



Welcome to Fairfield

Population: approximately 57,500

History

Since its first settlement in 1639, Fairfield has offered a wonderfully diverse way of life. From its quintessential New England antique colonial homes, white steeples and picket fences to modern dance performances, art exhibits and research libraries, from the narrow streets by

Southport Harbor to the horse farms of Greenfield Hill, the beaches, the nature trails, the athletic fields, golf courses and tennis courts, the shopping and the restaurants, Fairfield has something for everyone. Since Colonial days, Fairfield has been a prosperous community. During the 1600s, wealthy farmers and ship owners settled

here, and as farming and shipping flourished so did the need for more products and services. Many new businesses grew to fill this need, and with new community came churches, meeting houses and schools - life was prosperous!

During the late 1800s Fairfield became a thriving summer resort. Fairfielders, who made their money in more industrialized towns and cities, came back each summer. They built homes or

rented houses on the shore, spending breezy days at the beach and money with local merchants. As neighboring cities became more and more industrialized, Fairfield grew to house both wealthy owners and factory workers, but managed to keep most industry outside its own boundaries. Today, within commuting distance of New York City, Fairfield still offers a quality of life, culture, education and community for people who want it all!

Geography

Fairfield is about 50 miles northeast of New York City. An ideal location, Fairfield is bordered by Easton, Weston, Bridgeport and Westport and also by eight miles of public and private sandy beaches on Long Island Sound. Convenient to both I-95 and the Merritt Parkway, Fairfield offers access to major employment centers and cultural opportunities from Manhattan to Danbury to New Haven. Fairfield also offers distinction from these centers to retain its unique character. The quaint village of Southport is part of greater Fairfield.

Government

Selectman, Representative Town Meeting.

Cultural, The Arts & Heritage

Fairfield Historical Society Museum, 636 Old Post Road, offers a wide range of activities for youngsters and adults and has an extensive collection of area artifacts. The society has an ever-changing gallery with exhibits throughout the year including open houses following the town's Memorial Day Parade and the Christmas tree lighting on the Old Town Green.



Greenfield Hill Congregational Church

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Some of the programs available are lectures, gallery tours, receptions, seminars and story hour and craft activities. For more information, call 259-1598.

Ogden House and Gardens, 1520 Bronson Road, is owned and operated by the Fairfield Historical Society. Activities include a summer history camp for youngsters and a fall festival. The Ogden House is surrounded by 18th century gardens.

Regina A. Quick Center, at Fairfield University, presents a full schedule of musical, dance and theatrical events, lectures, student productions and summer theatre camps for youngsters, plus its Evening of Music, Jazz and Young Audience Series.

Center for Financial Studies, at Fairfield University, features new exhibits of works by contemporary artists every two months and hosts the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Artist of the Year Exhibit and "Unique Perspectives," a display of art work by Kennedy Center clients.

Fairfield Teen Theater, 200 Unquowa Road, is sponsored by the Board of Recreation. During the summer the company utilizes the Tomlinson Middle School stage, putting on one major show each year. The theater is open to all Fairfield residents between the ages of 13 and 19 and offers programs for different age groups including Vaudeville-Cabaret, which performs at convalescent homes and senior citizen residences. Acting lessons and instruction in all aspects of the play production are available.

Art/Place, 400 Center Street, at the Southport Train Station, is a not-for-profit art gallery with 26 members. The gallery exhibits new shows every month and occasionally is the setting for dance and musical performances and lectures by artists or art historians.

Clubs and Organizations

Adding to the colorful character of this vital and active community are the

numerous clubs and organizations which encourage participation and welcome new members. In Fairfield, there is an organization for just about any special interest.

Recreation

Recreational opportunities abound at the town parks and playgrounds with programs for soccer, track and field, all weather tennis, golf, sailing, swimming, boating,



Southport Beach

skating, baseball, football, basketball, bocce and skiing instructions.

Beyond these sports opportunities, Fairfield has thirty-four asphalt tennis courts available to residents at no charge. The Fairfield Tennis Center on Old Dam Road has five clay courts for day and evening play and is the site of adult tennis tournaments. Scheduling and information can be obtained by calling the Recreation Department. During the winter, the courts are covered and operated by the Fairfield Racquet Club.

Fairfield residents can choose from private and public golf courses. Fairchild Wheeler Park is a 36-hole golf course. The H. Smith-Richardson Golf course on Morehouse Highway offers a challenging 18 hole, par 72 course and a clubhouse with changing and shower facilities. The

South Pine Creek par 3 course is perfect for an enjoyable recreational game.

The town's 115-acre Lake Mohegan affords summer swimming and winter skating, but despite the brooks, ponds and lakes of Fairfield, it is the opportunity to swim and boat along the sandy shores of the eight miles of public and private beaches that lures a great many people to this grand old town. Residents can choose from Jennings, Penfield, South Pine Creek, Sasco and Southport beaches. All beaches are supervised by trained lifeguards through Labor Day weekend. Beach stickers are available at Independence Hall.

Boating Facilities at South Benson Marina include moorings and slips, and Ye Yacht Yard in Southport provides moorings, storage and launching of crafts. Boating courses are held annually by the Harbor Patrol.

Education Public Schools

Fairfield has 10 elementary schools – Grades K-5

McKinley School

North Stratfield School

Dwight Elementary School

Riverfield School

Holland Hill School

Roger Sherman School

Jennings School

Stratfield School

Mill Hill School

Osborne Hill

Fairfield's elementary education begins with four-hour days of kindergarten for every child and an optional full day, two days per week. To register, children must be five years old before January 1 of the following year. At registration, the following information is necessary: birth certificate, immunization records, proof of physical exam, and proof of residency. The walking distance requirement for kindergartners through third graders is .75 of a mile from their school; for fourth and fifth graders it's one mile from their school.

Fairfield's elementary school children are encouraged to walk to school, but those exceeding the walking distance requirement for their grade will be provided transportation.

Fairfield has three middle schools – Grades 6-8

Fairfield Woods Middle School, Tomlinson Middle School and Roger Ludlowe (SP?) Middle School

Fairfield's middle schools boast the team-teaching concept in which groups of students are taught basic subjects by three or four teachers to promote better student achievement and a solid relationship between students and adults during their crucial middle school years. Lunches are available at low cost. Bus transportation is provided to middle school students living more than one mile from their school.

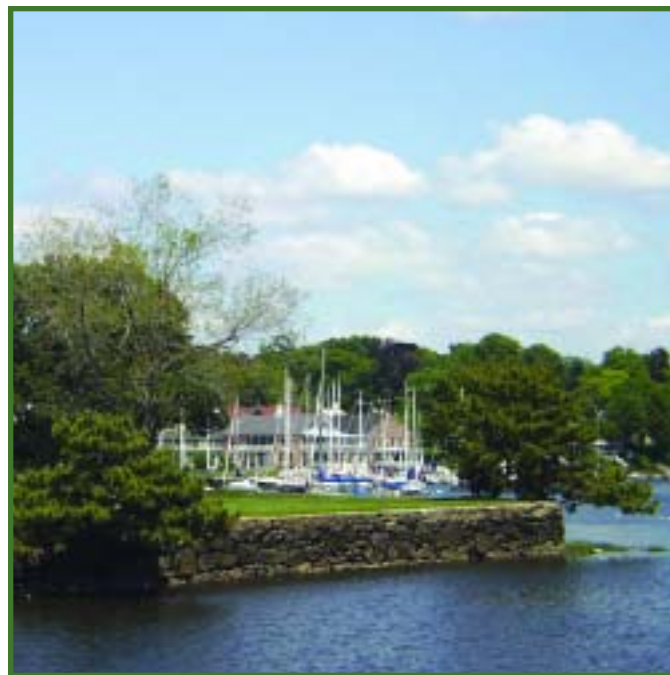
Fairfield has one high school – Grades 9-12)

Fairfield High School is a four-year comprehensive high school which provides numerous amenities, including a drama classroom, five biology laboratories, computer facilities and outdoor athletic fields. Fairfield High School also offers several advanced placement classes and three regional enrichment programs: Aquaculture, Center for Japanese Study and The Regional Center for the Arts. Fairfield High School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and has been nationally recognized for its commitment to the House Plan. The House Plan portions approximately 600 students into each of three "houses", led by a housemaster, dean and two guidance counselors. Bus transportation is provided to students who live more than 1.5 miles from the school.

Special Education

Special education programs are available at all public school levels to accom-

modate a wide range of learning disabled and homebound students, speech, and hearing or emotionally disabled students. Students age 3 to 21, or until graduation from high school, are eligible for the programs. Students with severe disabilities that cannot be accommodated with tutoring or placement in special education classes are transported to private or residential placement programs.



Yacht Club on Southport Harbor

choice between a traditional degree or a Bachelor of General Studies degree with an individualized multi-disciplinary curriculum. It includes the Learning Center, Academic Support Services and the Institute for Retired Professionals. Career certificates also offered in a range of subjects, including administrative, professional, business management, communications, interior design, paralegal studies, nursing & computer graphic design. Graduate programs in business, education & nursing are also available.

Sacred Heart University – This comprehensive Catholic institution for higher learning is located at 5151 Park Avenue. Over the past six years, the university has renovated classrooms and added six residence halls, state-of-the-art language and science laboratories, and a fiber optic network and computer system.

Private Schools

Fairfield College Preparatory School – A four year, all male school run by Jesuit priests on the Fairfield University campus on North Benson Road.

Notre Dame Catholic High School – Located on Jefferson Street is a co-educational school operated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport.

Fairfield County Day School – Located on Bronson Road, an all boys school, for K-9.

Colleges

Fairfield University – Located on North Benson Road, the university provides opportunities in both education and entertainment. The School of Continuing Education, which offers classes for credit and non-credit, gives students a

For more information about Fairfield's Schools including:

- Faculty experience
- Faculty salaries
- School registration
- Class sizes
- SAT scores

Please contact the Fairfield Board of Education at www.fairfield.k12.ct.us