The site for the capital of Indiana, later named Indianapolis, was chosen because it was centrally located in the state. Indianapolis was planned to occupy a square mile and included radiating streets and zoned use of building sites.

Monument Circle, in the center of downtown, is the site of the State Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument. The Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum is housed in the interior of the monument. The Indiana World War Memorial Plaza Historic District comprises 6 blocks of monumental public architecture and landscape architecture in downtown and is a tribute to Indiana’s war heroes and the national headquarters for the American Legion. Also located in downtown, White River State Park hosts some of the city’s popular festivities and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, IMAX Theater, Indiana State University, Victory Field, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis Zoo, and the NCAA Hall of Champions.

**Neighborhoods**

 Lockerbie Square, the oldest remaining residential neighborhood in downtown, is located within the original city’s boundaries and includes vernacular cottages and high-style brick residences from the mid to late-19th century. James Whitcomb Riley Home and Museum is located in this neighborhood. Herron–Morton Place Historic District is known for its collection of late 19th- and early 20th-century residential architecture, especially in the Queen Anne style. Oldfields, once part of an exclusive enclave of wealthy estates in the early 1900s, was home to the owners of the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical company. Indianapolis Museum of Art moved to this location in the 1970s.

Other neighborhoods include Woodruff Place, which was planned as a residential park with Queen Anne, Stick, and Arts & Crafts homes and well-proportioned streets and esplanades. Irvington, among the city’s first planned suburbs later annexed by the city, has varied architectural styles and types and a Victorian Romantic winding street pattern. Chatham–Arch Historic District is significant for its vernacular late 19th-century architecture. Cottage Home Historic District contains a significant collection of restored wood frame vernacular housing, mostly cross plan or L-shaped wood frame cottages. Forest Hills Historic District has Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, and Bungalow housing along winding streets with historic street lamps on the curbs and brick piers flanking its major entrances. Home to President Benjamin Harrison, (Old) Northside Historic District’s high-style Victorian-era architecture includes brick and wood frame Italianate and Queen Anne mansions, mostly built between 1870 and 1900. Fountain Square, a district where many artists live and work, has many visual and performing arts venues and a concentration of significant architectural landmarks.

**City Stats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
<td>795,458</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
<td>1,692,737</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per capita personal income, Indianapolis-Carmel MSA</td>
<td>$38,455</td>
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**Parks and Recreation**

Indianapolis is home to many professional sports, including the Indiana Fever (women’s basketball), Indiana Pacers (basketball), Indianapolis Colts (football), and Indianapolis Indians (baseball). The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is located in Speedway, a town surrounded by Indianapolis.

Indianapolis has 6 regional, 20 community, and 90 neighborhood parks. Regional parks feature scenic views, lakes, rivers or ponds, and such amenities as fishing areas, boat ramps and slips, swim beaches, picnic areas and shelters, sports courts and fields, cross-country skiing paths, and refreshments. Garfield Park also has a Conservatory and Sunken Gardens. In addition, 3 bark parks are available for off-leash dogs. Special tracks for bicycle racing, skateboarding, and soap box derby racing are available.


**Education**

Indianapolis public schools serve about 34,000 students in 45 elementary, 3 middle, 4 community, 5 high, and 16 other schools. Magnet schools include math, science, environmental studies, Montessori, multiple intelligences, inquiry, performing arts, medical sciences, and vocational careers.

Opportunities for higher education are available at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis, which has a School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, and a School of Nursing among its various degree programs. Martin University, Butler University, and Marian University offer bachelor and master degree programs. Associate degrees in various fields are available from Ivy Tech Community College, Harrison College, Medtech College, Lincoln College of Technology, Kaplan College, National College, and Brown Mackie College. Some of these colleges also offer bachelor programs and diploma programs.

**Health Care**

Indianapolis has over 3,500 staffed short-term hospital beds in 9 hospital facilities. The city is also served by 2 hospitals specializing in cardiac care, 2 psychiatric hospitals, 1 orthopedic hospital, and 3 long-term rehabilitative hospitals. Indianapolis’s Roudebush VA Medical Center is the only complex, tertiary care facility for veterans in the state.