with cul-de-sacs and long curves. The neighborhood is located in former orange groves. Home construction began in the 1990s but exploded during the early 2000s.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Riverside has 51 parks with 14 community centers and 7 pools. Other park amenities include volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts; softball, baseball, and multiuse fields; and playgrounds. Fairmount Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and features a bandshell; basketball and tennis courts; playground; rose gardens; Lake Evans, Brown Lake, and Fairmount Lake; fishing; a golf course; lawn bowling green; barbecues; and a restored historic boathouse with rental pedal boats. Hunt Park and Bobby Bonds Park have skateboard facilities, among their other amenities. Carlson Park and Riverwalk Dog Park are off-leash dog parks.

California Citrus State Historic Park tells the story of the citrus industry and its role in the history of California. The trees in this park continue to produce high-quality fruits.

University of California, Riverside Botanic Gardens is a living plant museum with more than 3,500 plant species from around the world. Castle Park is an amusement park located in Riverside.

EDUCATION

Riverside Unified School District serves approximately 42,000 students in 31 elementary schools, 7 middle schools, and 7 high schools. The district offers a virtual school for grades 3–12 that provides a blended online/classroom experience. Dual language (English and Spanish) programs are available at 2 elementary schools and accelerated learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are available at a middle school.

Riverside offers many opportunities for higher education. The University of California, Riverside has 80 bachelor degree programs, 46 master's degree programs, 38 doctorate programs, and 17 California teaching and administrative credential programs. The University of California, Riverside School of Medicine will open in 2013. Affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, La Sierra University has bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs. California Baptist University is a private Christian university with undergraduate and graduate programs, including a school of nursing.

Riverside City College, which is a community college with options that include associate's degree programs and career certificates, also has a school of nursing. Mission Career College and Kaplan College-Riverside offers career focused educational programs.

HEALTH CARE

Riverside is served by 3 hospitals with a total of 781 acute care beds.

CITY STATS

| City Population | 297,841 |
| Metropolitan Statistical Area Population | 4,143,113 |
| Per Capita Personal Income, Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA MSA | $29,680 |

Photograph courtesy of City of Riverside.