



# All About: SANDY SPRINGS

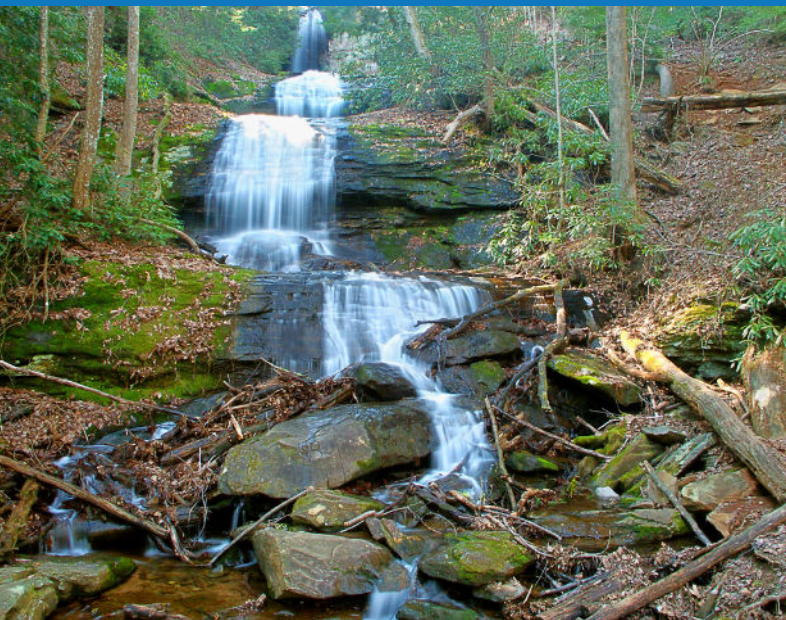




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## The Warmth & Independent Spirit of the Modern South

The Sandy Springs community embodies the spirit of the modern south. It's a friendly, welcoming community with hundreds of independently owned shops and restaurants, and more than 950 acres of parks and natural areas.

Sandy Springs is Georgia's sixth largest city and the second largest city in the metropolitan Atlanta area. It was incorporated in 2005, although efforts to incorporate began as early as 1966 when the city of Atlanta attempted to annex the area. Sandy Springs residents fought for 40 years to form their own government, and when the time came, 94% of residents voted for incorporation.

Before 2005, residents relied upon county government for the provision of services. When they formed their own government, they chose a non-traditional Public Private Partnership (PPP), contracting private companies to perform the majority of services, so that nearly half of the city staff is employed by a private company. This PPP model is widely regarded as an example for other local governments, with city leaders from around the globe – including China, Japan, Korea, Finland and others – visiting Sandy Springs to learn the model. Since the incorporation of Sandy Springs, several other metro cities have formed (Dunwoody, Brookhaven, Peachtree Corners, Milton and Johns Creek), all using a form of the Public-Private model.

With roots dating back to the 1800s, Sandy Springs began as a watering stop for Native-Americans who frequented the bubbling springs in the area. Settlers moved in, and in 1842 the Austin-Johnson House – now the oldest house in Sandy Springs – was built.

The community remained rural until the mid-1950s. In the 1960s, Interstate 285 and the first phase of GA 400 were opened, connecting Sandy Springs to metro Atlanta and initiating a housing boom that brought new residents and major land development. Today the city, which is 38-square miles and borders Roswell and Atlanta, is home to more than 101,000 residents. It is also home to more Fortune 500 companies per capita than any other city in the country.

Sandy Springs is the healthcare mecca of Atlanta, with three hospitals, hundreds of physician practices, multiple outpatient centers, and support services. The area, often called Pill Hill, is home to the largest medical center in Georgia.

One thing that sets this community apart is the true sense of belonging it offers. Residents of Sandy Springs love the city and are very involved in the community. They pride themselves in creating the city they wanted, and fought hard for. Residents love that Sandy Springs is a pocket of traditional southern charm, boasts one of the most innovative systems of service delivery in the country, and has a personality all it's own.

## Southern Charm Just Minutes From the Big City

Incorporated in 2005, Sandy Springs is home to about 101,000 people, and is known for its traditional southern charm and hospitality. It is one of the most picturesque areas of metro Atlanta, both because of the gorgeous homes and tree-lined streets, and the 22 miles of shoreline on the Chattahoochee River that runs through the city. Close to Atlanta, but with a spirit all its own, Sandy Springs has always been independent and unique.

### Here are a few of Sandy Springs' most desirable areas:

#### Downtown

Although it's not a typical downtown, the area bounded by Abernathy Road to the north, I-285 to the south, Sandy Springs Circle to the west and Hildebrand Drive to the east is defined by residents and local businesses as 'Downtown Sandy Springs.' This is the location of the actual sandy springs that the city is named after. The springs can be found in Heritage Green, a four-acre city park operated by the non-profit Heritage Sandy Springs. The city has long-term plans to create a mixed-use municipal complex in the Downtown area, and to add more roads to the district in a more traditional street grid pattern. The new Sandy Springs City Hall will be complete in the summer of 2018, and this area – called City Springs – is expected to become the heart of the city. The new civic and cultural center will be home to city offices, a performing arts center, a theater, meeting space, both retail and residential spaces and underground community parking.

#### Riverside

Riverside is the western district of the city, on the border of Cobb County. It runs along the Chattahoochee River and is a residential area marked by winding, hilly roads. Riverside is an affluent area of Sandy Springs, and is home to the top-rated public schools in the area.

#### Dunwoody Panhandle

This is a residential area bounded by the Dunwoody city limit to the south, the Chattahoochee River to the north, Georgia 400 to the west and the Peachtree Corners city limit to the east. The community's name comes from the fact that it is wedged between the river and Dunwoody, forming a geographic panhandle. This is a unique area of the city, and had been considered part of Dunwoody for many years. Many residents of this area still refer to their address as Dunwoody.

#### Perimeter Center

This is a commercial and business district surrounding the Perimeter Mall. Although about 40% of Perimeter Center, including the mall, is located in Dunwoody, the western 60% of the area is in Sandy Springs. This is mostly comprised of office buildings and Pill Hill, a collection of hospitals and doctors' offices. The popular Hammond Park is also located in this area.

## **North Springs**

This community is the northernmost area of the city, and is defined as the space west of Georgia 400, east of Brandon Mill Road and the Chattahoochee River, and north of Abernathy Road.

## **Sandy Springs ITP**

A portion of Sandy Springs extends inside the perimeter to the Atlanta city limit. This area is affluent and centers around scenic, mansion-filled single-lane roads. It's home to Chastain Park and Chastain Amphitheater, as well as excellent schools.

## **Powers Ferry Landing**

Powers Ferry Landing is a business district just east of the river crossing.

Sandy Springs residents love their city and share their passion by staying active in the community through citizen volunteer programs. There is a long-held belief that Sandy Springs is a friendly gathering place, and part of the charm has always been the community spirit found within the city and the welcoming attitude of its residents.

## Nationally Recognized Schools Offering Best in Class Programs

The public schools in Sandy Springs are operated by the Fulton County School System. They are some of the most progressive and innovative schools in the state, and the area is popular with families because of the excellent educational opportunities available. Some of Fulton County's top charter schools are located in the Sandy Springs community.

### Elementary Schools

#### Heards Ferry Elementary School

The vision of Heards Ferry is to deliver a challenging curriculum that gives all students the tools to be successful, contributing members of society. Heards Ferry was named a National School of Excellence in 2016, a Beat the Odds School in 2016 & 2107, and a Five Star Climate School in 2018.

##### **Programs offered at Heards Ferry include:**

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Chess Club
- Student Council
- Media Squad
- Odyssey of the Mind (develops creative thinking and problem solving)
- I-BAT (provides students with academic, physical and social support)
- Aftercare Program (homework help, fitness activities, and enrichment clubs)

#### Woodland Elementary School

Woodland is a Georgia Department of Education STEM certified school. The school was named a 2018 Title 1 High-Progress Reward School, which means Woodland is among the top 10% of Title 1 schools in the state that are making progress in improving the performance of students over 3 years on statewide assessments. Woodland fosters a strong school community to ensure all students achieve high levels of success.

##### **Programs offered at Woodland include:**

- STEAM
- Media Center
- Student Council
- LEGO WeDo (early robotics club)
- Navy SeaPerch (underwater robotics)
- Science Olympiad
- Gardening & Culinary Arts Club

## Spalding Drive Elementary School

Educators at Spalding Drive focus on a STEAM curriculum. Students are involved in project based learning and have access to a fully equipped STEM and Technology Lab. Spalding Drive students typically score higher in state and county assessments than most surrounding schools.

### **Programs offered at Spalding Drive include:**

- STEM
- Athletics (Soccer, Basketball, Gymnastics, Cross Country, Tennis)
- Imagine That (robotics club)
- Future Tech
- Bricks4Kids (using LEGOs to explore engineering & architecture)
- Chess Club
- Book Club
- Dance
- Martial Arts

## High Point Elementary School

The curriculum at High Point is designed to cultivate compassionate, knowledgeable, and inquiring learners who impact a diverse global economy.

Programs offered at High Point include:

### **Programs offered at High Point include:**

- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)
- Student Government
- YBC Kids (an after-school program for students in grads K through 5)

## Dunwoody Springs Charter Elementary School

Dunwoody Springs is a Georgia State University Professional Development Focus School and acts as a laboratory school for developing and implementing best practices for teaching techniques that are shared with schools throughout the state. The school's mission is to educate every student to be a responsible, productive citizen and educators put an emphasis on project-based learning.

### **Programs offered at Dunwoody Springs include:**

- 30 classrooms equipped with Promethean boards
- Outdoor Classroom
- Promethean Lab
- Science Lab

## Ison Springs Elementary School

Educators at Ison Springs aim to inspire life-long learners and help all students realize their full potential.

### **Programs offered at Ison Springs include:**

- Athletics
- Cheerleading
- Student Council
- Science and Technology Club
- Student Ambassadors
- Robotics
- Safety Patrol
- Girls on the Run
- Book Club
- Rubies Dance Team
- Show Choir
- Drama Club
- Morning Broadcast Team

## Middle Schools

### Sandy Springs Charter Middle School

Ridgeview attempts to prepare students to be confident, creative, compassionate global citizens through high expectations for learning, excellence in teaching, seamless curriculum, community service participation, and engagement of parents and community.

### **Programs offered at Ridgeview include:**

- Athletics (volleyball, baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading, football, track, cross-country, tumbling, soccer, tennis)
- Student Government
- Band
- Choir
- Orchestra
- Environmental Club
- French Club
- Anime Club



- LGBTQI
- Art Club
- Yearbook
- Writing Club
- Fandom Club

## High Schools

### North Springs Charter School of Arts and Sciences

North Springs is the only dual magnet school in the Fulton County School System, offering both arts and sciences. Students may participate in the Visual & Arts component, and/or the Mathematics & Science component, depending on their interests and abilities.

#### **Programs offered at North Springs include:**

- More than 50 after school clubs
- Honor Society
- Dance
- Marching Band
- Orchestra
- Chorus
- Theatre
- Visual Art
- Graphic Design
- Film
- Broadcast Video
- Anime Club
- Math Club
- Jewish Culture Club
- Model UN
- Environmental Club
- 21st Century Leaders
- Athletics (volleyball, baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading, football, track, cross-country, tumbling, softball, soccer, tennis, water polo, lacrosse, golf, wrestling)

## Riverwood International Charter School

The goal of educators at Riverwood is to deliver a challenging curriculum that gives all students the tools they need to be contributing members of the world. Riverwood is an International Baccalaureate Magnet School. IB is a 2-year program for 11th and 12th graders who want an academic challenge and an opportunity to earn a diploma recognized by colleges and universities throughout the world. Riverwood has been called the second-best high school in Georgia, and is recognized for its high academic, service and examination requirements.

### **Programs offered at Riverwood include:**

- Middle Years Program (MYP) Authorized School
- Athletics (volleyball, baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading, football, track, cross-country, tumbling, soccer, tennis, water polo, lacrosse, golf, wrestling)
- Anime Club
- Math Club
- Jewish Culture Club
- Model UN
- Environmental Club
- Technology Student Association

In addition to nationally recognized public schools, Sandy Springs offers residents easy access to 41 private schools that serve the area. The forward-thinking educational opportunities offered in the area are some of the best in the state.

## A Picturesque Community Designed to Bring People Together

Sandy Springs is popular with residents and visitors alike due to an abundance of local eateries, access to premier shopping venues and family-friendly activities. Its many outdoor recreation spaces make it the perfect destination for family fun. And, all that southern charm isn't lost on the movie industry – Sandy Springs is a popular film production destination.

### Premiere Parks & Green Spaces

Sandy Springs has over 950 acres of park and nature areas with one of the most popular being the Morgan Falls Overlook Park. Built in 2010, Morgan Falls Overlook Park was the first new park built by the city after its incorporation. It features several picnic areas, an expansive playground, walking trails, a boat dock and gorgeous views of the lake.

Chastain Park is a 260-acre park nestled in south Sandy Springs and known for its outdoor amphitheatre. In addition to hosting a popular summer concert series, Chastain offers state-of-the-art recreational facilities like a walking trail, horse park, swimming pool, golf course, baseball complex and tennis center, in addition to traditional park and playground areas.

The Abernathy Greenway Park was recently named by Atlanta Magazine as an attraction on the 'Best of Atlanta 2014' list. The playable art park is a playground for kids of all ages – one filled with real art to play on, play with, or inspire imagination. The art was curated from more than 100 submissions from artists all over the world.

Take the family out for an educational outdoor experience with a trip to the Big Tree Forest Preserve. The preserve was once a threatened urban forest. Now 20 acres is owned by the city, with the remaining 10 acres owned by the state of Georgia. The area features beautiful trails and scenic views, and a sanctuary for plant and wildlife. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the peaceful habitat as they walk the trails designed to protect the surrounding natural resources.

Hop in a kayak or canoe and spend the day paddling the legendary Chattahoochee River, or take a hike on the trails of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. The river and recreational area bring families from all over the world to enjoy

the outdoors. Island Ford Park at Chattahoochee River is a hiking trail providing amazing views of the river and a chance to explore the park's forest and caves. It's a kid-friendly and beginner-friendly two-mile trail that everyone can enjoy. You can also get an up-close look at the wildlife as this trail has more deer, turtles and geese than any other area in the Chattahoochee River Recreational Area.

The City Springs District is Sandy Spring's newest mixed use development featuring a performing arts center, green space, retail and residential area. You will be able to plan an evening filled with shopping, delicious foods, and entertainment. The development contains more 20,000 square feet of space dedicated to shops and restaurants. The City Springs Performing Arts Center will bring Broadway-like entertainment with shows like Hairspray and Elf the Musical. And the City Green features picnic space and interactive water features for kids to play.

## **Diverse Artistry on Display**

Sandy Springs showcases local talent with several art galleries that show off local artistry that you can admire and take home. One of the oldest arts center in Fulton County, the Abernathy Arts Center, is an educational center that hosts monthly exhibits to display the work of its students and faculty. It also offers a variety of classes, summer camps and an annual artists market. The center's events calendar is always filled with something new and exciting for art lovers of all ages to enjoy.

The Chai Gallery of Fine Arts specializes in unique art ranging from mixed media to lithographs. The gallery began after founder Mark Jaffe and his wife started purchasing art from the cruises they took. The art they purchased began as a way to preserve vacation memories, but Jaffe soon discovered an opportunity to buy one-of-a-kind work and sell it below retail prices to art lovers. Art can be purchased in the gallery or in the online store offering more than 300 pieces.

Twin Brother African Art & Jewelry is a quaint boutique located in central Sandy Springs that offers a unique shopping experience inspired by the unique culture of the African content. The shop has antique pieces of ceremonial value, including figurines, masks, beaded work, and large sculptures. Its founders, the Biteye brothers, opened the store as a way to help educate and expose others to the colorful culture Africa has to offer.



## Easy Access to World-Class Shopping & Restaurants

*City Walk* is in the heart of Sandy Springs, offering a one-stop shopping experience. This area mixes restaurants *Meehan's Public House* and *Teela Taqueria*, upscale boutiques like *Fab'rik* and *Bridal by Lori*, and unique activities like *Sip and Stroke*.

*Perimeter Mall*, just outside of the city limits in neighboring Dunwoody, offers access to more than 100 retailers including department stores like *Von Maur* and *Dillard's*. The mall also houses a variety of restaurants and a movie theater.

Sandy Springs is also a hidden gem in the metro Atlanta culinary scene, with many excellent and unique restaurants to keep “foodie” visitors entertained. The city is also home to several culinary artisans and food specialty shops.

## A Community Calendar Designed For Families

The Sandy Springs Lantern Parade is a popular annual event in April. It was produced by the creator of the Atlanta Beltline and strives to bring the community together for a night by the river. Also referred to as the “Take It To The River” parade, this event encourages families and friends to bring their store bought or handmade lanterns to light up the night. It's an event you won't want to miss.

Heritage Sandy Springs Festival is two days of art, live music, cultural performances, children's programming, rides and delicious food. It draws more than 20,000 attendees, and helps to fund Heritage Sandy Springs, a nonprofit organization dedicated to community engagement in history, culture and stewardship. Those that attend can expect to see well-dressed pets in the pet parade, beautiful chalk art created for the Chalk Walk Art Competition and runners and walkers cooling down from the 10K and 5K races. The Heritage Sandy Springs Festival is held in late September.

In honor of Independence Day, the city hosts its much-anticipated Sandy Springs Independence Day Festival. Bring your picnic basket, grab a blanket and prepare to be dazzled as fireworks light up the sky. This is one of the highlights of summer in Sandy Springs.

The Elegant Elf Marketplace is held every November as the main fundraiser for the Sandy Springs Society. This unique event is a two-day gift market that gathers selected vendors offering unique products that are perfect for gift-giving, home enhancement, or personal enjoyment.

With a small town vibe, Sandy Springs offers a true neighborhood feel while still providing residents with all the luxuries of city living. It's a popular location for growing families who are drawn to the beautiful surroundings and sense of community that Sandy Springs offers.

## Let us show you Sandy Springs!

If you'd like to learn more about Sandy Springs from professionals who know what it's like to live and work here, give our team a call. We are all local residents who have raised our families in the area, and we're happy to help you discover whether Sandy Springs is right for your family!



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