

the original buildings, which are still standing. New brick buildings that blend in with the area's design and a parking garage in the rear have been added to the district. Rice Village is known for the unique boutiques and independently owned shops like the five and dime store that has been operating here for decades. Among the over 300 shops in the Village are also several national clothing chains and retailers in the newer sections.

Visitors looking for someplace to eat have an array of options, including Thai, Japanese, Turkish, Greek, American, Chinese, Spanish, Mexican, and Italian restaurants. On the weekends, the casual bars, pubs, and trendy upscale lounges that mingle side by side are packed with patrons. Parking on the weekends can be a hassle and difficult, especially along Morningside and University. Evidently, though, many people believe it is worth it, as witnessed by the crowds here. Across from the Village, on the other side of Kirby Drive, are several townhomes, some of them recently constructed. There are also many rental properties in the West Village that are usually occupied either by university students or medical residents from the Medical Center.

Tucked into West University is an L-shaped area known as **Southside Place**. This very affluent community covers only nine streets, which are in alphabetical order. This secluded neighborhood dates back to the 1920s, when it was a small community. It has the same small town, family-friendly atmosphere as West University and Bellaire. Sometimes it is difficult to tell the difference between West University and Southside Place. Almost all of the commercial businesses are located along Bellaire Boulevard/Holcombe, which also runs through West University and Bellaire.

The **Old Braeswood** neighborhood dates back to the 1930s and is located across from West University on the other side of Holcombe Blvd. Previously called Braeswood, it was renamed Old Braeswood in the 1980s to distinguish itself from the other neighborhoods, commonly referred to as Braeswood, that were developing along Brays Bayou. Though not one of the most recognizable neighborhoods by name, it rivals Houston's most prestigious residential areas. Homes here have steadily increased in value over the years and many are now worth about \$400,000 or more. Old Braeswood is characterized by large trees and historic homes. The architectural design, street layout, and ambience are similar to West University Place. However, some of the old homes are slowly being replaced by large multi-story townhomes that seem conspicuously out of place in a quiet residential neighborhood.

Web Sites: www.ci.bellaire.tx.us, www.westu.org, www.ci.southside-place.tx.us, www.oldbraeswood.com

Area Code: 713

Zip Codes: 77401, 77005, 77025

Post Offices: Bellaire Station, 5350 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire; William Rice Station, 5201 Wakeforest St, Houston; Astrodome Station, 8205 Braeswood Dr, Houston; Medical Center Station, 7205 Alameda Rd, Houston

Police Departments: Bellaire Police Department, 5110 Jessamine, Bellaire, 713-668-0487; West University Police Department, 3814 University Blvd, West University Pl,

713-668-0330; Southside Place Police Department, 6309 Edloe Ave, Houston, 713-668-2341; Houston Police Department, South Central Patrol, 2202 St. Emanuel, Houston, 713-651-8100

Emergency Hospitals: Texas Medical Center, www.tmc.edu; Hermann Hospital, www.memorialhermann.org, 6411 Fannin, 713-704-4000; Ben Taub, www.hchdonline.com, Ben Taub General Hospital, 1504 Taub Loop, 713-873-2000; Methodist Hospital, www.methodisthealth.com, 6565 Fannin St, 713-790-3311; VA Hospital, www.houston.med.va.gov, 2002 Holcombe Blvd, 1-800-553-2278; St. Luke's, www.sleh.com, 6720 Bertner Ave, 832-355-1000; Texas Children's Hospital, www.texaschildrenshospital.org, 6621 Fannin St, 832-824-1000

Libraries: Bellaire City Library, 5111 Jessamine, Bellaire, 713-662-8166; Harris County Public Library, www.hcpl.net, 6108 Auden, Houston, 713-668-8273

Public Education: Houston Independent School District, www.houstonisd.org, 4400 W 18th, Houston, 713-556-6005

Community Publications: *Bellaire Examiner* and *West University Examiner*, www.westuexaminer.com

Community Resources: Bellaire City Hall, 7008 S Rice Ave, Bellaire, 713-662-8222; West University Place City Hall, 3800 University Blvd, West University Place, 713-668-4441; Southside Place City Hall, 6309 Edloe Ave, Houston, 713-668-2341; Southwest Chamber of Commerce www.gswgcc.org, PO Box 788, Bellaire, 713-666-1521

Public Transportation: Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, www.ridemetro.org; *Bus:* 2, 49, 33, 65

MUSEUM/MEDICAL CENTER

RICE UNIVERSITY AREA/MUSEUM DISTRICT/TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

Boundaries: North: US-59; East: Hwy 288; South: Old Spanish Trail and Braeswood; West: Greenbriar

One of the loveliest parts of Houston, the area surrounding Rice University is popular with joggers and visitors, who enjoy its shaded trees and beautiful landscape. The Rice University Area's most distinctive characteristic is the canopy of oak trees that line South Main Street and other parts of the community. The area is beautiful year 'round, but the most gorgeous time of the year is during spring, when the azaleas and other flowers come into full bloom. The spectacular Mecom Fountain display sits in the center of South Main, forming the city's only major circle drive. One fork of this road takes drivers directly to the Museum District, while the other fork heads towards Montrose. Within walking distance of each other are the Museum of Fine Arts, Contemporary Arts Museum, and the Museum of Natural Science. Also nearby are the Rothko Chapel, de Menil Museum, Holocaust Museum, the Children's Museum of Houston, and other art galleries. Right across from the university is the Houston Zoo, Hermann Park, the Botanical Gardens, and the Museum

of Natural Science. Hermann Park, a natural oasis amid the traffic and noise of the city, is one of the city's most tranquil and well-maintained parks, due in large part to the nonprofit Hermann Park Conservancy. A small number of high-rise condominiums are located across from this area overlooking the park, and the Museum District as a whole contains many luxury condominiums. The light rail system stops in front of the park and heads downtown.

Modern contemporary, traditional, antebellum, Colonial, bungalow, Tudor, Mediterranean, Italianate, and other uniquely designed homes are hidden in the streets off South Main. The individuality of the houses contributes character and appeal to this safe and peaceful community. It also doesn't hurt that some of the stately homes are just plain lovely, while others are more exclusive and hidden among shady oak trees behind lightly ivy-covered walls. The university has constructed several apartments and dorms for international students, graduate students, and families in the neighborhoods in recent years. The neighborhoods in this area include:

- **Southampton:** Developed in 1922, most of the older homes here are large bungalows and Georgian style residences with some new construction of million-dollar homes.
- **Southgate:** This neighborhood is bordered by West Holcombe on the south, Greenbriar on the west, University on the north, and Travis on the west. Most of the homes here were built in the 1930s and 1940s.
- **Boulevard Oaks:** Bounded by the Southwest Freeway (US-59) on the north, Morningside on the west, Bissonet on the south, and Graustark/Parkway on the east, this neighborhood is surrounded by beautiful landscape. Developed in the 1920s and 1930s, its diverse architectural styles include bungalows, ranch-style homes, and mansions.

Medical Center and South Loop Area (Astrodome/Reliant Center)

The area surrounding the Medical Center contains many apartments and townhomes, most of which are located along Braeswood. The rentals here are fairly recent and are usually large multi-building complexes that cater to medical students, interns, and residents. Many of the Medical Center employees and medical students also live around the Astrodome area, located further down South Main and Fannin. This was a run-down area until the development of the light rail and the building of the new Reliant football stadium initiated the area's revitalization. The area immediately next to Reliant Stadium is currently composed of affordable, low-rise apartments, while on the other side of the stadium several new apartments and townhomes have sprung up over the past few years as developers saw an opportunity with the increased demand for intown housing and the completion of the light rail. Though there are still pockets of eyesore, the area has steadily improved and more development is expected in the

future. The AstroWorld amusement park recently closed and is being torn down for a mixed-use residential/commercial development.

BRAESWOOD PLACE

Boundaries: North: Southside and West University Pl; East: Southern Pacific Railroad; South: Brays Bayou; West: Old Braeswood neighborhood

Primarily a single-family residential neighborhood developed in the 1950s, Braeswood Place is one of several neighborhoods and subdivisions that line Brays Bayou. The others are located outside of the 610 Loop. Because of its location next to the bayou, flooding can be a problem for residents. During Tropical Storm Allison in 2001, many of the small ranch-style homes that predominated before the storm were flooded out and had to be torn down. Larger two-story homes built on higher foundations have replaced the ranch houses. Generally a middle-class neighborhood before the flood, more upper-middle-income families have moved into the newer homes constructed after Allison. Subdivisions here include **Ayrshire**, **Braes Heights**, **Braes Manor**, **Braes Oaks**, **Braes Terrace**, and **Southern Oaks**.

Stella Link/Linkwood

Just inside the loop, the Linkwood neighborhood features one-story ranch-style homes with low-slung roofs. Homes here have large front and back yards.

Web Sites: www.houstontx.gov, www.braeswoodplace.org, www.houstonsouthgate.org

Area Code: 713

Zip Codes: 77005, 77030, 77054, 77025, 77098

Post Offices: William Rice Station, 5201 Wakeforest St; Medical Center Station, 7205 Almeda Rd; Greenbriar Station, 3740 Greenbriar St

Police Departments: Houston Police Department: South Central Division, 2202 St. Emanuel, 713-651-8100; Central Division, 61 Riesner, 713-247-4400; Rice University Police Department MS-551, 6100 Main St, 713-348-6000; University of Texas Medical Center Police, 1515 Holcombe Blvd, 713-792-2890

Emergency Hospitals: Texas Medical Center, www.tmc.edu; Hermann Hospital, www.memorialhermann.org, 6411 Fannin, 713-704-4000; Ben Taub, www.hchdonline.com, Ben Taub General Hospital, 1504 Taub Loop, 713-873-2000; Methodist Hospital, www.methodisthealth.com, 6565 Fannin St, 713-790-3311; VA Hospital, www.houston.med.va.gov, 2002 Holcombe Blvd, 1-800-553-2278; St. Luke's, www.sle.com, 6720 Bertner Ave, 832-355-1000; Texas Children's Hospital, www.texaschildrenshospital.org, 6621 Fannin St, 832-824-1000

Libraries: Houston Public Library: McGovern–Stella Link Branch, 7405 Stella Link, 832-393-2630; Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, 832-393-2600; Parent Resource Library in the Children's Museum, 1500 Binz, 713-522-1138 ext. 264; Rice University Fondren Library, 6100 Main, 713-348-5113; Houston Academy of Medicine–Texas Medical Center Library, 1133 John Freeman Blvd, 713-795-4200

Adult Education: Rice University, www.rice.edu, 6100 Main, 713-348-7423

Public Education: Houston Independent School District, www.houstonisd.org, 4400 W 18th, 713-556-6005

Community Publications: *Houston Chronicle*, www.chron.com; *Houston Press*, www.houstonpress.com; *Rice Thresher*, ricethresher.org

Community Resources: City Hall, 900 Bagby, 713-837-0311; Greater Houston YMCA, www.ymcahouston.org; Texas Medical Center Childcare, 5614 H Mark Croswell Jr., 713-747-2173; MD Anderson YMCA, 705 Cavalcade, 713-697-0648; Weekley Family YMCA, 7101 Stella Link Blvd, 713-664-9622; Hermann Park, 6001 Fannin; Miller Outdoor Theater, www.milleroutdoortheater.org, 100 Concert Dr, 713-284-8354; Museum District, www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org

Public Transportation: Metropolitan Authority of Harris County, www.ridemetro.org; Light Rail; Bus: 292, 298, 8, 34, 87, 326, 321, 322, 320, 73, 27, 26, 65, 132, 163, 292, 297, 1, 65, 60, 68, 170, 4, 10, 14, 73, 2; *Rice University Shuttle*

RIVER OAKS/UPPER KIRBY/GREENWAY PLAZA

Boundaries: RIVER OAKS: North: Buffalo Bayou; East: Shepherd; South: US-59; West: Loop 610; UPPER KIRBY: North: Westheimer; East: Shepherd; South: Westpark; West: Buffalo Speedway; GREENWAY PLAZA: North: Richmond; East: Shepherd; South: US-59; West: Loop 610

RIVER OAKS

River Oaks has a reputation as Houston's poshest neighborhood—the location that the city's crème de la crème call home. Many of the residences here are lavishly elegant and all of them have beautiful front and back yards. This neighborhood contains a combination of stately mansions, single-family residential homes, luxury condominiums, and recently constructed townhomes. Some of the million-dollar estates are hidden from view behind gates or large estates. The neighborhood shows off its homes and gardens each year during the annual Azalea Trail. This springtime event showcases the beautiful flowers in all shades of pink that grace the select residences on this tour.

Highland Village Area

Around the upscale Highland Village shopping center on Westheimer are several affluent neighborhoods. Many of them are located behind high brick walls that shield residents from the busy traffic on Westheimer. Neighborhoods here include **Afton Oaks**, **Oak Estates**, **Avalon Place**, and **Royden Oaks**. Homes vary from newly constructed two-story red brick homes to older elegant residences. Regardless of the age or size, the homes here are all lovely and very expensive. Behind Highland Village are more splendid homes with lavish yards, including Mediterranean inspired designs and other large homes that are almost mansions. Because of its

location inside the loop and right next to Westheimer, one of the city's major thoroughfares, and Loop 610, homes here are very much coveted. Residents have the advantage of being within walking distance of one of the city's best shopping centers—Highland Village—where the stores and restaurants are closely packed together, facilitating a pedestrian shopping experience.

UPPER KIRBY

Upper Kirby is hard to pin down. It is trendy, upscale, a bit unconventional, and refined all at once. The red British telephone booths that are scattered throughout the neighborhood are an easy give-away that you are in Upper Kirby. It is in line with the British theme that the neighborhood has adopted to go with Upper Kirby's initials, U.K. Another indication that you are in Upper Kirby is the red street signs, rather than the usual green ones. Upper Kirby is a popular entertainment area full of pubs, bars, and a wide selection of restaurants and trendy hangout spots, which can make parking difficult on the weekends. This cosmopolitan area mixes its commercial district with residential neighborhoods that include elegant homes, apartments, and townhomes.

GREENWAY PLAZA AREA

Greenway Plaza is the name of a cluster of tall office buildings located off of U.S. 59 (Southwest Freeway). Until the past decade, the area around it consisted mainly of business buildings with plots of green grass surrounding them. The undeveloped land has been swallowed up in the past few years by residential development and there are no more open patches of grass. Most of the construction here has been luxury apartments, corporate rentals, townhomes, a few lofts, and condominiums. Strip centers, shops, and other businesses have opened up alongside the new residences. No longer a commercial wasteland, Greenway Plaza is slowly evolving into a viable residential area with all the amenities located within close proximity. Sushi restaurants, banks, dry cleaners, and take-out joints are all nearby. Travel farther down Buffalo Speedway, under the Southwest Freeway, into the edge of West University and there is a large upscale shopping center with a flagship grocery store, coffee shops, numerous restaurants, cell phone stores, and many other businesses. In addition, residents who live around Greenway Plaza are located near the shopping, dining, and entertainment of West University and Upper Kirby. The location next to the freeway also provides easy access to other parts of Houston.

Web Sites: www.upperkirby.org, www.houstontx.gov

Area Code: 713

Zip Codes: 77098, 77019, 77046

Post Offices: River Oaks Station, 1900 W Gray St; Greenbriar Station, 3740 Greenbriar St; Greenway Plaza Station, 3 E Greenway Plaza; Julius Melcher Station, 2802 Timmons Ln; Neartown (Montrose) Storefront, 802 Westheimer

Police Precinct: Houston Police Department: Central Division, 61 Riesner, 713-247-4400

Emergency Hospitals: Texas Medical Center, www.tmc.edu; Hermann Hospital, www.memorialhermann.org, 6411 Fannin, 713-704-4000; Ben Taub, www.hchdonline.com, Ben Taub General Hospital, 1504 Taub Loop, 713-873-2000; Methodist Hospital, www.methodisthealth.com, 6565 Fannin St, 713-790-3311; VA Hospital, www.houston.med.va.gov, 2002 Holcombe Blvd, 1-800-553-2278; St. Luke's, www.sleh.com, 6720 Bertner Ave, 832-355-1000; Texas Children's Hospital, www.texaschildrenshospital.org, 6621 Fannin St, 832-824-1000

Libraries: Houston Public Library, www.hpl.lib.tx.us: Looscan Branch, 2510 Willowick (closed for renovation until Fall 2007); Freed-Montrose Branch, 4100 Montrose, 832-393-1800

Public Education: Houston Independent School District, www.houstonisd.org, 4400 W 18th, 713-556-6005

Community Publications: *Houston Chronicle*, www.chron.com; *Houston Press*, www.houstonpress.com

Community Resources: City Hall, 900 Bagby, 713-837-0311; River Oaks Community Center, 3600 Locke Ln, 713-622-5998

Public Transportation: Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, www.ridemetro.org: *Bus:* 65, 132, 163, 25, 78, 82, 35, 18, 35, 3, 6, 70, 48, 34, 42, 9, 27

RICE MILITARY/CAMP LOGAN/CRESTWOOD

Located along the winding streets next to scenic Memorial Park and across from the Memorial neighborhood, Rice Military and Camp Logan are currently two popular residential neighborhoods. Although the area had once been largely forgotten and somewhat neglected, people are rediscovering the beauty and tranquility of the Rice Military and Camp Logan subdivisions. Much of the appeal lies in their location inside 610 Loop, near downtown, the Medical Center, and the Galleria area. This has not gone unnoticed by developers, who have descended into the area in the past few years building new homes, including many townhomes. This upper-middle-class neighborhood is now one of the hottest residential markets in Houston.

There are many neighborhoods and communities located near the city center and its amenities, but few have **Rice Military's** advantage of immediately bordering **Memorial Park**. This scenic oasis, Houston's answer to Central Park, is one of the city's most cherished public areas. It was named Memorial Park in commemoration of the lives lost during World War I. During World War I, it was the site of a U.S. Army training camp known as Camp Logan, the namesake of the present-day neighborhood. One of the most notable chapters in Houston and U.S. history occurred in 1917, when soldiers from the camp were involved in a racially charged riot that resulted in a citywide curfew and the court martial of over a hundred men. The park land was donated in 1924 by

William C. Hogg, a wealthy influential turn-of-the-century city leader. Covering 1466 square miles, it has one of the best urban biking, hiking, and jogging trails. In addition, it features a soccer field, a highly rated municipal golf course, horse rentals, and other amenities. Like the area in general, towering pine trees and large leafy trees cover the park, creating a forest in the heart of the city. It attracts not only nearby residents but citizens from all over the city who are attracted by the excellent running and walking trails and golf course. The trails are open 24 hours and lighted at night. This popular park is often crowded and it is often difficult to get a spot on the golf course.

Rice Military contains a mix of single-story and two-story homes of unique designs that range from \$300,000 to over \$750,000. In addition, many new three- and four-story high-end townhomes have recently been constructed in **Camp Logan**, replacing the tiny bungalows in Rice Military. Like the park next to it, these subdivisions are surrounded by tall trees and lush, lavishly landscaped lawns. The origins of Rice Military's name are unclear. However, it appears to have been named after the family of Rice University founder William Marsh Rice, whose relatives owned most of the area at one time. This subdivision predates Camp Logan, so "military" was most likely added when Rice Institute, now Rice University, was converted to a military school-like environment during World War I.

Crestwood, just east of Memorial Park, features new custom homes that range from half a million to over two million dollars.

Web Sites: www.houstontx.gov, www.ricemilitary.org

Area Code: 713

Zip Code: 77007

Post Offices: Heights Station, 1050 Yale St; River Oaks Station, 1900 W Gray St

Police Precinct: Houston Police Department: Central Division, 61 Riesner, 713-247-4400

Emergency Hospitals: Memorial Hermann Hospital—Memorial City, www.memorialhermann.org, 921 Gessner Rd; Texas Medical Center, www.tmc.edu: Hermann Hospital, www.memorialhermann.org, 6411 Fannin, 713-704-4000; Ben Taub, www.hchdonline.com, Ben Taub General Hospital, 1504 Taub Loop, 713-873-2000; Methodist Hospital, www.methodisthealth.com, 6565 Fannin St, 713-790-3311; VA Hospital, www.houston.med.va.gov, 2002 Holcombe Blvd, 1-800-553-2278; St. Luke's, www.sleh.com, 6720 Bertner Ave, 832-355-1000; Texas Children's Hospital, www.texaschildrenshospital.org, 6621 Fannin St, 832-824-1000

Library: Houston Public Library, Looscan Branch, 2510 Willowick (closed for renovation until Fall 2007)

Public Education: Houston Independent School District, www.houstonisd.org, 4400 W 18th, 713-556-6005

Community Publications: *Houston Chronicle*, www.chron.com; *Houston Press*, www.houstonpress.com

Community Resources: City Hall, 900 Bagby, 713-837-0311; Memorial Park, 6501 Memorial Dr, 713-845-1000

Public Transportation: Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, www.ridemetro.org: *Bus:* 6, 20, 36, 70, 85