



# Gainesville, FL



Gainesville, Florida, was originally a Timucuan Indian village. Named for General Edmund P. Gaines, the new city of Gainesville was established along the Florida Railroad line and was the site of two Civil War battles. The development and growth of the University of Florida replaced the city's early economy, which was based on cotton, citrus, and vegetable farming and the phosphate industry.

Museums in the city include the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art and the Florida Museum of Natural History, which has a very large collection of butterflies and moths. The city's Evergreen Cemetery presents stories of local historic importance. Located in a restored Mediterranean Revival-style hotel, the Thomas Center contains art galleries, 1920s period rooms, and local history exhibits and is surrounded by the Thomas Center Gardens and the Grace and Sidney Knight Children's Theatre. The Matheson Museum, with its Tison Tool Museum and botanical garden, is an antebellum historic home.

The University of Florida maintains three art galleries on its campus. Santa Fe College has its own art gallery and hosts the Kika Silva Pla Planetarium.

Gainesville offers many opportunities for performing arts. Theatrical performances are available at the Hippodrome State Theater, the Acrosstown Repertory Theatre, and Gainesville Community Playhouse. Local musical talents include the Gainesville Civic Chorus & Philharmonic Orchestra, Gainesville Chamber Orchestra, Gainesville Community Band, Gainesville Friends of Jazz, and Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus. Dance Alive National Ballet is Gainesville's professional ballet company.

The University of Florida and Santa Fe College host concerts, dance performances, and theater productions by professionals and students.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Gainesville has a growing residential component as more luxury apartments and condominiums are under construction. The city is planning a very large urban residential neighborhood on the site of the former power plant. The city's five historic districts have restored areas as well as properties in need of restoration. The Pleasant Street Historic District, which is the city's oldest predominantly African-American residential area, is comprised of houses in wood-frame vernacular, bungalow, Queen Anne, Colonial, and Eastlake Victorian styles. The Northeast Historic District reflects architectural styles prevalent in Florida from the 1880s through the 1950s and includes the historic Duckpond neighborhood. Housing styles include Victorian, Georgian, and bungalow, as well as Florida Cracker style, which is designed to promote ventilation and protection from the sun or rain, with housing typically raised on pillars above damp ground. Homes in the Southeast Historic District were built after the Civil War and include Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and French Second Empire styles. New construction of luxury row houses, apartments, and condominiums is underway in the two historic districts in University Heights.

Many of Gainesville's neighborhoods were built in the mid- to late 20th century and feature single-family homes on shady lots with narrow, winding streets. Traditional ranch-style homes dominate such neighborhoods as Golfview, Sugarfoot, Springtree, Capri, Royal Gardens, and Kirkwood, which has larger lots and front yards. Newer neighborhoods, such as Appletree, offer a mix of modern ranch style homes.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Gainesville has 40 active parks; 10 recreation centers; 3 outdoor pools; playgrounds; an 18-hole golf course; ball fields; tennis, basketball, and racquetball courts; a disc golf course; and 3 skate parks. Morningside Nature Center is Gainesville's premier nature park and has miles of trails that wind through sandhill, flatwoods, cypress domes, and areas where native vegetation is being restored. The Living History Farm presents Florida life in the mid- to late 19th century. The city also has five community gardens where residents can grow vegetables for their own consumption.

The city's Downtown Festival & Art Show transforms downtown Gainesville into a venue for award-winning artists in the fall. The Hoggetowne Medieval Faire converts the Alachua County Fairgrounds into a medieval marketplace in the winter.

## EDUCATION

Alachua County Public Schools serve approximately 27,000 students in Gainesville and the surrounding county in 26 elementary schools, seven middle schools, and seven high schools. Magnet programs are available at each level and include gifted and talented; fine arts; math, science and technology; design and technology; culinary arts; finance; automotive technology; fire and emergency medical services; and agriscience. The district also operates two schools for students with special needs and one school for students with disciplinary issues.

The University of Florida is a public, land-grant research university. The University's college of medicine operates a school of physician assistant studies. Other colleges include nursing, pharmacy, public health, and veterinary medicine. Santa Fe College is a community college that offers bachelor's degrees in several fields in addition to various associate degrees, technical certificates, and continuing education programs. City College Gainesville Branch Campus offers bachelor's of business administration and several associate degree programs. Dragon Rises College of Oriental Medicine trains acupuncturists and practitioners of and Oriental medicine.

## HEALTH CARE

Gainesville has two medical centers with 2,029 licensed beds. The city is served by two providers of psychiatric and substance abuse treatment services, a physical rehabilitation hospital, and a long-term acute care facility. The Malcom Randall VA Medical Center is a tertiary care facility with many specialty services for veterans.

### CITY STATS

**2010**

City Population	124,354
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	264,395
Per Capita Personal Income, Gainesville, MSA	\$34,526