Gainesville, GA

Gainesville, Georgia, is located on the shores of Lake Sidney Lanier and at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Originally named "Mule Camp Springs" by settlers in the 1800s, the city was later renamed in honor of General Edmund P. Gaines, a hero of the War of 1812.

Exhibits at the Northeast Georgia History Center at Brenau University include an 18thCentury cabin that was once home to Cherokee Indian Chief White Path, Northeast Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, and the Freedom Garden, which is a living tribute to all America veterans. The Beulah Rucker Museum focuses on African American heritage; the museum's namesake established a school for African American children in the early 1900s in Gainesville. Quinlan Visual Arts Center offers a blend of exhibits. Brenau University Galleries feature works by national, international, local, and regional artists, as well as art by Brenau University students, faculty, and alumni. The INK (Interactive Neighborhood for Kids Inc.) is hands-on museum for children.

Other sites in the city include the Alta Vista Cemetery, the final resting place for numerous Revolutionary War and Civil War Veterans, and the Piedmont Hotel, where Southern battered fried chicken was rumored to have been created.

Plays, concerts, and ballet performances are held at venues that include the Gainesville High School Warehouse, Georgia Mountains Center, Hosch Theatre, John S. Burd Performing Arts Center and Pearce Auditorium at Brunau University, and UNG-Gainesville's Ed Cabell Theatre.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Gainesville is primarily commercial, governmental, and institutional. Most of the Victorian and Neoclassical Revival residences dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries located on Green Street have been converted to commercial use.

Although the downtown is not residential, Gainesville has many older residential neighborhoods. Most of the houses in the Ridgewood neighborhood were built between 1920 and the 1950s, and some date from the 1890s. Craftsman and English Vernacular Revival styles dominate this primarily single-family home neighborhood. The Dixon Drive neighborhood is dominated by ranch-style homes that were built on large lots after World War II. The Longstreet Hills neighborhood was planned as an early Gainesville suburb and features home designs popular during the late 1930s through the 1950s, including English Vernacular Revival and Colonial Revival styles. English Cottage, bungalow, and ranch styles are common in the Riverside Drive neighborhood.

Gainesville also has many newer subdivisions that feature contemporary and traditional style homes. Chattahoochee Country Club neighborhood and Sidney on Lanier are two examples of the more than 30 neighborhoods that surround Lake Lanier. Many homes provide lakeside frontage with private docks and water views. Cresswind at Lake Lanier offers ranch-style homes within a gated active-adult community.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Gainesville has 19 parks and eight major facilities. Park amenities include soccer fields, playgrounds, little league ball fields, tennis courts, softball fields, basketball goals, boat ramps, fishing areas, and trails. Rock Creek Greenway is a series of parks that stretches from the downtown square to Lake Lanier and includes Rock Creek Park, Ivey Terrace Park, Wilshire Trails, and Longwood Park.

Lake Sidney Lanier was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to supply water, hydroelectricity, navigation, flood control, and wildlife management. The lake is a popular site for fishing and boating and served as the 1996 Summer Olympic Games venue for the canoe, kayak, and rowing competitions. Other amenities at Lake Lanier include the Lake Lanier Point Park and Athletic Complex, Don Carter State Park, and the Chattahoochee Golf Course.

Poultry Park is a small park providing benches and gardens centered around a monument to the poultry industry, a chicken that rests atop a 25-foot marble obelisk monument.

Elachee Nature Science Center consists of a woodland refuge and an interactive museum.

The Frances Meadows Aquatic Center offers indoor and outdoor pools and slides.

Allen Creek Soccer Complex has nine fields and hosts youth and adult leagues and tournaments.

EDUCATION

Gainesville City Schools educate approximately 7,700 students in five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. The district also operates a nontraditional middle school and high school.

Higher education is available at Brenau University, which is a private, nonsectarian liberal arts women's college that offers undergraduate and selected graduate programs online and at regional campuses for women and men.

In January 2013, the University of North Georgia was formed through the consolidation of North Georgia College & State University and Gainesville State College. The university offers degree programs that range from certificate and associate's degrees to professional doctoral programs. The University of North Georgia is designated by the Department of the Army as a Senior Military College and is one of six senior military colleges in the nation.

HEALTH CARE

Gainesville is served by the North East Georgia Health System, which has 557 inpatient beds.

CITY STATS	2011
City Population	34,318
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	183,052
Per Capita Personal Income, Gainesville, GA, MSA	$32,001

Photograph courtesy of the City of Gainesville.