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City of Boynton Beach

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Community Background Report

City of Boynton Beach

Boundaries

North: Hypoluxo Road (approximately)

South: L-30 Canal

East: Intracoastal Waterway

West: Barwick Road (approximately)

Community Type: Municipality

History

This coastal city was founded by Nathan S. Boynton, a native of Michigan, who served as a major during the Civil War. Boynton and Congressman William Linton were among the first travelers to navigate the newly dredged Intracoastal Waterway. Major Boynton purchased 500 acres of land and the area became known as Boynton. Congressman Linton purchased land directly south of Boynton, calling it Linton, until the area's name was changed to Delray Beach.¹ To this day, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach maintain a close relationship reminiscent of the friendship shared by their founders.

From 1895 to 1897, Boynton constructed the Boynton Beach Hotel, bringing many Michigan workers and their families to the area. A farming community developed in the surrounding area, raising crops to meet the needs of guests at the hotel. Additional crops were raised and shipped to other parts of the country on Henry Flagler's East Coast Railroad. By 1900, with only 83 residents, the City of Boynton became widely known as the main supplier of both pineapples and tomatoes.² The establishment of the railroad greatly benefited the Boynton Beach Hotel, as Americans found it easier to access the warm Florida-winters and the tourism industry emerged. In 1941, the city was officially renamed Boynton Beach.

In the mid-twentieth century, there were only 2,543 residents in the City of Boynton Beach, but by the end of the century this population had grown to 60,441.³

Community Dynamics

Boynton Beach has been recognized for its diverse assets. In 1994, The National Register of Historic Places added an original schoolhouse built in 1913 in Boynton Beach to its Registry.⁴ The Schoolhouse Children's Museum and Learning Center, located on East Ocean

Avenue in Boynton Beach, offers children a hands-on experience of the pioneer days of Florida. In 2001, the Palm Beach Post rated Boynton Beach as the number one beach in Palm Beach County. In 2006 the commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies bestowed national accreditation on Boynton Beach's eight recreational centers and parks. One of these eight centers, the City of Boynton Beach Art Center, was subsequently designated as a Certified Wildlife Habitat in 2008 by the National Wildlife Federation. On October 17, 2009, Boynton Beach celebrated the grand opening of The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its new one million dollar state-of-the-art Everglades Exhibition located on Lee Road.⁵

The city is home to the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency. Redevelopment efforts include the multimillion-dollar renewal of the Boynton Harbor Marina. The Boynton Beach CRA is also involved in the Ocean Breeze project which aims to make housing more affordable through the creation of 84 income-restricted apartments.⁶

The Boynton Beach City Library on South Seacrest Boulevard contains a collection in excess of 100,000 books, featuring a special collection on Florida's History. Recreation centers include the Boat Club Park Clubhouse for fishermen and boaters, the Civic Center, the Senior Center, the Denson Pool, the Hester Center, the Carolyn Sims Center, the Tennis Center, and the Intracoastal Park Clubhouse, a waterfront facility.⁷

Demographic Highlights⁸

The city's population grew 4% from 2000 to 2009, but is projected to stay the same through 2014.

Boynton Beach's population grew 4% from 2000 to 2009, but no increases are projected before the year 2014, when the population is expected to hover around 63,000.

The overwhelming majority of Boynton Beach residents are White and non-Hispanic.

In 2009, 73% of residents of Boynton Beach classified themselves as White, 19% classified themselves as Black, and 2% classified themselves as Asian. 65% of residents of Boynton Beach classified themselves as non-Hispanic.

The overwhelming majority of Boynton Beach residents speak English and are native-born citizens.

In 2009, 80% of Boynton Beach's residents spoke English, 8% spoke Spanish, and 10% spoke another Indo-European language. Nearly three out of four homes listed English as the language spoken at home. 82% of the city's residents were native-born citizens, 8% were naturalized citizens, and 10% were non-citizens.

In 2009 the median household income in Boynton Beach (\$56,102) was approximately 15% lower than that of Palm Beach County (\$62,114).

The per capita income for Boynton Beach also fell substantially below the countywide median of \$34,601. The percentage of Boynton Beach residents with income below the poverty line more closely approximated the county's 8.1%.

White households are the majority in Boynton Beach.

In 2009 the overwhelming majority (82%) of households in Boynton Beach classified themselves as White. It is projected that in 2014 White households will make up 80% of the household population of Boynton Beach.

Many residents of Boynton Beach have English, Irish and Italian ancestry.

Out of 83% of Boynton Beach's residents who reported their ancestry in 2008, 7% have English ancestry, 10% have Irish and 10% have Italian ancestry. The next largest ancestral group is Polish, at 4%.

Housing construction in Boynton Beach was most active in the 1970's and 1980's, and the pace picked up again after 1999.

25% of housing in Boynton Beach was built between 1970 and 1979, and 24% of housing was built between 1980 and 1989. During the following two decades housing construction slowed, and picked up again after 1999, with 18% of housing in Boynton Beach constructed after 1999.

Transportation Trends⁹

Boynton Beach can be reached directly from the Intracoastal Waterway, Interstate 95, and the Florida Turnpike. Additional rail transportation is available by two major rail lines as well as the TriRail commuter rail system. The majority of employed individuals in Boynton Beach own a motorized vehicle and take anywhere from 15 to 60 minutes to commute to work.

Average household transportation costs:

2009: City, \$8,634.14/County, \$9,162.52

2014: City, \$10,581.60/County, \$11,276.10

Average household transportation costs for public transportation:

2009: City, \$517.65 /County, \$607.69

2014: City, \$659.94 /County, \$783.55

Forecasted travel time to work for the employed population, 2014:

Less than 15 minutes: City, 20 percent/County, 20 percent

15-29 minutes: City, 39 percent /County, 37 percent

30-59 minutes: City, 32 percent /County, 31 percent

60+ minutes: City, 6 percent /County, 7 percent

Forecasted means of transportation to work for employed individuals, 2014:
Car, Truck, Van to Work: City, 93 percent / County, 92 percent
Public Transportation to Work: City, 1 percent / County, 1 percent
Other Transportation to Work: City, 2 percent / County, 2 percent

Forecasted number of vehicles per household, 2014:
No vehicles: City, 5 percent / County, 6 percent
1 vehicle: City, 46 percent / County, 41 percent
2 vehicles: City, 39 percent / County, 42 percent
3 vehicles: City, 8 percent / County, 9 percent
4+ vehicles: City, 2 percent / County, 2 percent

Special Events

A Taste of Boynton - This epicurean delight is the Boynton Beach Chamber's signature event, with top restaurants competing for awards while offering menu samples with wine, music, dancing and auctions. Call (561) 732-9501 for more information.

Holiday Parade - Attracting about 12,000 people each year, Boynton Beach's holiday parade includes about 125 community entries, along Federal Highway between Boynton Beach Boulevard and Woolbright Road. Call (561) 742-6246 for more information.

Boynton and Delray Beach's Annual Boat Parade —The viewing area for this parade is at the Boynton Harbor Marina. Please call the Boynton Beach CRA, (561)742-6246, or visit www.boyntonbeachcra.com for more information.

City of Boynton Beach Art in Public Places – This program aims to enhance Boynton-Beach's economic development by integrating public artwork into the landscape and infrastructure of the city. It creates a stimulating cultural environment that reflects the city's heritage and character, while at the same time contributing to a communal sense of ownership and civic pride. For more information see http://www.boynton-beach.org/government/departments/public_art/ .

The Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) maintains a website, <http://www.boyntonbeachcra.com/> , which lists information about projects, community events, etc.

Business Landscape

The city boasts a market of over 6.5 million people within a 100 mile radius.¹⁰

An analysis of recent economic growth in Palm Beach County found that the employment base of the City of Boynton Beach mirrors that of the county, with most employment found in the service and retail industries.¹¹

For the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year, the City of Boynton Beach received \$1,355,000 in revenues from occupational licenses.¹² In addition, the City obtained \$5,121,000 in franchise taxes from corporations including Florida Power and Light and Comcast. The ten largest taxpayers in Boynton Beach represent commercial, residential and industrial development and include a retail shopping mall (Boynton JCP Association), a community bank (City National Bank of Florida), a condominium developer (Hovstone Properties), a developer of mixed-use space (Premier Gateway Center at Quantum), rental apartments (Northland Lugano), a commercial developer (1950 Congress Ave LLC), and a grocery store (Publix Stores).¹³ The government of Boynton Beach invests public dollars back into the community with its “Percent for Public Art” ordinance that designates funds for public art projects on municipal and privately owned properties.¹⁴

The Bethesda Memorial Hospital, a full-service, not-for-profit hospital with 401 beds, maintains a heliport in the City of Boynton Beach. This hospital has been serving the community for 50 years with a team of 550 physicians covering more than 40 medical specialties, and 2,300 staff employees.¹⁵

Sources

¹ Boynton Beach Historical Society. (n.d.). Early Boynton. Retrieved June 8, 2009, from <http://www.boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org/BBHS1.html>

² The Greater Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce. <http://www.boyntonbeach.org>

³ United States Census Bureau. *2000 Decennial Census, Boynton Beach* [Data file]. Retrieved from <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

⁴ The Schoolhouse Children's Museum and Learning Center. Retrieved on October 28, 2009, from <http://schoolhousemuseum.org/>

⁵ US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. <http://www.fws.gov/loxahatchee/>

⁶ Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (n.d.). CRA-Funded Projects. Retrieved June 9, 2009 from <http://www.boyntonbeachcra.com/>

⁷ City of Boynton Beach. Parks. http://www.boynton-beach.org/government/departments/recreation_and_parks/parks/index.html

⁸ Unless otherwise noted, all statistics cited in this section downloaded from www.simplymap.com

⁹ Unless otherwise noted, all statistics in this section downloaded from <http://www.simplymap.com>.

¹⁰ City of Boynton Beach (2006, December) *Evaluation and Appraisal Report*.

¹¹ FIU Metropolitan Center (2006, August 22) *City of Boynton Beach CRA Housing Needs Assessment*. Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, p. 8.

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- ¹² City of Boynton Beach Finance Department (2008). *The City of Boynton Beach Annual Budget 2008-2009*. Retrieved June 9, 2009 from <http://weblink.ci.boynton-beach.fl.us/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=389157&dbid=8>
- ¹³ The City of Boynton Beach (2009). *Development Atlas of the City of Boynton Beach*, p.30.
- ¹⁴ Palm Beach County Economic Development Office (2007, March). *Strategic Economic Development Plan*.
- ¹⁵ Bethesda Memorial Hospital. <http://www.bethesdaweb.com>