



Sugar Land Fun Facts

COMMUNITY

- Sugar Land was the first community in the entire country to be named a Community of Respect (2007), and this is the 6th year (2012) that we have received that distinction.
- Sugar Land was a company town for over 50 years before it incorporated in 1959 with a population of 2,259. Sugar Land in 2013 now boasts a population of 84,511.
- Town Square covers 1.2 acres providing a public plaza for community-wide events and gatherings.
- Sugar Land has more than 560 acres of developed park land.
- The Sugar Land Town Square used the 3D projection technology used in the 2010 Olympics on New Year's Eve 2009.

ATTRACTIONS

- Sugar Land is home to two professional minor league sports teams – the Sugar Land Skeeters professional minor league baseball team and the Sugar Land Imperials 3HL minor league hockey team.
- The fossil collection at the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land ranks among the top 5 in the United States.
- The Houston Museum of Natural Science Sugar Land's collections include a fragment of the 2011 Allende meteorite. The meteorite contains krotite, which is the world's most recently discovered mineral.
- Constellation Field boasts a unique scoreboard shaped like the great state of Texas.
- The names of Sugar Land Skeeters mascots Swatson & Moe were chosen local children.
- The "Play set" at Techno Chaos includes more than 500,000 Legos, robotics, electronics, programming and 3D printing.





POP CULTURE

- A portion of the 1974 movie, *The Sugarland Express*, takes place in Sugar Land. Many of the movie's earliest scenes were filmed at the nearby Beauford H. Jester prison pre-release center. Other parts of the set were filmed in and around Sugar Land. The movie's title spells the name of the city incorrectly, and it was among Steven Spielberg's first films before he became famous. The film was the first theatrical feature film directed by Spielberg. Sugar Land also served as a filming location for *Powder* (1995) and *The Evening Star* (1996).
- **Midnight Special Song:** Folk musician Leadbelly's song "Midnight Special" discusses his arrest in Houston and his stay at the Sugar Land Prison (now the Beauford H. Jester pre-release Center) in 1925. "If you're ever down in Houston, Boy, you better walk right. And you better not squabble. And you better not fight. Bason and Brock will arrest you. Payton and Boone will take you down. You can bet your bottom dollar, That you're Sugar Land bound."
- Sugar Land Ice & Sports includes 1984 pairs skating Olympic silver medalist and United States Figure Skating Hall of Fame member Kitty Carruthers among its coaches.
- The band Sugarland was named after the City by former band member Kristen Hall.

HISTORY

- Sugar Land Imperial Refinery closed in 2002.
- Sugar Land was a company town for over 50 years before it incorporated in 1959.
- Sugar Land had its first community swim team, the Sugar Land Sharks, formed in 1967 and is still competing today. (fact from 2010)
- Convict labor and often hot, swampy, mosquito-infested working conditions for the convicts earned the Sugar Land area the not-so-affectionate nickname of the "Hellhole on the Brazos."
- William Eldridge was tried and acquitted for killing two men before becoming co-founder of Imperial Sugar and starting the company town.
- The City's first City Hall was established in a former 2-room shoe store, property donated by Imperial Sugar, along with a few desks and chairs. We have had 5 city halls.





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- Now one of the top Fixed Base Operators in all of the Americas, Sugar Land Regional Airport had a much less prestigious start as a single runway in a goat pasture. It was begun by Dr. Don “Doc” Hull who taught dentistry at the University of Texas at Houston, managed a private practice and in his spare time, used his plane to make the rounds of 17 area prisons as the sole dentist of those prisons for nearly 20 years.
- In 1972, the Kempner family sold 7,500 acres to Gerald Hines Interests to develop First Colony master-planned community. It is one of the largest land sales in Texas history.
- The Sealy Mattress Company, organized in Sugar Land and built in 1911 down the block from the Sugar Land Refinery, relocated in 1925 to Houston.
- BF Terry, who owned the local sugar mill and is known as the organizer of Terry’s Texas Rangers during the War Between the States, named Sugar Land in 1858 when the railroad was built through his sugar fields.

NOTABLE RESIDENTS

- The Lopez family, the U.S. first family of Tae Kwon Do, calls Sugar Land home.
- Sugar Land was home to Ken Hall, one of the greatest high school football players in the entire country. Several of Hall’s high school career records during the 1950s still stand today. He ran 11,232 yards and averaged 32.9 points per game, even more astonishing because Hall rarely played in the second half of the games so as not to unfairly run up the score on the Sugar Land High School’s opponents. Hall often changed out of his football gear in order to play trumpet and march with the band during half-time.
- Tara Lipinski is an American figure skater. At the age of 15, she won the Ladies' Singles Olympic gold medal in figure skating at the 1998 Winter Olympics. Lipinski remains the youngest individual gold medalist in the history of the Olympic Winter Games. She is also the 1997 World Champion, two-time Champions Series Final Champion (1997–1998) and 1997 U.S. Champion. Parents still live in Sugar Lakes subdivision.
- Lopez Family: Stephen, Mark and Diana and Jean Lopez (coach) are all USA National Team Members in Taekwondo. They all represented the United States at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, marking the first time since 1904 that three siblings have been on the same Olympic team. Both Stephen and siblings, Mark (men's featherweight) and Diana (women's featherweight), made sports history in April 2005 when they all claimed a





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world championship title at the same event (2005 World Taekwondo Championships) with their oldest brother, Jean, participating in the feat as their coach.

- Kevjumba: YouTube celebrity/comedian/Reality Star was a contestant of The Amazing Race and resides in Sugar Land.
- Sean Patrick Flanery is an American actor known for such roles as Connor MacManus in The Boondock Saints, Greg Stillson in The Dead Zone and for portraying Indiana Jones in The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles, as well as Bobby Dagen in Saw 3D. Lived in Sugar Land and graduated from Dulles High School.
- Mario Elie (former Houston Rocket) married to Gina Gaston (Houston news anchor) and both live in Sugar Land.
- Tracy McGrady, Hakeem Olajuwon and Shaquille O'Neal all said to have or had homes here.
- Sugar Land is home to Rahul Nagvekar, winner of the the 2012 National Geographic Bee.

