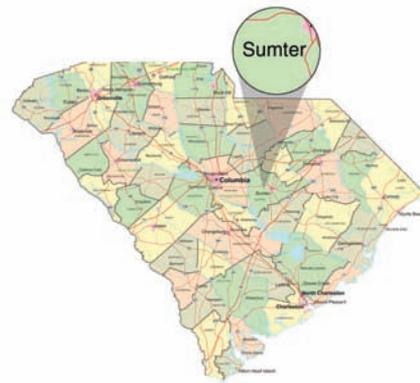


# Sumter, SC



**S**umter, South Carolina, was named for General Thomas Sumter, the “Fighting Gamecock” of the American Revolutionary War. Shaw Air Force Base is located within the city.

The Sumter County Museum promotes the history of Old Sumter District through the preservation and exhibition of objects, manuscripts, and documents that relay the story of this area of South Carolina. In addition to the Heritage Education Center, the museum includes the Williams-Brice House, which was built in 1916 and features a textile collection, decorative arts and fine art collections, a 20th-century military history exhibit, and period rooms. The Carolina Backcountry Homestead is also located on the museum’s campus and includes an original settler’s house and commissary and a recreated log cabin, smokehouse, barn, loomhouse, outhouse, blacksmith shop, and gardens.

The Sumter County Gallery of Art is housed in a newly renovated state-of-the-art facility adjacent to Patriot Hall and features rotating shows of both traditional and contemporary art by local, regional, and nationally recognized artists.

Sumter has several venues for the performing arts. The historic Sumter Opera House hosts film, dance, theater, concerts, and other programs. It is also home to City Hall and many of the City’s departments and offices. Touring plays and musical productions as well as performances by local actors and musicians are held at Patriot Hall. Local performing groups include the Sumter High School Jazz Band, the Sumter Community Concert Band, the Sumter Civic Chorale, and the Sumter Community Jazz Band. Sumter Little Theater is a community theater that offers an annual series of plays and a youth theater program.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Sumter has many residential options. In the commercial area, the second and third floors of older commercial buildings have been converted to apartments and condominiums. New commercial construction has also incorporated residential options on the upper floors. The downtown area also contains a historic district with homes built in the mid- to late 19th century in the typical southern style with porches and balconies. Tuomey Regional Medical Center is located in this area.

The nearby Swan Lake neighborhood dates back to the 1950s and features large homes on large lots with tree-lined, narrow streets. Houses in the neighborhood include two-story and ranch styles.

Sumter also has many residential subdivisions that include 36 neighborhoods with single-family homes and 6 neighborhoods devoted to town houses or duplexes. Deerfield is one of the largest subdivisions and consists of six areas, with new areas still being built. The single-family homes are mostly traditional-style with brick exteriors and sit on large lots. The neighborhood features Upper and Lower Deerwood Lakes. Construction of Idlewild, another large subdivision adjacent to the Deerwood Lakes, began in 1966 and features single-family homes in traditional or Cape Cod style. Beach Forest Village is a newer development dating to 2004 and has a clubhouse, pool, and five ponds. Most houses are brick, although some have stone or vinyl siding accent walls. Most of the homes in Loringwood are custom-built and tend to be larger than average for the area. Tall hardwood trees in buffer zones separate the houses.

Landmark Point and Hampshire Estates are newer town house communities. Landmark Point is large and consists of brick duplexes. The smaller Hampshire Estates is comprised of mostly brick duplexes and triplexes.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Sumter has more than 30 city and county parks with a variety of amenities that include playgrounds; an aquatics center; facilities for softball, baseball, soccer, and tennis; golf courses; and a skate park.

The 150-acre landscaped Swan Lake Iris Gardens is Sumter’s largest park and is the only public gardens with all eight known species of swans. From mid-May through early June, the Gardens features more than 120 varieties of the Japanese iris and is the home of the annual Iris Festival in May.

Memorial Park is located in the residential historic district and features gardens, a splashing fountain, tennis courts, and a playground. Palmetto Park features a tennis center and six youth softball fields. Julia Lester Dillon Park has a variety of sports facilities for soccer, football, softball, and golf; an equestrian ring; and a series of paved trails for walking or bicycling.

The Martha Brice Gardens surround the Sumter County Museum and contain dozens of azaleas and camellias, magnolias, dogwoods, 100-year-old pecan trees, and many other varieties of trees.

## EDUCATION

Sumter School District educates more than 17,000 students in 16 elementary schools, 7 middle schools, 3 high schools, and 2 alternative programs. The International Baccalaureate Diploma and Middle Years programs are available at Sumter High School and Bates Middle School, respectively. High school students have the opportunity to take advanced courses in addition to college level courses through Central Carolina Technical College and USC Sumter and various vocational courses at the Sumter County Career Center.

Higher education is available at University of South Carolina Sumter, which offers associate degree programs, six bachelor degree programs, and graduate degrees in education. Morris College is a historically black, coeducational, liberal arts college that is operated by the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina. Troy University–Sumter Campus has undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Central Carolina Technical College is a comprehensive and public two-year institution that confers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates.

## HEALTH CARE

Sumter is served by the 301-bed Tuomey Regional Medical Center.

### CITY STATS

**2011**

City Population	40,526
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	107,460
Per Capita Personal Income, Sumter, SC, MSA	\$29,915