



The City of Smithville is located in a still-rural section of eastern Bastrop County. We are ideally situated in a central location between Houston and Austin along the Highway 71 corridor. Those cities, along with San Marcos, San Antonio, and Bryan/College Station, are within two hours' drive, making Smithville a very convenient location to do business and to visit.

1 LIVING IN SMITHVILLE

"Smithville, Texas – A City of Culture"

Smithville's Richard D. Latham Cultural District is located in scenic Central Texas, just a short journey from Austin, Houston, San Antonio and Dallas. Sitting on the banks of the beautiful Colorado River, Smithville received this prestigious designation because, within the one mile radius that encompasses our city limits, Smithville boasts a great number of important works of art and culture as well as many significant historical sites.

Come spend time in our many Parks, shop our local businesses, eat at our terrific restaurants, and check out the galleries and public art Keeping Smithville Quirky in our eclectic Richard D. Latham Cultural District!

There's always something happening in Smithville!

Smithville hosts festivals in every season. Long standing festivals like Jamboree (established in 1958) and the Festival of Lights (established in 1987) as well as newer events, like the Texas Photo Festival, the Airport Fly In, and Airing of the Quilts are sure to please everyone in the family. You won't find a

2 EDUCATION

The Smithville Independent School District (SISD) offers traditional instruction and also provides innovative programming in culinary arts and welding, DECA, the Tiger Academy and the DAEP. The graduation rate in 2015 was 93.8% and the dropout rate was 1% -- far better than Texas averages (The Texas Tribune). These students have a broad base of skills and knowledge by the time they graduate, and have been exposed to the positive forces of giving back to their community as volunteers.

SISD partners with Smithville Public Library (SPL) and the Smithville Education Foundation (SEF) to leverage additional resources for our small, rural school district. SPL and SEF provide funds and volunteers needed for enrichment activities for students at all levels including a strong visual and performing arts curriculum for students in Kindergarten through fifth grade not possible through school programming, and innovative humanities programs that brings regional scholars and other resources to all grades. SEF additionally provides grants to teachers to allow

3 BUSINESS

Smithville is Ready for Your Business!

Smithville is a small, rural Texas town, and a great place to do business. It has been a Gigabit City since 2013; its people are friendly, creative, and inventive; and its history, charm, amenities and terrific school district provide everything needed for a high quality of life. "Everything is possible in Smithville!" (Richard D. Latham, past Chair of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce).

Located in Central Texas on Highway 71, Smithville is 45 minutes from AUS/Austin, one hour from San Marcos, 90 minutes from San Antonio, two hours from Houston, and four hours from Dallas/Ft. Worth by highway. The Smithville Crawford Municipal Airport, the only airport in the County, is located at the intersection of HWY 71 and SH 95. An Industrial Park is currently under development directly across from the Airport, adjacent to these two major highways.

Top Business Destination

- In 2014, Forbes declared Texas 2015's Best State for Future Job Growth and Economic Climate.

1 LIVING IN SMITHVILLE

weekend with "nothing to do" if you want to do something around here. Smithville is bigger than it looks!

Other Highlights for Visitors

Although the city's population is under 4,000, Smithville boasts the only Airport in Bastrop County, supports national programs like StoryCorps@Your Library, and has easy access to State and Local Parks. A few of the highlights in our community are:

- Crawford Municipal Airport
- Richard D. Latham Cultural District
- Smithville Public Library
- Frisbee Golf
- Colorado River: Access at Riverbend Park and at the
- Smithville Boat Ramp
- Skate Park
- Buescher State Park is just outside of town, and Bastrop State Park is just about 10 miles down Park 1C Road. Smithville boasts an airport, a recreation center, some of the finest city parks anywhere, and some of the friendliest people on the planet. Welcome to Smithville!

Smithville Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreation Department provides leisure opportunities for all citizens of Smithville and surrounding communities. We are committed to establishing a safe, fun, and relaxing environment for the public. Activities and programs within the department will promote community involvement and learning atmosphere. We encourage all citizens to be active and to pursue a higher quality of life.

Smithville Recreation Center

The City of Smithville Recreation Center is a city-owned 22,500 square foot multi-purpose facility. The building features a full-sized UIL standard gymnasium and theatrical stage. It is also equipped with meeting rooms, a kitchen, racquetball court, weight room, cardio room and both men's and women's restrooms with lockers and showers for your convenience. We offer several fitness classes throughout the week and many programs for adults and kids throughout the year.

2 EDUCATION

them to purchase needed equipment, software, technology, and supplies that are not available in the SISD budget but provide the assistance they need to teach more students more effectively.

SISD has a strong partnership with the Austin Community College (ACC) to provide dual-credit courses, and works with them to ensure that all graduating seniors meet ACC entrance requirements, giving all of them an opportunity to advance to taking Associates level courses at this local two-year college.

Smithville Education Foundation

Our goal is simple... SEF works to help our teachers inspire greatness in their students.

We accomplish this goal through these programs:

Art Enrichment Programming

Smithville Education Foundation, the Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance, Playhouse Smithville, and Smithville Public Library partner with SISD to bring lessons in the fine arts to our students in grades K-5.

Innovative Teaching Grants

To date SEF has funded over \$30,000 in innovative grants to SISD teachers at all of our campuses.

Partnerships with other Community Organizations

The ongoing banner project partners SEF with Texas Commission on the Arts, the City of Smithville, Lost Pines Artisans Alliance, Keep Smithville Beautiful, Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce and Smithville ISD. Brown Primary and Junior High students create banner art using inspirational pieces during Enrichment Days. The best pieces are chosen, made into banner flags and flown on flagpoles along major roads in town.

3 BUSINESS

- Chief Executive Magazine has named Texas the "Best State for Business" for eleven years in a row.
- Texas is home to 54 Fortune 500 companies.
- The Tax Foundation ranks Texas one of the top 10 states for lowest overall tax burden.
- Texas' corporate franchise tax levies a low flat rate of 0.5 percent or 1.0 percent on taxable margins.
- Texas has no personal income tax.
- Texas is a right-to-work state.

Economy & Workforce

- If Texas were a nation, it would rank as the 12th largest economy in the world based on GDP, ahead of Australia, Mexico, Spain, South Korea and many others.
- Texas has added over 2.15 million net new jobs over the last decade (Oct 2004 - Oct 2014).
- With over 13 million workers, Texas has the nation's second largest civilian labor force.

International Trade & Investment

- In 2014, Texas was the top exporting state for the 13th consecutive year with exports valued at over \$288 billion.
- Texas' top exports are petroleum products, computer and electronic products, chemicals, nonelectrical machinery, and transportation equipment.
- Texas' top export markets include Mexico, Canada, Brazil, China, and South Korea.
- Texas is a top-ranked destination for foreign direct investment (FDI). Texas ranks second nationally for the number of jobs at U.S. subsidiaries of global companies and the number of manufacturing industry jobs at U.S. subsidiaries, according to the Organization for International Investment.
- Texas retains an investment-ready portfolio of cutting edge companies, across a number of industries.

Infrastructure

- Texas' central location within North America facilitates domestic and international transportation, as well as easy access to markets.
- Texas has more miles of public roads (over 313,220) and freight rail (10,425) than any other state.
- Texas has 11 deep-water ports, with channels at least 30 feet deep along the Gulf Coast.
- The state's two largest airports, Dallas-Fort Worth International (DFW) and George Bush Intercontinental in Houston (IAH), are major domestic and international hubs.
- Texas' two intermodal facilities, Fort Worth's Alliance Airport and San Antonio's Port San Antonio, integrate high-capacity industrial airports, Class I rail terminals, and direct interstate highway access.