

TRAVIS HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE



Travis Heights is a historic neighborhood in South Austin, bounded by Lady Bird Lake on the north, Interstate 35 on the east, Congress Avenue on the west and Oltorf Street on the south. These boundaries include Fairview Park, an earlier suburb associated with the same developers, running from the west side of Blunn Creek to South Congress Avenue. Part of Travis Heights was stranded east of Interstate 35; many of the same streets to be found west of the highway continue east of it.

Travis Heights is in fact a collection of many smaller neighborhoods platted at various times throughout the history of Austin. Much of this development history is closely related to the history of Austin's transportation networks. After the construction of the 1876 Congress Avenue bridge (a ferry before), the Swisher Addition was platted on both sides of South Congress Avenue as the first urban planning act in South Austin. Soon after, in the 1880s, Fairview Park was subdivided as a picturesque suburb inspired by trends in urban planning coming from northeast and midwest.

Travis Heights was founded in 1912 by Newning, Swisher and General Stacy, but development did not expand rapidly until the 1920s. The city park located along Blunn Creek in Travis Heights was donated by Stacy and bears his name, Stacy Park, as does the "Big Stacy" spring-fed pool and the "Little Stacy" park and swimming pool, built as a WPA project during the Great Depression.

Now, with a great mix of mansions, smaller homes, and hip apartments, Travis Heights is among the most desirable residential neighborhoods in Austin. Proximity to South Congress, Downtown Austin, and the major freeways also make Travis Heights one of the best-positioned areas in South Austin.

Travis Heights is a nature-lover's residential paradise. This invitingly walkable neighborhood's mix of colorful bungalows and modern apartments is bordered by Lady Bird Lake and surrounded by leafy trees, expansive parks, and biking and jogging trails. Although it's conveniently located across the lake from Downtown and next to famously trendy hotspots like South Congress, Travis Heights' own convivial cafes and breweries cultivate the neighborhood's down-to-earth, unintimidating atmosphere.

Blunn Creek Nature Preserve is almost 40 acres in Travis Heights, central South Austin, with trails and historical plaques. Details of the history, including the natural history, of the creek and preserve can be found at this Austin Parks & Recreation web site. Travis Heights and Fairview Park are currently seeking designation as a Local Historic District and National Register Historic District.

The neighborhood is zoned to the Austin Independent School District. Travis Heights Elementary School, Fulmore Middle School, Travis High School.