Louisville, Kentucky, is located along the Ohio River on the Kentucky and Indiana border. The city was founded by George Rogers Clark in 1778 and was named for King Louis XVI of France in appreciation of his assistance during the Revolutionary War. Recognized by the 120-foot-tall World’s Biggest Baseball Bat leaning against the building, the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory is located on Museum Row and offers tours. Clifton, another preservation district, expanded over a long period. Known for its White Blossom Boulevard, traditional two-story styles, with an occasional ranch-style; sculptures decorate homes and other amenities. Homes in the Springhurst subdivision are primarily expanding golf course communities of Polo Fields and Lake Forest offer luxury and Cherokee Park amidst a variety of housing styles.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Metro Parks consists of 235 parks and amenities that include 12 community centers, 2 art centers, 2 senior centers, 9 public golf courses, skate park, playgrounds, swimming and wading pools, basketball and tennis courts, baseball and football fields, hockey rinks, horseshoe racing, and more than 30 miles of bike lanes. The Louisville Community Boat house provides canoeing, kayaking, and rowing opportunities and a site to launch and store boats. Eva Bandman Park features a cyclocross venue, which combines different types of bicycle racing elements.

The historic Churchill Downs Racetrack hosts the annual Kentucky Derby in May and other horse races during the year. The Kentucky Derby Museum follows every stage of a thoroughbred’s life and contains artifacts and library materials covering the history and traditions of the Derby. The Oaks Garden Terrace permanent stable houses the resident miniature horse and a thoroughbred. The Kentucky Derby Festival begins in the weeks preceding the Derby and includes 70 events, such as Thunder Over Louisville (a massive fireworks show), a marathon, steamboat race, fashion show, other sporting events, and concerts.

The Louisville Zoological Gardens exhibits more than 1,500 animals in natural settings representing zoogeographical areas, specific habitat types, and special education areas. Louisville is famous for bourbon. The Urban Bourbon Trail, which is centered in the downtown with stops in other neighborhoods, includes historic hotel properties that served Al Capone and F. Scott Fitzgerald, as well as new establishments. Louisville Bats is the city’s professional baseball team. Valhalla Golf Club is home to the Ryder Cup, the PGA Championship, and the Senior PGA Championship.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Situated within the Watterson Expressway loop, downtown Louisville is bisected by an interstate highway. Mixed-use, multi-family developments are located on the east side of the highway near many of the city’s hospitals and on the west side near the Ohio River. Also within the loop, the Old Louisville preservation district consists of about 48 city blocks and features narrow lots with large homes built in Richardsonian Romanesque, Italian Renaissance Revival, and Colonial Revival styles and smaller homes in Queen Anne and Craftsman styles. Clifton, another preservation district, expanded over a long period in the 1850s; houses range from one to three stories and reflect such architectural styles as shotgun, American Four Square, Italianate, Queen Anne, Tudor Gothic, and Bungalow Craftsman. Crescent Hill was developed between 1890 and 1920 and features a mix of Victorian, Bungalow, Foursquare, and Craftsman housing styles. Architectural styles in the Highlands neighborhoods include Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Tudor. The Cherokee Triangle preservation district offers rolling topography and Cherokee Park amidst a variety of housing styles.

Outside the Watterson Expressway loop, Norton Commons is a new traditional neighborhood built to resemble an old-fashioned urban community. Houses are situated on small lots with front porches and a village center. The large and expanding golf course communities of Polo Fields and Lake Forest offer luxury homes and other amenities. Homes in the Springhurst subdivision are primarily traditional two-story styles, with an occasional ranch-style; sculptures decorate its White Blossom Boulevard.