



Plano, Texas



Initially settled in the 1840s, Plano, Texas, was incorporated in 1873 after the Houston and Central Railroad opened and made the city a trading center. The city's name is the Spanish word for "flat," descriptive of the surrounding terrain.

Haggard Park Historic District is located in downtown Plano and is home to the Interurban Railway Museum, which is housed in a building that served as a primary stop on the Texas Electric Railway. The museum exhibits many artifacts associated with the Interurban Line as well as a history of Plano. Heritage Farmstead museum consists of a Victorian home and 12 outbuildings and preserves a way of life during the height of farm prosperity in the early 1900s.

The North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library houses and preserves the history of Masons in northern Texas.

The ArtCentre of Plano contains art galleries for exhibits of local and national artists, with shows that rotate out every 6 to 8 weeks.

Located in the Haggard Park Historic District are The Cox Building Playhouse and The Courtyard Theater, which is a significant building in Plano's history. The Courtyard Theater is home to the Plano Symphony Orchestra, Plano Children's Theatre, and the Courtyard Texas Music Series, a concert series focused on Texas Country music. The Art Centre Theatre hosts new, traditional, local, dramatic, comedic, musical, and experimental theater performances. The Amphitheater at Oak Point Park is a seasonal venue for concerts and festivals.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Plano remains largely unchanged since the rebuild from the fire of 1896. Downtown housing, however, consists primarily of lofts constructed since 2000.

Two historic areas near the downtown are Old Town and Haggard Park Heritage District. Architectural styles include two-story Queen Anne/Craftsman mixes, Craftsman/Victorian mixes, and single-story Bungalows that were built between the late 1800s and early 1900s. Old Town also has brick homes built between the 1950s and 1970s in mid-century modern and ranch styles on smaller lots with mature trees and curvilinear streets. Large, two-story brick houses built in the 1990s are also available, with garages accessed by alleys in the rear of the properties. The Medical Center of Plano is located in this area.

The Eldorado Park area contains brick ranch-style homes built in the 1980s on tree-lined streets with garages accessed by rear alleys. This neighborhood, along with the Old Shepherds neighborhood consisting of a mix of brick ranch or two-story contemporary single-family homes and apartments, are located near Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano and Heart Hospital at Baylor Plano.

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital is situated near several residential neighborhoods. The Prestonwood neighborhood has homes in various styles built in the 1990s, including some large contemporary homes that surround the Prestonwood Hills Golf Course. Built in the same period, the Glenhollow Estates and Cypress Point neighborhoods feature large, contemporary brick two-story homes, all of which have garages accessed by rear alleys.

Legacy Park is a mixed-use, master-planned community that contains townhouses and urban-style apartments. Children's Hospital of Legacy is located in this area.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Plano has 83 public parks with amenities that include 70 miles of paved trails, 69 athletic fields, 8 swimming pools, 5 recreation centers, 4 arts and cultural venues, the Pecan Hollow Golf Course, and Grille High Point Tennis Center.

Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve is Plano's largest park and has 3.5 miles of concrete trails and 5 miles of soft surface trails. The amphitheater at Oak Point Park hosts live outdoor concerts seasonally in a 1,500 seat theater.

Arbor Hills Nature Preserve features blackland prairie, riparian forest, and upland forest ecosystems. Amenities include a playground, approximately 2.3 miles of paved recreational trails, approximately 2 miles designed as an off-road cycling trail, an observation tower, and 3 pavilions.

Exhibits at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary include Texas' venomous snakes, rocks, minerals and fossils, seashells, marine life, North Texas ecosystems, a children's fossil dig, and a marine room. Most of the Heard property is preserved or restored. Two garden spaces educate the public about designing wildlife friendly landscapes, wildlife habitats, native plant gardens, and residential bird and butterfly gardens.

Russell Creek Park is home to the largest collection of cricket pitches in the Southwest.

The 3-day Plano Balloon Festival is held during the third weekend in September and features approximately 100 balloons in all shapes and colors.

EDUCATION

The Plano Independent School District serves 54,839 students primarily from the city of Plano, with the balance coming from surrounding areas of Dallas, Richardson, Allen, Carrollton, Garland, Lucas, Murphy, Parker, and Wylie. The district operates 44 elementary schools, 13 middle schools, 6 high schools (grades 9 and 10) and 3 senior high schools (grades 11 and 12), and 1 academy high school. Frisco Independent School District, Lewisville Independent School District, and Richardson Independent School District also educate Plano students.

Higher education is available at Collin College, which offers more than 100 degrees and certificates and has two Plano campuses. The Courtyard Center for Professional offers Continuing Education and Workforce Development, Center for Workforce and Economic Development, and Collin Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The Spring Creek Campus has many core offerings, including classes in fine arts, communications, humanities, business, computer science, mathematics, natural sciences, and social sciences. Southern Methodist University-in-Plano offers graduate studies and professional development programs.

Other opportunities for higher education available in the surrounding areas include the University of North Texas at Dallas, Southern Methodist University, Dallas Baptist University, Criswell College, Paul Quinn College, Dallas Christian College, and the University of Dallas in Irving. The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School is also located in Dallas.

HEALTH CARE

Plano is served by the Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano (160 beds), The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano (116 beds), The Medical Center of Plano (427 beds), Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano (366 beds), and Children's Hospital of Legacy (72 beds). The city is also served by two long-term acute care facilities.

CITY STATS

2012

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| City Population | 272,178 |
| Metropolitan Statistical Area Population | 6,700,991 |
| Per Capita Personal Income, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX, MSA | \$46,136 |