



# Hartford, CT



**H**artford, the capital of Connecticut, is located on the western bank of the Connecticut River. The area was settled as the Dutch trading post House of Hope in 1623. A group of English settlers led by the Reverend Thomas Hooker left Massachusetts and formed a colony in Hartford in 1636 and renamed it after Hertford, England.

A pair of Hartford National Historic Landmarks honor two 19th century authors. The Mark Twain House & Museum is located in the 25-room mansion where Twain lived and wrote between 1874 and 1891. The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, located in her Victorian house, contains a large collection of Stowe's memorabilia, rare manuscripts, and print material.

Highlights of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art include antiquities, decorative arts, paintings, drawings, costumes, prints, firearms, and contemporary art. Its Amistad Center contains a collection of nearly 7,000 items of art, artifacts, and popular culture objects that document the experience, expressions, and history of people of African American heritage.

Several museums in the city focus on local history. The Museum of Connecticut History traces the growth of the state and its role in the development of the nation. Exhibits include the Declaration of Independence printed in 1777 by Mary Katherine Goddard and an assortment of firearms made by 23 different Connecticut companies during the 19th and 20th centuries. Books, maps, photographs, artwork, digital assets, and municipal records that convey the city's 300-plus years are contained in the Hartford History Center. The Old State House's museum features hundreds of ordinary and extraordinary objects that tell the city's story. Three historic home museums are also located in the city: the Butler-McCook House & Garden and Main Street History Center, the Isham-Terry House, and the Amos Bull House.

Other museums include the Connecticut Science Center, which has more than 165 hands-on exhibits, a state-of-the-art 3D digital theater, and four educational labs; and the Joseloff Gallery at the University of Hartford, which features student and professional art.

Performing arts are available in many Hartford venues. The Bushnell Center for Performing Arts presents comedy, opera, children's theatre, Broadway theater, and other touring shows. The Bushnell Center is also home to the Hartford Symphony. Infinity Music Hall & Bistro hosts concerts in a variety of musical genres and comedy programs. Emphasizing the cultural and artistic contributions of the African Diaspora, Artists Collective presents world renowned music, theater, and dance performances. Drama, dance, lectures, and a variety of concerts are performed at the Lincoln Theater at the University of Hartford. Hartford Stage produces innovative revivals of classics and provocative new plays and musicals. In addition to creating new main stage productions, HartBeat presents shows in Hartford's public parks. TheaterWorks produces contemporary performances in its City Arts on Pearl Theater. The XL Center hosts sporting events, family entertainment, consumer shows, and performances by top entertainers.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Hartford is the center for governmental, commercial, and cultural activities, with residential options that include high-rise luxury apartments and condominiums.

Located on the western side of Keney Park, Blue Hills features large, historic Tudor and colonial-style single-family homes built in the 1920s and 1930s on tree-lined streets near the park; smaller bungalow starter homes and two-story homes are also available. The Northeast neighborhood is situated on the eastern side of the park. Multi-family two-story homes are located near the park and date from the 1910s. This neighborhood also has many large apartment buildings.

Five sections of the West End neighborhood, one of Hartford's largest and most prominent residential neighborhoods, are listed on the National Register of Historic Districts. Large, two-story, single-family homes were built near Elizabeth Park on large lots between 1890 and 1930. This neighborhood also has two- and three-family homes that were constructed in the 1910s.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Hartford has 4 small parks and 9 large parks; several were designed by the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who was born in Hartford in 1822, or his associates.

Located in downtown Hartford, Bushnell Park is an urban arboretum of rare and native trees. The park features the Bushnell Park Carousel, which is a fully restored

1914 wooden carousel. The park's Performance Pavilion's outdoor stage hosts theater, music, and dance performances. The Pump House hosts an art gallery that features works by area artists. A new playground will open in spring 2018.

The 107.58-acre Colt Park provides public recreational facilities including 2 outdoor pools, 2 playscapes, a track, a spray pool, 2 handball/racquetball courts, 2 swing sets, 2 basketball courts, 2 soccer fields, 3 baseball diamonds, 7 softball diamonds, and 2 football fields. The park's Dillon Stadium has a football/soccer field. The Hartford Botanic Garden, an 18.5 acre area utilizing some of the outbuildings from the former Colt estate, will be established in the park.

Some of Hartford's larger parks spread into neighboring towns. At 695 acres, Keney Park, the largest park within the city system, extends into the town of Windsor, where the golf course is primarily situated. Other park amenities include cricket and baseball fields, tennis and basketball courts, a swimming pool, and playgrounds. Goodwin Park is comprised of 237 acres, with 110 located within the town of Wethersfield. Goodwin Park's Hartford amenities include 4 tennis courts, a basketball court, a swimming pool, a softball diamond, a playground, a fitness trail, and 27-hole golf course, half of which is in Wethersfield. Elizabeth Park straddles the Hartford-West Hartford border. The Hartford side consists of almost 20 acres and features a playground, 2 softball fields, 2 little league baseball fields, 2 basketball courts, and a scenic overlook.

## EDUCATION

Hartford Public Schools educate 20,300 students in 20 elementary/middle schools (grades kindergarten through 8), 8 additional schools that serve an elementary or middle school-aged population, 11 high schools (grades 9 through 12), and 8 other schools that serves segments of high school students or high school and younger populations. Hartford Public Schools is part of an all-choice system of schools that offers district, magnet, open choice, and charter school options.

Higher education is available at the University of Connecticut's new downtown Hartford campus, which offers undergraduate and graduate programs with a high priority on community outreach and service. Trinity College is a private liberal arts college that grants bachelor's and master's degrees. Primarily located in West Hartford, the University of Hartford is a private, independent, nonsectarian, coeducational university that offers graduate and undergraduate programs. Capital Community College provides associate degree programs and job skills training.

The University of Connecticut School of Law; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which offers graduate programs in several engineering fields for working professionals; and Hartford Seminary, which is a non-denominational graduate school for religious and theological studies, are also located in Hartford.

## HEALTH CARE

Hartford is served by the following health care facilities:

- Hartford Hospital: 867 licensed beds
- Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center: 617 licensed beds
- Connecticut Children's Medical Center: 187 licensed beds
- Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital: 60 licensed rehabilitation beds

## CITY STATS

2016

City Population	123,243
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	1,206,836
Per Capita Personal Income, Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, MSA	\$59,343