



Grant Bynum's **Insider Guide**

# WEST PLANO



The Definitive Guide to **WEST PLANO**

# WEST PLANO Area Map



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## INTRODUCTION Why This Book?



Hello, I'm Grant Bynum. I'm a native of Texas and it's been exciting to see how much we have grown the last 10 years. I love the Plano area for so many reasons, including great job opportunities, excellent school systems and friendly people!

I help my clients find great lifestyles in this area and other cities in Texas. It's especially fun to enjoy an amazing professional lifestyle in the exciting West Plano area. As my teams have helped wonderful clients relocate to this area, we've received a lot of questions about the best things to do, visit, and enjoy. We noticed that no guides existed to tell relocating clients about this area...so we wrote our own!

This guide is an Insider's viewpoint to the area. It doesn't list every single possible thing you could get involved in or visit, but it is going to tell you what people love in this area... what places have the "buzz". It's our goal to get you having a great life here as soon as possible, so I hope this guide is a great companion to get you started! If you have any questions, you can contact anyone on our team at any time at the numbers listed on our website.

Have a wonderful time experiencing this amazing area...you are going to love it!

Grant Bynum  
HomeBase Services

## FOR FURTHER HELP

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Thank you for reading this guide! We've put this guide together because we truly love this area and want you to have an incredible experience here!

**Are you ready for experts that truly know the area?** Whether leasing or purchasing, it would be our pleasure to help. We can start narrowing down areas for you that best fit your needs. Whether you are thinking about a new location now, or in 6-12 months, we would be delighted to be your information source to start your search for a great new lifestyle. **Contact us 7 days a week for the help you need.**

**Dallas - Fort Worth – Houston**

**(214) 473-4929 Local**

(214) 492-9791 Fax

## OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Insider Guides are available for the following areas (and the list is growing)

## AREA GUIDES

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Washington Avenue Insider Guide Dallas Insider Guide

West Plano Insider Guide Houston Insider Guide

Uptown Dallas Insider Guide Fort Worth Insider Guide

## GUIDE TO AREA SCHOOLS

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School Savvy - Dallas

School Savvy - Houston

School Savvy - Fort Worth

## BEST AREAS FOR HOME PURCHASE

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Best Areas for Home Purchase – Dallas

Best Areas for Home Purchase – Houston

Best Areas for Home Purchase – Fort Worth

## MAKING NEW FRIENDS & CONNECTIONS

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Connections for Singles & Families – Dallas

Connections for Singles & Families – Houston

Connections for Singles & Families – Fort Worth

# RELOCATION Help & Hotline

Hello, and welcome to West Plano! We've put this unique guide to help you understand how very special West Plano is, and to give you a starting point to explore all of the lifestyle features of West Plano! It's one of the hottest areas of all of Dallas if you are a professional... full of restaurants, night life, art galleries, shopping and more!

Our professionals are ready to help you answer any questions about this fantastic area! We can also find residence that fits your exact needs, whether that is an apartment, high rise, townhome or a *home for purchase* with our HomeBase Services professional team!

Our leasing arm is Apartment Sneak Peeks. We can help guide you through the best areas that fit your lifestyle. Our website contains detailed recent pricing and photos/videos for the best properties to lease in Dallas, including apartments, townhomes and more.

**MS** – *When you see this next to a restaurant or idea presented in this guide, it means this is a particularly excellent value! Watch for it!*

## HomeBase Services

Pre-Moving Research  
For Leasing  
For Purchasing

Phones answered 7 days a week, 7 am – 7 pm!

(214) 473-4929

(214) 492-9791 Fax

relo@homebaseservices.com

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is up to date and contains the ONLY complete listings of restaurants and night spots in Uptown, and all mapped out!

Use this guide to select an area of town to live. The key is to select the area of town that you feel best fits your lifestyle. We give you basic overviews of each section, so you can quickly determine that.

Then, we give **basic services and shops** that are close by in each area that are recommended. This is not meant to be a phone directory, but a list of some of the better “insider buzz” recommendations in Dallas.

We also provide **further lifestyle helps** such as restaurants, nightlife, malls, and more (and we tell you what area they fall into).

This is not meant to be a comprehensive list by any means. It's a starter kit of sorts, for you to then go from there and expand your horizons. We've tried to make this very quick, yet helpful!





# Why Everyone Loves WEST PLANO



Congratulations on purchasing this Insider's Guide to West Plano!

Whether you are moving or visiting the area, we have gathered a wealth of information to assist you in getting a true insider's viewpoint in a short amount of time. We've included relocation information, maps, area descriptions and lists of all the best shopping, dining and entertainment options. From the hottest hangouts and clubs to important services and considerations for families, we have it all for you in one place!

One thing that is extremely important to us is giving you ways to CONNECT with other people in the area! That is why we have also included a special section on the best ways to quickly meet people in this area as well. Take a few of the ideas that best appeal to your interests and run with it...you will be making friends in no time!

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AREA

**Plano is an extremely affluent, newer and exciting community that is just North of Downtown, a suburb of Dallas.** Plano stretches from just west of the North Dallas Tollway all the way east to several miles past 75/Central Expressway. Pla-

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no has roots that stretch back to the 1800s, but did not see explosive growth until the 1980s, particularly in the central and west areas of Plano. The growth was fueled by the many national and regional corporate offices that located near the North Dallas Tollway and Highway 121.

**Plano has won many awards as an incredible place to live.** Money Magazine designated Plano as the best place to live in the Western US in 2005, and as the 11th best place to live in the entire US in 2006. Forbes magazine selected Plano as one of their “Top Suburbs to Live Well” in. (Of note: University Park and Highland Park, also in Dallas, were also included in that list.)

**Plano schools regularly rank as the best scoring public schools in the entire nation.** The system is strong and has been well run for years. Most of the elementary schools score an “exemplary” ranking by the Texas accountability rankings board. The rich tax base also provides for exceptional facilities, equipment and well paid teachers.

The US Census notes **in 2008 that Plano was the wealthiest city in the entire US** (based on median household income) for cities over 250,000 in size. Its neighbor, Frisco, was ranked the richest city for the population of under 250,000 in the United States with a 2.7% poverty rate.

**West Plano has the most concentrated areas of shopping, restaurants, night life, services and more, along with exceptional schools and churches.** It is also close to major employers and where the newest developments are (including apartments, housing and more). West Plano’s urban hot spots also compare favorably to other parts of town known for being popular with professionals. The urban hotspots in West Plano have more shops, restaurants, nightclubs and other stores in a concentrated area than any other area of DFW!

**West Plano is strategically located to enable residents to quickly get anywhere in the DFW metropolis!** Residents can quickly and directly drive to the DFW airport taking 121 or G Bush/190. They can also work in Downtown or North Dallas, and then drive up the North Dallas Tollway to West Plano.

**West Plano provides incredible lifestyle choices for professionals** no matter what the stage of career or life they are in. Recent graduates love the “walk to” life-

## PLANO DEMOGRAPHICS

- *Population: 267,000*
- *Crime: Plano has the lowest homicide rate of all major US cities.*
- *Average median income: \$84,942 (richest in the US!)*
- *Estimated median house or condo value: \$217,500*
- *Median gross rent: \$999*
- *School information: [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)*
- *Top employers: Bank of America, FritoLay, JCPenney, HP, Alcatel-Lucent, Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Medical Center of Plano, Presbyterian Hospital of Plano*

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**style of urban living**, found in communities such as the **The Shops at Legacy** and **Austin Ranch**. These communities combine some of DFW's most exciting night clubs with medium and upper end restaurants...and all within walking distance to traditional apartments and newer urban loft style living! Other choices for leasing are also strategically located near exceptional schools or even near exciting shopping centers such as **Stonebriar Centre**, the recently built mall on the edge of Plano and Frisco.

Considering the reputation for affluence enjoyed by Plano, **it is surprisingly very affordable to lease (or purchase) in this amazing city!** Beautiful new apartments can be leased for as little as \$700 - \$800s as starting prices for 1 bedrooms, and \$1000s and up for 2 bedrooms. And, deposits are low as well, from needing as little as \$300 total deposits and fees to move in. This is an affordable city to move to, especially in comparison to other parts of town such as Uptown (a one bedroom typically starts in the \$1000s and up there).

**Starter home prices are also very, very reasonable!** They range from \$150s in the older parts to in the millions in the Willow Bend area. Beautiful homes can be had in the luxurious West Plano area for as little as \$250s and up in areas along Midway and Parker, where children would attend the exemplary Plano schools present.

Neighboring Frisco is home to **FC Dallas**, the professional soccer team for DFW. Nearby Dallas is home to several successful pro sports teams from the "Most Valuable" Sports Franchise of the **Dallas Cowboys**, to the **Dallas Stars, Mavericks** and **Rangers'** teams; there is a pro sports event of some type all year around. There are also numerous College, Women's Football, Golf, Soccer and Rugby teams to root for, if you love sports, Dallas has it all!

# WEST PLANO Area Map





In this section, we want to give you helpful hints to help those who are renting. Read this section before you go to select your new residence. It will save you time and money.

## A. RENTING

### DEPOSITS & FEES INVOLVED

There is great news here...fees involved in moving in are typically LOWER than in other states! **Most residences do NOT ask for the first month rent up front and a 1-month deposit, in addition to other fees.**

Typically, most residences will ask for the following:

- **Deposit** (usually about \$200 for a one bedroom, and \$400 for a two bedroom)
- **Application Fee** (per person, it usually averages about \$50 a person)
- **Administration Fee** (Ranging from \$100 – \$200)

Sometimes residences will run specials and waive part or all of these fees.

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If the company you work with is a **preferred employer**, you also typically will see some sort of reduction in one or more of the above fees. (A **Preferred Employer** means that the residence has a list of employers that they keep on file that will receive specials.) In some cases, the preferred employer status will also give you a small reduction on your first month's rent.

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## UTILITIES

### ELECTRICITY & GAS

Typically, most multi-family residences (apartments, town homes, etc.) will be fueled by **electricity only** (sorry, for cooking experts, no gas unless you use a grill!). Throughout Texas, you have a choice of selecting your OWN electricity provider because Texas is a deregulated state. You have literally over a hundred providers to choose from. You can choose a provider based on their rates, how they get their energy and other factors. **Do this well in advance of moving in!**

The best way to choose an electricity provider is to go to [www.PowertoChoose.org](http://www.PowertoChoose.org). Providers furnish their information to this website, and you can then search and sign up for a provider from this site.

Potential providers we have used or heard good things about include:

- Reliant (medium price, but pretty reliable)
- YepEnergy (low price) **MS**
- Green Mountain (using green friendly resources to power)

If you are one of the lucky ones that also have a gas appliance included, you will be using Atmos (formerly TXU Energy - **1-888-286-6700** or [www.atmosenergy.com](http://www.atmosenergy.com)). Gas is not deregulated, so this is your only provider.

**Note:** Only about 1% of residences in the Dallas area have an “all bills paid” approach. These are typically residences that are in less desirable areas.

### WATER AND TRASH

Most residences will charge a small amount (from \$10 - \$20 a month) for water and trash. Some apartment/townhome complexes will charge you exactly what you use, while some will pro-rate the usage for an entire building and give you the average charge.

### TV & INTERNET

Typically the residence you select will have only one choice for who provides your tv and Internet services. Time Warner Cable (**972-742-5892** and [www.timewarnercable.com](http://www.timewarnercable.com)) dominates the market currently for many residences, both in their tv cable and their internet cable. It will be up to you to arrange this for your residence. The residence will tell you if other choices are available. (If Verizon FIOS is available, GET IT! It has incredible reviews!)

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## **SATELLITE TV**

Most residences will allow for satellite television. However, your residence has to have the ability to have the unit facing south to receive this. That doesn't mean that your unit must face directly south, but it does mean that the antenna must be able to be placed so that it can face south. If satellite tv is important to you, you should make this clear to the leasing associate you are working with, so that your residence has this potential.

## **WASHER AND DRYER**

Most apartments and townhomes will have washer and dryer connections at a minimum in the Dallas area, unless the building is an old loft (downtown, etc.). About 3% of residences will actually include a washer and dryer with it. If the set is not included, you have the choice of either bringing your own or renting them.

Several places in Dallas will rent these to you (including delivery and installation) for the term of your lease. Choices include:

**Azuma** – 800.707.1188 **M\$**

**Appliance Depot** – 972.278.3003 **M\$**

**Rent a Center** – 214.521.6000

## **B. TRANSPORTATION**

### **MAJOR FREEWAYS**

The Dallas area has a well-designed freeway system. Many people comment on how easy it is to get around this area. Major freeways that are used heavily on the Dallas side of the metroplex include:

- I-635 (it forms a loop around Dallas proper)
- The North Dallas Tollway (this is a North/South TOLL highway, stretching from Downtown Dallas all the way North through Frisco)
- I-30 (it is an interstate East/West highway that goes from South Dallas through Mid Cities and Fort Worth)
- 190/George Bush - (this is an East/West TOLL road, stretching from far East of Dallas to west of Irving/Las Colinas and beyond)
- 75/Central – This is a North/South Interstate road that stretches on the South Side that runs through the East side of Dallas, Plano and McKinney
- 121 – (this is an East/West road, stretching from McKinney east of Dallas to Frisco, and extending beyond that. It is becoming a TOLL Road in some parts)

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## TOLL ROADS

The trend in Dallas is that more and more roads are becoming TOLL BASED. This means that the major freeways will have tolls associated with them.

As you select a residence, if you are budget conscious, you should consider how far away your residence is from your work and other activities. Toll charges can add up quickly. For example, if you live in North Dallas, and work in Plano, you could be spending at least \$3 a day in toll charges. Multiply that by 25 days a month, and you have \$75 a month just in toll charges. Things can add up quickly.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Dallas has primarily bus lines throughout the Dallas area with DART (<http://www.dart.org> or 214-979-1111). However, for the more urban areas of town, the Dallas RAIL system is also available. This runs primarily along I-75/Central stretching from Downtown to Plano (on the east side). Thus, it is possible to live close to the Dart Rail and quickly get to work, and not use your car. Areas that are best for living that are near the Rail include:

- Downtown
- Uptown
- Northpark/SMU
- Plano

## C. FURNITURE

We include some of the most popular places in the area to get excellent furniture and at reasonable prices. Note the ones with a M\$ for the best values!

**Cancun Market** (*North Dallas/Farmer's Branch*) - 4259 McEwen Road, Dallas, TX 75244, 972.702.0200 **M\$**. Find elegant, upscale décor and discount prices to meet your budget. From traditional to contemporary, they have something for every style.

**Cost Plus World Market** (*North Dallas*) - 5229 Alpha Road, Dallas, TX 75240, 972.788.4342 **M\$**

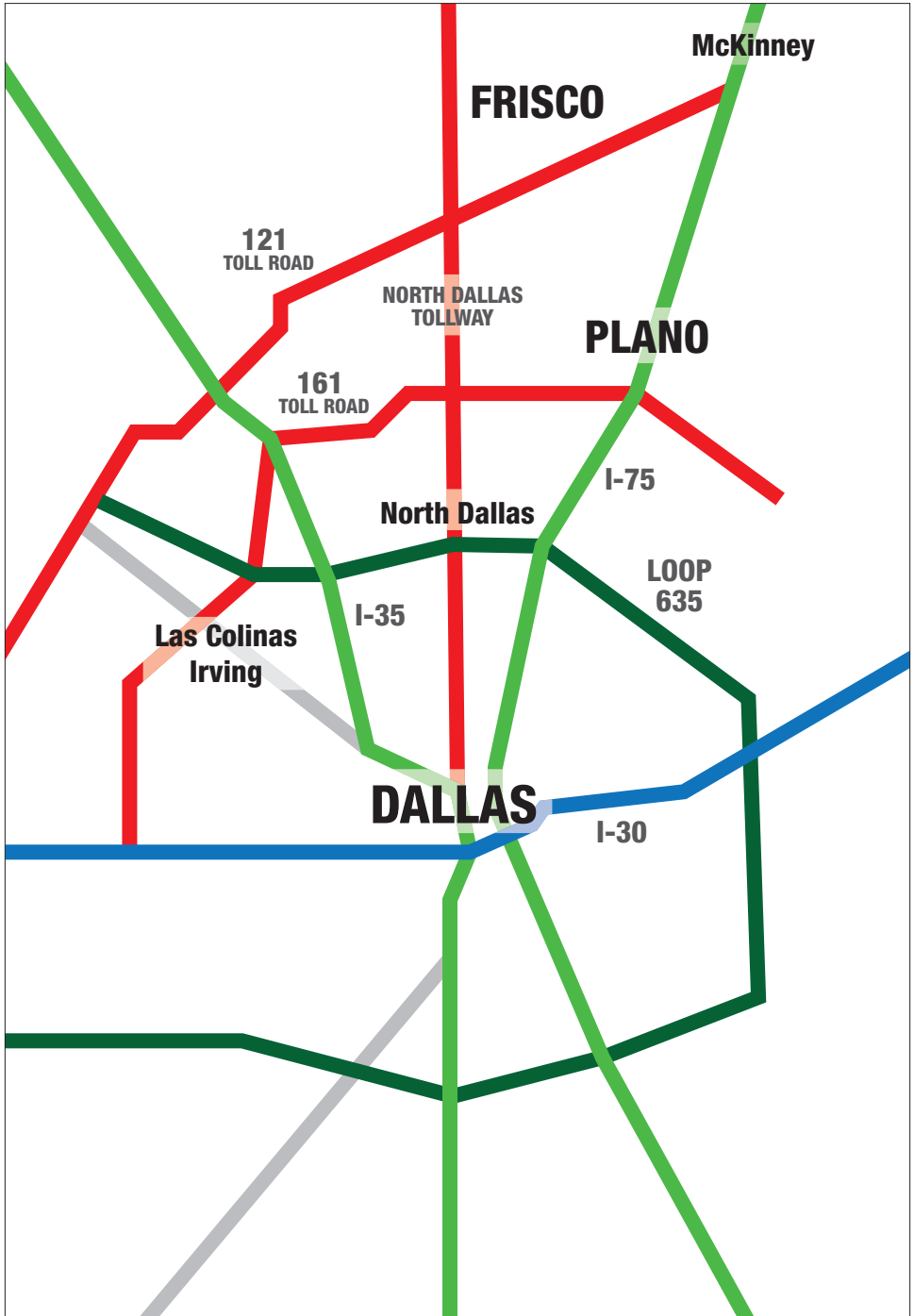
**Crate and Barrel** (*North Dallas*) - 5221 Alpha Road, Dallas, TX 75240 972.934.1800

**Eurway** (*Frisco*) - 7822 S.H. 121, Frisco, TX 75034, 214.619.1198 **M\$**. Modern furniture, but at prices rivaling IKEA. We like this place.

**Hadley and Harriet** (*Uptown*) - 3922 Lemmon Avenue, Dallas, TX 75219, 214.559.3734. Beautiful furniture and timeless treasure to adorn your new home. This prestigious selection will leave you wanting more.



# ROADS OF THE DALLAS AREA



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**IKEA (Frisco)** - 7171 Ikea Drive, Frisco, TX 75034, 972.712.4532. **M\$**. Modern furniture at reasonable prices. Urban look. A step up from IKEA without breaking the bank.

**IO Metro (North Dallas)** - 5301 Alpha Road, Dallas, TX 75240, 972. 991.7777 **M\$**. IO Metro is an amazing furniture store full of newer modern designs at reasonable prices. You will find a variety of the latest furniture fashion that will make an impression on your friends without spending a bundle!

**On Consignment (Downtown)** - 2717 Fairmount St., Dallas, TX 75201, 214.720.1818. **M\$**. Furniture, accessories, and art are so good that it's become a regular scouting stop for Dallas' top decorators. It's also where they take their clients' furniture when they begin a new project and need to liquidate.

**Pottery Barn (Frisco)** - 2601 Preston Road, Frisco, TX , 75034 972.731.8315

**Salvation Army** - 5554 Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas, TX, (214) 630-5611. **M\$**. This is the largest thrift location in Dallas. Has a large amount of furniture (new arrivals all the time) for your whole apartment at dirt-cheap prices. Can't find a cheaper couch in Dallas... they have rows and rows. Worth a look for supplementing your furniture or accessory pieces.

**Weir's Furniture Village (Plano)** - 5801 Preston Rd, Plano, TX 75093, 972.403.7878. **M\$**. Higher end but excellent sales! They also have a "bargain basement" where you can get great deals on everything! THIS IS AN AMAZING VALUE...MUST VISIT!

**Zuri Furniture (North Dallas)** - 4880 Alpha Road, Dallas, TX 75244, 972. 716.9874. **M\$**. At Zuri's you will discover sleek, contemporary furniture and décor with modern lines and a comfortable appeal. EXCEPTIONAL PRICES – they are usually half or more off of other places with similar style. Chic furniture at blue collar prices. This is a MUST VISIT!

## D. FURNITURE RENTAL

If you need furniture, these companies can completely deck out your place for a relatively small monthly charge. It's much cheaper to lease an unfurnished apartment and rent furniture than it is to try to get a "furnished" apartment. These 3 companies are the best and biggest, and will deliver your furniture and arrange it.

**Brook** - 877.285.7368 High end, but gorgeous

**Charter** - 972.385.3204 Medium end

**Cort** - 888.360.CORT Medium end. Get a one bedroom completely furnished for \$170 a month!



**THE WEST PLANO AREA AS DEFINED ROUGHLY WITH THE SHADED BORDERS ABOVE:**

- North border is highway 121, splitting Plano and Frisco.
- South border as G Bush/190, splitting Plano and North Dallas
- West border – Marsh Lane (west of this is Carrollton, The Colony and Lewisville)
- East border – Coit Road (east of this is considered Central Plano)



The sections of West Plano are more subtle, not necessarily splitting on set geographic lines. Instead, people (and residences) tend to cluster around the Hot Spot areas shown above. Let's go into more detail about these areas (please note that our Section 12 which covers the West Plano and surrounding areas more fully):

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## **SHOPS AT LEGACY**

This is a premiere “urban walk to” concept! It consists of shops, restaurants, night life, basic services and more. It is delightfully “self contained”...you don't have to venture much out of the area. It has a wide array of not only more affluent restaurants, but even fast food dinner (we love the pizza slices at Sal's!) and coffee shops (both Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts). Basic services such as a UPS store, nails and spa services, a convenient store and more are present. Music is always playing in the streets to add to the ambience of the area. We love all of the options present for leasing (and townhomes for purchase) residences contained in walking distance. And, the built in lake is perfect for getting exercise or walking your dog!

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## **AUSTIN RANCH**

This is more like a small village than a multifamily complex! Austin Ranch contains shops and night life on the main street for the “walk to” lifestyle. But, it also has striking

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natural features not found elsewhere in Dallas, such as walking trails, a 60 foot waterfall swimming pool, a beautiful “infinity pool” lake, enormous clubhouses, and more. Apartments, lofts and townhomes are found here, and in a great variety. Traditional garden style apartments, along with superior lofts and townhomes for purchase, are present here.

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## **PRESTON/PARK**

This is a MEGAPLEX of affluent and delightful shops and restaurants, on all 4 corners of the intersection, stretching out for several blocks! The stores range from WHOLE FOODS (a favorite for healthy groceries) to BARNES and NOBLE to GAP and more. Includes many non chain restaurants in the area as well, and some higher quality fast food choices too. Two places you should visit in this area are Studio Movie Grill (combine eating and movies!) and...an offbeat place for ladies accessories called Charming Charlies! This is expertly arranged by color and contains high quality merchandise, different than what you would find at other stores, for bargain prices. A very well done concept! Apartments and townhomes are nearby, along with very high end homes for purchase.

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## **WILLOW BEND AND SHOPS AT WILLOW BEND**

This area shares the distinction (along with its affluent cousin Highland Park in Dallas) of being the premier upscale residence to live. Started by Norm Brinker, this area is just gorgeous, with trees and impeccably landscaped sidewalks and streets. The presence of Willow Bend has dominated the entire West Plano area, with many nearby restaurants, shops and services catering to this very upscale neighborhood. The Shops at Willow Bend contain very high end stores, a terrific food court, and some cute boutiques that are perfect for kids! This is definitely worth a visit...often!

For living here, it's primarily homes for purchase, and they start in the mid \$400s and go up from there to the multi millions.

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## **LAKESIDE MARKET**

This delightful, all upscale area borders the Lakeside at Preston residential development, which includes a large lake that meanders through the area. Several of the shops present here feature patios that sit directly on the lake...enjoy a terrific experience here (complete with occasional ducks that love being fed)! Mi Cocina is a very popular Tex-Mex restaurant here that features upscale yet affordable meals to enjoy the lake with. Weirs Furniture Village is also located here, and features higher end furniture of all kinds at very

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reasonable prices! Residences here include garden style apartments and townhomes, along with very high end homes for purchase (in the \$500s and up).

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## **LEGACY BUSINESS PARK**

This enormous business park includes many national and regional headquarters for large corporations (including many Fortune 500). Bank of America, FritoLay, JCPenney, Ericsson, and many others are present here, making it attractive for job seekers and very convenient for living nearby! Living choices are not available directly in this area, but are present all around in the other areas mentioned.

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## **STONEBRIAR CENTRE**

Although not directly a part of West Plano, the Stonebriar Centre area borders it...and it just naturally spills over and retains the affluent feel! The Stonebriar Centre has over 150 shops and restaurants in a delightfully fun environment. We like the facades on the South side...they are as large as Texas and just make you want to come inside and experience! Favorite highlights include Dave & Buster's, Cheesecake Factory, Barnes & Noble, the Disney store (yes, admitting it is the first step to freedom) and the glass wall escalator!

The location is perfect! It's at 121 and Preston, within a couple of minutes of the North Dallas Tollway. It is super quick to get just about anywhere in West Plano, whether that's working at the Legacy Business Park, or going to Downtown Dallas or even McKinney!

Several recently built apartment communities are within or nearby, along with townhomes and single family homes for sale as well.





West Plano is all new and full of so many exciting people. The many businesses located in the Legacy Park area, throughout Plano and even in nearby North Dallas and Richards provide a steady stream of professionals newly relocating. People love the newness of Plano, and the reasonable prices for both houses and apartments. They also like being on the West side of Plano because of the easy commute to Addison night life or even possibly for working downtown.

So how would you meet people in West Plano and nearby? We have some obvious...and not so obvious...ways! And, there are a wide variety of people to meet, including:

**Young affluent professionals just out of college or graduate school** – These exciting folks may be travelling 4 days a week out of town as consultants or lawyers, but will arrive ready to meet people and relax on Thursday and Friday nights around the Shops at Legacy, Austin Ranch, nearby Addison or other choices

**Recently divorced males and females** – Recent divorcees love West Plano, especially those with children, because of the excellent schools and the amazing shopping and night life. And, if they don't move there, they certainly will socialize there...and often!

**Single Parents** – Many single parents love the West Plano area because of the fantastic schools and affluent environment. There are ample opportunities to meet quality single parents (see section below for specific tips).

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**Established Couples** – Established couples with kids set up lives with pleasure in the West Plano area. It's chic and contains affluent public school districts as well as superb private schools in and nearby. Established couples will tend to locate either in West Plano (west of the Tollway) or east of the Tollway in the ultra luxurious Willow Bend, Lakeside at Preston area or other areas with million dollar homes.

**Young couples** – young married couples also love locating to Plano and enjoying the parks, restaurants and night life. They also love locating here to use as a base for scouting out the area in and nearby (i.e., Frisco) for home purchase neighborhoods.

So, the question is...if you are new in the area, and you don't know anyone in the area, **what is the best way to meet people?** There are various ways, depending on if you are single, a single parent or married.

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## WAYS TO MEET SINGLES

**Get a Dog:** West Plano is extremely dog friendly. Apartments...and even some outdoor patios...cater to canines. Having a dog provides the perfect, non threatening opportunity to meet new people.

**Living in a “walk to” urban neighborhood:** Urban “walk to” neighborhoods, where living, entertaining and even working are very popular concepts in Dallas. They are typically filled with single professionals and young couples. The 2 most striking examples of this are the amazing **SHOPS AT LEGACY** and **AUSTIN RANCH**. They are near large corporations where the professionals work and have a high proportion of singles, with some families as well. Both of these areas contain apartments and entertainment all built in. The apartment complexes are very aware of this, and provide **FREE MONTHLY social gatherings** at attractive restaurants nearby that seek to help their tenants meet each other.

**Exercise in the Parks:** Getting exercise on the parks in the area is a perfect way to meet people. Typically, singles will frequent this regularly...and they are upward professionals who care about their lives and health. What better people could you meet? One exceptional park for meeting singles is the Arbor Hill Nature Preserve. It's located in West Plano along Parker Road. It's terrific for biking, hiking, running and more. It has miles of acreage, and a great, non threatening atmosphere. I always see lots of singles and single parents here, and especially if you have kids, it's easy to strike up a conversation based on your kids.

Another park that is excellent for meeting singles is Jack Russell DOG PARK in Plano! There you can combine exercise and love of dogs to strategically meet singles! 😊

Still another super park where you can meet singles is at the Shops at Legacy on the South



## CHARITY INVOLVEMENT

Plug into one or more charities that you believe in. Then you will meet people that are givers and achieving more in their lives, along with sharing your interests.

One of my good friends Stefani Olson mentions that the Charity Club Happy Hours provide many terrific opportunities to meet singles...and the happy hours happen often! There are charities of all types to be involved in...below are a few worthy charities where you will most likely meet high quality singles:

- **Dallas Margarita Society**
- **Junior League** – *A high end society that promotes many worthy volunteer activities, based in the affluent Park Cities area. This is a women's only organization.*
- **American Cancer Society** – *With being on the top 10 fund raising organizations in the nation, the American Cancer Society has a well established presence in Dallas.*
- **Church Involvement** – *Plenty of opportunities for mixing church and charity abound within some of the larger more singles friendly churches already mentioned .*

### KEY CHARITY EVENTS

Key (annual) charity events should become part of your social schedule because it feels great to give. And the people you participate with are the kind of people that make a difference in Dallas, including a large amount of single, eligible professionals! These are 3 important events to attend and these will take you to other parts of the city to meet affluent single professionals:

- **Cattle Baron's Ball** – *This has become perhaps the elite socialite event of Dallas. It's not just for singles, but very affluent singles will attend this prominent, 5 star event for charity. If you have only one event to attend for the year, this is the one...even if you don't have a cowboy or cowgirl in mind!*
- **Taste of Dallas** – *This is just a fantastic, joyous event. Admission is a bit pricey, but very well worth it. The food and wine flow freely at this event...it's unlimited and scrumptious in both categories. The best chefs and wineries from Dallas and throughout the country have booths full of free, unlimited samples of their most sumptuous fare. And, the people that attend these events are affluent, discriminating singles and couples.*
- **Margarita Ball** – *This annual charity ball is known for attracting upward singles. Enjoy dressing up and dancing and wine, while meeting some fascinating and attractive singles. This is a must attend!*
- **Paws in the City Gala** – *Located in the Cedar Springs area, this worthy event attracts affluent professionals from Uptown and all throughout the City. Combine your love of animals with a great opportunity to meet quality people at the Annual event.*

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side (where Bishop ends). With the walking/running sidewalks all around the lake, it's a great place to get exercise and strike up a conversation!

**Gyms in West Plano:** Gyms in West Plano or South Frisco are fantastic places to meet people! You can try the local gym of your apartment if your apartment is more recently built and has a great gym!

- **The apartments with the best gyms for meeting singles** are Northside at Legacy, Austin Ranch, Legacy Village and Tribeca. These gyms are huge and new, and are very appealing to professionals.
- **The best stand alone gyms to meet singles** are Lifetime Fitness on Preston and Legacy, along with LA Fitness on 121 near Preston!
- **To meet SINGLE PARENTS, go to the Muehlenbeck Recreation Center on Parker and the Tollway.** This is a beautiful, kid friendly environment that has plenty of single parents that strive for a more affluent atmosphere.

**High-End Hotel Pools:** Meet affluent girls and guys (or wanna-bes!) at the patios of 4 and 5 star hotels in the area. Most of these are located very close to the Shops at Legacy and the Tollway. One of our favorite places is the patio/pool area at the NYLO HOTEL on Preston and Headquarters. Great night atmosphere outdoors and singles and couples enjoying some relaxed and fun company around.

**Pool Parties at your Friend's Apartment Complex:** Meet plenty of new faces by attending your friends pool parties at the local better apartment complexes.

**Cooking Lessons at Whole Foods or Central Market:** Think about how great it would be if both people in a dating relationship knew how to cook! ☺ The Whole Foods and Central Market in West Plano provide excellent and affordable classes for learning how to cook sumptuous meals and a wonderful opportunity to meet quality people.

**Church:** There are exceptional, large churches in the West Plano area and nearby. Church is a terrific place to meet singles that have a purpose in their lives and care about God. Many of my single friends will complain about the lack of dating partners with integrity. I ask them if they are seeking someone that wants to have integrity in their lives. Usually people that attend church regularly are at least trying to have integrity, so I always recommend to my friends to look to church attendance as a great way to determine integrity (yes, I know, not always!).

A well-known program for attracting singles is Fellowship Church in Plano and Grapevine. Grapevine is the "mother campus" and has more people and a stronger singles program, but is also 20 minutes away. Prestonwood Baptist Church (located at Midway and Park) has an active singles program and it's very close to the Tollway and I highly recommend. Elevate Life Church is a super church in South Frisco also nearby that has a very active singles program. Another excellent singles program is at Watermark. This is located in North Dallas and has an active group. If you don't mind the drive, it's worth trying this terrific church out and is an easy commute just down the North Dallas Toll-

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way. If you don't mind driving about 25 minutes, Highland Park United Methodist has a historically very strong program as well, in the affluent Park Cities area.

**Tennis or Golf Group Lessons:** West Plano is an affluent area that plays affluent sports. Top choices for affluent sports are golf and tennis. Why not meet upwardly moving people right in the area by playing these sports? 😊

*Please see the separate section in this overview for GROUP tennis and golf lessons for more ideas.*

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## **MOST RELIABLE RESTAURANTS/CLUBS**

### For Meeting West Plano Singles

**Ra:** With terrific happy hours and a supremely perfect location on the NORTH side of the Shops at Legacy, you get plenty of singles here, and fantastic food to boot. Great sushi during the happy hours!

**Sambuca 360:** This Shops at Legacy bar gives a fantastic setup for enjoying dancing and meeting people. I enjoyed how the band was located behind the bar, though the dance floor is small, it's romantic. The patio outside gives plenty of additional space. Great place for meeting singles, especially women.

**Nylo Hotel Restaurant:** This chic, modern restaurant has very romantic and cozy ways to get to know people. The music can be loud, and the food is not cheap but the environment is terrific!

**Fireside Pies:** A Pizza place? Well, this is no ordinary pizza place! With low lights, great ambience and a large bar (and reasonable prices), this place is filled every night with single professionals and dating couples. The patio outside is great too, but you will meet more people if you stay inside.

**Crú – A Wine Bar:** This is a famous West Plano patio and bar, a long standing fixture in the Shops at Legacy, right next to Taco Diner. Incredible traffic flow on the street makes for perfect people watching. It's always buzzing here and **the inside is very romantic and where you will find more singles** (outside on the patio seems to have more couples).

**Village Burger Bar:** This is in the Shops at Legacy. Around 5 pm, the lights go down low and the atmosphere changes to a very casual bar scene. Their "RITAs" are terrific. Try the MangoRita...and enjoy meeting a few new folks in a very easygoing way!

**Patrizio's:** This is an established and very classy Italian food place near the ritzy Willow Bend area at Park and Preston. The patio is great for a date, and the inside has a swank area to enjoy conversation.

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**The Patio at Taco Diner:** Located in the West Village, the patio of the Taco Diner is huge...and always jam packed full of people Thursday – Saturday nights. Eating is relatively cheap, and the casual atmosphere makes it easy to strike up a conversation with someone sitting nearby. It's also terrific people watching!

**Ringo's Pub:** Located at the Shop at Legacy, it's a fun, laid back atmosphere. One fun perk good in groups or for a date if you so happened to take one there is the board games - they have a small selection of games from Jenga, Connect Four, etc to pass the time while you enjoy a brew.

**Down Under Pub in Frisco:** It can get loud, but this place is packed and well known as a singles hangout. Live bands and dancing keep it hopping.

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## MEETING PARENTS & SINGLE PARENTS

Parents and Single Parents moving to the area have plenty of opportunities to meet other parents (including single parents) and their kids in West Plano. These are some of our favorite ways to accomplish this:

**Think SPORTS:** Plano parents put a high emphasis on sports! So, getting your kids involved in Sports is a perfect way to meet other parents and their kids.

Plano has 2 excellent sports organizations with an almost overwhelming variety of activities to accomplish this, ranging from Soccer, Football, Basketball, Hockey, Swimming and more. And, for those parents who have kids that are pretty advanced in a certain sport, SELECT leagues opportunities also abound. Two excellent sports organizations are:

- **Prestonwood Sports Organization (PSO):** Connected to the massive Prestonwood Baptist Church facilities, PSO has a true community outreach with their sports program. The on-site soccer, baseball and football fields are constantly filled with kids either practicing or in games. There is also an inside gym for basketball activities. The referees also keep a competitive, yet caring attitude prevalent throughout practices, which makes being around the other parents fun! The ending awards ceremonies for each season are high octane events and will make a child feel very special. Fees to enroll are typically very reasonable too. HIGH recommendation!
- **Plano Sports Authority (PSA):** PSA is also large and well established, and provides a similar large amount of sports activities for kids to be involved in. PSA actually has 2 sports complexes instead of one and so your kids won't lack for plenty of fields to practice in. PSA has hockey complexes that are truly amazing, as well as even flag football groups and many more. They are a good choice for finding just about every sport imaginable for kids.

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**Fitness Centers:** Some fitness centers are better than others if you want to meet families and their kids. Centers like LA Fitness cater more to true singles, while those with children will feel more strongly drawn to other choices. Some ones to consider are below:

- **Muehlenbeck Recreation Center:** Located just East of Parker and the Tollway, this recently built MEGAPLEX has the look and feel of a high end professional fitness club, but it's actually run by the City of Plano. The facilities contain huge indoor and outdoor pools, along with running tracks, basketball, weight rooms, huge aerobic centers and more. The location of it is connected to the ultra affluent Willow Bend Polo Club neighborhood, so it attracts high end professionals and their families. **Single parents love the indoor and outdoor pools AND the exercise rooms to meet other single parents.** The great news about this is that if you are a resident of Plano you get a very low rate...**try \$11 a month for adults and even cheaper for kids!** This also gets you free access to all other Plano recreation centers.
- **Lifetime Fitness Center:** Perhaps this is the ultimate answer to a “country club” without being labeled one. Its facilities are enormous and full of swimming, racquetball, tennis, aerobics, free weights and an amazing outdoor “walk in” pool that is perfect for kids and toddlers. The locker rooms and sumptuous and contain free towels, exceptional shower facilities and more. Also included are free TODDLER CARE rooms which are a pretty incredible benefit. They will watch your child for free for up to 2 hours at a time, and the staff is very well trained. You will feel perfectly comfortable leaving your child at facilities with their staff.

**School Activities:** Get involved in the activities of your kids school to meet other caring parents and their children.

**Parks:** Previously mentioned, but going to parks in West Plano will give you access to many other families and single parents that want to make friends. Besides the Arbor Hills Nature Preserve, there are other terrific parks in West Plano to visit (including the Jack Russell dog park!).

**Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts:** This is a very well run organization that will not only give you opportunities to meet other families, but will truly help your children learn excellent life skills and build their character. Besides churches, **I believe there are no better organizations for your kids to be involved in.**

The activities in these organizations teach children about history, community service, camping, making good decisions and more. The organizations are structured so that parents **MUST** be involved with their kids in completing activities to be able to advance to new levels. So, you will meet other parents that care about their kids just like you do.

**For single parents,** do not be intimidated about attending. A strong percentage of the parents involved are single parents like you, wanting a better life for their kids. You will make great connections!

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**Summer Camps:** Many West Plano organizations have week-long (during the day) summer camp activities throughout June and July. This is a perfect opportunity to allow your kids to meet other kids in a wonderful environment, while also providing needed childcare (and most of the time with a very affordable cost). Strong organizations that provide these include:

- **Plano Sports Authority (PSA)**
- **Prestonwood Sports Organization (PSO)**
- **Plano YMCA**
- **Muehlenbeck Recreation Center**

**Malls with Kid Activity Centers** (*for toddlers to age 6*): West Plano's **The Shops at Willowbend** (off Parker and the Tollway) and Frisco's **Stonebriar Center** (at Preston and 121) have large, walled in activity centers for younger kids. You will be able to meet plenty of other parents and their children here (including single parents).

**Church:** Finding a church with a strong children's program will provide many opportunities to connect with families and single parents of quality. **The strongest kids program in the area by far is at Prestonwood Baptist Church.** They just completed a massive building program and erected a new large building dedicated just for the needs of children, including special needs children. They have special programming in a "TV Show" style format called Kids Zone that is just brilliant and perfect for entertaining and teaching kids. The teachers are dedicated and caring. **GO VISIT!**

**Plano Children's Theater:** The Plano Children's Theater is located more in Central Plano, and is a treat to be involved with. Their frequent productions are fun, casual and inexpensive ways (usually \$7 a ticket or less!) to enjoy live productions and to meet other parents and single parents. And, you can test the reactions your kids have to see if they have inclinations toward the theatrical...and they have a great lessons program and summer camp.



The choices of eating possibilities are almost limitless...and tasty! From the casual meet up environment of Village Burger in Plano, to the upscale, “impress your business client or date” Jasper’s, West Plano and the area has an amazing array of choices!

The following are well-known and the best of the area. This is not meant to be comprehensive...but it’s our opinion of the better places to try that locals prefer. Our list includes choices for singles and adults, and a special section for family friendly restaurants to try as well.

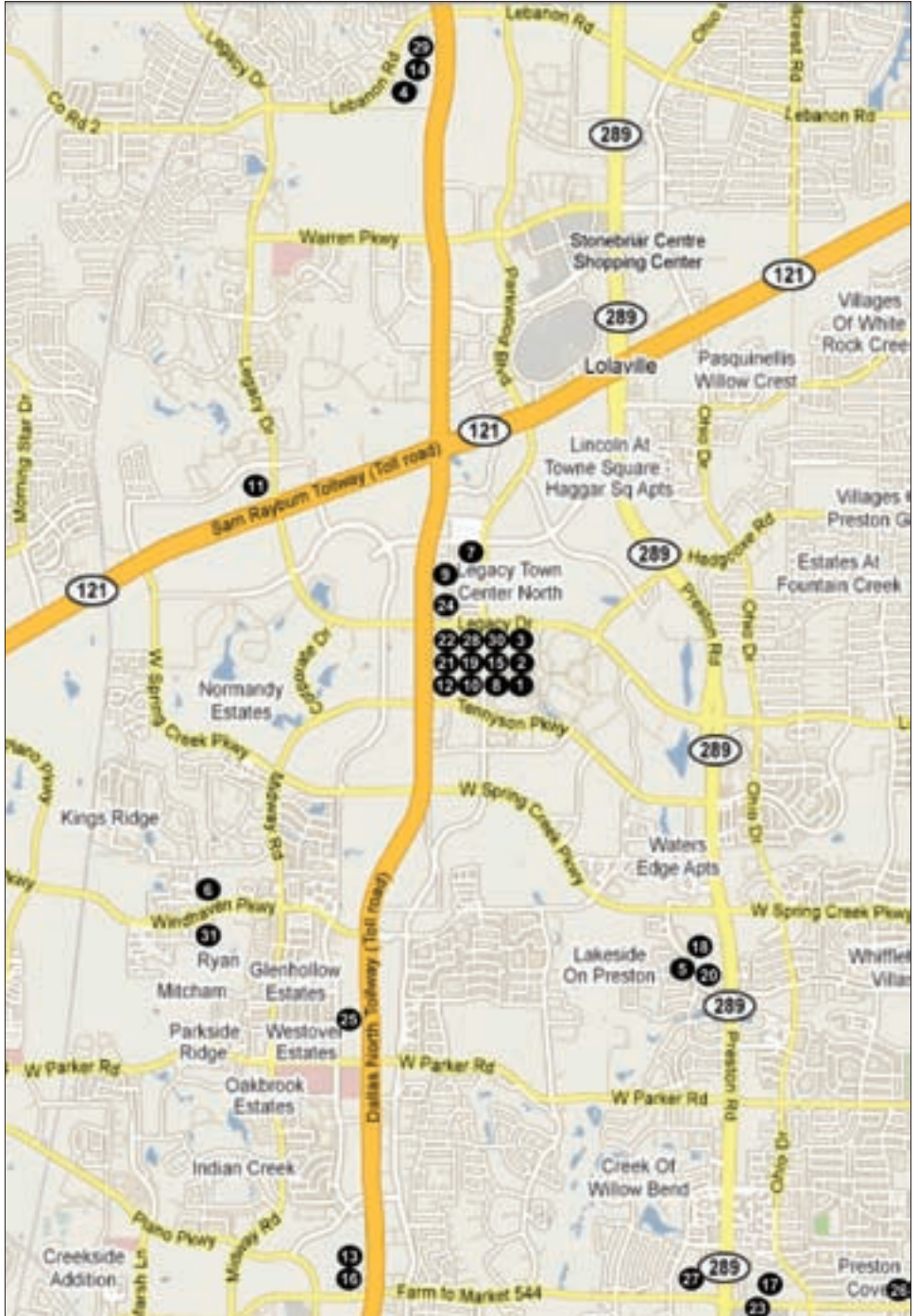
Note the choices that have the **MS** sign, meaning an excellent value for the money.

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## AREA FAVORITES

**Artin’s** (*American*) - 5840 Legacy Circle, Plano, TX 469.366.3660 **\$**. How about this for a recipe for success? Take the chef from the Mansion at Turtle Creek and the interior design from the same person who worked on Stephen Pyle’s (Downtown Dallas), and set it in a casual atmosphere, with reasonable prices? Visit this, and often!

# WEST PLANO Dining





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**Benihana** (*Hibachi*) - 5840 Legacy Drive, Plano, TX 469.467.2242 **\$\$**. Legendary Japanese Hibachi Steakhouse adapts well to the Shops at Legacy! All new look/feel, with the same flair and showmanship while cooking. Delicious options and well done.

**Bob's Steak and Chop House** - 5760 Legacy Drive, Plano, TX 972.608.2627 **\$\$\$**. Food is great..ok, that is an understatement! Food is amazing and plentiful. Atmosphere is dark and charming, with an old world feel, but with the mandatory understated tv's with sports playing. Service is par excellence typically. This is a very well done steakhouse!

**Bonnie Ruth's** (*French/Italian*) - 6959 Lebanon Road, Frisco, TX 214.705.7775 **\$\$**. Quaint and charming (but LARGE) French style bistro, with white table cloths, and with a recently expanded bakery section. Includes a very warm and romantic patio, with a fireplace and very ample seating. Food is wide ranging, from pasta to sumptuous seafood. Deserts are yummy looking!

**Breadwinner's** (*American*) - 4021 Preston Rd, Plano, TX 972.312.9300 **\$**. This place is addicting. They have so many choices in sandwiches, salads and more. The atmosphere is very charming and upscale, yet casual. The portions are HUGE...might want to try the "half size" portions. Dinner is extremely easy to get in for some reason because this is perceived as a brunch place...and they have the best brunch in Dallas in our opinion!

**Café Gecko** - 6855 Windhaven Parkway, The Colony, TX 972.820.7726 **\$**. Boisterous sports bar atmosphere in Austin Ranch...better for singles and groups. Terrific burgers and amazing sour cream nachos! Great place for game watching and very casual.

**Coast Global Seafood** - 7501 Lone Star Drive, Plano, TX 972.265.4722 **\$\$**. Stylish and sleek, this new 8000 sq ft restaurant has ocean samplings from around the world. Dark with subtle lighting, rounded tones and plenty of seating, this is a treat not only in food fare but in atmosphere. The food is excellent and the prices are surprisingly affordable for this quality. Visit and enjoy!

**Fireside Pies** (*Pizza*) - 5717 Legacy Drive, Plano, TX 972.398.2700 **\$**. Dark lighting, hardwood floors and great music set the stage for a most unique pizza experience! Must start out with the amazing choice of salads, generous enough easily for 2. The pizzas are soft and simply melt in your mouth. The wine selection is great. And, if you get a chance, try the hot apple pie...it's to die for! FYI, this place is very popular with professionals!

**Gordon Biersch** (Seafood/American) - 7401 Lone Star Drive, Suite B120, Plano, TX 469.467.0464. Perfect place for "beer snobbery" that pulls off a pretty incredible restaurant too! Great burgers, but also incredible main courses and seafood that are filling. Patio setting makes it fun at night or at lunch. Right next to Ra Sushi, so great people watching too!

**Half Shells Seafood Grill** - 5800 Legacy Drive, Plano, TX 469.241.1300 **\$**. Good mix of casual atmosphere, distinct choices for seafood (blackened snapper!), and good pricing. Clean and fun for lunch especially or for an early dinner before nightclub.

**Isabella's Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar** - 1279 Legacy Dr, Frisco, TX 214.618.3384 **\$**. Although a bit obscure location wise, this quaint Italian restaurant has excellent food and

## MOST ROMANTIC SPOTS IN THE AREA

These spots have incredible atmosphere and are perfect places to take that special someone! All of the addresses for these are referenced in the main listing above.

- **Nicola's** – *the upstairs area has booths and small tables that overlook the main area. They are intimate and quiet, and romantically lit!*
- **TrueFire** – *even though this is a chic “seen and be seen” type place, if you sit in one of the tables in the back, you can enjoy a dimly lit, and fantastic atmosphere perfect for 2*
- **Fireside Pies** – *the place is already perfectly lit, with hardwood floors. If you add to that by sitting in the booths and table on the right hand side (away from the bar), you have a captivating romantic atmosphere to be with a special date*
- **Steve Fields Lounge** – *even though this place is very swank, there is no need for a reservation in the bar and lounge area on the right...just slip in and enjoy small tables and a perfect atmosphere for 2.*
- **Kotta Sushi Lounge** – *Oooh, low tables and low lights and a very sophisticated feel. Your date will feel very very special just walking in.*

a subtle, upscale atmosphere that you can actually talk in normal tones in! Try many fares of Italian specialties here, and enjoy the patio or the separate room for business meetings.

**Jasper's** (*Asian Fusion*) - 7161 Bishop Road, Plano, TX 469.229.9111 **\$\$\$**. Local Restaurant Celeb Kent Rathburn has perfectly combined the chic modern loft feel with perhaps the best food possible. Very attractive setting with low lights, modern metal/wood mixture and alluring music. Typically quite a wait to get in and we recommend you valet the car. Oh, yes...and the food is captivating in every way. It would take too long to describe how good it really is. Just go, but have a full wallet...this place is pricey!

**Keg Steakhouse and Bar** - 6101 West Park Boulevard, Plano, TX 972.403.0430 **\$\$**. The name (and location) is very deceiving...we didn't expect this type of quality...or romantic atmosphere west of the tollway! Rustic yet sophisticated décor hints of the excellent steak and other samplings here. Get a quality steak and a perfect spot for a date and great conversation for much less than comparable settings. We love this wonderful place!

**Kotta Sushi Lounge** - 6959 Lebanon Rd, Frisco, TX 75035(214) 705-0090 **\$\$**. With an attractive (and dark!) New York lounge feel, this excellent sushi fare is worth having again and again. So many choices on the menu that we were a bit overwhelmed...but the waitress gave us excellent recommendations. We enjoyed the music and atmosphere and the people watching!

**Main Street** (*American*) - 7200 Bishop Road, Plano, TX 972.309.0404 **\$**. Enjoy this sidewalk style café, especially for brunch or lunch. Terrific people watching and great Panini! Good service and friendly atmosphere.

**Maggiano's Little Italy** - 6001 West Park Boulevard, Plano, TX 972.781.0776 **\$\$**. When



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you pull up (valet available), it may seem like you are in a fancy multi story shopping center...this place is enormous! Has a decidedly upscale and “New York” feel both on the outside and inside. Bar area is large and perfect for enjoying some time before your meal. The main dining area is even larger...there were so many tables and waiters in this very large interior, along with many side rooms for guest, that I felt like someone was about to break out in “Hello Dolly”. Oh, yes, and the food...it is terrific! Sicilian style with LARGE portions. The bread is great too. It can be a significant wait due to popularity.

**Mango Thai** - 4701 West Park Boulevard, Plano, TX 972.599.0289 **\$**. Fresh and bright affluent (yet casual) interiors, with a 60's daisy feel, make this a much different experience than a normal Thai place. Waiters are extremely attentive and quick. Food choices are many but portions are just right (not too filling). Spicy is what it says...be careful unless you are ready with water nearby!

**Mi Cocina** (*TexMex*) - 4001 Preston Road, Plano, TX 972.608.8881 (Lakeside at Preston) **\$**

**Mi Cocina** (*TexMex*) - 5760 Legacy Drive, Plano, TX 972.473.8777 (Shops at Legacy) **\$**. Traditional and upscale TexMex combinations, served in ample portions, and with reasonable prices.

Food is similarly good at both locations, but the experience is different enough □at each to truly enjoy both. Lakeside Market location has an exceptional patio and overlooks a lake! Shops at Legacy location is a great place to meet singles, especially with the attached Barumba Latin Lounger bar area.

**Mignon** (*French*) - 4005 Preston Road, Plano, TX 972.943.3372 **\$\$**. The menu offers a dizzying range of choices for any craving, and the presentation and taste are a memorable experience. The atmosphere inside the restaurant provides a semi-private dining experience, and patio dining is also available.

**Naan Sushi** - 7161 Bishop Road, Plano, TX 972.943.9288 **\$\$**. This restaurant knows it's good...you just have the feel going in! And,we have to agree... it might be the best sushi possible in Plano! Very fresh fish and presented in extraordinary ways. Includes all traditional favorites of course: tuna, yellowtail, California roll, etc. The Low Carb choices are the perfect menu addition. Happy hours here have 50% off too!

**Nicola's** (*Italian*) - 5800 Legacy Drive, Plano, TX 972.608.4455 **\$\$**. An Italian gem, in an area that is hard to impress, being so close to other exceptional restaurants like Jasper's! Walking in reveals a large, beautiful decorated atmosphere, with different alcoves for different atmospheres (Bar area, area to the right of bar, main dining area, and upstairs areas). The food is sumptuous and pleasing with large portions. Wine menu is very extensive in selection and price! Reserve in advance, especially for a date, and you can get an upstairs nook that is very romantic.

**Patrizio's** (*Italian*) - 1900 Preston Rd # 343, Plano, TX (972) 964-2200 **\$\$**. Long time established place to eat distinctive Italian food, in an affluent part of town. Elegant Italian dining, but with a casual feel. A family or a date would be equally comfortable here in this Highland Park feeling restaurant.

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**Ra Sushi** - 7501 Lone Star Drive, Plano, TX 469.467.7400 **\$\$**. This is definitely a place to see and be seen, with a huge overspill of patio seating. It's perhaps the hottest place for singles in Plano, especially mature professionals. The Happy Hour menu is very inexpensive and delicious! And, the service is quick and very polite. This place can get noisy and it doesn't matter because it's so fun being here! Enjoy it... often!

**Razoo's Cajun Café** - 3904 Dallas Parkway, Plano, TX 972.473.9248 **\$\$**. Located right next to the large Cinemark movie theater in West Plano, this is a perfect place for an inexpensive, yet fun night out, with great and authentic Cajun food! We like the sampler platter served on an actual iron skillet. The alligator... well, you will have to try it and judge for yourself.

**Red's Patio Grill** - 4005 Preston Meadow Drive, Plano, TX 469.229.0098 **\$**. Always busy, with two different serving areas and experiences. One is the indoor darkly lighted, more romantic feel. Outdoors are benches and patio style dining, overlooking the same lake as Mi Cocina. The prices are reasonable too. Good place for a group to have fun and watch the game.

**Steve Fields Steak and Lobster** - 5013 West Park Boulevard, Plano, TX 972.596.7100 **\$\$\$**. What a nightclub dreams like being, but rarely is. Dark and affluent decor, but without the smoke! Nice touches everywhere, including the monogrammed napkins, punctuated with great, warm service. The steaks are DELICIOUS. Prices are very reasonable. We especially love the bar area to the right... terrific and romantic!

**Taco Diner** (*Tex Mex*) - 7201 Bishop Road, Plano, TX 469.241.9133 **\$**. Superb restaurant feels like you are in San Diego, with sleek metal tables, expansive outdoor patio, and very good service. Menu is basic and not overwhelming, and food is quickly served. Fish tacos are very good, and not overly spiced. Staff comes frequently to cater to your chip needs, and the green and red sauces were both enjoyable. This is a perfect people watching place too!

**TruFire Kitchen and Bar** (*Variety*) - 6959 Lebanon Road, Frisco, TX 214.872.3830 **\$\$**. VERY dark and oh so hot scene here... perfect atmosphere for a date (don't bring the kids)! Bar area is always full, and the restaurant is packed too! The Pizza choices are wow! Pasta was great too. You could get into a little nook and really get lost with talking with that special someone.

**Village Burger Bar** - 5700 Legacy Drive, Plano, TX 972.801.2772 **\$**. Stroll into this casual yet upscale atmosphere and order one of the best specialty burgers you might ever have. Add the sweet potato fries to it, and you have a mouth watering feast. Or, if needing to go low carb, try the grilled chicken tenders with dipping sauce... yummy! And, then there is the BAR...around 5 pm, the lights go down low and this becomes a casual fun bar, complete with some of the best "ritas" around (try the mango-rita). Owners began this concept in Uptown, and it works well here too!

**Zen Restaurant** - 6910 Windhaven Parkway, The Colony, TX 214.483.5500. Food is VERY good here! Tasty tacos and sunshine queso are amazing. Service is quick and they deliver within the Austin Ranch area. Perfect for a VIP Party – they rope off an entire section for your group, complete with velvet rope. They do crank things up here later at night...don't go here if you are a solitary person that likes quiet! ☺

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## FAMILY FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS

The following is a VERY WELL thought out (and tried!) list of some of the best places to take your family to eat in West Plano. These tend to be award-winning restaurants with great atmosphere for the kids that we have tried ourselves! We've excluded the less "fast food" choices that you probably already know and have included other known... and several unknown names! Our goal is for you to have many fun and happy memories together at these places. All of these are pretty much reasonably priced, but some of them are true values, and we note these with our **MS** (money saver) symbol. Enjoy!

**Bavarian Grill** (*German*) - 221 West Parker Road, Plano, TX, 972-881-0705. While kind of hard to find, the trip is worth it. You will feel you are in Europe. A train goes all around the family section, and incredible German food, with polka music at night. This is a very lively and crowded place!

**Buca di Beppo** (*Italian*) - 8580 S.H. 121, Frisco, TX 972-668-7670. Enjoy an Italian feast at this much-loved restaurant, and make some family memories to boot!

**Cheesecake Factory** (*American*) - 2601 Preston Rd # 2219, Frisco, TX, 972-731-7799. Long lines, service that is not the best at times...but we don't care! Huge portions, great food, and family friendly atmosphere.

**Cowboy Chicken** (*Fast Food*) - 3450 E Hebron Pkwy, Carrollton, TX, 972-267-2000. **MS**. This is a Dallas developed chain with several locations. Great vegetables... try the 2x baked potatoes and the campfire veggies. I can't get enough of this place and neither can a lot of families!

**Cristina's** (*TexMex*) - 3432 E Hebron Pky, Carrollton, TX 75007, 972-380-8844. Stylish and charming place for Tex-Mex at reasonable prices. Almost any night is mostly family filled. The tortillas are addicting and the patio is inviting!

**Gazebo's Hamburgers** (*Burgers*) - 6009 W Parker Rd #165, Plano, TX 75093, 972-378-5531. **MS**. Condiments are on a bar, so you can make you own burger. Veggies to add on the burger are fresh. Large burgers and reasonable price. The chicken sandwich is a MONSTER SIZE with medium price.

**IKEA** - 7171 IKEA Dr, Frisco, TX 75034, 972-712-4532. **MS**. Yes, IKEA! The \$1 hot dogs, and the pizza slices are cheap. You don't have to shop here...just eat at the front and escape with a \$10 or under bill for 4!?

**La Hacienda Ranch** (*Tex Mex*) - 4110 Preston Rd, Frisco, TX, 972-335-2232. Really nice and long standing Tex Mex restaurant with friendly service and great fajitas. Family environment and reasonable prices.

**Luna de Noche** (*Tex Mex*) - 1401 Preston Rd, Plano, TX, 972-818-2727. **MS**. Possibly our

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favorite Mexican restaurant in all of DFW! The food is fresh, the service are very impressive, the atmosphere is great and it's VERY affordable. The moon ceilings and waterfalls add a romantic feel too. Unique atmosphere that could work for a family OR a date!

**Mi Cocina** (*Tex Mex*) - 4001 Preston Rd, Plano, TX, 469-467-8655. **MS**. The Tex Mex food is great... but what is even better is that this location is over a (man made) lake with ducks, complete with patio dining. I take my own kids and feed those ducks with the chips! ☺

**Mooyah** (*Burgers*) - 6400 W Plano Pkwy, Plano, TX 75093, 972-403-8600. **MS**. It's pretty simple here...bright white and red walls, burgers, fries and shakes. But the burgers ROCK, and the fries are the BEST I HAVE EVER HAD! And, when you order the large fries, it can literally feed about 4 people! You can meet other families here too... kids are all around.

**Pizza by Marco** - 5960 West Parker Road, Plano, TX, 972-378-4085. Unique pizzeria in upscale shopping center, has the kind of feel we like and great pizza! Very family friendly too.

**Purple Cow** (*Burgers*) - 5809 Preston Rd, Plano, TX 75093, 972-473-6100. A fun open style restaurant, with fun menus, coloring and a high-energy feel. A bit high priced at times.

**Ritzzy's** (*American*) - 2550 Preston Rd, Frisco, TX 75034. 469-362-7711. **MS**. Kids love Ritzzy's! Parents love getting free meals for their kids when they wear Ritzzy's t-shirts.

**Rock-N-Roger's** - 6509 West Park Boulevard, Plano, TX, 972- 378-0444. You will truly step back to the 50's in this very well done "diner". Huge cut out of Elvis tops out the rest of the 50's décor. Waitresses are in costume, friendly and fun. Large covered patio outside. We liked how many of the customers tried the hoola hoops (and we wish we could do as well). Many antique car shows get hosted in this parking lot!

**Romano's Macaroni Grill** (*Italian*) - 5005 W Park Blvd, Plano, TX. 972-964-6676. Your kids (and you!) can color on the tablecloth and enjoy primo bread and olive oil...and then there's the main course! And, on some nights, your host will serenade opera style.

**Scotty P's** (*Burgers*) - 4710 Preston Rd Ste 300 , Frisco, TX 75034. 972-712-6556. **MS**. Fresh burgers and chicken fingers in a newer high energy family style.

**Sheridan's Frozen Custard** (*American*) - 8909 Gaylord, Frisco TX, 972-377-6144. **MS**. Fun, 50's style throwback. Great light treats and custard of course. Fun to go on a Friday nite.

**Snuffer's** (*American*) - 2408 Preston Rd # 704A, Plano, TX, 469-241-1897. The original longtime Lower Greenville favorite still caters to a casual — college-aged or family-oriented — neighborhood crowd.

**Varsity Club Wings and Sports** - 307 W Main St, Frisco, TX, 214-387-8127. Not your typical sports bar, the Varsity Club Wings & Sports is a family friendly sports restaurant with a children's play room, 28 televisions, including four projection screens.



Some people think of West Plano (and the immediate areas surrounding) as the “burbs” and want to visit other areas of town for night clubs and other night activities. Let’s dispel that myth now because the opposite is true! ☺

**West Plano has more choices for night activities than any other single area in Dallas and Fort Worth, including Uptown or Knox Henderson! The amount of variety is also better,** ranging from sports bars, to cool, sophisticated “meet people” spots, and everything in between. And, delightfully, if you live in certain areas, you can WALK to many of these!

Below is a very thorough list of choices for you to consider. It will take you many enjoyable nights to check out these terrific choices. Enjoy!

# WEST PLANO Nightlife





## HAPPY HOUR & LIVE MUSIC COMPARISON

### WEST PLANO/FRISCO NIGHTLIFE COMPARISON

Name	Happy Hour Times	Happy Hour & Other Specials	Live Music or DJ?
<b>55 Degrees</b>	Monday – Friday 6pm-9pm	\$3 glasses of wine	Live Music weekends and some weeknights
<b>Aloft Hotel Lounge (W XYZ Bar)</b>	Monday – Friday: 5pm-7pm	Enjoy \$2.00 draft beers and \$3.50 wells	Weekend DJ
<b>Café Gecko</b>	Monday – Friday: 3pm-7pm	Reduced drink prices during HH.	
<b>Chaucers Sushi and Grill</b>	Monday – Friday: 3pm-7pm and 10pm until Close	Varied drink and sushi specials	Combination of DJ and Live Music nightly after 9pm
<b>Coast Global Seafood</b>	Monday – Friday: 4pm-7pm; All night Thursday	Reduced drink and appetizer prices.	
<b>Cru Wine Bar</b>		Thursday: Half-priced Champagne	
<b>Down Under Pub</b>	Monday – Friday: 3pm-7pm	Reduced drink prices	Live Music Nightly
<b>Farpointe Cellar Wine Bistro</b>			
<b>Fox's Sports Grill</b>	Monday – Friday: 4pm-7pm	\$1 OFF draft beer (domestic and import) ; \$1 OFF well drinks; \$2 OFF wines by the glass; ½ price on select appetizers.	

## WEST PLANO/FRISCO NIGHTLIFE COMPARISON (cont.)

Name	Happy Hour Times	Happy Hour & Other Specials	Live Music or DJ?
<b>The Frisco Bar</b>	Monday - Wednesday: All day specials  Thursday - Friday Happy Hour 4pm - 7:30pm	Sunday \$2.50 Miller drafts, \$3 wells ALL DAY! Sunday Night is Bike Night 4pm -9pm;  Monday -\$2.50 Miller drafts \$3 wells ALL DAY!  Tuesday - \$2.50 Miller drafts \$3 wells ALL DAY!  Wednesday - \$2.50 Miller drafts \$3 wells ALL DAY! Wednesday Night is Karaoke Night Doubletake productions Karaoke 8:00pm - 11:00pm	Saturday Night DJ starting 8pm
<b>Gordon Biersch</b>	Monday – Friday: 4pm – 6:30pm	Reduced drink and appetizer prices.	
<b>Irish Rover Pub and Restaurant</b>	Monday – Friday: 4pm – 7pm	Tuesday: Poker Night 7pm-12am  Thursday: Karaoke Night 8pm-11pm  Saturday: Live Music 8pm - Close	Live Music Saturdays at 8pm

Name	Happy Hour Times	Happy Hour & Other Specials	Live Music or DJ?
<b>Isabella's Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar</b>	Tuesday – Friday: 4pm-7pm	Sundays: Dinner wine by the bottle 50% off  Tuesdays: Martinis and Cosmos 50% off  Wednesdays: Wine Flights 30% off  Thursday and Friday: 25% off all cocktails, martinis, house wine and frozen Italian drinks.	Live Jazz music nightly!
<b>Jasper's</b>	Daily: Open – 6:30pm and 9pm until Close	\$2 off beer, wine and cocktails; \$5 specialty drinks	
<b>Keg Steakhouse and Bar</b>	Monday – Friday: 4pm – 7pm	Reduced drink and appetizer prices.	
<b>Kotta Sushi Lounge</b>			
<b>Lochran's Eatery and Irish Pub</b>	Monday –Thursday 4pm-7pm;  Friday: 2pm to 7pm	\$3 Wells, .50 Off Drafts, \$4 Crown, Kettle One, Jack, & Tanqueray, \$4 Select Martinis, \$1 off House Wine  Tues. & Thurs. \$8 Miller Lite Pitchers; \$3 Wells  Wednesday \$6 Margarita Pitchers	Live music almost nightly. Call ahead for the schedule.
<b>Loft 610</b>	Monday – Friday: 5pm – 7pm	Reduced drink prices	DJ

## WEST PLANO/FRISCO NIGHTLIFE COMPARISON (cont.)

Name	Happy Hour Times	Happy Hour & Other Specials	Live Music or DJ?
<b>McSwiggan's Irish Pub</b>	Monday – Friday: 3pm – 7pm	A variety of daily drink specials and reduced pricing	
<b>Naan Sushi Bar</b>	Monday – Friday: 3pm-7pm and 10pm – 1am	Reduced drink prices.  Tuesday and Friday: Karaoke after 10pm	
<b>Ra Sushi</b>	Monday – Saturday: 3pm – 7pm	Reduced drink and food prices.	
<b>Ringo's Pub</b>	Monday – Friday: 3pm – 7pm	\$1 off all liquor, wine and beer.	Live Music several nights a week. Call ahead for the schedule.
<b>Sambuca 360</b>	Monday – Friday: 3pm – 7pm	Reduced drink and food prices.	Live Music nightly
<b>Snookies Bar and Grill</b>	Monday – Friday: 3pm – 7pm	Reduced drink and appetizer prices.	
<b>Steve Fields Steak and Lobster</b>	Monday – Friday: 4:30pm – 6:30pm	Reduced drink and appetizer prices.	Live piano entertainment seven nights a week
<b>Zen Restaurant</b>	Monday – Friday: 3pm – 7pm	Reduced drink and appetizer prices.	Weekend and occasional weeknight DJ

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## NIGHTCLUBS AND REVIEWS

**55 Degrees** – Ste 425, 4709 West Parker Road, Plano, TX, 469.241.9551. 55 degrees is a cozy and welcoming wine bar owned by a local couple and renowned for its service and style. Sit back and relax on one of the plush couches and enjoy a glass of wine and any one of the many Jazz, Latin or Classic Rock groups and vocalists that perform live on weekends. It's the perfect, upscale hangout for an intimate conversation with your latest interest or casual time out with friends and colleagues. Call ahead and ask about the changing performances and specials throughout the week from magicians to wine tastings.

**Aloft Hotel Lounge (W XYZ Bar)** – 6853 North Dallas Parkway, Plano, TX, 214.474-2520. The W XYZ Bar inside the Aloft hotel is bright, vibrant and energetic. It's a great place to meet and greet while sipping your favorite cocktail or glass of wine. A lounge area with plush seating in a sleek modern setting is available as well as a billiards area where you can win your next drink from your buddy or co-worker. A “snack-attack” menu is available with options that bring club food to a new level. Mingle and check out the reason the Aloft Lounge and W XYZ Bar are generating such a buzz.

**Café Gecko** – 6855 Windhaven Parkway, The Colony, TX, 972.820.7726. With a name like Café Gecko and toting food and drinks from “sunny latitudes”, you know this place is unique. A recent expansion has allowed for pool tables, Golden Tees and other fun things to do while mingling with your friends and family. Grab a cocktail and enjoy the avant-garde spirit and contemporary setting of Café Gecko.

**Chaucers Sushi and Grill** – 8650 State Highway 121, Frisco, TX, 214.618.3373. Chaucer's blends traditional Japanese drinks like Sake and with Korean specialties and good old American favorites to allow you a new and exciting experience. Grab a group of friends and stop in before the crowd so you can grab a seat at the glowing bar filled with warm, amber light that brings an ethereal effect to your get together. A popular local hot spot, Chaucer's is filled with fun and adventure every time you stop. Call ahead to see if a DJ or one of the popular Live Bands is performing the evening you plan to visit.

**Coast** - 7501 Lone Star Drive, Plano, TX, 972.265.4722. The Coast is a supreme example of fine dining in a beautiful and elegant atmosphere. The oceanic décor including jellyfish chandeliers and cool blues offers an inviting yet sleek atmosphere in which to enjoy a cocktail or one of the delightful signature drinks and mingle with friends. The Bellagio-inspired fountain provides a light show that serves as a romantic and alluring backdrop. When you order some of the amazing appetizers, be sure to get enough for the table or you may still be hungry as the mouthwatering selections are irresistible.

**Cru Wine Bar** – 7201 Bishop Road, Suite E2, Plano, TX, 972.312.9463 (WINE). The Cru Wine Bar offers a variety of seating from communal settings to the traditional wine bar and outdoor patio. The walls are lined with just a portion of the unparalleled selection of wines available by the glass or as wine flights. Enjoy the old world elegance for a private wine tasting or meet and greet with other wine lovers and friends.

**Down Under Pub** – 3231 Preston Rd Suite 3, Frisco, TX, 972.668.0062. This Aussie

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themed pub is a favorite haunt of the young, upscale Frisco crowd. A great place to meet mates and dates, the lively and energetic atmosphere will have you bouncing even before the nightly live music begins. Eat, dance, socialize and make evenings to remember at this popular and hip pub in the heart of the Stone Briar Centre.

**Farpointe Cellar Wine Bistro** – 1125 Legacy Drive, Frisco, TX, 214.618.9882. Farpointe Cellar and Wine Bistro is a cozy and contemporary setting to enjoy a glass of wine and good conversation. The Far Pointe has a great selection of wine and gourmet foods for enjoyment in the Bistro or purchasing for alter enjoyment at home. Check out the unique and delicious selections of food and wine. Be sure to bring your wallet as you will not want to leave empty handed.

**Fox's Sports Grill** – 5741 Legacy Road, Plano, TX, 972.312.1369. If you're looking for a great place to get rowdy with your pals or watch the game, the Fox Sports Grill is where you want to head. An abundant number of TV's and a cool metropolitan atmosphere increase the chill factor and you will instantly feel you are at home among friends. Revel in the camaraderie at this state-of-the art sports bar that is sure to become a favorite hangout of yours in a few short visits.

**The Frisco Bar** – 4851 Legacy Dr. Ste. 504, Plano, TX, 972.712.0808. The Frisco Bar is an upscale version of your well-known neighborhood pub. Lively and exciting, there is always something happening at the Frisco Bar. If you are looking for good prices, impressive cocktails and dynamic atmosphere to hangout with old friends or make new friends, this is the spot for you.

**Gordon Biersch** – 7401 Lone Star Drive, Suite B120, Plano, TX, 469.467.0464. Simple yet refined describes both Gordon Beirsch the beer and the restaurant and pub. Taking pride in the fact that their beer contains only four ingredients, Gordon Beirsch has used technique and patience to develop their distinctive line of lager. The dark mahogany bar and trimming lend a genteel air to what is dynamic and hip entertainment spot.

**Irish Rover Pub and Restaurant** – 8250 Gaylord Parkway Suite 5, Frisco, TX, 214.618.6222. With over 35 beers on tap, the Irish Rover has quickly become a favorite hangout in the Frisco area. Unwind in the cozy atmosphere while you are served a delicious array of odd and drink by the friendly staff. As well as a favorite sports watching location, the Irish Rover has pool tables, dart boards and a variety of video and trivia games for your amusement.

**Isabella's Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar of Frisco** – 1279 Legacy Dr Ste 100, Frisco, TX, 214.618.3384. Isabella's offers you a sophisticated blend of food and wine from several different regions of Italy. The wine cellar was built from 2000-year-old designs and includes many exotic selections for the discriminating wine aficionado. The live jazz music completes the wonder for the senses. Whether you are a casual or educated wine drinker, you will love the unexpected selections and charming elegance of Isabella's.

**Jasper's** - 7161 Bishop Road, Plano, TX, 469.229.9111. Jasper's is a brainchild of culinary star Kent Rathburn, winner of four James Beard awards and many other accolades. This chic, ultramodern lounge will allow you to indulge in the best cuisine and signature drinks while mingling in the cosmopolitan ambiance. One stop and you will love this

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trendy and posh rendezvous.

**Keg Steakhouse and Bar** – 6101 West Park Boulevard, Plano, TX, 972.403.0430. The Keg Steakhouse is an upscale restaurant offering food and ambiance that is a cut above what you expect from a standard steakhouse. The delicious signature drinks and tempting appetizers will please your palette while the warm, inviting atmosphere offers a sophisticated retreat in which to mingle with friends or simply relax.

**Kotta Sushi Lounge** – 6959 Lebanon Rd Ste 108, Frisco, TX, 214.705.0090. Kotta means ‘exquisite’ and that is the perfect description for this new and innovative Sushi Lounge that has garnered a reputation for some of the best sushi in the area. Delight all your senses with specialty Japanese drinks, warm or cold sake, delicious sushi plates and an exotic spirit in the surroundings. Kotta is the perfect place for striking up a conversation with friends or proposing a deal to a client.

**Lochran’s Eatery and Irish Pub** – 6195 W Main St, Frisco, TX, 214.705.7805. Lochran’s is the Gaelic term for lantern and is the symbol of this lively and entertaining hotspot. The glowing lanterns once let the weary traveler know this was a safe haven for respite and relaxation. Traditional Irish fare, pints and musical entertainment await your enjoyment at Lochran’s Irish Pub.

**Loft 610** – 5760 State Hwy 121, Ste 175, Plano, TX, 972.377.2500. The Loft 610 is one the “places to be” in the Frisco area. The posh, contemporary atmosphere is like no other. The unique urban design, nightly DJ’s, large patio and exquisite culinary creations have made the Loft 610 a favorite haunt of the Frisco elite.

**McSwiggan’s Irish Pub** – 6910 Windhaven Parkway, Plano, TX, 972.820.0688. The dark woods and quaint atmosphere of McSwiggan’s is based on the traditional European Pub. Owned by native Dubliners, the food, décor and friendly service is completely authentic. With over 32 Scotch and Irish whiskeys and a large selections of lagers, McSwiggan’s has become a favorite area tap room.

**Naan Sushi Bar** – 7161 Bishop Road, Plano, TX, 972.943.9288. Naan is a very upscale and elegant sushi and sashimi bar. Don’t stop here in your jeans and t-shirt or you will be sorely out of place. The best of Japanese cuisine, sake, specialty drinks and American favorites are available at a level of excellence that will please the most discriminating palette. Make reservations for your special date, event or meeting to make sure you get a chance to experience the best in Asian cuisine and spirits.

**Ra Sushi** – 7501 Lone Star Drive, Plano, TX, 469.467.7400. Lively and energetic, Ra Sushi has amazing cuisine and a fun, exciting atmosphere. Release all the pressure of your workday as you party and laugh with friends while experiencing the ultimate in guest service.

**Ringo’s Pub** – 5865 Kincaid Rd, Plano, TX, 469.229.9103. Ringo’s Pub is a spacious yet cozy neighborhood pub where you can enjoy the best spirits both in a glass and in the patrons. Ringo’s is a great place to hold a special event or party or meet your friends for game time festivities. Enjoy Live Music several times a week, great food, cocktails and the

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feeling of always being among friends.

**Sambuca 360** – 7200 Bishop, #270, Plano, TX, 469.467.3393. The Sambuca 360 is a grown up version of the renowned and eclectic Sambuca Jazz club that started it all. Sambuca 360 is an American Grill that has retained some of the favorite dishes of the original hot spot. The upscale atmosphere and live music nightly make this a favorite dinner club where you can eat, drink and dance the night away.

**Snookies Bar and Grill** – 3685 Preston Road, Frisco, TX, 469.633.9456. Snookies is a laid back bar and grill without the pretentiousness of some metroplex locations. This is the place to enjoy consistently amazing food and service in a relaxed atmosphere. Snookies is a favorite place to meet and greet colleagues, friends and family or just sit back and catch the latest sports.

**Steve Fields Steak and Lobster** – 5013 West Park Boulevard, Plano, TX, 972.596.7100. Steve Fields is an elegant upscale lounge with amazing surf and turf served alongside fun and exciting specialty drinks as well as your favorites. Grab a seat at the cool, hip glowing bar or gather around the piano for a closer listen to the evening's entertainment. Steve Fields is the ideal place for a romantic date, conversation with friends or simple relaxation.

**Zen Restaurant** – 6910 Windhaven Parkway, The Colony, TX, 214.483.5500. The Zen Bar and Restaurant in Austin Ranch has quickly become a red-hot hangout for those looking for a relaxed atmosphere with good prices and great food. Expect it to be packed for sporting events and be sure not to miss the always fun and exciting DJ music. Shake your tail feather with all your friends or make new friends while enjoying the contemporary aesthetic of the haven found at the Zen Bar and Restaurant.







### **PUBLIC GOLF & TENNIS NEARBY**

West Plano is an affluent city that loves its golf and tennis! It's truly a wonderful way to meet influential or aspiring professionals in the area! Taking beginner GROUP lessons will ensure people at your skill level too, so don't worry if you have never played.

We've put together a list of some of the nearby golf courses and tennis courts for you to practice your game at. All of these (with one exception) are within 15 minutes of the center of West Plano. All of these are open to the public.

#### **GOLF**

**DA's Golf Learning Center** – 5601 W Spring Creek Parkway, Plano 972.378.6631

Great place to practice and to get lessons. Try the CLINICS for great group lessons that focus on your trouble spots and give you the opportunity to meet other beginners. Incredible location!

**Ridgeview Ranch Golf Club** – 2701 Ridgeview Drive, Plano 972.390.1039

This is a recently built and very pretty range with generous practice greens. Group lessons are a value here... if you become a part of the Player's Club (\$35 a month and no contract), you get group lessons at \$20 for a half hour and \$50 an hour and can play at Frisco

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Lakes and River Chase as well. Player's Club includes unlimited practice range balls, discounted green fees and more. Contact Bruce Sims directly for lessons at 214.475.5168. This par 72 course is 6,940 yards long and is located on beautiful rolling terrain with significant creeks and wooded areas covering most of the course. Recommend!

**Tour 18** – 8718 Amen Cor, Flower Mound, TX 75022-6498 (817) 430-2000

Not for instruction per se, but more just for beauty and fun! It will take you about 25 minutes to get here, but this is one of the most amazing places you will ever visit. Picture playing 18 of the best holes in the world, all in one place. Tour 18 has done a remarkable simulation job in building just that. Well worth the visit...and a terrific gift certificate for Father's day!

**Trails of Frisco Lakes** – 7170 Anthem Drive, Frisco 972.292.3089

This is a large public course with 18 holes over 7,100 yards with a par of 72. This school has the same instructor as Ridgeview Ranch and same great deal with the Player's Club.

**The Tribute** – 1000 Lebanon Rd, The Colony 972.370.5465

Many consider this to be the #1 public golf course in the area. Has won awards for being one of America's 100 great golf courses for several years. The Tribute's 18 holes simulate some of the most famous and challenging holes of the Scottish links. The Tribute features the finest elements of traditional Scottish golf, including wide-swept dunes, sea washed grasses and challenging water hazards.

Group lessons are \$125 for groups of 6 or more (split 6 ways)... a bargain! They instruct not only on the range, but also with video of your swing. 972.370.5465 Chip Graham

## TENNIS

**High Point Tennis Center** – 421 W. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano 972-941-7170, option 5

This is a City of Plano run tennis center with group lessons. Groups of 6-10 people will be together in the Adult Beginner classes, which happen frequently. If you end up liking the facilities (and they are wonderful!), annual passes are the way to go...\$125 for an entire year to get on any court for residents but higher for non residents (might factor that in if you still haven't selected your apartment or home yet!).

**Lakes Tennis Academy** – 4000 Legacy, Frisco 972.668.5253

Don't be fooled by the Frisco address... this is truly more of a West Plano location in terms of it being right next to 121 and Legacy and very easy to get to. The Academy offers a tennis program for every age and level of ability. The CO-ED instructional groups and leagues are offered several times a week at night, including absolute beginner classes. This is a premier club and is going to allow you to mix with affluent professionals. High Recommendation!

**Lifetime Fitness** – 7100 Preston Road, Plano 214.227.0700

Must join the facility to take part, but if you do, you will get access to their exclusive tennis courts and their terrific private beginner lessons.

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**Oak Creek Tennis Center** – 2531 Oak Creek Dr, Carrollton 972.466.6389

This is on the border of West Plano and easy to get to. OCTC features 12 lighted hard courts with shaded spectator and court benches. Our pro shop includes racquets, stringing, accessories and concessions. Both adult lessons for beginners and adult leagues are available. Like High Point, the annual pass is the way to go for singles or families, but it costs a bit more if you aren't a resident.

**PGA Superstore** – 600 Accent Drive, Plano 214.427.4060

Yes, that's right...free tennis lessons, and at the PGA Golf superstore! The free group clinics for beginners (up to first 4) are currently running Mondays at 6. The groups are limited to 8 people per clinic so plenty of opportunities to get to know a small group. Call the store to sign up.

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## MOVIE THEATERS

West Plano and the surrounding areas have a large amount of movie theaters to choose from! When using your flat screen is just not enough, there are some excellent options nearby to choose from. The following are theaters that are either right in West Plano or very close by for the most part.

### PLANO

**Angelika Film Center** – 7205 Bishop Road, Plano 972.943.1300

Located directly in the Shops at Legacy, this very attractive new theater features independent films and some mainstream movies as well. The facilities are beautiful and you will impress a date by going here!

**Cinemark Movies 10** – 1818 Coit Rd, Plano 972.985.1394

This is the best dollar theater in all of Dallas, much less Plano. The theater is very clean and has great facilities. Tickets are never more than \$2, and they have bargain nights of \$1. High recommend!

**Cinemark West Plano** – 3800 Dallas Parkway, Plano 972.473.2289

Large, splashy facilities conveniently located on the Tollway and Parker in West Plano. They will have just about every first run mainstream movie at the same time. Indoor "pre movie" treats include a huge video arcade, wide selection of food and large space to meander around. Parking can get crowded... arrive early!

**Studio Movie Grill Plano** – 4721 West Park Boulevard, Plano 972.991.6684

We are a little biased about this theater. It's just a superb, well done concept. Ticket prices are typically the same or cheaper than other theaters, and they serve (after a recent innovation) a wide range of fast food AND healthy options (excellent salads!). Try the wine with your movie as well! RECOMMEND!

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## FRISCO

**AMC Stonebriar 24** – 2601 Preston Road, Ste. 300 972.724.8000

Located inside the large Frisco mall (Stonebriar), this movie theater offers terrific seating and just about every first run movie possible.

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## SPORTS VENUES

Dallas definitely has world class sports in just about every major category...and even some fun categories you may not expect. Here are some of the obvious and not so obvious choices available to you.

**American Airlines Center** – 2500 Victory Avenue, Dallas 214. 221.8326.

The American Airlines Center in Victory Park is home to the excitement and energy of both the Dallas Mavericks and the Dallas Stars.

**Byron Nelson Golf Tournament** – 4150 North MacArthur Blvd, Irving 972.717.0700

This PGA event is held annually in honor of Byron Nelson, whose incredible winning streak and scoring average earned him the honor of being the first professional golfer to have a PGA TOUR event created in his name. The event is held each spring at the TPC Four Seasons Dallas at Las Colinas. The course's 2008 multimillion-dollar renovation was specifically designed to challenge the professional golfer as well as entertain today's savvy amateurs. The renovation features an upgraded pavilion, a dynamic new area for kids and families and even better golf viewing on every hole.

**Dallas Cowboys Stadium** – 900 East Randol Mill Rd, Arlington 817.892.4161.

Long known as “America’s Team”, the new, sleek home of the Cowboy’s is just minutes away from Uptown. Check out the stadium just off 360 in the Arlington area.

**Dallas Diamonds** (*pro Women’s Football*) – 817.595.3126

The Dallas Diamonds, established in 2002, are the most successful sports franchises in women’s football. Holding four World Championship titles (2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008). These tough ladies play full contact, high excitement football just like their NFL counterparts. The Diamonds’ season kicks off in April and runs through July

**Dallas Harlequins** (*Rugby*) – 5207 McKinney Avenue, Dallas 214.526.3586.

The Harlequins are a Texas Rugby Union and Super League club in the Uptown area. If you love Rugby, stop and watch a game or learn how to play from joining one of the association groups.

**FC Dallas** (*Soccer*) – 9200 World Cup Way, Frisco 214.706.6500.

FC Dallas is the Dallas area Major League Soccer team based in Frisco at the Pizza Hut Park Sports Complex. Owned by the Hunt family, this team is quickly rising in the league.

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**Frisco Rough Riders** (*Double A baseball*) – 7300 Rough Riders Trail, Frisco 972.731.9200.  
The Rough Riders are a minor league baseball team playing at the Dr. Pepper Ballpark in Frisco (about 30 minutes away from Uptown on a weekend). The team does quite well each season and watching the team is a great way to spend the afternoon. Hint: GREAT event to socialize at.

**Lone Star Park** – 1000 Lone Star Parkway Grand Prairie 75050-9635 972.263.7223  
Lone Star Park is a beautiful horse track and very clean. It offers both thoroughbred and quarter horse racing. During race season, they race daily. Live concert events are also frequent there. The staff is professional.

**Mesquite Championship Rodeo** – 1818 Rodeo Drive Mesquite 972.285.8777  
Bareback, saddle bronc and bull riding; chuckwagon races; cowgirl barrel racing; and more are in store at the world-famous Mesquite Championship Rodeo. It all takes place in ultramodern facilities, on Friday and Saturday evenings from April through the last weekend in September.

**Texas Rangers** – 1000 Ballpark Way, Arlington 817.273.5100  
The Rangers Ballpark in Arlington is simply superb. It was built as a highly innovative update of a traditional ball park design. It's design has been highly copied...and when you visit, you will see why. You can still get good seats at reasonable prices and parking is plentiful. Take yourself to the ball game and check it out.

**Texas Motor Speedway** – 3545 Lone Star Circle, Fort Worth, TX 817.215.8500  
Have the need for speed? This massive 100,000 seating stadium hosts many of racing's finest events, including NASCAR and the World Dirt Track Championship. Texas Motor Speedway also offers driving schools, luxury living in trackside condos, and classic car shows.



Below are recommended hotels in better areas of West Plano and Frisco that are close to the Tollway for quick access to work and attractions.

**Extended Stay Deluxe Hotel** – 2900 N. Dallas Pkwy, Plano, TX - 972.378.9978. **\$\$**

The Extended Stay Deluxe Hotel is a clean, comfortable and affordable hotel. The location is superb for shopping, dining and access to the North Dallas Tollway. The immaculate rooms and friendly, professional service make this hotel an excellent option for your stay in Plano.

**Candlewood Suites** – 4701 Legacy Drive, Plano, TX - 972. 618.5446. **\$\$**

Whether you are planning an extended stay or overnight retreat, the Candlewood Suites provides a convenient and private apartment-like setting in which to relax. Enjoy the 24-hour fitness room, Internet access, mini-kitchen, laundry facilities and convenience shop to meet and exceed your needs. It is located just off the North Dallas Tollway and adjacent to Legacy Park.

**aloft** – 6853 North Dallas Parkway, Plano, TX - 214.295.3594. **\$\$\$**

The aloft Hotel is a trendy, upscale hotel with modern conveniences and a lively atmosphere while still maintaining affordable pricing. From the moment you enter the aloft

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hotel the clean lines and vibrant colors energize the space. The rooms are sleek and contemporary yet extremely comfortable. A work area and high-speed Internet access is available so you can stay in touch with your office, family or friends.

**Embassy Suites Hotel** – 7600 John Q Hammons Drive, Frisco, TX - 972.712.7200 **\$\$**

From the time you enter the warm ambience of the lobby and coffee shop you will know you've made a good selection for your stay. The suites are roomy and have a separate bedroom as well as a queen size sleeper sofa in the living space. The luxury and amenities at the Embassy Suites are designed to meet the most discriminating tastes.

**NYLO** – 8201 Preston Road, Plano, TX - 972.624.6990 **\$\$\$**

Stylish, chic and modern, the NYLO is one of the hottest places to stay in the Plano-Frisco area. It offers convenient access to both 121 and the Tollway while providing comfort and modern elegance in an urban loft style setting. You are also in the midst of unparalleled excellence in dining, shopping, entertainment and nightlife. The in-house restaurant and lounge are not to be missed and combined with the service and state-of-the-art amenities, the NYLO will continue to be a leader in the industry for years to come.

**Hampton Inn** – 3199 Parkwood Boulevard, Frisco, TX - 972.712.8400. **\$**

The Hampton provides a luxury feeling at affordable prices. The atmosphere is inviting and the staff is renowned for their extraordinary service. For a five star feeling without the five star prices, the Legacy Park Hampton Inn is the place to go.

**Marriott at Legacy Town Center** – 7120 Dallas Parkway, Plano, TX - 972.473.6444 **\$\$\$**

The classic architecture and stunning views of Bishop Lake and Park make this hotel seem to be set amid an old world European estate. The best in luxury and amenities are offered to the visitor for a mid-range cost. Overlooking the Shops at Legacy the location is also ideal for shopping, dining, nightlife and access to all areas of the Metro-plex.

**Homestead Suites** – 18470 N. Dallas Pkwy, Plano, TX - 972.248.2233. **\$**

The Homestead Suites provide a clean and cozy studio style suite at a reasonable price. The amenities such as the pool and available Wi-Fi are designed to make this your second home. Homestead Suites also enjoys an excellent location and amenable staff to make your stay worry-free.

**Homewood Suites** – 3240 Parkwood Boulevard, Frisco, TX - 214.618.0111. **\$\$**

Homewood Suites includes the elegance and luxurious accommodations expected of the Hilton name. The gorgeous grounds and Suites will make your visit memorable whether one night or many. The Homewood Suites is also located in the heart of the Frisco shopping and dining Mecca and the vibrant area nightlife is waiting for you at several nearby hotspots.

**Hilton Garden Inn** – 7550 Gaylord Parkway, Frisco, TX - 469.362.8485, **\$\$**

Experience upscale amenities and beautifully landscaped grounds at this Hilton Garden Inn location. The rooms say comfort and relaxation from the moment you enter and the staff provides superior service to complete the picturesque retreat you've been wanting for your stay. The affordable price and prime location top the deal.

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**The Westin Stonebriar Resort** – 1549 Legacy Drive, Frisco, TX - 972.668.8000. **\$\$\$**

When looking for a respite from your travels, the Westin Stonebriar Resort is the place to go. The gorgeous grounds, distinguished architecture and abundant hospitality make you feel like a guest on an old time Texas estate. For the ultimate in luxury, elegance, atmosphere and location, the Westin is your choice.

**Courtyard Dallas** – 6840 North Dallas Parkway, Plano, TX 75024, 972. 403.0802. **\$\$**

Sophisticated elegance and abundant amenities await you at the Courtyard Hotel in Legacy Park. Clean and comfortable yet affordable and with a great location, the Courtyard is a great selection for your stay. All the best of the area's dining, shopping and entertainment are practically at your doorstep to satisfy all your entertainment needs.







You won't have any problems finding just about anything you want to shop for in Plano and nearby! Shops of every variety, from large high end malls, to intimate quaint boutiques, are all here and ready to serve your needs. In addition, most major chain stores are here or in Frisco, such as Target, Best Buy, etc.

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## SHOPPING MALLS & CENTERS

These are many of our favorites in the area.

**The Shops at Legacy** – 7200 Bishop Road, Suite 250 Plano, TX 75024 214-473-9700  
[www.shopsatlegacy.com](http://www.shopsatlegacy.com)

The Shops at Legacy is a new urban development featuring creative boutiques, wonderful shops, sidewalk cafes, and is a culinary landmark for the Dallas/Fort Worth's finest chefs and restaurants. Conveniently located at the intersection of Legacy Drive and The Dallas North Parkway, The Shops at Legacy is easily accessible from all parts of the Dallas/Fort Worth area. It is located in the heart of Legacy Business Park, which is home to Fortune 1,000 companies which employ more than 50,000 people in Legacy. The Shops

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at Legacy combines a “downtown” feel, with the intimacy of a neighborhood and community, with today’s modern styles. It is a unique “Main Street-style” experience.

**Lakeside Market** – Preston Road at W. Spring Creek Parkway Plano, TX 75093  
[www.shoplakesidemarket.com](http://www.shoplakesidemarket.com)

Lakeside Market is located at the corner of Preston and West Spring Creek Parkway. **This is Plano’s premier home decoration location.** Shop over 14 home furnishing and décor stores, more than 10 specialty stores, enjoy the convenience of 10 service stores and delight yourself at one of nine exquisite restaurants. Featured merchants include: Edward Jones Investments, GNC, The Little Gym, Mi Cocina, Palm Beach Tan, The Purple Cow, Smith and Hawken, Starbucks, Sur la Table, Vintner’s Cellar, and Weir’s Furniture.

**Preston Park Village** – Preston Road and Park Blvd.

Shop, dine and play all around the village. Where elegance meets style, you will find more than 60 specialty shops including Ann Taylor, Talbots, Culwell and Son, St. Johns, The Gap, Express, Barnes and Noble Bookstore, and much more. There is also a movie theatre and more than 15 restaurants within walking distance of the shops. Make sure to visit one of our favorite boutiques ever, **Charming Charlie’s!**

**The Shops at Willow Bend** – At W. Park Boulevard and Dallas North Tollway 6121 W. Park Boulevard Plano, TX 75093, 972-202-7115. [www.shopwillowbend.com](http://www.shopwillowbend.com)

The Shops at Willow Bend is a blend of exciting and sophisticated shopping set in a two-level, beautiful, yet comfortable environment. This 1.4 million square foot shopping center features Neiman-Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy’s, Dillard’s, and over 150 stores and dining options. The children’s play area was voted “Best Mommy Mall Experience in Dallas” by *D Magazine* in 2002. Complimentary strollers and wheelchairs and helpful Concierge Centers are just a few of many amenities. 972-202-4900.

**Stonebriar Centre** – 2601 Preston Road, Frisco, Texas 75035, 972-668-6255  
[www.shopstonebriar.com](http://www.shopstonebriar.com)

When you’re looking for the kind of shopping that brings a smile to your face, warms your heart, quenches your thirst and gets the job done while it’s still fun & easy - think Stonebriar Centre! Shop over 160 stores (some unique to the area), go ice skating, ride the carousel, visit the soft play area and watch the latest hit movie! Plus, dine at one of our many great restaurants, including Bucca di Beppo, California Pizza Kitchen, The Cheesecake Factory, Chili’s Too, Dave & Buster’s, Jason’s Deli, and TGI Friday’s.

**Historic Downtown Plano** – On 15th Street (½ mile East of US 75) Plano, TX 75074, 214-674-3225. [www.visitdowntownplano.com](http://www.visitdowntownplano.com)

Looking for antiques? Historic downtown Plano is a treasure hunter’s haven. Walk along the authentic brick streets and discover over 50 specialty shops including three quaint antique malls, craft shops, art galleries, artists in residence, folk art, Scandinavian cookware pottery, tea rooms and much more.

**Plano Outlet Mall** – E. Spring Creek Parkway at Ave K Plano, TX 75074, 972-578-1591.  
**MS** [www.planosqmall.com](http://www.planosqmall.com)

Just the thing for the bargain hunter, Plano Market Square is “the” value-oriented mall servicing the entire Dallas community. Located in Plano, this outlet mall gives you sav-

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ings with style featuring over 40 unique vendors including Garden Ridge Pottery.

**The Shoppes at Southfork** – Parker Road 5.5 miles East from US 75 3700 Hogge Road (Murphy Road) Parker, Texas 75002, 972-442-7800. [www.southfork.com](http://www.southfork.com)  
Texas collectibles, designer western wear and much more. “Lincoln’s and Longhorns” and a newly renovated Visitor Center feature interesting gift items and an exciting array of Southfork merchandise.

**Allen Premium Outlets** – 820 W. Stacy Road Allen, TX 75013, 972-678-7000. **M\$**  
[www.premiumoutlets.com/allen](http://www.premiumoutlets.com/allen)

Find an exciting collection of 100 designer and name-brand outlet stores all in one place. Save 25% to 65% every day at Adidas, Ann Taylor Factory Store, Banana Republic Factory Store, Calvin Klein, Cole Haan, Fossil, Izod, Kenneth Cole, Michael Kors, Movado Company Store, Neiman Marcus Last Call, Nike Factory Store, OshKosh B’Gosh, Tommy Hilfiger, Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store, Waterford Wedgwood, WestPoint Home, Zales Fine Jewelry Outlet and many more. Open Monday thru Saturday, 10:00am-9:00pm; Sunday 11:00am-6:00pm. Group discounts available – register online at [www.premiumoutlets.com/tours](http://www.premiumoutlets.com/tours)

*Information above is courtesy of [www.planocvb.com](http://www.planocvb.com)*

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## FAVORITE BOUTIQUES AND SPECIALTY STORES

West Plano has a dizzying amount of shopping choices, especially in the abundance of malls. The best of the chain retail stores are all present. But sometimes we prefer the smaller boutiques for some excellent choices. We’ve put together a list of our favorite boutique stores for you to have fun visiting!

**Be-Dazzled** – 5760 Bishop Road, Suite B9, 972 378 3211. **\$**

Be-dazzled has specialty gift items and home décor selections for all tastes and styles. There are hand painted items, custom-made furniture pieces and a large selection of fabrics to create an ambiance in your home that will please you and your guests.

**Blinc** – 7201 Bishop Road, Suite E12, 972 378 9600. **\$\$**

Chic and contemporary styles are available at Blinc for the affluent clientele. Rare and exclusive, you will find cutting edge fashion here that cannot be purchased anywhere else in the Metroplex.

**Brighton Collectibles** – 2601 Preston Road, Frisco, TX, 972 731-0677. **\$**

Stop into Brighton’s for a wide collection of merchandise including: home décor, Brighton collectibles, leather goods, handbags, jewelry and more. Stop in today and check out the ever-changing selection.

**Charming Charlie’s** – 1900 Preston Road, Plano, TX 972.805.0068. **\$**

Charming Charlie’s is a vibrant and hip accessory store with many items to please all

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ages. They have a wonderful line of accessories with a Texas theme from handbags to necklaces.

**Children's Place** – 2601 Preston Road, Plano, TX, 972.731-9813. **\$\$**

The Children's Place specializes in clothing and accessories for your newborn to pre-teen child.

**Claire's** – 6121 West Park Boulevard, Plano, TX, 972.202.5558. **\$**

Claire's offers a wide array of trendy and fashionable accessories. It's a favorite among teens and the young, hip crowd.

**Ella Blue** – 7401 Lone Star Drive, Suite B-115, 972 398 8633. **\$\$**

Ella Blue has a hot selection of women's clothing from cutting edge contemporary styles to classically elegant ensembles. For clothing designed to beautifully flatter a woman's body, take the time to browse Ella Blue.

**Impeccable Pig** – 1900 Preston Road, Plano, TX, 972.312.0004. **\$**

The Impeccable Pig is a hip and inspired boutique serving the fashion needs for women of all ages. Find unique clothing and accessories that aren't available in many boutiques.

**James Avery Jewelry** – 1900 Preston Road, Plano, TX, 972 612-9933. **\$\$**

James Avery Jewelry offers a wide selection of items for all ages. Carrying on a tradition of integrity and skilled craftsmanship, this is the ideal place to purchase not only jewelry but wearable art.

**Labels Designer Consignment Boutique** – 18208 Preston Rd., Dallas, TX, 972.867.3366. **\$**

Labels Designer Consignment Boutique is an upscale consignment shop for buying or selling designer label clothing and goods. The selection is great and always changing so stop in often.

**Melanie Gayle** – 7401 Lone Star Drive, Suite B110, 469.467 9121. **\$\$**

If you need to dress to impress, stop into Melanie Gayle. From chic, urban sophistication to fun and flirty party clothes, you'll be noticed for the right reasons in your Melanie Gayle selection.

**Safari Kids** – 5960 West Parker Road, Plano, TX 972.473.3336. **\$**

Safari Kids offers great kids clothes in a limited selection so your child can be original. New selections arrive weekly.

**Sam Moon** – 2449 Preston Road, Frisco, TX 214.297.4200. **\$**

Sam Moon is an area favorite with a fascinating and unique array of merchandise. If you're looking for a gift for that person who is hard to buy for, stop into Sam Moon and you will be inspired.

**Schokolad Chocolate Factory** - 7140 Bishop Road, Suite F3, 972 801 2577. **\$**

Schokolad creates mouthwatering, handmade and European inspired chocolates that can get you out of the doghouse in record time or simply delight guests to your home. Enter a world of sweet possibilities when you visit Schokolad.

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**Socially Write** – 5760 Legacy Drive, Suite B11, 469.241.0059. **\$**

Socially Write offers unique stationary and gift items. For those who still enjoy the tradition and genteel notion of receiving a personal note or letter, Socially Write is a must stop boutique.

**Syyzzle** – 3301 Preston Rd, Ste 6, Frisco, TX, 972.668-6400. **\$**

Syyzzle is an elegant fashion accessory and gift shop. Check out the posh selections in home décor as well.

**White House Black Market** – 1900 Preston Road #273, Plano, TX, 972.758.2790. **\$\$**

Through the simplicity and elegance of black and white design, the owners of this boutique specialize in bringing out the inner beauty of women. The concept has produced a stylish and chic collection of clothing, jewelry and accessories.

**Williams Sonoma** – 7300 Dallas Parkway, Suite A100, 972.673.0229. **\$\$**

Williams Sonoma offers an extensive selection of home décor, furniture and accessories with a chic, elegant flair. No matter what style of décor you have chosen, you will find items to fit your style at Williams Sonoma.

**Yaya's Boutique** – 7201 Bishop Road, Suite E9, 972.473.9995. **\$**

The “divine secret of fashion”, Yaya’s Boutique has a fun and flirty selection of clothing not available at standard clothing stores. Enhance your originality, sophistication and style with a purchase you’ll love.

## HOT AREAS OF TOWN Nearby

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West Plano has so much to explore, but sometimes a little variety outside of the area is fun. And, West Plano has several key areas within 30 minutes or less that are fun to visit and expand your horizon with. We want to alert you of the best ones to visit!

**South Frisco:** Directly connected to the north boundary of West Plano is the town of Frisco. Frisco has quickly become a premier destination for shopping and restaurants. There are more restaurants and shops around the Stonebriar Center (mall) than in the New York City area! And, the variety is truly stunning.

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The Frisco mall area is just fun to explore. With medium to upper end department stores present, along with hundreds of speciality shops, you can obtain just about anything you want in a ½ mile area. Besides having some of our favorite department stores (including JCPenney), they also have terrific restaurants like Dave and Buster's and the Cheesecake Factory. And just about every large chain retail store you can think of is close by, including IKEA, Best Buy, Target and more.

**For night life, the 2 places that have the most buzz there include:** Loft 610 and the Down Under Pub. For occasional excursions, also visit the trendy **TruFire** restaurant and **Bonnie Ruth's** (both are at Lebanon and the Tollway).

**Addison:** Just 10 minutes north directly on the Tollway, Addison is a known hotspot for night life. You will find a wide variety of restaurants and night clubs located there. You might get a flash back to a frat rush party at some locations, while others are more for mature professionals.

Addison is terrific about promoting the town with great festivals, theater productions and more. The Addison circle (a circle with a large metal sculpture) and the area right around it is the center of these events. You might consider adding these Addison-based events to your calendar:

- **KaBoom Town:** July 4th celebration and spectacular Fireworks show. People bring lawn chairs and line up all around the streets of the town and for miles around to watch this. Get there early...or even better, have dinner on one of the patios in Addison Circle and have great seats built in to watch.
- **Taste Addison:** Terrific food and live music event centered around Addison Circle.
- **WatchTower Theater:** They have terrific performances at reasonable prices. The facilities are newer and enjoyable to watch in.
- **OktoberFest:** This is an authentic re-creation of the Munich Oktoberfest featuring German food, entertainment, traditional folk dances, children's entertainment and more.

One of my favorite locations in Addison is on the East side of the Tollway called **Village on The Parkway**, (Beltline and the Tollway). This has one of the nation's top 10 wine bistros, called **Mercy**. This is an extremely romantic and intimate location, filled with nooks, crannies, half rooms and curtains. It's perfect for a date or small gatherings, and meeting new singles. **Soho Jazz** nearby is also very much worth visiting. It has a very cool environment with live jazz and an enclosed patio. There is music nightly, with low lights, making this place very romantic.

**Downtown McKinney:** About 20-25 minutes north, you will find a suburb known for having a fun and unique, old time "town square." It's a fun place to visit occasionally, hosting a couple of wine shops (with local vineyards supplying some of the wine), antique

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shops and night life/restaurants. One of my favorite things to do there during the holidays happens the weekend after thanksgiving, called “A Dickens of a Christmas”. During this weekend, all of the downtown shop keepers dress up like Dickens Characters and re-create the environment of Victorian England... complete with hot cider, horse drawn carriages, and more.

**Knox Henderson:** This is an exit off of 75/Central that is full of **restaurants and night-clubs**. It’s popularity is rising, along with the amount of clubs that seem to continue to pop up here! We like it here sometimes because it can be a little more laid back in some ways than Uptown... (not that we mind a little pretentiousness!).

Exiting West off of 75 will take you to KNOX street. This is the more developed side of the street, and it contains more of the restaurants than the other side. You will see a LOT of patio dining, and some great boutique shops to visit, along with one of our favorite wine bistros called CRUSH Wine Bar! (I love how they have labeled descriptions and ratings of their wines for purchase on their shelves).

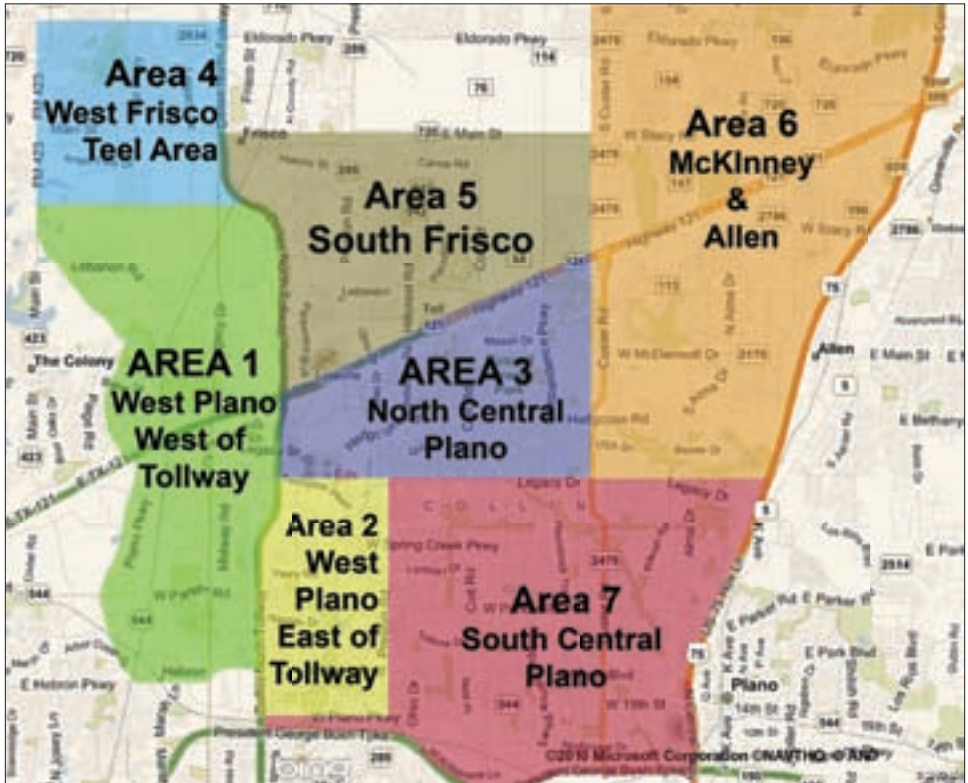
**Latest places that have the “buzz” in Knox Henderson:** The Porch, Victory Park Tavern, Capital Pub, Blue Collar Grill and Neighborhood Service Tavern





# NEIGHBORHOODS TO EXPLORE

## for Future Home Purchases



It can be a smart decision to rent for a while when you first reach the West Plano area, so you can have a hassle free experience, focusing more on making connections and just having fun! Leasing is also less expensive not only in rent, but also in maintenance costs. Leasing also allows you to be in **Hot Spots** such as **The Shops at Legacy**, **Austin Ranch** and more, where you will easily meet more newly relocating professionals as well in this environment.

But, when you do start thinking about planting roots here in **West Plano** or closeby, this is a very affordable area for home or townhome purchase ... and the tax advantages of home ownership can be very attractive!

**We recommend scoping out neighborhoods very carefully over a long period of time before you consider the buying**, determining the proper ones for your lifestyle through solid research. And, frankly, nothing beats simply driving through neighborhoods over and over, noting neighborhood upkeep, house quality, and education. *(For more detailed information, please reference our “Insider’s Guide to Best Areas of Dallas &*

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## Suburbs for Home Purchase”.)

In addition, it takes time to prepare and manage your credit to be in the best possible condition, to obtain the lowest possible interest rates for a loan needed. **You can dramatically increase your scores over a 1-2 year period by following the advice of a skilled credit counselor.** It will cost a little bit of investment, but will pay off BIG when you come down to getting a loan and seeing a very low interest rate!

**There are some very popular and strategic areas you might consider exploring for consideration for future home purchasing, depending on your goals.** We highlight a few of the most popular areas that relocating professionals tend to choose for purchase, along with the most important reasons for choosing these neighborhoods.

## PRIMARY FACTORS FOR AREA PURCHASES

Location is always the prime factor in determining where to purchase. Here are some factors you should strongly consider for all areas when it comes to purchasing:

- In general, it is well known that the better locations of Plano are found west of 75/Central.
- Most of the growth on this side of the DFW metroplex is moving North. Areas north of North Dallas and G Bush/190 are generally the most desirable.
- ***The closer you are to the North Dallas Tollway***, the more desirable is the area and typically the higher the price for purchase. The Tollway will give you quick access to North Dallas, Downtown, and Frisco (as well as to Hwy 121 and G Bush). Closeness to 121 is also very desirable.
- ***School rankings of PUBLIC schools in the area you are considering are perhaps the important factor in determining the best places***, even if you don't have children. I can't over estimate this fact! It doesn't matter if your house is a "steal"...if the schools are not good, stay away from the area. Consult the previous section "Just for Families" on determining how to start your research on better schools. Especially note if school districts as a whole are doing well, not just the school in a particular neighborhood.
- Take emotion out...at least as much as you can! (We know that is very difficult sometimes when you see the perfect kitchen!) You may see a lovely house that is well done, but if it is in a neighborhood that is considered questionable, think twice!
- Proximity to new housing developments or recently built developments



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We will rank each section according to the major factors, using a 1 to 4 star system (with 4 being the best). These are based on observation and objective rankings, as well as some subjective reasoning.

★★★★	–	<b>Cream of the Crop!</b>
★★★	–	<b>Great!</b>
★★	–	<b>Average</b>
★	–	<b>Below Average, potential issues</b>

- Proximity to attractive shopping centers or malls
- Proximity to other major attractions
- Proximity to churches – church presence in a neighborhood typically signals that members of that church also live there and are concerned enough to be involved, active neighbors
- Presence of young families – especially if you have children, you should carefully consider and drive through neighborhoods you are considering to determine if other children are present

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## **AREA 1: WEST PLANO, WEST OF THE TOLLWAY**

**General Feel:** The area is affluent and newer. Full of many trees and sidewalks. There doesn't seem to be a run-down street in the entire area! Kroger and Tom Thumb are at Parker and Tollway and Academy Sports is very nice for the whole family! ★★★★★

**Access:** Beautiful roads and toll way access make it quick to get from here to major roads of 121, George Bush and 635. Quick airport access using 121. ★★★★★

**Schools:** West Plano public elementary schools are well ranked by the state, with newer schools. On Park Rd, west of the toll way, there are several higher profile private schools almost all in a row (Prestonwood Christian Academy is a standout prep school with magnificent facilities). ★★★★★

**Proximity to Major Attractions:** Previously mentioned, Arbor Hills Nature Preserve is just down Parker. This is simply a fantastic trails, complete with children swing areas and pavilion space. The area is close to the malls of Shops of Willow Bend and Stonebriar

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Centre Mall. There is plenty of shopping nearby in Frisco as well. Can jump down the toll way for quick access to North Dallas or Downtown! ★★☆☆

**Home Values:** Homes can be had at times in the mid \$200s, but typically start more in the \$300s and up. For how nice these are, home values seem to be very reasonably priced. In addition, taxes are reasonable due to Plano school taxes being stable and Plano city taxes being reasonable.

**OVERALL:** ★★☆☆ Attractive area and excellent values.

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## AREA 2: WEST PLANO, EAST OF THE TOLLWAY

### (Willow Bend)

**General Feel:** The area is immaculate. Beautifully manicured trees in an obviously affluent and exciting area. This, after all, is Willow Bend! ★★☆☆

**Access:** Superb access to all major roads of 121, George Bush and 635, North Dallas and G Bush/190. Downtown access is about 30 minutes. Quick airport access using 121. ★★☆☆

**Schools:** Schools are Plano ISD, with soaring, well maintained buildings and exemplary rankings for elementary schools. Jr and Sr High are prestigious and gorgeous facilities. ★★☆☆

**Proximity to Major Attractions:** The Shops of Willow Bend were made for the people in this area, and the fit is obvious...high end retailers with gorgeous stores. Preston Park shops and boutiques are numerous and exciting. Whole Food and Market Street are wonderful to have. ★★☆☆

**Home Values:** Zero lot Homes start typically in the \$500s and mansions go into the millions. ★★☆☆

**OVERALL:** ★★☆☆ Willow Bend and Highland Park are the most prestigious areas in Dallas. The lifestyle is superb!

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## AREA 3: NORTH CENTRAL PLANO

**General Feel:** The area has attractive subdivisions and a true “suburb” feel. Some streets are starting to look their age. Still clean and bright overall. ★★☆☆

**Access:** Access is reasonably good with quick access to 121 leading to major streets of 75/



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Central and the North Dallas Tollway. ★★★

**Schools:** Schools are in the excellent Plano ISD. Some exemplary ranked schools. No major private schools. ★★★

**Proximity to Major Attractions:** This is primarily an area full of subdivisions. Attractions are close, but must drive to 121 to then access other roads. Reasonably close to Frisco's Stonebriar Centre and Allen shops near 75. ★★★

**Home Values:** Homes start typically in the \$180's and go up from there, but there are some occasional bargains that can be found below that. Your research should include a delightful area called Russell Creek... it's superb. ★★★

**OVERALL:** ★★★ The area has a strong residential feel, is quiet and is very reasonably priced.

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## AREA 4: WEST FRISCO/TEEL ROAD

**General Feel:** This is a new and bright area overall. Many new subdivisions still present, along with well developed recently built ones. New stores and shopping centers pop up here too. We love this area! ★★★★★

**Access:** Access to the North Dallas Tollway is quick. It only takes about 10 minutes or so typically to get to 121 as well. And with the presence of many major employers at 121 and the Tollway, this is a very attractive, closeby option! ★★★

**Schools:** The FRISCO ISD is superb! It is also well funded (due to the taxes collected from businesses) and has mostly new and beautiful school buildings. Most of the schools are exemplary ranked, especially in the elementary schools. There are a few private schools as well (Legacy Christian is a strong example). ★★★★★

**Proximity to Major Attractions:** Many new shopping centers have been built recently, with more affluent stores present within these centers (on Main Street in particular). The Pizza Hut Park (housing the FC Dallas pro soccer team) along with the collection of shops and restaurants along there, with quick access to the Shops at Starwood on Lebanon and the Tollway (and of course Stonebriar Center) give many choices to choose from for needs and wants! ★★★★★

**Home Values:** Exceptional values! Land on Teel was reasonably cheap and wonderful houses with good builders were constructed...a lot of them! This is a terrific area for finding a solidly built and attractive home at a superb price! ★★★★★

**OVERALL:** ★★★★★ The area is new, vibrant, expanding and just plain exciting. High recommendation!

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## AREA 5: SOUTH FRISCO

**General Feel:** Parts of it are charming (most notably areas that are close to 121 and Coit), while parts of it are starting to age. Streets overall are manicured and cared for but there is a definite discrepancy between areas. ★★

**Access:** Access is very good, being close to 121 and the North Dallas Tollway, and not too far from Central/75. ★★★

**Schools:** Frisco schools throughout, a definite plus. Several elementary schools that are exemplary year after year are present, with facilities being in decent shape. No private schools within, but a few are close by. ★★★

**Proximity to Major Attractions:** Stonebriar Centre and all of the shops/restaurants near by are close. Otherwise, it's all residential here and no major attractions nearby. ★★

**Home Values:** Home prices are amazingly low. Homes typically start in the \$160s, but a few bargains can be purchased under. Prices rise to about the \$300K ceiling. ★★★

**OVERALL:** ★★★ If you locate in more desirable parts (near Coit), you will encounter low prices and clean streets. Excellent school rankings with low priced homes make this area very desirable for a starter home.

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## AREA 6: MCKINNEY & ALLEN

**General Feel:** Very suburban feel with picture postcard drive by neighborhoods on the west side. The areas are newer and clean with excellent park systems. You feel almost in a “bubble” here... it's a true getaway, but can also feel isolated if not in the right location. ★★★

**Access:** As long as you are close to 75/121, you can get to Richardson, Plano, Dallas, etc. But this is truly the suburbs and they are far from the North Dallas Tollway. ★★

**Schools:** McKinney and Allen schools are well funded and excellent systems overall, with many of the schools with exemplary rankings. ★★★

**Proximity to Major Attractions:** Getting to the basics is no problem (grocery stores, some restaurants, etc.). However, getting to malls, the North Dallas Tollway (for downtown), most private schools, Stonebriar Centre, etc will be painful. A new shopping development on 75/Stacy, the Village at Allen, helps ease the pain a bit, along with the presence of the alluring Allen Outlet Mall. ★★★

**Home Values:** McKinney in particular has low priced starting home values (in the \$150s and up), but the commute can be significant. McKinney is home to spectacular housing



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developments — more like mini cities — called Stonebridge Ranch and Craig Ranch, which offer housing, retail, events and more in an all inclusive fashion. Homes in these areas are very desirable and are well kept. Allen has Twin Creeks, another mini city, with homes starting in the low \$200s and going up from there to the millions. ★★★★★

**OVERALL:** ★★★★★ Home values and excellent schools on the west side of the toll way make for an attractive option for starter and mid level homes. Starting home prices are low and affordable. The distance to other parts of Dallas/Plano and Frisco should be factored in as well.

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## AREA 7: SOUTH CENTRAL PLANO

**General Feel:** The area is older, but charming in some parts (particularly near Park and Coit). The trees are well developed and the lots are big. Some parts are not desirable. ★★

**Access:** In the middle part of Plano, access to the North Dallas Tollway is only about 10 minutes away. Access to 75 and G Bush/190 are also reasonably quick. Access to 121 is more painful, but not as necessary for this location. ★★★★★

**Schools:** Plano schools are consistently well ranked as discussed previously. ★★★★★

**Proximity to Major Attractions:** Grocery stores and restaurants (typically family friendly) are present on most major intersections. Some private schools are also present. Collin Creek Mall and the Village at Allen, along with the Shops at Waters Creek are present. Airport access is not as close. ★★★★★

**Home Values:** A starter home will range from the \$150s and go up. Home per sq feet prices are very low, and yards are large. Older homes may require much maintenance in many cases. ★★

**OVERALL:** ★★ Plano schools and general low prices keep this neighborhood as possible starter home options, but not as desirable as other similarly priced neighborhoods.

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## AREAS TO THINK TWICE ABOUT!

If you are not ready to purchase in better areas, I would think strongly about purchasing at all. Your home is most definitely an investment! Although no one can promise future profitability on resale, we can definitely state that purchasing a “bargain” in areas that don’t follow the guidelines above will put your investment in severe jeopardy!

In general, we recommend thinking very carefully before investing in a home in the following areas:

- **Carrollton/Farmers Branch:** With the exception of Castle Hills and a few isolated areas, we would recommend avoiding Carrollton entirely. The areas continue to decline, and the schools are not well ranked almost uniformly.
- **The Colony:** The Colony has some newer neighborhoods that have some of the positive factors above, but overall the Colony is not a well run city. There are many neighborhoods in decline in this city.
- **North Dallas:** Along the North Dallas Tollway, starting at 635 and ending around 190 (George Bush Tollway), this once promising land area with desirable location is now in decline, with the schools and area not performing well. North Dallas also borders Carrollton, another area in decline mentioned above.
- **East Plano:** The majority of neighborhoods in this area (in general) are in decline, even if some of them take advantage of the excellent Plano school system.
- **Murphy:** This is a newer city east of 75 and Plano. Murphy has been attractive in many ways for years due to the possibility of large homes at very affordable prices. However, home values in general are the same price they were 10 years ago. We don’t feel that it has truly grown or prospered in the way that was intended.
- **Lewisville:** Although in a good location along 35, and with promises of being in a terrific growth pattern, it is simply too far away from the more explosive growth. Many older areas are in decline or are in a holding pattern. It is our belief that home values will remain stagnant here, even with a promising school system.







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## FOR FURTHER HELP

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Thank you for reading this guide! We've put this guide together because we truly love this area and want you to have an incredible experience here!

**Are you ready for experts that truly know the area?** Whether leasing or purchasing, it would be our pleasure to help. We can start narrowing down areas for you that best fit your needs. Whether you are thinking about a new location now, or in 6-12 months, we would be delighted to be your information source to start your search for a great new lifestyle. **Contact us 7 days a week for the help you need.**

**Dallas - Fort Worth – Houston**

**(214) 473-4929 Local**

(214) 492-9791 Fax

## OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Insider Guides are available for the following areas (and the list is growing)

## AREA GUIDES

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Washington Avenue Insider Guide Dallas Insider Guide

West Plano Insider Guide Houston Insider Guide

Uptown Dallas Insider Guide Fort Worth Insider Guide

## GUIDE TO AREA SCHOOLS

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School Savvy - Dallas

School Savvy - Houston

School Savvy - Fort Worth

## BEST AREAS FOR HOME PURCHASE

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Best Areas for Home Purchase – Dallas

Best Areas for Home Purchase – Houston

Best Areas for Home Purchase – Fort Worth

## MAKING NEW FRIENDS & CONNECTIONS

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Connections for Singles & Families – Dallas

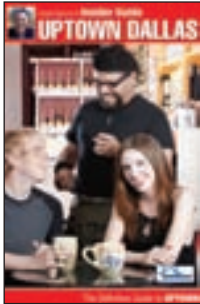
Connections for Singles & Families – Houston

Connections for Singles & Families – Fort Worth



# Relocation Help for Dallas/Fort Worth

## Dallas Area Insider Guides



### UPTOWN DALLAS

This is the most popular area for professionals and singles in Dallas.



### WEST PLANO

Covers the fabulous life-style in WEST PLANO for families & singles



### SCHOOL SAVVY

Written by a Texas teacher with 20 years experience. Includes suburbs.



### BEST PURCHASE AREAS

Includes suburbs.



### CONNECTIONS

Make connections to friends and activities that fit your lifestyle.

## One Hour To Decide



### DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Includes suburbs