Urbana, Illinois, was named in 1833 for Urbana, Ohio, the previous hometown of Illinois State Senator John Vance. The construction of the railroad in 1854 through “West Urbana,” which would eventually become known as Champaign, and the establishment in 1867 of the Illinois Industrial University, later the University of Illinois, contributed to the growth of the Urbana-Champaign area.

Located in Urbana, the University of Illinois Spurlock Museum exhibits represent peoples of Ancient Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, and Africa; Ancient Greece and Rome; East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania; Europe; and American Indian Cultures of North and South America. Presenting a range of cultures and modes of artistic expression, the Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion contains the university’s collection of over 10,000 works of art dating from 4000 BCE to the present.

The University of Illinois Arboretum houses 160 acres of plant collections with multiple gardens, a scenic walkway, the Japan House, and ponds.

The Champaign County Historical Museum, Orpheum Children’s Science Museum, William M. Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College, and Sousa Archives and Center for American Music (part of the University of Illinois Library and University Archives) are located in Champaign.

Urbana is home to the University’s Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, which consists of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, Colwell Playhouse, Studio Theatre, Amphitheatre, and Stage 5. Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra is the resident professional orchestra at the Center, which is also home to student and faculty productions and concerts.

Other performing arts venues include the Station Theatre, which is home of the Celebration Company, and Parkland Theatre, which serves Parkland College theater students and others in the community.

The Virginia Theatre, State Farm Center, and Memorial Stadium are located in Champaign.

Presented annually in the spring, the Boneyard Arts Festival is a four-day event that showcases the visual and performing arts of Champaign County in venues in Urbana, the University of Illinois, Champaign, and other county locales.

Neighborhoods

Urbana’s downtown area is primarily commercial and surrounded by residential areas. The Joseph W. Royer Arts and Architecture District coincides with the oldest part of Urbana—its historic downtown and the immediately adjacent residential neighborhoods—and contains the greatest concentration of historically and architecturally significant buildings in town. Many homes in Historic East Urbana date from the late 1800s through the early 1900s and are situated on brick streets lined by mature trees. Located between the University of Illinois and downtown Urbana, the West Urbana neighborhood has small affordable homes as well as large historic properties on tree-lined streets, including a few remaining brick roads. Housing styles include bungalows, Foursquares, Prairies, Dutch Revivals, and Victorians. The neighborhood was once viewed as a “faculty ghetto” because of its proximity to the university. South Urbana features ranches and other mid-century, modern-style homes built in the 1950s through the 1970s.

Urbana has many newer neighborhoods. Myra Ridge and South Ridge are two subdivisions in southeast Urbana. Homes in Myra Ridge date from the 1980s and include ranch and traditional two-story styles with mature trees that line winding roads. The oldest homes in South Ridge were built in early 2000, and new construction continues. Construction in Beringer Commons began in the 1990s and features single- and two-story homes that surround the 4 lakes in this subdivision; a few streets have lots available for purchase. The Stone Creek subdivision consists of custom-built, contemporary ranch and two-story homes situated on the public Stone Creek golf course. The oldest homes in this neighborhood date from the early 2000s, and new construction is ongoing.

Health Care

The following hospitals are located in Urbana: Carle Foundation Hospital—393 licensed beds (260 medical/surgical, 20 pediatric, 38 intensive care, 35 obstetrics/gynecology, 25 neonatal, 15 rehabilitation) Presence Covenant Medical Center—210 licensed beds (110 medical/surgical, 6 pediatric, 15 intensive care, 24 obstetrics/gynecology, 30 acute medical illness, 25 rehabilitation) Pavilion Behavioral Health System with 69 licensed beds for acute mental illness.

City Stats

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
<td>42,044</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<td>Per capita personal income Champaign-Urbana, IL, MSA</td>
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