Dallas, Texas, was founded in 1841 by John Neely Bryan, who had first considered establishing a trading post but instead created a town named in honor of his friend. The site was the easiest place to cross the Trinity River and also near the proposed Preston Trail that would link North and South Texas.

The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza chronicles the assassination and legacy of President John F. Kennedy and interprets the Dealey Plaza National Historic Landmark District and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza. The museum is located on the sixth and seventh floors of the Texas School Book Depository where evidence implicating employee Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination of the president was found.

The George W. Bush Presidential Center is scheduled to open in 2013 on the campus of Southern Methodist University and will feature a Presidential Library and Institute.


Dallas has many venues for the performing arts. AT&T Performing Arts Center is home to the Lexus Broadway Series, Texas International Theatrical Arts Society’s contemporary dance and music performances, the Dallas Opera, Dallas Theater Center, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Texas Ballet Theater, Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico, and other touring and community performances. The Meyerson Symphony Center is home to the Dallas Wind Symphony, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Children’s Chorus of Greater Dallas, and Turtle Creek Chorale. The newly opened Dallas City Performance Hall presents cultural performances and events by small and midsize cultural organizations, including the Orchestra of New Spain, Metropolitan Winds, and Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra. Music Hall at Fair Park is home to the Dallas Summer Musicals and seasonal performances by the Dallas Opera and Fort Worth Dallas Ballet. Gexa Energy Pavilion, Band Shell, and Cotton Bowl Stadium are outdoor facilities also located in Fair Park. American Airlines Center hosts concerts and sporting events. Other local performing groups include the Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, Dallas Children’s Theater, Kitchen Dog Theater, Theatre Three, Undermain Theatre, Pegasus Theatre, Pocket Sandwich Theatre, and Fine Arts Chamber Players.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Dallas is undergoing a renaissance, with many historic buildings converted into residential lofts. In addition to the lofts, condominiums and apartments in high rises, most with one or two bedrooms, are available.

Dallas has many residential neighborhoods that offer various housing options. The Uptown neighborhood features townhouses and high- and low-rise condominiums and apartments built within the past 10 to 20 years, with additional new developments under construction. The State Thomas historic district features mostly frame houses in Italianate, Queen Anne, and Vernacular styles. Houses in the Oak Lawn neighborhood are bigger and on larger lots than in neighboring Uptown, although they tend to be a bit older and less expensive. Most of the real estate in Deep Ellum consists of urban lofts, high rises, condominiums, and townhouses. Houses in Lake Highlands were mostly built in the 1970s, but the neighborhood has been renovated to include large, modern homes. Oak Cliff boasts panoramic views of the downtown Dallas skyline and rolling hills of Texas. Located near downtown, The M Streets neighborhood features Tudor-style homes on streets beginning with the letter “M.” Lakewood also features Tudor-style homes that were built in the 1930s through the 1960s. Modern and eclectic homes designed in French, Mediterranean, Italian, English, and Spanish Colonial styles are found on large lots in the Preston Hollow neighborhood, which is also home to President George W. Bush.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Dallas has 374 neighborhood, community and regional parks that feature 258 tennis courts, 183 playgrounds, 128 soccer fields, 321 multipurpose fields, 87 softball diamonds, 17 community pools, 15 sandlots, 47 recreation centers, 12 football fields, 30 baseball diamonds, 6 golf courses, 5 tennis centers, 7 spray grounds, 17 lakes, and 4 off-leash dog parks.

Fair Park was established for an exposition to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Texas’s independence from Mexico and is the site of the annual State Fair. The park’s certified organic Texas Discovery Gardens features native plants and plant species from other regions of the world that have adapted to the climate and soils of North Texas and also houses the

<table>
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<th>CITY STATS</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
<td>1,197,816</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Capita Personal Income, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX, MSA</td>
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Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House & Insectarium. Several museums, performance facilities, and the Cotton Bowl stadium, which annually hosts major college football games, are also located in the park.

White Rock Lake is home to the gardens of the Dallas Arboretum. The historic DeGolyer Estate and the Camp Estate are also located in the park as is the White Rock Lake Museum that can be found inside the Bath House Cultural Center.

Cedar Ridge Preserve is a natural habitat featuring trails; native trees, grasses and wildflowers; butterfly gardens; limited picnic areas; and wild mammals, birds, insects, and reptiles.

Other attractions include the Dallas Heritage Village, Dallas Zoo, and Dallas World Aquarium.

Professional sport teams in the Dallas area include the Dallas Cowboys (football), FC Dallas (soccer), the Dallas Mavericks (basketball), the Texas Rangers (baseball), and the Dallas Stars (ice hockey). In addition, the city hosts rodeos and car races.

**EDUCATION**

Dallas Independent School District educates more than 157,000 students in Dallas and the surrounding communities of Addison, Balch Springs, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Highland Park, Hutchins, Mesquite, Seagoville, University Park, and Wilmer. The district operates 155 elementary schools, 32 middle schools, 32 high schools, and 8 alternative secondary schools. Traditional and magnet school options are available for middle- and high-school students.

Portions of Dallas are served by the Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Duncanville, Garland, Highland Park, Mesquite, Plano, and Richardson Independent School Districts.

Dallas has many resources for higher education, including public and private universities. The University of North Texas at Dallas offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, which is located in Dallas, is one of four University of Texas medical schools. The UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the UT Southwestern School of Health Professions are also in Dallas.

Most of the private schools have religious affiliations. Southern Methodist University, Dallas Baptist University, and Criswell College, offer undergraduate and graduate programs and professional studies. Paul Quinn College (a historically black college), Dallas Christian College, and the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas, are four-year liberal arts colleges. Specialized education is available in design, fashion, media arts, and culinary programs from the Art Institute of Dallas and in merchandising and design from Wade College.

Advanced degrees in chiropractic education are available from Parker University, in dentistry from Texas A & M Health Science Center Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, and in theology and ministry from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Three of the Dallas County Community Education District’s seven community colleges are located within the city. El Centro, Mountain View, and Richland Colleges each offer general education as well as specific focus.

**HEALTH CARE**

Dallas is served by twelve adult and pediatric acute care hospitals with more than 5,500 beds. The city also has various specialty hospitals, including heart and vascular, cancer, rehabilitation, long-term acute care facilities, and specialized pediatric hospitals. The Dallas VA Medical Center provides many services including long-term care to veterans.