



**HISTORY/  
DEMOGRAPHICS**

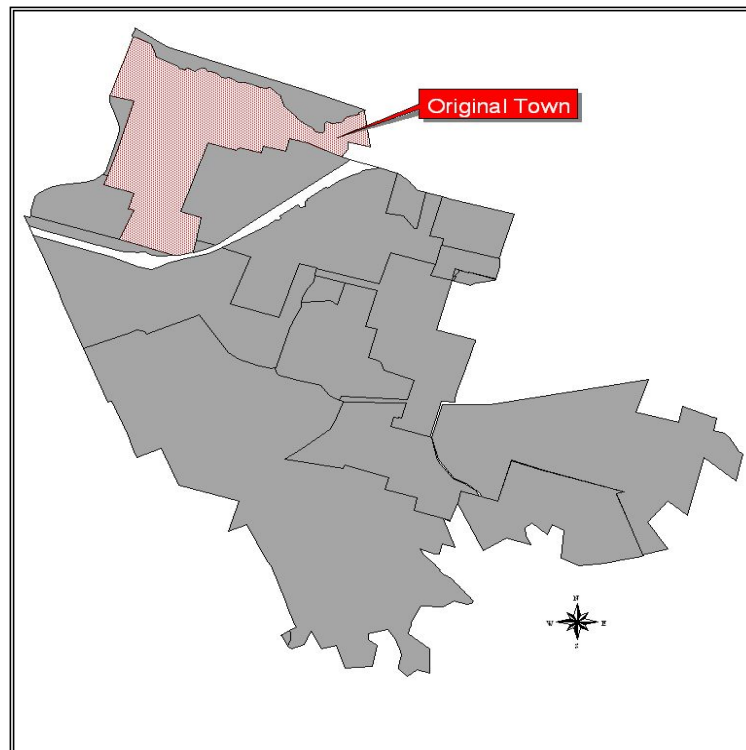
## HISTORY OF HARKER HEIGHTS

The land on which the current City of Harker Heights is located drew inhabitants long before the City was incorporated. Native Americans were prevalent in the area long before the first settlers arrived here. No doubt the Native Americans were drawn to the area because of its' natural beauty, just as those who come today. The influence of the Native Americans is seen in street names today, such as Comanche Gap Road. Comanche Gap Road is named for the natural "gap" in the hills that the Native Americans utilized in their travels. This "gap" in the hills was utilized by Native Americans as late as 1870. Indian campsites in the area have been dated to as far back as 200 years. Later in history, cattle drives were said to have commonly come through the City along portions of what is our current FM 2410.

The land comprising the original City of Harker Heights was utilized in the 1940's for its agricultural benefits. However, the original owners of the property, Pinckney R. Cox and Harley Kern, envisioned a town evolving from where their agricultural interests then stood. In 1955, the creation of the Water Control and Improvement District #4 set the stage for water improvements to the 400 acres Cox and Kern owned. The roots of the new city grew further when in 1957 Cox began subdividing the lands and selling lots. Mr. Kern became ill in 1957 and was unable to participate in the subdividing and died later that year. Individuals who purchased lots wanted a water system. Pinckney R. Cox took leadership in getting a water system established for the residents. The water system was in place by 1960. Sometime before the completion of the water system, residents of the area filed a petition for an incorporation election. On September 24, 1960, voters approved the incorporation and the Town of Harker Heights was born. The town took part of its name from one of its' two founders, **Harley Kern**. In October of 1963, Harker Heights officially designated its' name as a city.

The City has been influenced significantly by Fort Hood, a military base that began as Camp Hood back in 1942. In 1951 the Camp received Fort status.

The city at its inception was approximately 950 acres in size. Through various annexations, the city grew from 945 acres to its current size of 9,064 acres. Due to annexations and growth, population increased from a projected 600 in 1960 to today's estimate of over 26,000 residents.



City of Harker Heights  
w/ Original Town Identified and Future Annexations in Grey

## CITY AND AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

### *LOCATION*

Harker Heights is located in Bell County just off of U.S. Highway 190 approximately 15 miles west of Interstate 35. The cities of Killeen and Nolanville border the city; however, Fort Hood is just a few miles away. The City of Harker Heights is located 60 miles north of Austin, 150 miles northeast of San Antonio, 190 miles northwest of Houston, 65 miles southwest of Waco, and 162 miles southwest of Dallas/Ft. Worth.



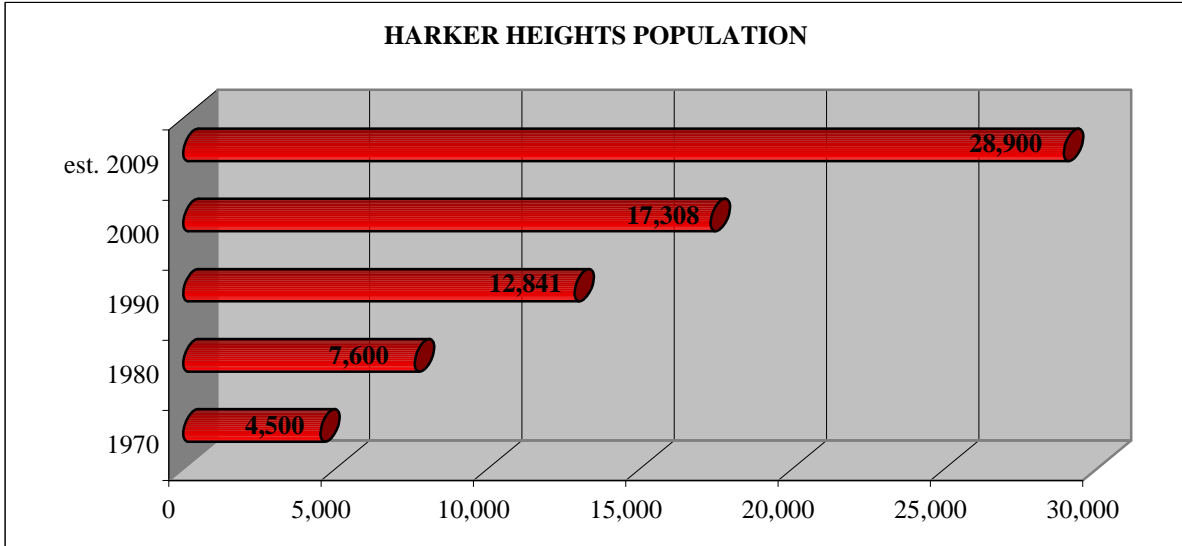
(Source: Mapquest and AltaMap)

### *CLIMATE*

Annual Average High Temperature (degrees Celsius) .....	96.8
Annual Average Low Temperature (degrees Celsius) .....	35.5
Annual Rainfall (inches).....	34.3
Annual Snowfall (inches) .....	0.4
Elevation (feet) .....	748

**POPULATION**

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Harker Heights	4,500	7,600	12,841	17,308
Belton	9,102	10,660	12,476	14,623
Bell County	124,483	157,889	191,144	237,924



*Harker Heights' population has increased by nearly 11,600 people since the last Census was taken.*

The City of Harker Heights projects that in 2009 its population reached approximately 28,900 people. The population growth and dynamics have been shaped by various factors from the natural beauty of the area to the military reservation, Fort Hood, just a few miles away.

**ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

Census 2000, Harker Heights:

White	11,343
Black/African American	2,535
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	2,153
Asian	605
Two or more races	457
American Indian/Alaska Native	111
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	70
Some other race	34
Median Age	30.3
Education, High School +	88.9%
Education, 4+ years of college	29.8%

LMI TRACER/TX Workforce Commission, Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood Metropolitan Statistical Area:

2007 Total Income	\$12,573,251,000
2007 Per Capita Income	\$33,913
2008 Average Unemployment	5.0%

Bell County Appraisal District, Harker Heights:

2009 Market Value	\$1,457,075,055
2009 Net Taxable Value	\$1,349,811,225
2009 Net Taxable Value, New Property	\$89,608,927
2009 Tax Rate	\$0.6770

**EDUCATION**

Harker Heights is included in the Killeen Independent School District, which has thirty elementary schools, eleven middle schools, four high schools, two alternative campuses and one area vocational school. Located within the boundaries of Harker Heights are three elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school.

Each year the Texas Education Agency assigns an accountability rating to each school in the State of Texas. The TEA takes into consideration how a campus does on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Test (TAKS), State Developed Alternative Assessment II (SDAA II which is given to those students not able to take the TAKS) completion rates and annual drop out rates. The possible ratings awarded are “Academically Unacceptable”, “Academically Acceptable”, “Recognized”, and “Exemplary”. They also report other statistics such as the student to teacher ratio and graduation rate in what they call a School Report Card.

School Name	2009 Accountability Rating	2007-08 Students per Teacher	Class of 2007 Graduation Rate
Harker Heights Elementary	Recognized	13.7	n/a
Mountain View Elementary	Recognized	15.4	n/a
Skipcha Elementary	Recognized	15.9	n/a
Eastern Hills Middle	Academically Acceptable	13.6	n/a
Union Grove Middle	Academically Acceptable	16.7	n/a
Harker Heights High	Academically Unacceptable	14.4	85.9%

(Source: TEA Website)

Area Colleges and Universities include:

- Central Texas College – Killeen: A public open-admission community college offering associate degrees and certificate programs in academic, professional and vocational/technical fields. Campuses include the Main Campus in Killeen and campuses in Fort Hood, the Pacific Far East, Europe, a Continental Campus that provides services at 25 military installations, and participates in a Navy College Program.
- Texas A&M University – Central Texas: Born in the spirit of community cooperation in September 1999 as Tarleton University – Central Texas, A&M – Central Texas became a stand alone university on May 27, 2009 as a member of the Texas A&M University System. It is an upper-level institution offering bachelors and masters degrees; undergraduate degrees in 38 areas and graduate degrees in 26 areas.
- University of Mary Hardin-Baylor – Belton: A Christ-centered institution of higher learning operating in affiliation with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and offering numerous undergraduate and graduate programs.
- Temple Junior College – Temple: A public community college that offers a baccalaureate or higher degree and is a point of access for numerous professional fields such as medicine, law, and education. Campuses include the Main Campus in Temple as well as centers in Taylor and Cameron, TX.
- University of Texas – Austin: A major research university offering more than 100 undergraduate and 170 graduate degree programs in order to provide superior and comprehensive educational opportunities at the baccalaureate through doctoral and special professional educational levels.

School Name	Enrollment		Degrees	
	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	06-07	07-08
Central Texas College	72,601	75,459	2,656	2,867
Tarleton University	1,649	1,878	502	484
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	2,685	2,701	508	538
Temple Junior College	4,787	5,178	522	589
University of Texas, Austin	50,170	49,984	12,693	13,087

(Source: School’s website fact sheets, Public Relations and/or Research Departments)

**MAJOR EMPLOYERS (Harker Heights' Businesses Only)**

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Business/Product</u>	<u>Employees</u>
Killeen Independent School District <i>Harker Heights Campuses Only</i>	School District	717
Wal-Mart Supercenter	Department Store	537
HEB Store	Grocery Store	225
City of Harker Heights	City Government	220
Indian Oaks	Retirement Center	186

**TRANSPORTATION**

Highways – U.S. Highway 190 passes through Harker Heights. Highway 190 enables easy travel to the neighboring cities to the west. Traveling east on Highway 190 will take you to Interstate Highway 35. IH-35 links the City to some of Texas' larger cities such as Austin, San Antonio, and the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Motor Freight – Six local carriers

Railroad – Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe

Air – Killeen/Fort Hood Regional Airport is located in the heart of Texas, adjacent to Fort Hood, and offers direct, non-stop air access to Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, and Atlanta airports. Airlines that serve the airport include American Eagle, Atlantic Southeast Airlines/Delta Connection (flights to and from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia), Continental Connection/Colgan Air, and Xtra Airways (charter flights to the casino/hotels in Wendover, Nevada). Skylark Field offers flight instruction, aircraft tie-down spaces, fuel sales and other airport amenities.

**UTILITIES**

Electric Power:	Supplier	TXU Electric	Bartlett Electric
	Total Capacity	22,340,000 KW	10,000,000KW
Natural Gas:	Supplier	Atmos Energy	
	Heating Value	1,020 BTU per cubic foot	
Telephone:	Supplier	Embarq	
		23 long distance carriers	
Digital Switching:		Yes	
Water Supply:	Supplier	City of Harker Heights	
	Water Source	WCID #1-Surface Water	
	Maximum Daily Capacity	13.5 Million Gallons	
	Daily Average Consumption	4.4 Million Gallons	
Sewer System:	Operator	City of Harker Heights	
	Treatment Plant	Activated Sludge	
	Maximum Daily Capacity	3.0 Million Gallons	
	Daily Average Treatment	1.7 Million Gallons	

**CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS  
MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS**

Date of Incorporation: 1961  
Form of Government: Home Rule

	Sep-09	Sep-08	Sep-07	Sep-06	Sep-05
Number of employees (excluding police and fire):					
Classified	90	90	84	80	72
Exempt	15	15	15	15	15
Area in square miles	15.23	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2
Name of Government Facilities and Services:					
Miles of streets	170.26	132	130	120	106
Number of street lights	1,211	1,154	1,100	1,015	963
Culture and Recreation:					
Recreation Center	1	1	1	1	1
Parks	10	8	9	6	6
Park acreage	155	230	227	103.7	103.7
Swimming pools	1	1	1	1	1
Library:					
Annual Circulation	101,194	76,002	68,726	63,552	60,520
Fire Protection:					
Number of stations	2	2	2	2	2
Number of fire personnel and officers	38.5	36.5	33.5	29.5	29.5
Number of calls answered	2,818	2,763	2,409	3,965	3,410
Number of inspections conducted	552	678	216	251	244
Police Protection:					
Number of stations	1	1	1	1	1
Number of police personnel and officers	58	55	52	50	49
Number of patrol units	38	38	36	33	33
Number of trailers	3	3	3	3	3
Number of law violations:					
Physical arrests	1,552	1,969	1,842	1,693	1,367
Traffic violations	7,626	8,727	8,530	8,697	8,215
Parking violations	3	19	23	76	85
Sewage System:					
Miles of sanitary sewers	117.64	117	116	110	104
Miles of storm sewers	8	7	7	6	6
Number of treatment plants	1	1	1	1	1
Number of service connections	8,481	8,199	7,570	7,093	6,556
Daily average treatment in gallons	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000
Maximum daily capacity of treatment plant in gallons	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Water System:					
Miles of water mains	171.48	153	148	139	135
Number of service connections	9,415	9,043	8,825	8,407	7,656
Number of fire hydrants	980	885	881	832	803
Daily average consumption in gallons	4,390,000	4,092,633	3,308,712	3,820,000	2,670,000
Maximum daily capacity of plant in gallons	13,500,000	13,500,000	13,500,000	9,000,000	9,000,000
Facilities and services not included in the primary government:					
Education:					
Number of elementary schools	3	3	3	3	2
Number of elementary school instructors	155	n/a	252	233	n/a
Number of secondary schools	3	3	3	3	3
Number of secondary school instructors	268	n/a	392	370	n/a