



# PULSE ON™ Austin

**A**ustin, the capitol of Texas, is situated along both sides of the Lower Colorado River. In the Downtown area, the river has been dammed to create a lake, now named Lady Bird Lake in memory of Lady Bird Johnson for her instrumental role in its preservation.

## Austin's Neighborhoods

Austin is recognized as the live music capital of the world, with nearly 200 live music venues and 92 annual music events. These include Austin City Limits and South by Southwest Music, Film, and Interactive Conference and Festival (SXSW), which draw international attention. Downtown Austin is also home to the State Capitol Complex; Austin City Hall; the Travis County Courthouse; the federal buildings and courthouse; and Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, which has an IMAX theater. Across Lady Bird Lake, the Long Center for the Performing Arts provides performance spaces for Austin Lyric Opera, Ballet Austin, and Austin Symphony and hosts concerts and touring Broadway shows. The downtown area also features 13 public parks and open spaces comprising 90 acres, including the hike-and-bike trails of Lady Bird Lake.

The availability of downtown housing is increasing, particularly in the waterfront area, where many high-rise condominium and apartment buildings have been constructed. Another downtown residential neighborhood, the Northwest, was developed in the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. This neighborhood is characterized by tree-lined streets with large Victorian homes intermixed with smaller cottages and newer, low-rise apartment and office buildings, although many of the single-family homes are now occupied by professional businesses and law offices.

Other neighborhoods adjacent to the downtown include the University of Texas-Austin campus, which hosts the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, the Blanton Museum of Art, and the Harry Ransom Center. The communities surrounding the university are populated primarily by 18- to 24-year-olds and are home to many university faculty, staff, and students. These neighborhoods are among the most historic in the city and offer primarily rented single-family housing. In contrast, communities in the far southern portion of the city, such as McKinney, Franklin Park, and Southeast, have more owner-occupied housing and more family households. The neighborhoods of the East Congress, West Congress, and Sweetbriar consist of some areas developed from the 1920s through the 1950s; typical mid-1960s through the mid-1970s suburban developments; several apartment complexes and

townhouse projects built during the 1980s and early 2000s; and more recently, new single-family housing developments.

## Parks and Recreation

Among Austin's 206 parks, 12 preserves, and 26 greenbelts, the Zilker Metropolitan Park has a miniature train, hike and bike trails, playground, a natural spring-fed swimming pool with a year-round average temperature of 68 degrees, canoe rental, sand volleyball courts, Disc Golf Course, soccer fields, rugby field, and multi-use fields. The Zilker Botanical Gardens, Zilker Hillside Theatre, Austin Nature and Science Center, and Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum are located on the grounds of the park. Other major parks include Mable Davis Park, which has a basketball court, swimming pool, playground, covered picnic area, and skate park; Emma Long Metropolitan Park, which has boat ramps, sand volleyball courts, volleyball standards, and a designated swimming area in Lake Austin; and the Barton Creek Green Belt, which winds for 8 miles throughout the city and offers hiking, climbing, and swimming holes along the way.

Austin has several professional sports teams: the Austin Bats of the Central Hockey League; the Austin Wranglers arena football team; and the Austin Toros, a member of the National Basketball Association Development League.

## Education

Over 82,000 students attend Austin's 113 public schools, which include 78 elementary schools, 17 middle schools, 12 high schools, and 6 special schools. There are 2 middle school magnet programs and 1 high school magnet program. In addition, Austin has 44 nondenominational or religious private schools.

The University of Texas at Austin is the largest university in the city. In addition, St. Edwards University, Concordia University Texas, and Huston-Tillotson College offer a liberal arts education. Austin Community College and Virginia College at Austin offer associate degrees in various programs.

## Health Care

Ten hospitals serve Austin, comprising over 2,200 licensed acute care beds. Most of the hospitals belong to the Seton Family of Hospitals or St. David's HealthCare. In addition, Austin has 133 long-term acute care beds; 183 physical rehabilitation beds; and 299 adult, adolescent, and pediatric psychiatric beds in Austin State Hospital.

### Austin City Stats

#### Population (2006)

City	709,893
Metropolitan Statistical Area	1,532,281
Per capita personal income, Austin-Round Rock MSA (2006):	.. \$36,328