



Eugene, Oregon



Eugene, Oregon, was named for Eugene Skinner, one of the first settlers seeking land claims in the upper regions of the Willamette Valley and later the city's first mayor. The Willamette River is the major natural waterway that runs through Eugene.

Downtown Eugene is the civic center and the economic, cultural, and governmental focus of the region. The Hult Center hosts over 700 events each year in its two theaters. The Jacobs Gallery, located at the Hult Center, hosts the annual Mayor's Art Show. Downtown is the home of the Farmers' Market, 5th Street Public Market (shops and restaurants), and the Saturday Market (an April through mid-November marketplace for local handcrafters and artisans). The Nike Museum chronicles the history of Nike, which originated in Eugene. Downtown also is a residential area. The renovation of the Tiffany Building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, included the creation of new downtown housing and stimulated other downtown housing, including Broadway Place and High Street Terrace.

Other museums and cultural attractions in Eugene include the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) and the Museum of Natural History on the campus of the University of Oregon; the Lane County Historical Society & Museum; Maude Kerns Art Center; the Oregon Air and Space Museum; the Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House, a historic home designed in the Late Queen Anne Revival style; the Conger Street Clock Museum; and the Science Factory Children's Museum and Planetarium.

The Richard E. Wildish Community Theater is in Springfield, Eugene's sister city.

EUGENE NEIGHBORHOODS

Eugene has a variety of residential neighborhoods and types of housing. In the area immediately surrounding the University of Oregon campus, student housing and rental properties dominate; however, further from the campus, the residential style switches to Victorian architecture. Ferry Street Bridge refers to an entire north/northeast area of Eugene just across the Willamette River from the traditional downtown area. In addition to the established 20- to 40-year-old neighborhoods, the boundaries are pushing north with newer development. Southwest Eugene has parks and hills, diverse neighborhoods, and some of Eugene's most desired real estate. The historic College Hill Neighborhood is located in the northeast corner of West Eugene. Homes in this region range from bungalows to estates. Danebo is a rapidly developing area with many new neighborhoods attracting first-time home buyers and retirees. The River Road area retains its rural flavor because of its origins as a community of small farms and has established neighborhoods and pockets of new home construction.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Eugene has more than 100 parks and 2,600 acres of open space. The Willamette and McKenzie rivers offer the opportunity for water sports and recreation. Alton Baker Park is Eugene's largest developed park and home to dozens of recreational features and facilities. Another large park, Spencer Butte, is over 2,000 feet high and encompasses 360 acres of forest. The West Eugene Wetlands is home to rare and unusual animal species and more than 350 species of plants, some of which exist only in the Willamette Valley.

Mount Pisgah Arboretum is a 209-acre living tree museum located within the Howard Buford Recreation Area. Wayne Morse Family Farm, a 27-acre park of open space and natural wooded area, was home to Senator Wayne Morse. The Cascades Raptor Center rescues, rehabilitates, and releases (if possible) injured birds of prey.

Nearby Springfield is home to the Dorris Ranch, a living history farm that is Oregon's oldest working filbert farm. The Springfield Museum maintains exhibits tracing the history of the community beginning with the Kalapuya people.

Professional sports include the Eugene Emeralds (baseball), Eugene Gentlemen (rugby), and Eugene Generals (ice hockey).

EDUCATION

Eugene School District (4J) educates about 17,000 students, including most of the students from Eugene as well as students from Coburg and a small part of Linn County. The District operates 26 elementary schools, 13 middle schools (including a K-8 program), 8 high schools, and 3 charter schools.

The Bethel School District, which also is located in Eugene, serves approximately 5,700 students. The District has five elementary schools, two traditional middle schools, two kindergarten to eighth grade schools, and one traditional high school and one alternative high school.

Eugene is also a center for higher education. The University of Oregon, a public research university, offers undergraduate and graduate degrees. Pacific University's College of Education maintains a Eugene Campus. Lane Community College has career and technical and lower-division college classes that lead to certificates and associate of applied science degrees.

HEALTH CARE

Sacred Heart Medical Center operates a 103-licensed-bed facility in the city's University District with medical and behavioral health services, an emergency department, and a limited ICU. In addition, the city has an inpatient and residential treatment center for alcohol and drug abuse and a short-term inpatient psychiatric hospital. Other hospital facilities, which have a total of 452 licensed beds, are located in Springfield.

CITY STATS

2007

City Population	148,663
Metropolitan Statistical Area	342,781
Per Capita Personal Income, Eugene-Springfield (MSA)	\$32,877