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City of Delray Beach

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Community Background Report

City of Delray Beach

Boundaries

North: Dunes Road
South: C-15 Canal
East: Atlantic Ocean
West: Military Trail

Community Type: Municipality

History

The City of Delray Beach covers 10,240 acres in southeast Palm Beach Count, and is located 52 miles north of Miami and 21 miles south of West Palm Beach. It has a population of over 64,000 people.

Maps from the 1850s identify an area of modern Delray Beach as Orange Grove Haulover. The modern history of the City of Delray Beach began in 1868 when Wisconsin natives William and Sara Gleason started purchasing large tracts of land in various parts of Florida, including the area that is now Delray Beach. William Gleason served as the state's lieutenant governor from 1868 to 1870. In 1894 William S. Linton, a US congressman from Michigan, purchased land from the Model Land Company and the Gleason family. He returned in 1895 with a few settlers and named the area Linton. By 1896 the Florida East Coast Railway route reached Linton, which helped the town prosper. In 1898 Linton was renamed "Delray" after a town in Michigan. By 1910 Delray had 250 residents and by 1920 it had over 1,000. In 1911 the land west of the Intracoastal Waterway became the incorporated Town of Delray. In 1923 the land east of the waterway was incorporated as the Town of Delray Beach. The Florida land boom of the 1920 brought considerable investment to Delray, as tourism and real estate speculation became important parts of the economy. After the land boom collapsed in the mid-1920, property tax revenue fell, leaving Delray saddled with numerous debts. On May 11, 1927 the two towns were incorporated as the City of Delray Beach.[1]

Community Dynamics

Downtown Delray Beach experienced a building boom in the period between 2003 and 2008. New mixed-use development projects have recently been constructed in the areas

immediately north and south of Atlantic Avenue. In the wake of economic downturn, construction in Delray Beach has slowed.

Demographic Highlights[2]

The population of Delray Beach has been increasing and is projected to continue increasing.
Between 2000 and 2009 the population of Delray Beach grew by 8%, reaching 65,115. It is projected to grow another 1% by 2014.

Most residents of Delray Beach classify themselves as White, but the percentage is lower than for Palm Beach County.
In 2009 68% of residents of Delray Beach classified themselves as White (versus 77% in Palm Beach County), 24% classified themselves as Black, 1.5% as Asian, and 6.5% as Other Race. 65% of residents of Delray Beach classified themselves as non-Hispanic.

English is the most commonly spoken language in Delray Beach.
In 2009-77% of residents of Delray Beach spoke English. This is similar to Palm Beach County, but the second most common language in Delray Beach is not Spanish. Only 7% of residents of Delray Beach listed Spanish as their language of preference, whereas 15% of residents listed "other Indo-European language" as their language of preference. This is attributed to the large population of Haitians in Delray Beach (10.5%), who speak French and Haitian Creole.[3]

Most residents of Delray Beach are native-born US citizens.
In 2009 78% of residents of Delray Beach were native-born US citizens. 8% were naturalized citizens, and 14% were non-citizens.

Delray Beach has a higher percentage of residents who are 65 and older than Palm Beach County.
In 2009 27% of residents of Delray Beach were 65 and older, as compared to 22% in Palm Beach County.

The median household income in Delray Beach is close to that of Palm Beach County.
In 2009 the median household income in Delray Beach was $59,382, compared to $62,114 in Palm Beach County. The average household income in Delray Beach was $90,429, compared to $91,726 in Palm Beach County.

Transportation Trends[4]

Delray Beach has a free shuttle bus service called Downtown Roundabout, which provides public transportation through downtown along 3 routes. For more information on the Downtown Roundabout visit
http://www.mydelraybeach.com/delray/news/downtown+roundabout.htm.

The tables below illustrate projected transportation trends in the City of Delray Beach:

Average household transportation costs:
2009: City, $8,622.29/County, $9,162.52
2014: City, $10.562.70/County, $11,276.10

Average household transportation costs for public transportation:
2009: City, $549.55/County, $607.69
2014: City, $701.49/County, $783.55

Forecasted travel time to work for the employed population, 2014:
Work at home: City, 6 percent/County, 5 percent
Less than 15 minutes: City, 27 percent/County, 20 percent
15-29 minutes: City, 40 percent /County, 37 percent
30-59 minutes: City, 22 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, 90 percent / County, 92 percent
Public Transportation to Work: City, 1 percent / County, 1 percent
Other Transportation to Work: City, 3 percent / County, 2 percent

Forecasted number of vehicles per household, 2014:
No vehicles: City, 6 percent / County, 6 percent
1 vehicle: City, 47 percent / County, 41 percent
2 vehicles: City, 36 percent / County, 42 percent
3 vehicles: City, 8 percent / County, 9 percent
4+ vehicles: City, 2 percent / County, 2 percent

Special Events

The Delray Affair - Touted as the most popular arts and crafts street festival in Palm Beach County, the Delray Affair is held outdoors along the beautiful palm-lined brick sidewalks of Atlantic Avenue in downtown Delray Beach. Visit http://www.delrayaffair.com/ for more information.

Hatsume Fair - At the Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens near Delray Beach, the Hatsume Fair features three stages with entertainment including taiko drummers, tea ceremony, flower arranging, and more. Call (561) 495-0233 or visit http://www.morikami.org/index.php?src=events&srctype=detail&refno=2865&category=Annual%20Festivals for more information.

Delray Beach Garlic Fest – A celebration of garlic, cooking, music, arts and more, held in February in downtown Delray Beach. Visit http://www.dbgarlicfest.com/ for more information.

Summer Nights on the Avenue - From early July through August, downtown Delray Beach's Atlantic Avenue is the site for Friday night block parties with music, food, art and retail excitement. Call (561) 279-1380 or visit http://www.downtowndelraybeach.com/summer-nights for more information.

FotoFusion - This international festival of photography and digital imaging unfolds at the Palm Beach Photographic Center in Delray Beach. Call (561) 276-9797 or visit http://www.fotofusion.org/ for more information.

Business Landscape

19% of Delray Beach residents work in the education, health and social services sector, 13% work in the professional, scientific, management and administrative sector, and another 13% in the arts, entertainment, accommodations and food industry sector.[5] Major employers in Delray Beach include Meisner Electric and Hardrives, Inc. [6]

Urban development in Delray Beach is driven by the Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority (DBDDA) and the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). The Delray Beach CRA's mission is to foster and directly assist in the redevelopment of the Community Redevelopment Area in order to eliminate blight, create a sustainable downtown and encourage economic growth, thus improving the attractiveness and quality of life for the benefit of the CRA District and the City of Delray Beach as a whole.[7]

The Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority was created in 1971 as a dependent special district of the City of Delray Beach. It is responsible for the economic development and improvement of the downtown area. The DBDDA derives most of its revenue from property taxes from the central business district of Delray Beach. Its main tasks are to preserve the city's character, maintain its architectural and urban design quality, and chart a course for future growth while keeping historic preservation in mind.[8]

Sources

[1] City of Delray Beach. Early History of Delray Beach.
http://www.mydelraybeach.com/Delray/City+at+a+Glance/Early+History.htm

[2] Unless otherwise noted, all statistics in this section download from http://www.simplymap.com

[3] Epodunk.com. 2010. Haitian Ancestry Maps. http://www.epodunk.com/ancestry/Haitian.html

[4] Unless otherwise noted, all statistics in this section downloaded from http://www.simplymap.com

[5] SimplyMap. http://www.simplymap.com

[6] Palm Beach County Business Development Board. Top Employers in Palm Beach County. http://www.bdb.org .

[7]Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency. http://www.downtowndelraybeach.com/cra

[8] Downtown Delray Beach Development Authority. http://www.downtowndelraybeach.com/residential