Located in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains, Fayetteville, Arkansas was founded in 1828 when pioneers settled near a spring at the base of Mount Sequoyah. The area had been a hunting ground for the Osage Native Americans and later inhabited by the Cherokee. Originally named Washington, the city was renamed Fayetteville in 1829 to avoid confusion with Washington in a neighboring county. Two county commissioners chose to rename the new city for their hometown of Fayetteville, Tennessee.

Fayetteville has several museums. The Joy Pratt Markham Gallery presents exhibits of works by both emerging and internationally recognized artists. The Arkansas Air Museum has a collection of aircraft from the 1920s through the 1940s. The Clinton House Museum was a 1930s English-style bungalow that was the first home and wedding site of President Bill and Hillary Clinton. The Ozark Military Museum has a large collection of military vehicles, aircraft, and artifacts from World War II. The University of Arkansas is the site of the Jerry Jones-Jim Lindsey Hall of Champions, which honors 100 years of Razorback football, and the Tommy Boyer Hall of Champions, which celebrates the University's tradition of baseball, basketball, track and field, and other sports.

Several museums are located in nearby communities. In Bentonville, the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art has a permanent collection that spans 5 centuries of American masterworks ranging from the Colonial era to the current day. The Walmart Visitor’s Center, which is located in Sam Walton’s original Bentonville variety store, traces the origin and growth of Walmart from a small store to a multinational corporation. In Lincoln, the Arkansas Country Doctor Museum honors the achievements of Arkansas country doctors and houses collections of medical instruments from the 1930s. Rogers hosts the Daisy Airgun Museum with its collection of historic and current Daisy airguns, ammunition, and accessories, and the Rogers Historical Museum and the Hawkins House built in 1895. The Shiloh National Military Park is a regional history museum.

The Walton Arts Center is a center for the performing arts and entertainment and features Broadway shows, a jazz series, children’s and family programming, dance, music and theatrical performances, and community-based events that include productions by the University of Arkansas and TheatreSquared, which is Northwest Arkansas’ only year-round professional theatre. The Symphony of Northwest Arkansas presents classical and pops performances in partnership with the Walton Arts Center.

Concerts and events are also held at the University of Arkansas’ Bud Walton and Barn Hill Arenas and the Walmart AMP, which is an outdoor concert venue in Rogers.

Arts Live Theatre offers theatre performed by children and youth.

**Neighborhoods**

New construction is ongoing in many areas of Fayetteville, including the downtown, which offers many residential opportunities for community residents and students at the University of Arkansas.

Washington-Willow is a historic neighborhood with homes that date from the 1880s to the 1940s. The neighborhood contains a mix of housing styles, including Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Greek Revival, on lots that vary in size. The Wilson Park neighborhood dates from the 1930 to 1950 period and features housing surrounded by mature trees. Housing in Wilson Park is built primarily in Craftsman and ranch styles, with many homes situated on large lots.

Another older neighborhood, Walker Park features modest bungalows, Craftsman-style homes, shotgun houses, and Victorian-era cottages. Many houses are being demolished with new homes built in their place.

New subdivisions featuring starter homes can be found in west Fayetteville, while those featuring larger homes are found in the eastern and northern sections of the city. The area surrounding the Blessings Golf Club, which is located adjacent to Fayetteville, contains older larger ranch-style homes on large lots. New developments of large, two-story homes are found in the Bellaire Subdivision, which is within the city limits. Custom-built homes in the Clear Creek Subdivision are situated on large lots ranging in size from less than half an acre to 3.3 acres outside of the city.

**Parks and Recreation**

Fayetteville manages 35 parks and 16 natural areas, with amenities that include more than 50 miles of trails, 26 playgrounds, 26 sports fields, 27 pavilions, 7 tennis courts, 4 youth tennis courts, 7 volleyball courts, 3 lakes, a swimming pool, a BMX track, and a skate park.

**Education**

Fayetteville Public Schools educates almost 10,000 students in 8 elementary schools (grades K through 4), 3 elementary school (grades pre-K through 6), 2 middle schools (grades 5 and 6), 2 junior high schools (grades 7 and 8), and 1 high school (grades 9 through 12). The district has an online virtual academy for grades 4 through 8.

Higher education is available at the University of Arkansas, which offers undergraduate, master’s, doctoral, and specialist degree programs as well as graduate certificate programs. The Eleanor Mann School of Nursing offers both undergraduate and graduate nursing programs.

Blue Cliff College has two campus locations that offer trainings in a few health care fields.

**Health Care**

Fayetteville is served by the following health care facilities:

- Physicians’ Specialty Hospital: 20 licensed beds
- Washington Regional Medical Center: 366 licensed beds
- Springwoods Behavioral Health Services: 80 licensed psychiatric beds
- Vantage Point of Northwest Arkansas: 114 licensed psychiatric beds
- HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital: 80 licensed rehabilitation beds
- Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks: 63-bed facility providing various inpatient, outpatient specialty care, and primary care services.

**City Stats 2014**

- City Population: 80,822
- Metropolitan Statistical Area Population: 501,653
- Per Capita Personal Income, Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area: $50,686

Photograph courtesy of Fayetteville Visitors Bureau.