Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is the sixth largest metropolitan area in the United States. First inhabited by the Lenni–Lenape tribes of Native Americans and then claimed by the Dutch until they were ousted by the English, the territory that became Philadelphia and the rest of Pennsylvania was granted by England’s King Charles to William Penn in exchange for a debt owed to Penn’s father. The original city comprised only the area situated between South and Vine Streets and the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, which is currently referred to as Center City.

Historic Philadelphia includes the neighborhoods known as Old City, Independence Mall, and Society Hill. The Liberty Bell and the brick Pennsylvania Statehouse where the Declaration of Independence was signed are located in this area. Other historic sites include Carpenters’ Hall, which hosted the First Continental Congress in 1774; the Second Bank of the United States, which now houses a collection of portraits of prominent early Americans painted by Charles Willson Peale; the U.S. Custom House, which contains historical frescoes, murals, and mosaics; the Betsy Ross House; the Dolley Todd (Madison) House; and Christ Church.


Many performing arts venues are located in Philadelphia. The Kimmel Center is home to the Philadelphia Orchestra and Philly Pops. The Academy of Music (home to the Opera Company of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Ballet), Merriam Theater, Forrest Theatre, and Walnut Street Theatre host various music, dance, and theatrical performances. Other musical venues include Franklin Music Hall, the Theater of Living Arts, Union Transfer, Johnny Brenda’s, The Trocadero, World Café Live, the Tin Angel, International House Philadelphia, and two amphitheaters (Robin Hood Dell East and The Mann Center for the Performing Arts). Additional venues for theatrical performances include the Arden Theatre, the Suzanne Roberts Theatre, The Wilma Theatre, Plays & Players Theatre, Philly Improv Theater, Stagecrafters Theater, Allen’s Lane Arts Center Theatre, Old Academy Players, and Lantern Theater Company at St. Stephen’s Theater.

Neighborhoods

Center City Philadelphia encompasses historic Philadelphia as well as commercial, governmental, and residential activities. Residential neighborhoods, such as Old City, Society Hill, and Queen Village, contain 17th- and 18th-century homes that are interspersed with contemporary townhouses on tree-lined cobblestone streets. These sections of the city contain a concentration of authentic Georgian and Federal architecture. Several high-rise condominium buildings are also located in these areas. Notable historic houses include the Powell House, Physick House, Todd House, and Shippen/Wistar House.

The Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, also in Center City, surrounds the square and has been a desirable, upscale residential neighborhood since its development in the 1800s. Major architects of the 19th and 20th centuries designed the homes and institutions. Although most of the area retains its original design, the area immediately surrounding the square has experienced redevelopment as high-rise apartments and condominiums have replaced the original houses.

Other Center City neighborhoods include Chinatown and Washington Square West, a thriving enclave that includes Midtown Village and the Gayborhood.

Northern Liberties is directly north of Center City. The mix of residential, commercial, industrial, and open space—apparent in almost every block—results from the neighborhood’s artisan and industrial past when laborers lived and worked in close proximity. Much of Northern Liberties’ real estate consists of row homes, although new apartment buildings are also available. Converted industrial buildings have become combined residential/gallery/studio space for local artists.

Primarily a residential neighborhood, Fairmount includes apartment towers, historic industrial buildings converted into apartments and lofts, and row houses in various styles.

Nestled along the banks of the Schuylkill River and the historic Manayunk Canal, Manayunk is designated a National Historic District. Housing types range from single Victorians and early 20th-century row homes to contemporary townhouses and loft apartments.

Although Germantown predated the Revolutionary War and was a battle site, both it and the Chestnut Hill neighborhood flourished during the mid-19th century as streetcar suburbs for middle-class families. Houses range from modest row houses to extensive mansions, as well as architectural landmarks. Historic homes in Germantown include the White House (Deshler–Morris House), which was once President George Washington’s residence; Cliveden; Grumblethorpe; the Grange Estate; and the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion.

Parks and Recreation

Philadelphia’s parks and recreation system provides more than 300 neighborhood parks, recreation centers, and playgrounds; 272 miles of trails; 40 historic sites; 60 community gardens, farms, and orchards; 3 environmental education centers; more than 600 baseball, softball, football, and soccer fields; 74 pools; more than 400 basketball courts; more than 200 tennis courts; 5 ice skating rinks; and 6 golf courses.

Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park system includes the 5 parks designated by

City Stats

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<td>City Population</td>
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<td>Per Capita Personal Income, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington PA-NF-DE-MD, MSA</td>
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William Penn in his vision of Philadelphia: Center Square (located at the center of the street grid) and Northwest, Southwest, Northeast, and Southeast Squares (located in each of the outlying quadrants). Now known as Penn Square, Center Square is the home of Philadelphia's City Hall. This building is topped by the famous statue of William Penn. Franklin Square is home to a carousel, a miniature golf course featuring notable Philadelphia landmarks, a state-of-the-art playground, a restored 1838 marble fountain, and the Living Flame Memorial. In the center of Logan Square is The Swann Memorial Fountain (also known as The Fountain of the Three Rivers), which features a central geyser that gushes more than 50 feet high. Gardens and various sculptures are also located here. Many sculptures adorn Rittenhouse Square. A plaza with a large planter bed, a reflecting pool, trees, gardens, and park benches complete the square, which is the site of annual flower markets and outdoor art exhibitions. In Washington Square, a walkway lined with the national flag and flags that represent the 13 original colonies leads to a memorial to Revolutionary War soldiers. At the feet of a life-size statue of George Washington, a memorial flame lights a sarcophagus that holds the remains of an unknown Revolutionary War soldier.

Beyond the original 5 squares are the East and West Fairmount Parks. These are divided by the Schuylkill River and offer paved paths for cycling, jogging, and walking, dirt trails for hiking and horseback riding; athletic fields; recreational facilities; tennis and basketball courts; and picnic areas. East Fairmount Park is also home to many museums, 8 historic mansions, Robin Hood Dell East, Boathouse Row's 10 rowing club houses, Lloyd Hall (the park's recreation center), and a private social club. West Fairmount Park is home to the Philadelphia Zoo, the Please Touch Museum, the Horticulture Center, the Japanese House and Gardens, the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, and several historic mansions.

Two arboretums are also located within the city: the 55-acre Trails at Awbury Arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Jefferson University, and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Drexel University College of Medicine, Sidney Kimmel Medical College–Thomas Jefferson University, Saint Joseph's University, Temple University, and the University of Pennsylvania. Other institutions that focus on the arts, sciences, or nontraditional programs include The Curtis Institute of Music, Hussian College, Moore College of Art and Design, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Walnut Hill College, Peirce College, University of the Arts, and University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. Many other universities and colleges are located in the surrounding metropolitan area.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine, and Westminster Theological Seminary offer specialized graduate studies.

Two-year colleges include Community College of Philadelphia, Lincoln Technical Institute, and Orleans Technical Institute.

Five medical schools are located in the city: The Perelman School of Medicine–University of Pennsylvania, Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, Drexel University College of Medicine, Sidney Kimmel Medical College–Thomas Jefferson University, and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Health Care

The following acute care hospitals are located in Philadelphia:
Albert Einstein Medical Center: 750 licensed beds
Chestnut Hill Hospital: 48 licensed beds
Eastern Regional Medical Center: 74 licensed beds
Hahnemann University Hospital: 496 licensed beds
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania: 805 licensed beds
Jeanes Hospital: 146 licensed beds
Jefferson Health–Northwest: 464 licensed beds
Kensington Hospital: 45 licensed beds
Mercy Philadelphia Hospital: 157 licensed beds
Nazareth Hospital: 203 licensed beds
Penn Presbyterian Medical Center: 350 licensed beds
Pennsylvania Hospital of University of Pennsylvania Health System: 475 licensed beds
Roxborough Memorial Hospital: 131 licensed beds
Temple University Hospital: 732 licensed beds
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital: 908 licensed beds

The city is also served by the following specialty hospitals:
Belmont Behavioral Hospital: 171 licensed psychiatric beds
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: 546 licensed pediatric beds
Fairmount Behavioral Health Systems: 239 licensed psychiatric beds
Friends Hospital: 192 licensed psychiatric beds
Good Shepherd Penn Partners Specialty Hospital: 38 licensed long-term acute care beds
Haven Behavioral Hospital of Philadelphia: 36 licensed psychiatric beds
Hospital of Fox Chase Cancer Center: 100 licensed specialty beds
Kindred Hospital–Philadelphia: 52 licensed long-term acute care beds
Kindred Hospital South Philadelphia: 58 licensed long-term acute care beds
Kirkbride Center: 25 licensed psychiatric beds
Magee Rehabilitation Hospital: 96 licensed rehabilitation beds
Shriners Hospitals for Children Philadelphia: 49 licensed pediatric beds
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children: 188 licensed pediatric beds
Wills Eye Hospital: 4 specialty licensed beds

The Philadelphia VA Medical Center supports 142 acute care beds and a 135-bed Community Living Center.