The first settlement that would later become Trenton, the capital of New Jersey, was established in 1679 by Quakers who left England seeking religious freedom in North America. By 1719, the town was known as “Trent-town,” after William Trent, one of its leading landholders; this name was subsequently shortened to “Trenton.” During the Revolutionary War, the city was the site of George Washington’s first military victory when the Continental Army crossed the Delaware River to Trenton and defeated the Hessian troops on December 26, 1776. After the war, Trenton served briefly as the national capital and was considered for the site of the permanent capital; however, the southern states favored a location south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

The Old Barracks Museum is a State and National Landmark. Built in 1758, the Barracks was the Hessian soldiers’ base during the Battle of Trenton and was previously used during the French and Indian Wars. The Trenton battle monument commemorates the Continental Army’s victory at the first Battle of Trenton.

The New Jersey State House is the second oldest capitol in continuous use in the country and has been the home of New Jersey’s executive and legislative branches of government since 1792.

The New Jersey State Museum contains exhibits of fine arts, cultural history, and natural history and a planetarium. The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie is an 1848 Italianate villa with changing exhibits of fine art. The William Trent House, which is the oldest house in Trenton, is a designated National Landmark and served as the residence for three governors. The Alexander Douglass House was the site of Washington’s council of war prior to the Battle of Princeton. Boehm Porcelain and Cysib Porcelain operate museums that display their porcelain artwork.

The New Jersey World War II Memorial is comprised of a sculpture of “Lady Victory” surrounded by six service markers and two story walls representing the six branches of the military. Trenton has several performing arts venues. Constructed to honor the men and women of Trenton who died in World War I, the War Memorial’s Patriots Theater hosts the Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra, ballet, opera, comedy, and jazz, classical, rock, country, gospel, and folk performers. The Sun National Bank Center hosts major concerts, sports, and other family-oriented events. Passage Theatre Company performs at the Mill Hill Playhouse.

### Neighborhoods

Trenton’s downtown area contains residential, governmental, and commercial real estate. Once the site of the area’s first grist mill and a defensive location in the Second Battle of Trenton, the Mill Hill Neighborhood transitioned into a neighborhood characterized by two- or three-story brick row houses decorated in simplified late Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, or Eastlake styles. Most homes were built between 1850 and 1895, but some infill homes date from the 2000s.

Cadwalader Heights is one of Trenton’s oldest neighborhoods and is the only residential neighborhood laid out by landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed the adjacent park. Single-family homes in Tudor, Georgian, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles are located on curved, tree-lined streets; garages placed in the back of the houses are accessed by rear alleys. Most houses in the neighborhood were built before 1897.

Also part of the original Cadwalader estate, Berkeley Square was originally promoted as a residential suburb with restrictive covenants setting a minimum housing cost and set back, with requirements for “artistic architecture” and with landscaped lots considerably larger than typical urban lots. Most of the houses are 2.5 stories high constructed in styles that include Victorian Eclectic, Queen Anne, Stick, Italian Villa, Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Tudor, Romanesque, and Bungalow. This neighborhood is adjacent to Cadwalader Heights but closer to the Delaware River.

Colonial Revival style and its Dutch Colonial variant are the dominant architectural styles in the Fisher-Richey-Perdicaris Historic District. Tudor Revival, Mission, and Craftsman style influences also are present, as well as some Queen Anne motifs. Although their lots are quite small due to the constricted “in-town” location, the sighting and landscaping of the houses establish a suburban atmosphere in this neighborhood that was developed between 1870 and 1940 along the Delaware River.

### Parks and Recreation

The city manages over 40 parks and recreational areas with amenities that include tennis and basketball courts, baseball and softball diamonds, playgrounds, community centers, and swimming pools.

Mill Hill Park is the largest public open space in downtown. Each December, the site is host to the annual Patriots Week reenactment of the Battle of Trenton. In the warmer months, Mill Hill Park is home to Trenton’s farmers market.

Trenton’s first city park, Cadwalader Park, was designed by the landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted. The park features a deer paddock, a stream, a small lake, and hundreds of trees. In addition, an arm of the historic Delaware-Raritan Canal flows through the park.

Located on the border between Trenton and Hamilton, Grounds for Sculpture is a 35-acre sculpture garden with 250 contemporary, large-scale, outdoor works. There are also two indoor exhibition buildings, a visitors’ center, a water garden, and an arboretum. The Trenton Thunder AA baseball team plays at the Arm & Hammer Park.

### Education

The Trenton Public School District educates over 13,000 students in 15 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 2 high schools. The district also operates an alternative middle school and an alternative high school.

Thomas Edison State College, a public institution of higher education located in Trenton, is designed specifically for adults and offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates. The College of New Jersey, Rider University, and Princeton University are located near Trenton, as is Mercer County Community College.

### Health Care

Trenton is served by Capital Health Regional Medical Center with 271 licensed beds and St. Francis Medical Center with 238 licensed beds. Capital Health Medical Center—Hopewell and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton are located nearby. The 400-bed Trenton Psychiatric Hospital is situated on the border of Trenton and West Trenton.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CITY STATS</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
<td>84,308</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Capita Personal Income, Trenton, NJ, MSA</td>
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