

= Cooper , Texas =

The city of Cooper / ˈkʊpər / is the county seat of Delta County , in the U.S. state of Texas . Located between the north and south forks of the Sulphur River , Cooper is the largest settlement within Delta County . As of the U.S. Census of 2010 , Cooper had a population of 1 @, @ 969 .

First inhabited by native people , Cooper was founded around 1870 , at the same time that Delta County was established . Cooper grew rapidly and it quickly became the center of local events . The city 's economy relied primarily on agricultural farming and the shipping of local goods . In the mid @-@ 1890s , a railroad line was built through the city , assisting in Cooper 's growth . The city continued to grow through the 1910s , and into the early 1920s . In 1926 , however , the region 's cotton crop failed , devastating the local economy . Many businesses were forced to close , including the railroad , and the city 's population plummeted . Although Cooper began to recover during the mid @-@ 1930s , many people who left did not return , and the city never fully recovered . The local economy continued to rely on the growing of cotton as the main economy into the 1960s , until it began to shift to wheat growing in the early 1970s . The population of Cooper has been on a slow decline since the 1970s .

Cooper currently has no sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places . The city 's economy still relies largely on agriculture . Cooper is located on the eastern edge of the Dallas ? Fort Worth metroplex (DFW metroplex) , a large , 12 @-@ county metropolitan area , one of the most populated in the country .

= = History = =

= = = Before establishment = = =

The first inhabitants of the area that is now the site of Cooper were the Caddo Indians , who settled large portions of eastern Texas as early as 800 AD . The Caddo were highly advanced , living in large wooden structures , and were skilled farmers . The first European to visit the area was French explorer François Hervey , who discovered the area around 1750 . However , a few decades later , European disease and attacks from neighboring tribes , as well as attacks from European settlers forced the Caddo out of the area around Cooper . Around 1820 , Delaware , Quapaw , and Seminole tribes settled in the area . In 1836 , the Republic of Texas officially recognized the region around Cooper as part of Red River County . In 1840 , Lamar County was formed , absorbing the Cooper area . However , just six years later , the region was designated as part of the newly formed Hopkins County .

After the Civil War , the region around the site of Cooper began to grow and develop . People in nearby Ben Franklin , Texas , grew tired of the poor road conditions that connected the region . In 1868 , people in the area petitioned the state government to create a new county located between the north and south forks of the Sulphur River . On July 29 , 1870 , after two years of debating , the state of Texas granted the request for the new county . Shortly afterwards , the first settlements were built in Cooper and the town was established . The community was named after Leroy Cooper , the chairman of the Texas House Committee on Counties and Boundaries who helped establish the new county . Cooper was selected as the seat for the county , which would be named Delta County due to its triangular shape .

= = = Since establishment = = =

Cooper grew rapidly after being established , with a post office built in the community in 1871 . Cooper was incorporated into a town in 1881 and held its first government elections . That same year , Cooper constructed the county courthouse . The town became the main market center for Delta County , and by 1885 , Cooper had a population around 300 . The Texas Midland Railroad , which ran through Cooper , was chartered in 1892 . The railroad helped promote the rapid growth of

the town . By 1896 , Cooper 's population had passed 1 @,@ 000 people , and contained two churches , a school , and 21 businesses , including a bank and a hotel . The town also had two weekly newspapers . Cooper continued to grow into the early 1900s , especially in the area of agriculture . From the early 1890s to around 1910 , farms boomed both in number and in value , with the number of cash crops nearly tripling . The region produced over 70 @,@ 000 chickens and almost 7 @,@ 000 pigs yearly .

Cooper continued to grow into the 1920s . The bank had been rebuilt in 1909 , and the region 's crops continued to prosper . Cooper reported its largest population , 2 @,@ 563 , in 1925 . Delta County was hit by the Great Depression early , though . In late 1926 , the community 's cotton crop failed , forcing many residents to withdraw their savings . The bank was forced to close in 1927 , and by the time it reopened a few months later , the region 's economy had plummeted . Several families moved away from Cooper during the early 1930s , and in 1933 , the bank was forced to close again . The Midland Texas Railroad failed , hurting Cooper 's economy further . The New Deal program offered some relief to Cooper , and in 1940 , the Works Progress Administration (WPA) demolished the former courthouse in Cooper and replaced it with a new one at a cost of \$ 110 @,@ 450 (equivalent to \$ 1 @,@ 865 @,@ 600 respectively in 2016) . However , even with the stability of the economy , Cooper 's population remained low until the 1950s , when it returned to about 2 @,@ 350 people . The population declined again in the 1980s , and has continued to slowly decline . Cooper had roughly 60 businesses in the 1970s and 1980s , and in 1986 , work on Cooper Lake had begun . Filling of the lake began in September 1991 , and by the next year , the lake was open for recreation . At that time , Cooper reported having 70 businesses , and a population around 2 @,@ 200 . By 2000 , the population had dropped by about 50 people .

= = Geography and climate = =

Cooper is the county seat of Delta County , as well as its most populated city . According to statistics from the United States Census Bureau , the city has a total area of 1 @.@ 5 square miles (3 @.@ 9 km²) , of which 1 @.@ 4 square miles (3 @.@ 6 km²) (99 @.@ 31 %) is land . About 0 @.@ 1 square miles (0 @.@ 26 km²) (0 @.@ 69 %) is covered by water .

Cooper is located at an elevation of 482 feet (147 m) , a few miles north of Cooper Lake , between the north and south forks of the Sulphur River . It is located about 76 miles (122 km) northeast of Dallas and 94 miles (151 km) west of Texarkana . Texas State Highway 24 bypasses Cooper to the north ; however , Texas State Highway 24 Business splits off and passes through the center of the city . Texas State Highway 154 begins at the western edge of Cooper and passes through the center of the city , intersecting Farm to Market Road 1528 near the county courthouse . Farm to Market Road 64 enters the very western portion of Cooper before terminating at State Highway 24 . Nearby highways include Farm to Market Road 1880 and Farm to Market Road 1529 .

Cooper , as well as most of Delta County , is located in the Texas Blackland Prairies region , a flat , tall @-@ grass prairie ecosystem which covers a large portion of north @-@ central Texas . The region 's elevation rarely differs from around 400 feet (120 m) to 500 feet (150 m) . The area 's geology consists mainly of deep clay , or clay mixed with a dark @-@ colored loam . However , the county is also known to have high @-@ quality topsoil , ideal for crop growing .

Under the Köppen climate classification , Cooper is in zone Cfa with warm , wet summers and a humid subtropical climate . The average temperature in Cooper in January is 43 ° F (6 ° C) , and in July it is 92 ° F (33 ° C) . Its highest recorded temperature was 115 ° F (46 ° C) in 1969 , and the lowest recorded temperature was ? 4 ° F (? 20 ° C) in 1989 . The average wettest month is October . The average coolest month is January , while the average hottest month is August .

= = Demographics = =

As of the Census of 2010 , the population of Cooper was 1 @,@ 969 people . Five hundred families were residing in 771 households spread across 897 housing units across the city . The total showed an increase of 56 @.@ 6 % from 2000 . As of 2010 , the racial makeup of the town was 77 @.@ 2

% White , 14 @. @ 8 % African American , 1 @. @ 2 % Native American , 1 @. @ 1 % Asian , and 2 @. @ 8 % from other races . Hispanics or Latinos of any race were 6 @. @ 1 % of the population .

As of 2010 , of the 771 households , 27 @. @ 9 % had children under the age of 18 living with them , 64 @. @ 9 % were married couples living together , 19 @. @ 1 % had a female householder with no husband present , and 35 @. @ 1 % were not families . Of all households , 31 @. @ 5 % were made up of individuals and 15 @. @ 5 % had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older . The average household size was 2 @. @ 46 and the average family size was 3 @. @ 09 . The age distribution was 25 @. @ 9 % under 18 , 9 @. @ 3 % from 18 to 24 , 20 @. @ 5 % from 25 to 44 , 24 @. @ 6 % from 45 to 64 , and 19 @. @ 7 % who were 65 or older . The median age was 40 @. @ 2 years . The median income for a household in the town was \$ 27 @, @ 531 , and the median income for a family was \$ 29 @, @ 853 . In 2000 , employed males had a median income of \$ 25 @, @ 592 versus \$ 17 @, @ 500 for employed females . Also in 2000 , the per capita income for the city was \$ 13 @, @ 815 .

On the 2010 Census , residents self @-@ identified with a variety of ethnic ancestries ; the major categories reflect the settlers of the early to mid @-@ 19th century . People of American descent make up 21 % of the population of the city , followed by Irish at 15 @. @ 2 % , English at 7 @. @ 2 % , German at 4 @. @ 3 % , Russian at 2 @. @ 5 % , French at 2 @. @ 4 % , Scottish at 1 @. @ 5 % , French ? Canadian at 0 @. @ 7 % , Dutch at 0 @. @ 5 % , Norwegian at 0 @. @ 5 % , Slavic at 0 @. @ 5 % , Palestinian at 0 @. @ 4 % , Austrian at 0 @. @ 3 % , Welsh at 0 @. @ 3 % , Polish at 0 @. @ 2 % , and Italian rounding out at 0 @. @ 2 % . 818 persons were of " other ancestries " .

= = Economy = =

Cooper 's economy relied heavily on agricultural farming from its founding until the 1950s , especially on the growing of cash crops . In 1880 , cotton , corn , sorghum and other crops were grown on over 100 @, @ 000 acres (40 @, @ 000 ha) of farmland . The county also produced large quantities of livestock , with almost 3 @, @ 000 cows and 10 @, @ 000 hogs grazing on land near Cooper . The logging industry began to grow in the region , and several mills were constructed , producing furniture and lumber . In 1886 , the Santa Fe Railway built a line through the county , and the shipping of crops and lumber became a major business in Cooper . During the early 1890s , the livestock industry in Delta County struggled , with the number of hogs being raised dropping to half of what it had been the previous decade . However , the agricultural business boomed , with the number of farms in the area around Cooper increasing to 1 @, @ 188 , and the value of the farms doubled to \$ 1 @, @ 400 (equivalent to \$ 2 @, @ 908 @, @ 900 respectively in 2016) each . The production of cotton tripled , and the poultry industry began to boom . Within the city limits , Cooper housed a hotel , a shoemaker , a grocery store , a wagon maker , feed stores , general stores , drug stores , and several cotton and oat gins . Delta County contained 18 manufacturing establishments , but they only employed 33 people . The average income for someone working in the region was \$ 208 (equivalent to \$ 2 @, @ 908 @, @ 926 respectively in 2016) .

At the turn of the century , the cotton industry was booming . The crop made up 69 % of the agricultural business in the region . Livestock production was booming , as was poultry production , especially chicken . In addition , the shipping of agricultural goods and livestock was the other main business in Cooper . The First National Bank was rebuilt in 1909 and became an important factor in Cooper 's economy . In the 1910s , potatoes become an important part of the economy due to the sudden drop in the livestock business . In 1926 , the cotton crop failed and Cooper 's economy plummeted . Many of Cooper 's inhabitants became deep in debt as the price of crops plummeted . The lumber businesses had exhausted the regions resources , forcing most of them to go out of business . Many people moved away to find new work . The local economy stabilized in the mid @-@ 1930s , and cotton , potato , and corn production began to rise . The growing of oats , however , had ended . In addition , the railroad going through Cooper had failed a few years before , so the shipping industry in Cooper was struggling . Cotton and alfalfa carried Cooper 's economy through the 1950s and 1960s , until the shift to the growing of wheat in the 1970s . Cooper reported 60 businesses in the 1970s , more than half of which were dairies . During the 1980s and 1990s ,

Cooper 's economy shifted to the manufacturing and shipping of local goods , and in 1991 , Cooper had 70 businesses .

Currently , Cooper 's economy features several unique industries . According to the 2010 Census , the industries in the town (by percentage of employed civilian population 16 years and over) were educational , health and social services at 34 @. @ 6 % , manufacturing at 18 @. @ 7 % , arts , entertainment , recreation , accommodation and food services with 13 @. @ 6 % , construction at 10 @. @ 2 % , transportation , warehousing , and utilities at 5 @. @ 1 % , professional , scientific , management , administrative , and waste management services at 4 @. @ 9 % , public administration with 4 @. @ 3 % , retail trade at 3 @. @ 9 % , finance , insurance , real estate , and rental and leasing with 2 @. @ 0 % , other services (except public administration) with 1 @. @ 6 % , and agriculture , forestry , fishing and hunting , and mining at 1 @. @ 0 % .

Of the people in the labor force over the age of 16 , 679 people (49 @. @ 3 % of the population) were in the civilian work force , while 697 people (50 @. @ 7 % of the population) were not in the labor force at all . At the time of the Census , seventy people (5 @. @ 1 %) were unemployed , with none in the armed forces . Of the 609 employed residents over the age 16 , private @-@ sector wage and salary workers accounted for 475 of them (78 @. @ 0 %) . One @-@ hundred @-@ nine people (17 @. @ 9 %) were classified as federal government workers , with the self @-@ employed making up 4 @. @ 1 % of the population . No one was classified as an unpaid worker .

The median household income for the city of Cooper was \$ 27 @, @ 531 , with 137 persons (19 @. @ 7 %) in that class of income . One @-@ hundred @-@ twenty @-@ five people (18 @. @ 0 %) identified themselves as retired .

= = Culture and media = =

Since its founding , Cooper has served as the center of attractions for Delta County . The city became host to several small schools and churches . In 1955 , the construction of Cooper Lake was authorized . In 1986 , major work on the lake began , and the lake was finished in 1991 . The lake is now the most popular tourist attraction in the area . Boating , swimming , and fishing are available at Cooper Lake . The main fish stocked in the lake are catfish , largemouth bass , and crappie . Along the north shore of the lake is the Doctor 's Creek Unit of Cooper Lake State Park . The park contains several picnic areas , campgrounds and a large swimming area on Cooper Lake . The park also contains several hiking and equestrian trails . On the eastern edge of the lake near the Cooper Lake Dam is the Wildlife Observation Deck , a large birdwatching platform . Along the west and northwest shores of the lake is the Cooper Wildlife Management Area . The park was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers , and protects four unique habitat types . These are wetland , Blackland Prairie , Upland Post Oak , and Bottomland Hardwood . The park contains several hiking trails , as well as birdwatching stations and wildlife viewing areas . The park allows fishing and hunting to visitors if they have a proper license .

Cooper is also host to the annual Chiggerfest . The event , held every October , serves as a social gathering for the region . The two @-@ day event begins with an open @-@ air concert in Historic Cooper Square . Other events include a 5K run / walk and smashing a car . The festival includes numerous street vendors and a children 's area . Patterson Memorial County Library is also located in Cooper , as well as a 15 @-@ acre (6 @. @ 1 ha) municipal park , and numerous recreational and community centers , including the historic McKinney Home , the house of Dr. John and May McKinney , which was built in 1912 and later restored by their decedent author Susan Albright Hyde .

The first newspaper published in Cooper was the Delta Courier in 1873 . The newspaper , published by Bob Michiel , ran weekly until the mid @-@ 1890s . Around the time the publishing of the Delta Courier ended , the People 's Cause newspaper began running weekly . This eventually stopped running ; however , The Cooper Review began running weekly in 1982 . The Cooper Review , run by Jim and Sally Butler , is still published .

= = Government = =

Since its incorporation in 1870 , Cooper has served as the seat for Delta County . Because of this , Cooper houses the county courthouse , county offices , sheriff , and county library . Cooper has a Mayor ? council government . The city council is made up of five members who are elected at large . The current council members are mayor pro @-@ tem David Philips , E.J. Cates , JoAnn Preas , W. D. Wilkins , and Carl Reel . The city 's current mayor is Scotty Stegall .

The first election in Delta County occurred on October 6 , 1870 , to establish control in the newly formed county . Cooper held its first election in 1881 , establishing an aldermanic government . Around that time , the first county courthouse was built in Cooper . Delta County , in addition to Cooper , voted for the Democratic Party in every presidential election from its incorporation in 1870 until 1968 . However , the Populist Party won numerous local and county government positions during the 1890s and the early 1900s . In the 1970s , politics in Delta County shifted , and most of the county began voting for the Republican Party .

Delta County 's government consists of a county judge and four county commissioners , representing four county precincts . The current Delta County judge is Herbert Brookshire , and the four commissioners are B. V. Templeton , David Moody , Wayne Poole , and Mark Brantley . The current county sheriff is Gerald W. Teague . In addition , Cooper is served by two Texas judicial districts . Judge Scott McDowell serves as judge of the 62nd Texas Judicial District , a position he has held since 2000 . However , McDowell has announced that he will not be seeking another term . Cooper is also part of Texas ' 8th Judicial District , which is served by Judge Robert Newsom . Newsom has served as 8th district judge since his election in 1997 , but has also announced that he will not be seeking another term .

Cooper is represented by Larry Phillips (Republican) in the Texas State Legislature 's 62nd District . Senator Bob Hall (Republican) represents Cooper in the Texas State Senate 's 2nd District . The town is represented in the United States House of Representatives by John Ratcliffe (Republican) , and by John Cornyn (Republican) and Ted Cruz (Republican) in the United States Senate .

= = Education = =

Delta County has historically been advanced in education . Around the time that Cooper and the county were founded , there were already nine churches in the county . By 1880 , that number had increased to nearly 30 . There were a combined 998 students attending those schools , which operated 4 ½ months a year . In 1889 , East Texas Normal College was founded in Cooper . The school did very well while located in Cooper , but the college moved to Commerce after the campus was destroyed in a fire in 1894 . The school was later renamed East Texas State University , then Texas A & M University ? Commerce . In 1896 , Cooper reported to have one successful school located within the city proper .

Schools were important during the 1940s , as they became the local activity centers . In the early 1940s , there were 34 common schools and six independent school districts within Delta County . These schools employed 134 people and had a combined total of 4 @,@ 000 students enrolled . Cooper , along with Pecan Gap and Enloe , offered a four @-@ year high school program . Late in the 1940s , with the help of state taxes on transportation , the schools and districts began to consolidate . In 1966 , Cooper had two elementary schools , a junior high school , and a high school .

The Cooper Independent School District (Cooper ISD) currently operates the schools that serve Cooper . Cooper ISD covers the majority of Delta County , except for the community of Lake Creek , which is located within the jurisdiction of Chisum ISD , and the communities of Pecan Gap and Ben Franklin , which are located within Fannindel ISD . There are currently only three schools under the jurisdiction of Cooper ISD , all three of which are located within Cooper proper . The schools are Cooper Elementary School , Cooper Junior High School , and Cooper High School .

= = Transportation = =

Texas State Highway 154 (TX 154) intersects the city , passing through the central portion of Cooper . The highway begins at its terminus in the western portion of Cooper . The roadway travels eastward through central Cooper , before bending southeast and exiting the city . TX 154 travels within the Cooper proper for approximately 1 @. @ 94 miles (3 @. @ 12 km) . TX 154 was first constructed through Cooper on September 26 , 1935 . State Highway 24 bypasses Cooper as a four @- @ lane divided highway . Only 0 @. @ 48 miles (0 @. @ 77 km) of the highway pass through Cooper , traveling through the western edge of the city limits . TX 24 was originally designated through Cooper on September 26 , 1939 . However , TX 24 was rerouted around Cooper , and on January 14 , 1991 , the 1 @. @ 94 miles (3 @. @ 12 km) long portion of highway was redesignated as Texas State Highway 24 Business .

Farm to Market Road 64 (FM 64) enters the western portion of Cooper , traveling for a short distance before terminating at TX 154 . The highway , which was constructed on June 23 , 1942 , spends approximately 0 @. @ 41 miles (0 @. @ 66 km) within the city . FM 1528 , known locally as 1st Street , travels through the center of Cooper . Beginning at an intersection with TX 154 , the highway travels southward through the city for about 0 @. @ 6 miles (0 @. @ 97 km) , before exiting and turning westward . The road was constructed on September 28 , 1949 . Nearby highways include FM 1880 , which travels from the edge of the city to a part of the Cooper Lake Wildlife Management Area , FM 128 , which ends at an intersection with TX 24 a short distance north of Cooper , and FM 1529 , which northward a short distance east of the city .

In 1886 , the Santa Fe Railroad was constructed to the north of Cooper , through Ben Franklin and Pecan Gap . Nearly a decade later , in 1895 , the Texas Midland Railroad was constructed through Cooper , helping the city 's economy to boom . The railroad flourished until 1928 , when it was sold to the Southern Pacific Corporation due to the region 's struggling economy . The line was closed in 1934 , and was abandoned in 1975 . Currently , the only railroad to pass near Cooper is the Blacklands Railroad . Commerce Municipal Airport is currently the closest airfield to Cooper , located approximately 13 miles (21 km) away .

= = Religion = =

The first religious establishment in the region was erected by pioneers from Tennessee in 1847 . By 1860 , two Methodist Episcopal churches had been built nearby . In 1880 , seven churches , which were predominantly Methodist , had been established in Delta County . In 1889 , seven Baptist churches that had been established in the region held a meeting as the Delta County Baptist Association . During the early 1980s , there were 17 churches in Delta County , two of which were located in Cooper . In 1931 , there were 13 Baptist churches located in and around Cooper . During the mid @- @ 1960s , there were 32 churches in the region , representing seven Christian communions . However , by 1982 , five of those churches had closed .

Currently , there are 18 churches located within the city limits of Cooper . These include congregations of the United Methodist Church and the Seventh @- @ day Adventist Church , as well as those of Baptist , Catholic , Pentecostal , Methodist Episcopal , and other denominations of Christianity . Six of the churches are of Baptist denomination , and three are Methodist , as well as several which are of other Christianity .

= = Notable people = =

Don Hornsby - Former comedian and novelty pianist

Alice Lon ? Former singer and dancer on The Lawrence Welk Show

Ron Morris ? Former professional football player in the National Football League (NFL)