



GEORGETOWN, TEXAS FACT SHEET

- Georgetown is the first city in the south and the second city in the U.S. to be powered by 100% renewable energy when the municipal utility moves to wind and solar power in 2018.
- The city of Georgetown was founded in 1848 and named after George Washington Glasscock who, with his partner, Thomas B. Huling, donated land for the site.
- Georgetown is the county seat of Williamson County.
- In 1997, Georgetown became the first city in Texas to be named a Great American Main Street City, the highest honor given by the National Trust. (<https://mainstreet.georgetown.org/main-street-program/>)
- Home to one of the best-preserved Victorian and Pre-WW1 downtown historic districts, with the Williamson County Courthouse (from 1911) as its centerpiece.
- The Grace Heritage Center, located in the historic Grace Episcopal Church, dates to 1881. Old Williamson County Jail (312 Main Street) dates to 1888.
- The oldest building in Georgetown dates back to the early 1880's.
- Four National Register Districts and 52 properties on the National Register of Historic place.
- Ranked fifth in fastest growing U. S. cities according to the 2016 United States Census Bureau report. Georgetown grew at a rate of 5.5 percent from 2015 to 2016.
- Home of Southwestern University, the oldest university in Texas, established in 1840.
- Nearly nine miles of Hike & Bike Trails along the San Gabriel River.
- More than 40 retail shops, including a day spa, toy store, art galleries, restaurants and two wine tasting rooms, are located around the city square.
- Several movies have filmed in Georgetown, including: *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, *Varsity Blues*, *Dazed and Confused*, *Michael*, *Bernie* and the television series *Friday Night Lights*.

TOP PUBLIC EVENTS / FESTIVALS

Annual Georgetown Swirl - March
Annual Red Poppy Festival - April
Music on the Square Summer Concerts - Fridays in June, July and August 6:30p.m.
**no concert the first Fridays of the month*
Ghostly Adventure Tours - October
Annual Nightmare on Jail Hill - October
Annual Lighting of the Square - November
Annual Christmas Stroll - December (1st weekend)

Annual Georgetown Swirl:

Every March, attendees can enjoy an evening of downtown shopping while sampling Texas's top wines and dining on local restaurants' savory bites on the Georgetown Square at the 9th Annual Georgetown Swirl event. Live jazz music will help set the fun and festive mood. Swirl.Georgetown.org

Red Poppy Festival:

Known as the "Red Poppy" Capital of Texas. The annual Red Poppy Festival attracts up to 65,000 visitors annually each April on the historic square. The Red Poppy Festival is a three-day event. The event goes a plethora of activities, including the Red Poppy Taste Awards, Festival Parade, Festival Car Show, a slew of Artists and Artisans, a Kids Fun Zone, Red Poppy Eats, a Red Poppy Bike Ride, a Children's Coloring Contest and a Poster Art Contest. View full details online at: www.redpoppyfestival.com.

Music on the Square Summer Concerts:

Sponsored by the Georgetown Convention and Visitors Bureau and The Williamson Museum, these free concerts are held on the square every Friday except the first Fridays in June, July, and August at 6:30 p.m. Patrons are welcome to bring a lawn chair or blanket, grab dinner-to-go from a local restaurant and enjoy an evening of great live music. <https://visit.georgetown.org/music-on-the-square-concerts/>

Ghostly Adventure Tours:

Each Halloween season, there are two versions of the Ghostly Adventure Tours to please younger children and older thrill - seekers as well as an Annual Nightmare on Jail Hill where attendees can spend an evening exploring the haunted Williamson County Jail. <https://www.facebook.com/BrownSantaHauntedHouse/>

Annual Lighting of the Square:

The holiday season begins with this event the day after Thanksgiving, hosted by the mayor of Georgetown, complete with carolers, a visit from Santa and extended shop hours. <https://visit.georgetown.org/lighting-of-the-square/>

Annual Christmas Stroll:

The Downtown Georgetown Association presents the annual Georgetown Christmas Stroll on the Square the first weekend of every December. Guests enjoy Georgetown's own **Winter Wonderland** filled with activities such as a visit from Santa, holiday treats, a special kids' activity area, Bethlehem Village, and a non-melting **ice skating rink** with free skate rental. The festivities also include live music and shopping at more than 150 arts and crafts booths. Not to be missed is the **holiday parade** on Saturday morning. Admission is free but a new toy donation to Blue Santa or Brown Santa is encouraged. <http://www.thegeorgetownsquare.com/Christmas-Stroll---Guests.html>

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Great American Main Street City

Georgetown became the first city in Texas to be named a Great American Main Street City, the highest honor given by the National Trust, 1997

Parks Gold Medal 2017

(cities 50,000 – 100,000 population)
Texas Recreation and Park Society

Great Public Space

Georgetown Square
Great Places in Texas, 2017
American Planning Association, Texas Chapter

Fifth fastest-growing city in the U.S.

(cities 50,000 population or more)
U.S. Census Bureau, 2016

100% Renewable Energy in 2018

Georgetown Utility Systems
One of the first utilities in the U.S. to be 100% renewable

Reliable Public Power Provider

Georgetown Utility Systems
One of 219 of more than 2,000 public power utilities in U.S. to earn RP3 designation
April 2016
American Public Power Association

Safest Cities in Texas 2015

SafeWise
Ranked 27 among the 50 Safest Cities in Texas, May 26, 2015

Scenic City

Gold level re-certification, 2015

One of 58 cities in Texas to be certified as a Scenic City
Scenic Texas

Best Long-Range Plan 2015

Sidewalk Master Plan
American Planning Association, Texas Chapter

Purple Heart City

First Purple Heart City in Texas, 2013
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Texas Capital Chapter 1919