



Urbana, Il



Urbana, Illinois, was named in 1833 for Urbana, Ohio, the previous hometown of Illinois State Senator John Vance. The construction of the railroad in 1854 through “West Urbana,” which would eventually become known as Champaign, and the establishment in 1867 of the Illinois Industrial University, later the University of Illinois, contributed to the growth of the Urbana-Champaign area.

Located in Urbana, the University of Illinois Spurlock Museum exhibits represent peoples of Ancient Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, and Africa; Ancient Greece and Rome; East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania; Europe; and American Indian Cultures of North and South America. Presenting a range of cultures and modes of artistic expression, the Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion contains the university’s collection of over 10,000 works of art dating from 4000 BCE to the present.

The Urbana Public Arts Program promotes and displays the work of Urbana’s residents. Murals on Glass, a series that showcases artwork by Champaign County artists on downtown windows, and a rotating display of six sculptures located throughout the city are made possible through the city’s dedication to promoting local art.

The Champaign County Historical Museum, Orpheum Children’s Science Museum, William M. Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College, and Sousa Archives and Center for American Music (part of the University of Illinois Library and University Archives) are located in Champaign.

Urbana is home to the University’s Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, which consists of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, Colwell Playhouse, Studio Theatre, Amphitheatre, and Stage 5. Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra is the resident professional orchestra at the Center, which is also home to student and faculty productions and concerts.

Other performing arts venues include the Station Theatre, which is home of the Celebration Company, and Parkland Theatre, which serves Parkland College theater students and others in the community.

The Virginia Theatre, State Farm Center, and Memorial Stadium are located in Champaign.

Presented annually in the spring, the Boneyard Arts Festival is a four-day event that showcases the visual and performing arts of Champaign County in venues in Urbana, the University of Illinois, Champaign, and other county locales.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Urbana’s downtown area is primarily commercial and surrounded by residential areas. The Joseph W. Royer Arts and Architecture District coincides with the oldest part of Urbana—its historic downtown and the immediately adjacent residential neighborhoods—and contains the greatest concentration of historically and architecturally significant buildings in town. Many homes in Historic East Urbana date from the late 1800s through the early 1900s and are situated on brick streets lined by mature trees. Located between the University of Illinois and downtown Urbana, the West Urbana neighborhood has small affordable homes as well as large historic properties on tree-lined streets, including a few remaining brick roads. Housing styles include bungalows, Foursquares, Praires, Dutch Revivals, and Victorians. The neighborhood was once viewed as a “faculty ghetto” because of its proximity to the university. South Urbana features ranches and other mid-century, modern-style homes built in the 1950s through the 1970s.

Urbana has many newer neighborhoods. Myra Ridge and South Ridge are two subdivisions in southeast Urbana. Homes in Myra Ridge date from the 1980s and include ranch and traditional two-story styles with mature trees that line winding roads. The oldest homes in South Ridge were built in early 2000, and new construction continues. Construction in Beringer Commons began in the 1990s and features single- and two-story homes that surround the 4 lakes in this subdivision; a few streets have lots available for purchase. The Stone Creek subdivision consists of custom-built, contemporary ranch and two-story homes situated on the public Stone Creek golf course. The oldest homes in this neighborhood date from the early 2000s, and new construction is ongoing.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Urbana Park District maintains 22 parks and natural areas, recreation facilities, and an indoor aquatic center. Park amenities include accessible play equipment and other playgrounds; archery; ball diamonds; basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts; soccer, cricket, and open fields; disc golf; fishing and boating (seasonal); a dog park; horseshoe pits; a sledding hill; swimming pool and water features; and paths and trails.

Art in the Park is a downtown park designed by John David Mooney that features two of his sculptures: “Spirit Tree,” a monumental steel light sculpture, and “Falling Leaf,” a fountain sculpture surrounded by decorative mounds.

At 144 acres, Crystal Lake is Urbana’s largest park and features the Anita Purves Nature Center, Busey Woods (a 59-acre forest preserve), Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center, Lake House, a playground, and the Labyrinth. Boat rentals and a fishing pier are also available. Crystal Lake Park is home to many special events.

Meadowbrook Park is a 130-acre area that contains a farmstead, 80 acres of recreated tallgrass prairie, McCullough and Douglas creek corridors, paved and unpaved walking trails, the Timpone Ornamental Tree Grove, organic garden plots, a sensory garden, an herb garden, the Freyfogle Overlook, the district’s largest play structure PrairiePlay, and the Wandell Sculpture Garden.

The University of Illinois Arboretum houses 160 acres of plant collections with multiple gardens, a scenic walkway, the Japan House, and ponds.

EDUCATION

Urbana School District 116 educates approximately 4,400 students in 6 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school.

Higher education is available at the University of Illinois, which offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs in the College of Applied Health Sciences and College of Veterinary Medicine, among others. The new Carle Illinois College of Medicine will be the first engineering-based medical college and will open in fall 2017.

Parkland College is a public community college that offers degree and certificate programs designed for career and job placement or for transfer to programs at four-year institutions.

Urbana Theological Seminary is an interdenominational graduate school of theology.

HEALTH CARE

The following hospitals are located in Urbana:

- Carle Foundation Hospital—393 licensed beds (260 medical/surgical, 20 pediatric, 38 intensive care, 35 obstetrics/gynecology, 25 neonatal, 15 rehabilitation)
- Presence Covenant Medical Center—210 licensed beds (110 medical/surgical, 6 pediatric, 15 intensive care, 24 obstetrics/gynecology, 30 acute mental illness, 25 rehabilitation)
- The Pavillion Behavioral Health System with 69 licensed beds for acute mental illness is located in Champaign.

CITY STATS

2014

City Population	42,044
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	237,252
Per capita personal income Champaign-Urbana, IL, MSA:	\$39,237