



Lexington, KY



Lexington, Kentucky, was founded in 1775 by frontier explorers at the time the first battle of the American Revolution was fought in Lexington, Massachusetts. In honor of that battle, the explorers named their site Lexington. Known as the “horse capital of the world,” the Lexington region is home to about 450 horse farms, as well as Keeneland, the world’s largest thoroughbred auction house.

Dedicated to humans’ relationship with the horse and located on 1,200 acres, Kentucky Horse Park contains four museums, theaters, recreational areas, working farm exhibits, and approximately 50 breeds of horses. The American Saddlebred Museum houses the largest collection of Saddlebred artifacts in the world, including trophies, photographs, tack, artwork, and a library used for bloodline and genealogic research. Exhibits at the International Museum of the Horse highlight the history of the horse from ancient times to the many popular sporting events of the modern era. Through art, film, books, and interactive exhibits, the Al-Marrah Arabian Horse Galleries showcase the Arabian breed from its desert beginnings through its emergence across Europe and its journey through America. The Wheeler Museum is home to a collection of equestrian memorabilia, including trophies, ribbons, books, and equipment from all aspects of the hunter/jumper industry, as well as a collection of artifacts from the Show Jumping Hall of Fame.

Among Lexington’s many other museums is the Aviation Museum of Kentucky, which is located at the Blue Grass Airport and features aircraft, aviation artifacts and equipment, simulators, and interactive displays. The Headley-Whitney Museum’s permanent collection of fine and decorative arts includes exhibits of jeweled sculptures and dollhouses. The Living Arts & Science Center provides creative opportunities for exploration and education in the arts and sciences. Other museums include the Explorium of Lexington, which is an interactive art and science children’s museum; 21c Museum Hotel; the University of Kentucky Art Museum; and the Monroe Moosnick Medical Museum at Transylvania University, which contains 19th century science and medical artifacts. Among Lexington’s many historic house museums are Henry Clay’s home, known as Ashland; the Mary Todd Lincoln House; the Hunt-Morgan House; the Loudoun House; Boone Station; and the Joseph Bryan House, also known as Waveland State Historic Site.

Ballet, opera, plays, children’s productions, family shows, comedy, music, and national Broadway tour shows are presented at the Lexington Opera House. Lexington Children’s Theatre produces shows for children in its own theaters. A variety of concerts and first-run and independent movies are presented at the Kentucky Theatre. The Lyric Theatre and Cultural Arts Center hosts the weekly taping of the syndicated radio show “WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour,” performances, and exhibits. Manchester Music Hall regularly presents regional and national musical acts and provides a venue for art and performances of all types. The Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center offers theater, dance, music, and visual and new media arts. Concerts, family shows, and the University of Kentucky men’s basketball games are held at Rupp Arena. Whitaker Bank Ballpark serves as an outdoor concert venue. The Singletary Center for the Arts on the University of Kentucky’s campus hosts concerts by university performing groups, guest performances, the Lexington Philharmonic, and other cultural events.

Neighborhoods

Lexington’s neighborhoods range from urban to rural. Although primarily commercial, the downtown has apartments, condominiums, and townhouses newly built and under construction. Lexington has many historic residential areas, such as Gratz Park, Fayette Park, Western Suburb, and Hampton Court near the downtown. Ashland Park, which was designed by the Olmsted Brothers and built between 1910 and 1935, features single-family homes in various architectural styles and is surrounded by trees, green spaces, and curving streets. Most of the homes in Bell Court, which was developed in the early 1900s, were constructed in the Victorian, Queen Anne, and Arts and Crafts styles. Kenwick, built between 1910 and 1940, features bungalow-style housing.

Suburban neighborhoods include Stonewall, which was built in the 1950s and 1960s and consists of mostly brick, ranch-style homes. The mostly single-family detached single- or two-story brick homes in Rabbit Run and Masterson Station were constructed between 1990 and 2000. Rabbit Run also has some apartments and condominiums. Beaumont Park features primarily brick, ranch-style houses built on large lots on tree-lined streets in the 1960s. The various Andover neighborhoods, built mostly during the 1990s, offer a variety of housing styles and sizes, including some apartments and townhouses.

The rural areas comprise many horse farms and estates. The Greenbriar Country Club subdivision features large, two-story traditional and ranch-style custom-built homes on large lots. Development began in the 1960s, but many homes are less than 10 years old. Ashford Oaks is a new gated community of custom homes that is adjacent to the country club.

Parks and Recreation

Lexington has more than 100 parks, with amenities that include seven community centers, seven pools, five golf courses, four disc golf courses, four skate parks, four spraygrounds, and six dog parks. Located in the downtown area, Thoroughbred Park contains seven bronze statues of racing horses with their jockeys and a broodmare with her foals.

Amenities in Castlewood Park, which is the site of the historic Loudoun House, include an aquatic center, a community center with a gymnasium, ball courts and fields, horseshoe pits, and a handicap-accessible playground.

The 216-acre Jacobson Park features Lakeside Golf Course in addition to ball courts, a dog park, fishing docks, open play fields, a creative playground, a sprayground, and a marina.

Masterson Station Park amenities include an equestrian program and an indoor riding arena complex, a dog park, ball fields and courts, an inline hockey rink, and a playground.

Woodland Park features a skate park, an aquatic center, ball fields and courts, a gazebo, horseshoe pits, a playground, and shelter.

Hisle Farm Park is approximately 280 acres of rolling pastureland located 5 miles northeast of downtown Lexington. It features a 10-lane target archery range with two permanent targets and a shared-use trail.

The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky, is a 100-acre green space located on the campus of the University of Kentucky. It features the Walk Across Kentucky, which includes plants and trees from Kentucky’s seven physiographic regions; the Home Demonstration Garden; and the Kentucky Children’s Garden.

Nature sanctuaries include the 734-acre Raven Nature Sanctuary on the Kentucky River and the 26-acre McConnell Springs Nature Sanctuary.

Professional sports include thoroughbred horse racing at Keeneland, harness racing at Red Mile Racetrack, and the Lexington Legends (baseball).

Education

Fayette County Public Schools serve more than 42,000 students in the Lexington metropolitan area in 37 elementary schools, 12 middle schools, 6 high schools, 3 technical centers, and 10 other academic and alternative programs.

Higher education is available at the University of Kentucky, which offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs at the Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, Health Sciences, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health. Transylvania University and Midway University are private nonprofit liberal arts colleges affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Bluegrass Community & Technical College is a public community college that offers diplomas, certificates, and associate’s degrees in technical fields and for transfer to 4-year institutions. Sullivan University Lexington campus, Indiana Wesleyan University, and American National University offer career-focused higher education.

Commonwealth Baptist College trains people for positions within the ministry. Lexington Theological Seminary is a graduate theological institution.

Health Care

Lexington is served by the following health care facilities:

- Baptist Health Lexington: 434 licensed beds
- Saint Joseph East: 217 licensed beds
- Saint Joseph Hospital: 433 licensed beds
- UK HealthCare Good Samaritan Hospital: 221 licensed beds
- University of KY Hospital: 724 licensed beds
- Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital: 158 licensed rehabilitation beds
- Eastern State Hospital: 195 licensed psychiatric beds
- The Ridge Behavioral Health System: 110 licensed psychiatric beds
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center: 199 authorized beds that comprise acute care services, residential treatment programs for PTSD and substance abuse, and a community living center

City Stats

2019

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Population	323,152
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	517,056
Per Capita Personal Income, Lexington-Fayette, KY, MSA	\$49,606