



DeSoto, Texas  
 2010 N. Hampton Road, Suite 200  
 DeSoto, TX 75115  
 972-224-3565  
[www.DeSotoChamber.org](http://www.DeSotoChamber.org)



## DeSoto

Live, work and play in DeSoto, a progressive community with a small-town feeling, rich in diversity and the cultural arts. Located in the "Best Southwest" - the southwest corner of Dallas County - DeSoto offers fine housing, friendly neighborhoods, a great school system, updated parks, restaurants and shopping.

DeSoto is one of the oldest settlements in North Texas. In 1847, just 11 years after Texas won its independence from Mexico, families first settled in the area that is now DeSoto. Around 1848, T.J. Johnson, fresh from Tennessee, built a tiny general merchandise store near the "crossroads" - located at the intersection of a road stretching north/south from Dallas to Ellis County and another running east/west from Lancaster to Cedar Hill (now Hampton and Belt Line Roads).



In 1881, a post office was established, and the settlement was given the name of DeSoto in honor of Dr. Thomas Hernando DeSoto Stewart, a beloved doctor dedicated to the community. During those early years, people in the community worked on farms and went to church, and not much changed until the 1940s.

After World War II, the area began to grow, as did all of the towns and cities in Dallas County. Because of the growth that the community was experiencing, the people felt the need to incorporate to improve an inadequate water distribution system. The first called city council meeting was held at the schoolhouse on E. Belt Line Road on March 17, 1849; it was determined that the city of DeSoto had a population of approximately 400, thus DeSoto became the 19th organized municipality in Dallas County.



If you're looking for a little culture or just some old-fashioned family entertainment, DeSoto has it all. The city hosts a number of events and festivals throughout the year for residents and guests. Activities include something for everyone – from dances to fishing tournaments to concerts.

The Corner Theatre in DeSoto Town Center is the place to go for engaging, diverse cultural events. A state-of-the-art performance facility, the Corner Theatre features a 185-seat auditorium with full lighting and sound capabilities. The venue hosts plays, murder mystery dinners and a variety of other performances throughout the year.

Historic Nance Farm, a recorded Texas Historical Landmark, is located at 1325 Greenbrook Drive, in the Mantlebrook Subdivision in DeSoto, Texas. Otway Bird Nance (1805-1874) brought his wife and ten children from Illinois in 1851 and purchased 640 acres from Peter's Colony. Patriarch Otway B. Nance built the milking barn and the home that same year. He acquired more land, and within the next several years, the Nance Farm property had doubled in size.

Though the main house was originally built as a two-story home with a Greek Revival façade, it now reflects a Victorian style with a full-length front porch. The transformation from Greek Revival to Victorian occurred sometime between c. 1883 and c. 1914.

DeSoto is also home to Grimes Park, a 75-acre park, which features a softball complex, a baseball complex, and the number one BMX (bicycle motocross) facility in the state of Texas.