

# Arlington - Playful City

What do you think makes a playful city? Arlington, Texas was given the title of “playful city” because of its theme parks, world famous pro-sports arena, and lake recreation.

As the Amtrak passes the east side of Arlington, take a look to the north and you might be able to see a few thrill seekers riding roller coasters on the horizon. This Six Flags over Texas is one of the three Six Flags theme parks in Texas. The phrase ‘six flags’ represents the six countries that ruled over the territory we know as Texas, including a period when it was its own independent republic. Though the sprawling theme park is exciting, there is another man-made attraction that has recently stolen the spotlight in Arlington- the Cowboys Stadium.

Construction finished on this 1.5 billion dollar, history-making stadium in May of 2009. The stadium is located on the north-east side of Arlington and is the largest domed stadium in the world; seating up to 110,000 fans. Jerry Jones, the Dallas Cowboys owner and funder of most of the stadium’s construction, wanted it to be aesthetically pleasing both inside and out, representing the future and technology. There is one giant piece of technology that has made this colossal stadium even more famous; hanging in the center of the dome is a 60-yard long video board on which fans can watch up close game coverage. With a well-trained event staff, the stadium is transformed to host a variety of events like college football games, monster truck rallies, and even the occasional garden show. The city of Arlington wants tourism and recreation to reign in their city, so to approve the Cowboys Stadium the city raised the hotel and car rental tax to assist with construction costs.

Just a few miles away from the Cowboys Stadium is Lake Arlington. The Arlington Recreation and Parks department created the first paddling trail in the Dallas Fort Worth area on Lake Arlington. The trail was built for area residents to get outside and enjoy the lake, and its a local hot spot for jet skiing, boating, and fishing.

The city of Arlington and the surrounding communities have taken great strides to develop as a center for recreation and fun. With the help of local support and funding the attractions built here have put this area on the map for sports fans, recreationists, and thrill seekers. While passing through the Dallas Fort-Worth area keep an eye out for some of the attractions that make this a playful city.

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