

Bastrop sits in the heart of the 6,000-acre Lone Pines Forest. For decades, lumber from the forest fueled the local economy. Nowadays, the pine trees in and around Bastrop are there for admiring, not for harvesting. Trees still far outnumber people in Bastrop, but that gap is narrowing.

Thanks to Bastrop's small-town appeal, relatively affordable housing, and proximity to Austin (about 30 miles), the suburb's population rose from 7,355 in 2010 to 9,242 in 2019, and thousands live in neighborhoods surrounding Bastrop. Residences in the area are primarily one- to two-story, single-family homes.

In addition to the aforementioned factors, Bastrop residents like their access to parks. This includes the 1,100-acre McKinney Roughs Nature Park along the Colorado River. The park offers 18 miles of trails for hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders, along with a zipline and overnight accommodations. Another option is Bastrop State Park, which features seven miles of trails, a fishing lake, a swimming pool, and overnight accommodations.

If the great outdoors isn't your thing, Bastrop's "historically hip" downtown might be more your style. The quaint downtown district offers restaurants, shops, art galleries, and the Bastrop County Museum and Visitor Center. Historic sites include the Bastrop County Courthouse, old county jail, Bastrop Opera House, and Old Iron Bridge.

Steeped in history, Bastrop has one foot in the past and one foot in the future. And while close to Austin, it provides a respite from big-city life.

#### **Doing Business in Bastrop**

Located 30 miles southeast of Austin in the heart of the Texas Triangle, Bastrop provides the ideal environment for relocating or expanding businesses. It's only 20 minutes from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, with easy access to four-lane divided highways, the Union Pacific rail line and all major Texas markets. Bastrop also sits at the intersection of three major state highways – SH21, SH71 and SH95 – for outstanding regional connectivity.

Bastrop couples historic small-town charm with big-city amenities and an exceptional quality of life. Its tranquil setting amid the natural beauty of Central Texas' Lost Pines region includes extensive Colorado River frontage and abundant recreational opportunities. The convenience of Downtown Austin is just 30 miles away.

Our community offers low taxes, a low cost of living and a large, cost-effective labor force within a short commute.

## Promoting Growth – Advancing Opportunity

Bastrop's fast-track growth and unique appeal make it ideal for expansion. Find wide availability of land and space at affordable prices in one

of the fastest-growing counties in Texas. Gain ready access to skilled and unskilled labor, an attractive tax environment, and low occupancy and construction costs. Bastrop is home to diverse, vibrant businesses within and beyond our expanding business and industrial park, as well as national retailers and service providers.

The Bastrop EDC is actively pursuing community investments within the manufacturing, biotech and life science, information technology, and hospitality and retail sectors. Bastrop is located in close proximity to two world-class research universities and is home to one of the nation's most prestigious cancer research facilities. We offer incentives and site selection assistance to help businesses identify the most advantageous location.

## **Education**

The historic City of Bastrop provides a wide variety of educational choices for all ages and academic styles. The Bastrop Independent School District (BISD) consists of six elementary schools, two intermediate schools, two middle schools, two high schools, and two alternative learning facilities. The newest campus, Cedar Creek High School, was completed in 2010, and was recognized as a school of Academic Distinction by the Texas Education Agency in 2013, along with Cedar Creek Intermediate School and Bastrop High School.

BISD maintains high expectations and a complete commitment to investing time, energy, talents, and expertise towards each student. Beginning in 5th grade, students have the opportunity to enroll in pre-Advanced Placement programing. Focusing on college preparation at the secondary level, students can enroll in rigorous Advanced Placement and dual credit programs. BISD boasts of strong fine arts, robotics, and athletics programs, which help to create a well-rounded academic experience.

BISD offers two alternative learning facilities to guide students on their career paths and promote positive relationships. Genesis High School extends high school degree programs to its students with smaller class sizes and an individualized pace of learning. Gateway School provides a safe and structured learning environment.

Students work towards building positive relationship skills, while improving their academic skills. There are many resources to ensure success including home campus teachers, school technology, counselors, and much more.

In addition, with the implementation of House Bill 5 (HB 5) passed by the Texas Legislature in 2013, Bastrop ISD has created a number of Career Pathways for students, including automotive, agriculture, business, construction, culinary arts, health sciences, and STEM-based programs. In the future, EMT, AWS welding, and AutoCAD certifications will also be offered.

#### **BOND PROJECTS AND UPDATES**

Now that the bond has passed, we're ready to get started on building, renovating, and improving our campuses. We're excited to share the process with you on our website. You can check back for updates as our projects progress <u>here</u>.

Proposition A is for *\$177,829,000* includes the following projects throughout the district:

- Two new schools and land \$64,380,440
- Safety and security upgrades \$9,410,584
- Growth and instructional capacity projects \$76,065,235
- General renovations and improvements \$27,972,741

Proposition B for *\$5,821,000* includes improvements for Erhard Field and athletic buildings at Bastrop High School.

The bond package focuses on several key areas including the district's instructional needs, safety and security, and renovations and expansion to accommodate our growing community. Every campus will benefit from this bond. <u>Click on the link</u> to view the bond summary.

# <u>Helpful Links</u>

Bastrop Chamber of Commerce Bastrop Economic Development Bastrop ISD Bastrop Home Listings

