



# Temple, Texas



Temple, Texas, was founded on June 29, 1881, by the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad when an auction of business and residential lots was held. The new settlement was named in honor of Bernard Moore Temple, the railroad's chief engineer; however, he never lived in the town.

The Railroad & Heritage Museum is housed in the restored 1910 Santa Fe Depot with a working Amtrak station. The museum displays railroad equipment, model trains, a telegraph room, and listening stations for train communications. Locomotives, cabooses, and passenger cars are displayed outside.

Other museums in Temple include the Czech Heritage Museum & Genealogy Center, which houses hand-carved marionettes, needlework, coins, Bibles, costumes, antique musical instruments, and an extensive library with historic documents dating back to the 1700s. The Center's library contains one of the largest genealogy collections in Texas. The Little & Farquhar Science Museum exhibits Robert Little's private collections of precious metals, gems, rocks, static electricity experiments, and more.

The Wilson House is a National Landmark hybrid of ranch and modern-style home architecture and is open for tours. The house was designed and built in 1959 by Ralph Wilson Sr., the founder of Wilsonart LLC, and features extensive use of decorative plastic laminates in innovative applications.

There are various entertainment venues in Temple. The Cultural Activities Center hosts performances by professional touring artists for children and adults and has four art galleries. The Temple Civic Theatre performs six main-series productions, a youth-oriented series, and other special presentations each year. The Mary Alice Marshall Performing Arts Center at Temple College is home to the Temple Symphony Orchestra.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Temple is a commercial center. The historic district of Temple is located north of the downtown district and is a collection of mansions and bungalows.

The neighborhoods located south of the Scott & White Hospital, the Olin E. Teague Veterans' Medical Center, and the HK Dodgen Highway Loop are relatively new and vary in housing types from smaller ranchers to large custom-built homes in contemporary styles. Timber Ridge, Willowridge, Steeplechase, Valley Ranch, and Stonegate II are developments with larger, mainly two-story homes.

Other new developments are located in the area west of the HK Dodgen Loop. Most new homes are in gated communities and planned developments and vary in size and style. Custom-designed homes on large lots are available in the Wildflower master planned development and overlook a golf course. Further west and located at the city's edge is Windmill Farms, which is currently under construction and features two-story homes. Eagle Oaks is located on the cliffs of Lake Belton and features custom-built homes on large lots.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Temple has 45 parks with amenities that include playgrounds; baseball and soccer fields; basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts; a disc golf course; lakes and ponds; walk/jog trails; swimming pools and splash pads; a community garden; a skate park; a dog park; two recreation centers; a water park; and an 18-hole golf course. At 120 acres,

Wilson Park is the largest city park and contains a playground, a 1.75-mile walk/jog trail, a swimming pool, 2 tennis courts, 4 baseball fields, 6 soccer fields, 2 basketball courts, 4 softball fields, and a sand volleyball court. Lions Park has 100 acres and features 2 playgrounds, 4 softball fields, a pond, 2-mile hike/bike trail, and a disc golf course. The Rotary Club of Temple South Accessible Playground is located in Lions Park and is designed to serve children of all ages who have mental or physical disabilities.

Approximately 80% of the plants in the Santa Fe Gardens, which is located in the downtown area, are native to Texas.

## EDUCATION

Temple Independent School District educates approximately 8,900 students in nine elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, and an alternative education campus. The western portion of Temple is served by the Belton Independent School District, which has three elementary and one middle school.

Temple College offers associate degrees and the opportunity for students to complete upper-level classes toward a bachelor's degree on the college's campus through a partnership with Texas A&M University-Central Texas or online through a partnership with Franklin University.

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, a private university that offers bachelor's and master's degree programs, is located in nearby Belton.

Medical students at Texas A&M University College of Medicine can elect to spend all four years of their medical education training or two years of clinical training on the Temple campus, which is headquartered at the Medical Education Building on the Scott & White Hospital campus.

## HEALTH CARE

Temple is served by the Scott & White Hospital, which is a 636-bed specialty teaching hospital. The hospital also has a dedicated children's hospital and a long-term acute care facility. The Olin E. Teague Veterans Medical Center provides medical and psychological care to the area's veteran population and is a teaching affiliate of Texas A&M University College of Medicine. The Medical Center also has affiliations with the University of Texas Southwestern Austin/Seton Healthcare Network and the Texas Department of Health.

## CITY STATS

**2011**

City Population	67,421
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	411,595
Per Capita Personal Income, Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood MSA	\$40,029