



Chapel Hill

Nicknamed the "Southern Part of Heaven," Chapel Hill was named after New Hope Chapel, which stood on a hill at the crossing of two primary roads. Chapel Hill is one of the three points of the Research Triangle, along with Raleigh and Durham.

The University of North Carolina, the oldest state University in the nation, is located in Chapel Hill's downtown. The University provides many venues for cultural activities, including the Paul Green Theater, with the Playmakers Repertory Company; the Ackland Art Museum, with its permanent collection of over 15,000 objects; and several sites for dance and musical performances. The University's Morehead Planetarium and Science Center offers multimedia star shows and interactive exhibits that feature current science research and the University's North Carolina Botanical Garden specializes in native plant conservation and education. Also located in downtown are the Chapel Hill Museum, which provides exhibits and events concerning local history, and the Kidzu Children's Museum, a hands-on museum.

CHAPEL HILL'S NEIGHBORHOODS

Chapel Hill is a university town; most of the historic area homes are simpler than those in Southern towns that were formed because of business and manufacturing ventures. Chapel Hill has three historic areas: Franklin-Rosemary, Gimghoul, and Cameron-McCauley. Westwood, a campus area near the UNC Hospital, has winding streets and wooded lots with an eclectic collection of homes built from the 1920s and the occasional home built on an infill lot today. Greenwood, designated as a Neighborhood Conservation District, was developed by the playwright Paul Green in the 1930s as a special place for artists and intellectuals and features affordable homes on large wooded lots. Homes in Estes Hills were generally built in the late 1950s through the 1960s, but some are of recent construction. Architectural styles vary but generally consist of traditional 2-story, split-level, and ranch homes, with some contemporary homes. Coker Hills mainly consists of custom homes that were built between the early 1960s and mid-1980s.

To prevent sprawl and preserve the maximum amount of land in its natural state, Chapel Hill requires that developers cluster homes; newer home lots within the town are therefore limited to about 1/3 acre. Few new homes have been built because the town is almost built to its boundaries. The typical new home style is 2 stories; many have full front porches and exteriors of fiber cement, brick, cedar, or a combination with brick or stone accents. Southern Village, started in the mid-1990s and recently finished, is a planned, new-old neighborhood with a combination of apartments, condos, town homes, and single family homes and an area with retail and service businesses, churches, and schools.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Chapel Hill has 3 community centers and 11 parks that offer swimming pools, gymnasiums, tennis, basketball, bocce and volleyball courts, soccer and baseball fields, a skate park, and a climbing wall, along with trails and shelters. Facilities at the recently completed Southern Community Park include picnic shelters, basketball courts, an inline hockey rink, a disk golf course, a play area, athletic fields, a dog park, a meadow area, natural surface trails, and restrooms.

Although Chapel Hill has no professional sports teams, the University has football, baseball, men and women's basketball, lacrosse, soccer, and track and field teams.

EDUCATION

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School System operates 4 high schools, including an alternative high school; 4 middle schools; 10 elementary schools; and a school for patients at UNC Hospital. These schools serve more than 11,000 students. Durham Schools serve students in the Durham County part of Chapel Hill. Middle College High School (MCHS) at Durham Technical Community College accepts students from Chapel Hill and surrounding areas and offers community college courses and honors-level high school courses for juniors and seniors.

Higher education is available at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, which has Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Global Public Health, and Nursing.

HEALTH CARE

The UNC Health Care System, a not-for-profit integrated health care system owned by the State of North Carolina and based in Chapel Hill, operates 724 licensed beds in 5 hospitals: N.C. Memorial Hospital, N.C. Children's Hospital, N.C. Women's Hospital, N.C. Cancer Hospital, and N.C. Neurosciences Hospital.

CITY STATS

2007

City Population	51,898
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	478,003
Per capita personal income, Durham-Chapel Hill MSA	\$38,845