



Fairfax, VA



The City of Fairfax, Virginia, was first settled in the early 1700s by farmers migrating from Virginia's Tidewater region for religious and economic reasons. Fairfax County was established in 1742, and the county court was constructed at the corner known as Earp's Corner. Because it was commonly called "Fairfax Court House," in 1874 it was officially renamed the Town of Fairfax.

Built in approximately 1859, the historic Blenheim brick farmhouse is a Civil War house museum that contains more than 100 signatures, art, and poetry created by Union soldiers during their occupation of Fairfax. This "diary on walls" provides insight into typical soldier life during the Civil War. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim interprets the site's history and the impact of the Civil War in the greater Fairfax area. Blenheim's 12 acres hosts the popular Fairfax Civil War Day.

The Ratcliffe-Allison House, the oldest residence in the downtown area, is another historic house museum in Fairfax and reflects the changes along Main Street between 1812 and 1981.

The Fairfax Museum is located in the former Fairfax Elementary School and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum hosts special exhibits on the city's history, offers educational programs, and schedules walking tours of the historic district.

The nearby National Rifle Association's National Firearms Museum houses one of the most extensive firearms collections in the country. The museum covers the nearly 700-year history of firearms, with a special emphasis on firearms and the American experience. Galleries include the Jamestown stockade fort, New England gun factories, a 19th-century rifle maker's shop, a trench on the Western Front in World War I, and a shelled-out town square in Normandy from World War II.

Fairfax's Old Town Hall is the venue for the free Bonita Lestina Performance Series and Children's Performance Series. The City of Fairfax Band Association's ensembles also perform at Old Town Hall and area schools. The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra performs at The George Mason University Center for the Arts. The Hub Theatre produces a series of plays at the John Swayze Theatre in The New School of Northern Virginia.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Fairfax is primarily a governmental and commercial area. Located close to downtown, the Historic Triangle neighborhood features homes built between 1900 and 1940 and primarily in Colonial Revival and Victorian styles. These homes are situated on large lots and very narrow streets.

Many other neighborhoods date from the mid-20th century and include Country Club Hills, where all of the homes are mid-century brick ranch styles on large lots. The Old Lee Hills neighborhood is located across the road and consists of detached split-level and ranch-style homes. The largest neighborhood is Mosby Woods, which contains over 500 houses in Colonial, split-level, and ranch styles. Green Acres is located closest to George Mason University and contains mostly split-level and ranch-style detached homes and newer townhomes.

Two-thirds of the homes in Farrcroft are detached homes and one third are attached homes situated in groups of three. The large, primarily brick homes in this neighborhood were built between 1999 and 2003 on small lots. Half of the 355 new structures built in Farrcroft within the past 10 years are townhouses, and the other half are detached single-family houses. All replaced previous buildings.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The City of Fairfax has 25 parks with playgrounds; athletic fields; basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts; and 28 miles of trails. The recently completed Old Town Square features some of the traditional, beloved landmarks of the downtown area, including Kitty Pozer Garden and the Fairfax Rotary clock, along with a new splash pad, cascade water feature, pergola, and McCandlish Memorial Garden. The wooded Daniels Run Park features a small tot lot and 48 acres of trails for biking, hiking, and jogging. The 20-acre Van Dyck Park offers a lighted basketball court, exercise trail, multi-purpose play areas, playground equipment, 4 lighted tennis courts, and 3 sand volleyball courts. The 24-acre Stafford Drive Park has a barrier-free playground, fully accessible walking trail, and multi-purpose synthetic turf field. An outdoor basketball court, Little League field, playground equipment, soccer fields, and indoor activity rooms are available at the 10-acre Green Acres Center.

Nearby Ox Hill Battlefield Park is the site of the only major Civil War engagement in Fairfax County and is also a part of the Virginia Civil War Trails program. Interpretive kiosks at the park present information about the battle and its significance and offer insights into some of the 1,500 soldiers who were wounded or killed here, including two Union generals.

EDUCATION

Fairfax County Public Schools system educates approximately 187,000 students in 139 elementary schools, 3 middle schools (grades 6-8), 20 middle schools (grades 7 and 8), 3 secondary schools (grades 7-12), 22 high schools (grades 9-12), 2 alternative high schools, and 7 special education centers. Two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school are located within the City of Fairfax.

Higher education is available at the adjacent George Mason University, which is the largest public research university in Virginia. George Mason offers 81 undergraduate, 88 master's, and 38 doctoral degree programs and also has a school of law. The Virginia International University is a private, nonprofit institution that provides higher education to students primarily from Asian countries. Columbia College is a private vocational college that offers associate degree and certificate programs in specific fields.

HEALTH CARE

CHospitals located in Fairfax County include Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, which is a 182-bed acute care community hospital; Inova Fairfax Hospital, which is an 833-bed regional medical center and is home to Northern Virginia's only Level 1 Trauma Center; Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, which is a 237-bed community hospital; and Reston Hospital Center, which is a 187-bed acute care medical and surgical hospital.

Dominion Hospital is a 100-bed psychiatric hospital for the treatment of children, adolescents, and adults.

CITY STATS

2013

City Population	23,973
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	5,949,859
Per Capita Personal Income, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA	\$61,507