

Events

Monthly Events:

Art History Series: 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Heard-Craig Center for the Arts. Held first Wednesday each month. (www.heardcraig.org)

Second Weekend Each Month: “Second Saturday on the Square” - shops and restaurants open late, live entertainment, art gallery receptions.

Third Monday Trade Days:

Held the weekend before the third Monday of each month, this huge flea market is a 100-year-plus tradition in McKinney. (www.twtd.com)

Annual Events

February/March:

Krewe of Barkus Mardi Gras Dog Parade – Sunday before Mardi Gras (www.downtownmckinney.com)



April:

Arts in Bloom Artwalk (www.downtownmckinney.com)

May:

Bike the Bricks (www.downtownmckinney.com)

June:

Killis Melton Ice Cream Crank-Off (www.chestnutsquare.org)

Flamefest Soccer Tournament (www.flamefestsoccer.org)

July:

Red White & BOOM! (www.downtownmckinney.com)

September:

Oktoberfest – Last weekend (www.downtownmckinney.com)



October:

Halloween at the Heard (www.heardmuseum.org)

Scare on the Square

(www.downtownmckinney.com)

Legends of McKinney Ghost Walk

(www.chestnutsquare.org)

November :

Home for the Holidays - Thanksgiving weekend (www.downtownmckinney.com)

December:

Holiday Tour of Homes - first weekend (www.chestnutsquare.org)

Christmas Parade of Lights – second Saturday (www.mckinneyparadeoflights.com)

Holiday Trail of Lights

(www.heardmuseum.org)

Tours

Historic District

Turn-of-the century homes line the streets of McKinney's Historic District and more than 100 unique restaurants and shops are located in the city's Historic Downtown. 972-547-2660. www.downtownmckinney.com

Chestnut Square Historic Village

The Chestnut Square collection features nine historic houses and buildings that date from the 1850's, including the oldest house in McKinney, a general store circa 1900, a chapel, schoolhouse and gardens. Living history demonstrations are presented on the second Sunday of each month. Available for tours, luncheons, receptions and weddings. Tours are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 11am. Gift shop. Admission charge.

Also at Chestnut Square:

Doc & Clyde's Ice Cream

Freezer Museum: The 300-piece collection of ice cream freezers and other collectibles date back to the early 1900s. The museum and the annual Killis Melton Ice Cream Crank-Off have been featured on the Food Network's "Unwrapped" TV series. A new Visitors Center at the southeast corner of Chestnut Square, completed in 2009, houses the ice cream freezer museum.

315 S. Chestnut St. at Anthony Street., 972-562-8790. www.chestnutsquare.org



Heard-Craig House

Built by the Heard family in 1900, this majestic 7,000-sq. ft. home served



as the center for McKinney's social, business, art and literary activities. Restored to its former glory with original furnishings, art and heirlooms, the adjacent reception hall and gazebo are available for weddings, meetings, exhibits and performance. Tours are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m., and Saturdays at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Gift shop. Admission charge. 205 W. Hunt St., 972-569-6909.

www.heardcraig.org

Historic Home Tour

McKinney's historic district is one of the largest and most well-preserved in the state of Texas. You can enjoy a tour of the beautiful historic homes and other buildings either on foot or by horse-pulled carriage ride.

- **Walking Tour:** The McKinney CVB Visitors Center has Walking Tour maps available that allow guests to take a stroll through our historic residential district and includes the histories of many of the homes.
- **Carriage Rides Tours:** Enjoy a carriage ride to top off a dinner out on the downtown square, to set a romantic mood or as a unique family outing. 214-662-6705.

www.happytrailscarriage.com

Pecan Grove Cemetery

Situated on property originally granted by the Republic of Texas in 1845, Pecan Grove is the final resting place for many Texas pioneers, from Governors to gunslingers. Heroes of the Texas Revolution are interred here, as are veterans of the Mexican War, Civil War, and every war thereafter. S.H. 5 (McDonald Street) at Eldorado/Industrial, 972-542-4029.



Arts/Downtown Shopping

Music Studios, Galleries and More

Music studios and art galleries such as The Garret Gallery, Orison’s, Art House of McKinney, and Imaging on the Square are located around McKinney’s historic downtown square. Special gallery events take place on the second Saturday of each month. Call 972-547-2660 or visit www.downtownmckinney.com.

McKinney Performing Arts Center (MPAC)

MPAC serves as the centerpiece of performing and visual arts in Historic Downtown McKinney. The restored Collin County Courthouse, built in 1875 and remodeled in 1927, is a multi-purpose facility with an artist studio and art gallery. The 425-seat Courtroom Theatre, its vintage Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ and green room, dressing and multi-use rooms makes this venue perfect for any event. True to its original state, the historic courtroom maintains the original judge's bench, jury box, witness stand and historic seating. The third floor offers balcony theater seating. Office hours are 9 a.m.to 6 p.m. Monday- Friday or by appointment. 111 N. Tennessee, 972-547-2650. www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org



Brewery Tours

McKinney is home to a Bavarian brewery. (*This tour is also listed under “green tours.”*)

- **Franconia Brewing Company:** This Bavarian brewery in old McKinney features weekly tours (Sat., 11 a.m.-1 p.m.) of their entirely “green” facility. Tours are \$5 per person (no beer served to guests under 21) and include tastings of 3-4 beers on tap. 495 McKinney Pkwy, 972-542-0705. www.franconiabrewing.com.

Winery Tours

McKinney has a couple vineyards/wineries that are open for tours and tastings:

- **Wales Manor Vineyard & Winery** offers tours and tastings on weekends, as well as hosting *Music Under the Stars* outdoor concerts monthly from April to October. (972) 542-0417; 4488 County Road 408, McKinney, 75071. www.walesmanor.com.
- **Mitas Hill Vineyard** is open to the public on Saturdays (10 a.m.-5 p.m.) and Sundays (noon-5 p.m.) with tours at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. both days. Tours available by appointment on Wednesday; call to schedule. 972-316-7991; 2005 Mitas Hill, McKinney, 75071. www.mitashillvineyard.com.

Tour Itineraries

The McKinney Convention & Visitors Bureau staff is happy to create an itinerary tailored to the specific interests of your groups. Just let us know the time frame of available time and an approximate number of attendees and we’ll develop an interesting tour. Some we’ve done in the past include “Walking in the Steps of History,” “Girlfriend Getaway” and “Green McKinney.”

Explore Nature

McKinney has dedicated more than 1,000 acres to parks of all sizes. From one of the largest collections of crape myrtles in the world to the Heard Natural Science Museum with a 289-acre wildlife sanctuary, McKinney has a natural beauty that welcomes visitors and invites you to experience our lush green spaces. Just 15 miles east, Lake Lavon offers fishing and hunting enthusiasts an opportunity to boast about “the catch of the day” or “the one that got away.” For more information, contact the MCVB at 888-649-8499 or 214-544-1407.

Crape Myrtle Trails

More than 2,000 crape myrtles line McKinney’s public roadways with special plantings along Virginia Parkway, Eldorado Parkway, U.S. Hwy. 380 and throughout the Stonebridge Ranch development. The World



Collection of the Crape Myrtles of McKinney (in Craig Ranch) is a park that contains every known variety of crape myrtle. The park is in full bloom June-October.

www.crapemyrtletrails.org/trails

Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary

The Heard’s 289-acre wildlife sanctuary features more than four miles of nature trails, a native plant garden, live animals, indoor/outdoor exhibits, education programs and summer camps. Open Mon. through Sat. 9-5 and Sunday 1-5. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. Admission charge. Memberships available. 1 Nature Place (1 mile east of SH 5 on FM 1378/Country Club Road). 972-562-5566.

www.heardmuseum.org

Erwin Park

This 212-acre city park features a natural wooded area with trails, a fishing area, three picnic pavilions with restrooms, playgrounds, lots of open space and one of the toughest mountain bike trails in the area. Overnight camping -- reservations required.) 4300 CR 1006. 972-547-7480. www.mckinneytexas.org

Finch Park & Splash Pad

Park features two large, picnic pavilions (by reservation), restrooms, two lighted tennis courts, basketball court, large playground, splash pad and shaded picnic areas ideal for large family gatherings. 301 W. Standifer. Splash pads are also available – in



season – at Aviator Park (1201 Monticello Drive) and at Horizon Park (401 Flatrock Drive). Call the parks office at 972-547-7480 for more information. www.mckinneytexas.org

Lake Lavon

The Lake Lavon Dam is located on the East Fork of the Trinity River, approximately 20 miles east of McKinney. Lake Lavon is approximately 21,400 acres and is part of the Trinity Project in the Fort Worth District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Roughly 1.6 million people visit Lake Lavon each year to enjoy camping, fishing, swimming, boating and more. A number of parks are located around the lake offering camping and shelters. If fishing is more to your liking, the predominant fish species include largemouth bass, white bass, crappie, and channel and blue catfish. For information on Lake Lavon, visit www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/lavon/ or call 972.442.3141.

Lake Lavon (continued)

Dove, quail, squirrel, rabbits, and waterfowl are legal game for hunting. For rules and regulations, contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at 800-792-1112 or www.tpwd.state.tx.us/

**Myers’ Park & Event Center
(Formerly Collin County Youth Park)**

Located on 83 acres northwest of McKinney, this facility includes a show barn with an indoor



arena, stall barn and outdoor arena. A reception hall and gazebo are also available. In addition, 35 acres of Myers’ Woods and the “Back 40” are available to groups for camping. Open to the public Monday-Friday from 8 a. m. – 5 p.m. 7117 CR 166. 972-548-4792.

www.myersinfo.com

Old Settlers Aquatic Center

The Old Settlers Aquatic Center features a barrier-free playground, two picnic pavilions, hike/bike trail, native plant area, basketball court, parking and picnic areas. The Old Settlers Community Center is a 10,000 square foot multi-purpose facility with activity rooms, game room, gym with hardwood floor and a unique 8,000 square foot covered sports pavilion. Recreational and educational programs offered for all ages. Open six days a week. 972-547-7480. www.mckinneytexas.org

Towne Lake Recreation Area

This picturesque city park features a 22-acre lake with swan paddle boats, lighted hike/bike trails, picnic pavilions, restroom/concession services, playground, two sand volleyball courts, nine lighted horseshoe courts, fishing pier, six lighted recreation softball/baseball fields. Park is handicapped accessible. Call 972-542-4865 for paddle boat rentals and concessions. 1405 Wilson Creek Parkway at Central Expressway. 972-547-7480. www.mckinneytexas.org



'Green' McKinney

McKinney is "Unique by Nature" not only with the things to see and do, but also facilities throughout our community.

- The world's first environmentally friendly, LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) automobile dealership, **Pat Lobb Toyota**, 3350 South Central Expressway, 888-839-2214.
- **West World Holding's McKinney Green Office Building**, the country's first privately developed LEED platinum building at 4500 Eldorado Parkway.
- **"The McKinney Experiment,"** a Wal-Mart test store for environmentally friendly processes and technologies, is the first of only two such Wal-Mart stores in the world. Located at 2041 Redbud Blvd. just north of West University/Highway 380. Tours no longer available but some of the practices are still utilized here and are visible.
- **El Dorado Motors** utilizes environmentally-sensitive practices and facilities at its dealership.
- **Franconia Brewing Company:** This Bavarian brewery in old McKinney features weekly tours (Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.) of their entirely "green" facility. Tours are \$5 per person (no beer is served to anyone under 21) and include samples of 3-4 beers on tap. 495 McKinney Pkwy, 972-542-0705 www.franconiabrewing.com.



- **McKinney Independent School District** boasts four environmentally-friendly elementary school campuses, teaching future generations the importance of being environmentally conscience of our planet.
- **Chambersville Tree Farms** (*pictured*) just 10 minutes north of McKinney is a fully-organic operation, utilizing harvested rainwater and organically-produced mulch and fertilizer. Also on-site is a nationally recognized Heritage Rose Garden and event venue Chandler's Gardens. 7032 CR 971 in Celina, TX 75009, 888-799-6832. www.chambersvilletreefarms.com