

Elgin  
Texas



*Elgin is a growing community that still has that small town feel. It is a community rich in history. It has been designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a National Main Street Community. It offers many award winning examples of historic preservation. The H & TC Freight Depot built in 1872, is the oldest building in Elgin. Currently it is the home of the Greater Elgin Chamber of Commerce. The restoration of this building was a joint effort between the City of Elgin, Greater Elgin Chamber of Commerce, Elgin Main Street Board and the Southside Merchants Association along with many grant providers. The original passenger depot, Union Depot has recently been completely renovated by the City of Elgin. It now serves as a museum for the community.*

#### Regional Information

19 Scenic miles east of Austin on Highway 290

#### Education

The mission of Elgin ISD, the community's educational leader, is to provide a high quality education for all children. The Elgin Independent School District is located approximately 22 miles east of Austin and is in the Region 13 Education Service Center area. There are six campuses: Elgin Elementary School, Booker T. Washington Elementary School, Neidig Elementary School, Elgin Middle School, Elgin High School and Phoenix High School (Alternative Education). Elgin ISD comprises more than 168 square miles in portions of Bastrop, Lee, and Travis Counties and provide educational facilities and resources to meet the needs of more than 3000 students on five campuses.

#### Recreation

**ELGIN MEMORIAL PARK** Located at Highway 95 and Main Street (Loop 109). Approximately 26 acres with hundreds of elm trees and green grass, the park includes a little league ball field, small concession stand, a founders log cabin, restrooms, two sand volleyball courts, three tennis courts, one playground, covered and uncovered picnic tables and barbecue grills, and scattered park benches.

**MORRIS MEMORIAL PARK** Located on North Avenue C, this 14-acre park features a swimming pool, fish pond, basketball court, playground and hike and bike trails. Complete with picnic tables and benches, this park is a great place to bring the family and picnic. The Morris Memorial Park opened in May 1995 and is one of the most popular parks year round.

**THOMAS MEMORIAL PARK** Located two blocks off McDade Road on Madison Street. The park encompasses 14 acres and provides a softball field, basketball court, covered picnic tables and child's play area, nine hole disc (Frisbee) golf course, expanded pavilion, new playground equipment, expanded trails system, two additional practice fields, expanded parking lot, renovated bathrooms/concession area, and much more.

**VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK** Located on Main and Depot streets, adjacent to H&TC Depot, this park was constructed in 1930 in honor of veterans of World War I. A wood gazebo and 12 concrete memorial benches compose the focal point of the park and a row of large crepe myrtles separate the park from the railroad. A WWI cannon, memorial headstone and flagpole are located in the park. This popular downtown park is the site for many community events including Movies in the Park, the Saturday Farmers' Market, Elgin's Chile Pepper Fiesta, Art & Artisan's Showcase and many more.

**SHENANDOAH PARK & GREENBELT** This 40+ acre park began development in September 2003 with phase one. The park is located on FM 1100 west of downtown Elgin. The park includes six soccer fields, and a mini concession.

#### Quality of Life

Elgin is committed to promoting civic, educational, historical, cultural and general interest to enhance the quality of life for all citizens within the community.

#### Business Overview

The City of Elgin is located in a region experiencing fast population growth relative to the state and the nation. Population in the region is expected to grow on average 2.6% annually during 2005-10, which is faster than the state (2.3%) and more than double the national rate (1.2%).

The Elgin Commercial Historic District includes 14 city blocks of commercial and industrial buildings. Most of these buildings are constructed of locally produced brick and were erected from 1872 to 1947. During the past 14 years private property owners, business owners, and the public sector have invested approximately \$9 million in the downtown area. A majority of the buildings on Main Street, from Depot Street to First Street, have been restored and or renovated, and many are currently under renovation.



## Elgin Attractions:

**Art Walk:** The Elgin Art Walk is a free, self-guided tour of art exhibition venues in Elgin, Texas. It is held from 6 to 9 pm the 2nd Saturday of the month from March through November. (It is held the first Saturday in December in conjunction with Holiday by the Tracks.) Meet artists, enjoy live music, refreshments and experience historic downtown Elgin.

**Music and Movies in the Park Series:** The City of Elgin Parks and Recreation Department is known for its slogan, Elgin Parks and Recreation, Where the Benefits are Endless! But now the department along with the Friends of Elgin parks is venturing into providing live music in the parks. The Music and Movies Series runs from March to August and features family-oriented movies and live bands in downtown Elgin at Veterans' Memorial Park. Additionally, concessions are sold to help finance the series that is free to the public.

**Market Days:** The first Saturday of each month from February through November, Market Days is held at the beautiful Elgin Memorial park. The Memorial park is located on Main Street just off of Hwy 95 North. Vendors bring everything from flea market to garage sale to craft items to sell at the park.

**Martin Luther King Observance:** The Bastrop County Martin Luther King Holiday Commission celebrates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King each year on the third Monday of January. The celebration rotates between the cities of Bastrop, Elgin and Smithville.

**Elgin Community Easter Egg Hunt:** The annual egg hunt is sponsored by the Friends of Elgin Parks with the City of Elgin Parks and Recreation Department. A tradition originally begun by the Elgin Evening Lions Club, the event is held the Saturday before Easter each year in Elgin Memorial Park. It provides an opportunity for youth up to 8 years old to explore the park in an egg hunt with fabulous prizes.

**Relay for Life:** The Relay for Life takes place in April every year. This event is sponsored by the American Cancer Society and is a community event that not only raises funds for research and patient services, but raises awareness and gives hope to those touched by cancer and their families.

**Elgin VFD BBQ Cook-Off:** The Fireman's BBQ Cook-off is held in the Elgin Memorial Park the fourth Saturday of April. Participants begin arriving on Thursday to start preparing their cuisine with Judging on Saturday. Each year this event attracts a large crowd and is great fun for all who attend.

**Art & Artisans Showcase...Elgin Style:** The gazebo in Veterans Memorial Park is the stage for live music for your enjoyment as you stroll through the park and see, feel, and experience the art by local artisans, Elgin Style! Concessions are also available throughout the day. This event takes place the fourth Saturday of April from noon to 8:00 p.m. in Historic Downtown Elgin.

**Annual Sausage Stampede:** The Southside Market Sausage Stampede is a 5K race and a 1K Children's race sponsored by the Cattlemen for Cancer Research Patient Assistance Program and the Greater Elgin Chamber of Commerce.

**Juneteenth Festival:** President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation proclamation into law on January 1, 1863. Texans did not receive word of this proclamation until June 19, 1865, when Major Gordon Granger sailed into Galveston and issued a general order declaring that, "in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. In observance of

this event, Elgin celebrates the occasion that second weekend in June with a parade, pageant, dance and festival. The events take place in downtown Elgin at the Veterans' Memorial Park.

**Annual Western Days Festival:** The Western Days festival begins with our Queen's Review on Tuesday night. Rodeo events are scheduled for Wednesday – Friday nights. There is a dance scheduled for Friday night at the Tennis Courts in Memorial Park. Saturday will begin with a Grand Parade down Main Street and then ongoing events in Memorial park with Arts and Craft Vendors, Food Vendors, Carnival, Children's Activities, Live Music throughout the day and Softball, Volleyball and Horseshoe tournaments.

**Chalk It Up: Children's Sidewalk Art Contest:** The Elgin Parks and Recreation Department sponsors a free children's sidewalk art contest each July at Veterans' Memorial Park. Chalk It Up is a program co-sponsored by the National Recreation and park Association. The event for children ages 6-12. Youth are asked to participate as individuals or in Groups (Groups are two to four youth.). The event is free. Judges will determine winners based on creativity, use of space, color and imagination. A thirty-minute time limit will be placed on all entries once the event begins. The theme is "Celebrating Freedom in the USA".

**Elgin People's Patriotic Fourth of July Parade and Celebration:** Push, Pedal, Pull and Pets is the theme of the annual parade and celebration held each year on the Fourth of July. It is a fun event for children, pets, adults, seniors and veterans. Everyone is invited to walk down historic Main Street from City Hall to the Veterans' Memorial Park for a celebration of our nations' freedom. Food and fun follow the parade with a short program and a Soap Box Derby exhibition by the local cub scouts.

**Chilepepper Fiesta:** This celebration begins at Veterans' Memorial Park from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Bring the whole family and enjoy the weekend with food, Mariachi Band, D.J. Street dancing, Ballet Folklorico, and the crowning of the Miss 16 of September.

**Hogeye Festival:** The annual Hogeye Festival is for the entire family and features food, kids activities, handmade arts and crafts, music by local bands and plenty of pig puns to go around. Also included are the Road Hog Car Show, In a Pigs Eye Dart Contest, Gordon Swenson Memorial BBQ Pork-Off, Piggy Idol Talent Showcase, Carnival and last but not least, the crowning of King Hog or Queen Sowpreme.

**Trick or Treat Trail:** Sponsored by the Elgin Parks and Recreation Department and located in Historic Downtown Elgin, at Veterans' Memorial Park, businesses set up to pass out treats and provide activities for the trick or treaters. This safe alternative to traditional Trick or Treating is a popular event complete with a costume contest for the kids.

**Holiday by the Tracks:** Co-sponsored by the Elgin Main Street Board, Elgin Chamber of Commerce and the Parks and Recreation Department. Holiday by the Tracks includes a day of shopping at the local downtown businesses, music and the Art & Artisans Showcase in Veterans' Memorial Park. Also included are the VFD Lighted Christmas Parade at dusk followed by a live nativity.

**Lighted Christmas Parade:** Sponsored by the Elgin Volunteer Fire Department, this annual parade is a favorite of the locals as well as the many visitors it attracts. You will be sure to enjoy the creativity and diversity of the many floats. This event takes place the first Saturday of December at dusk.