



Charlottesville, Virginia



Charlottesville was named in honor of Princess Charlotte, who became queen of England when she married King George III in 1761. In 1819, Thomas Jefferson founded the University of Virginia at a short distance from the town. However, businesses stretched towards the "Academical Village," which shifted the town center and ultimately connected them.

The homes of two presidents are among the many museums in Charlottesville. Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence, designed and built Monticello, a 5,000-acre plantation. James Monroe, the fifth president and author of the Monroe Doctrine, lived in Ash Lawn-Highland, a 550-acre estate. The University of Virginia Art Museum exhibits art that dates from ancient times to the present. The Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia promotes learning about Australian Aboriginal art and culture. Chroma Projects Art Laboratory and McGuffey Art Center feature the work of current artists. Virginia Discovery Museum focuses on children ages 1 to 10 and their families. The city also has many historic markers that commemorate important historic people, places, or events. Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society presents exhibits and programs about local history.

Drama, dance, comedy, music, and performance art are widely available in Charlottesville's venues, such as The Jefferson Theater, the Charlottesville Pavilion, The Southern Café and Music Hall, Paramount Theater, Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center, Municipal Arts Center, and Live Arts. Performances by the Charlottesville & University Symphony Orchestra; The Municipal Band of Charlottesville, Virginia; Ash Lawn Opera Festival; and The Virginia Consort are local favorites.

The University of Virginia summer repertory theater, the Heritage Theatre Festival, performs in the Culbreth Theatre. Also, John Paul Jones Arena hosts concerts, family shows, exhibits, trade shows, and community events on the university campus. Piedmont Virginia Community College also presents art, dance, music, and theater shows in its Dickinson Building.

NEIGHBORHOODS

North Downtown includes the Downtown Mall, which is closed to automobile traffic, and the areas north of the Mall. The Downtown Mall contains a mixed commercial and residential area. North Downtown offers various housing opportunities, including single-family homes, condominiums, and apartments. Many historic homes have been restored and upper stories of commercial buildings have been renovated into apartments. Historic Court Square in the center of North Downtown is the oldest portion of the city of Charlottesville.

Homes in the Barracks/Rugby neighborhood range from large homes on large lots that were constructed primarily in the 1930s to small bungalows on small lots that were built following World War II. In addition, the neighborhood includes some newer areas that were built as planned unit developments with a cohesive design. The Greenbrier neighborhood, originally a suburb, was annexed in the 1960s. This primarily single-family residential neighborhood has many ornate homes on large lots. Johnson Village is suburban in character, primarily consisting of brick single-family detached housing units built during the 1960s. Two new housing developments border Johnson Village: Village Place, which features craftsman-style homes, and Cherry Hill, which contains a mixture of townhomes and single-family homes.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Charlottesville operates 25 parks and shares operation of 3 other parks with Albemarle County. Park amenities include baseball fields, which are available at 7 parks; basketball courts at 12 parks, playgrounds at 13 parks, spray grounds at 3 parks; community garden plots, golf, or tennis courts at 2 parks; and a skate park. Facilities for swimming are available at 3 parks and the Smith Aquatic & Fitness Center. McIntire Park hosts the carnival for the Annual Dogwood Festival, and Washington Park hosts the African-American Cultural Arts Festival. The Rivanna Trail, a system of foot trails in and around the city, starts at Riverview Park and runs through or near many of the parks along the Rivanna River. Dogs are allowed off-leash on designated portions of the Rivanna Trail.

Charlottesville does not have professional sports teams; however, the University of Virginia has 11 men's sports teams and 12 women's sports teams.

EDUCATION

Charlottesville City Schools serve approximately 4,000 students in 6 elementary schools (grades PreK-4), 1 upper elementary school (grades 5-6), 1 middle school (grades 7-8), and 1 high school (grades 9-12). Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center High offers training in the following areas: auto body repair, auto technology, barbering, cosmetology, culinary arts, building trades, masonry, emergency medical technician/firefighting, dental assistant, pharmacy technician, music resource technology, and nurse aide. The school district also operates learning centers for students in grades 6 through 12 who need intensive behavioral or academic interventions and for students who are failing classes, missing credits for graduation, or in danger of dropping out.

Higher education is available at the University of Virginia, which offers undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as professional degrees in law, medicine, and nursing. The city also has two community colleges: Piedmont Virginia Community College, which awards associate's degrees in academic studies and certificates in career studies, and National College-Charlottesville, which offers associate's degrees and diploma programs in business and health care fields.

HEALTH CARE

Charlottesville currently has 2 hospitals with a total of 746 beds; however, 1 of the hospitals is building a replacement facility in the adjoining county. The city is also served by a long-term acute-care hospital, a pediatric rehabilitation facility, an adult rehabilitation facility, and a facility that specializes in brain injuries.

CITY STATS

2009

City Population	42,218
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	196,766
Per Capita Personal Income, Charlottesville, VA, MSA	\$42,857