



Rose Baca/Staff Photographer

The city-owned NRH20 Family Water Park is frequently ranked among the nation's best water parks.

Headfirst to greatness

City embraces new residents and new opportunities

By MARICE RICHTER

North Richland Hills prides itself on being a welcoming and neighborly community.

Quality of life is important here, and it shows. The city was ranked the ninth-best place to live in North Texas, based on a *Dallas Morning News* data analysis.

The third-largest city in Tarrant County, behind Fort Worth and Arlington, North Richland Hills was one of the earliest to develop as a suburban community. Over the years, the city has grown with de-

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velopment — and then redevelopment.

The city-owned NRH20 Family Water Park attracts residents as well as visitors from the Dallas-Fort Worth area and beyond. It is consistently ranked among the top water parks in the nation. In addition, Iron Horse Golf Course on Skylark Circle is one of the most popular courses in North Texas.

The city received top marks in

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Development, redevelopment hard to miss

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Brandon Wade/Special Contributor

North Richland Hills isn't just good for people. The city also scores high for Nicolette Doan's dog, Poohbear — and all pets.

the *The News*' survey for being well-maintained and for its walkability and pet-friendliness.

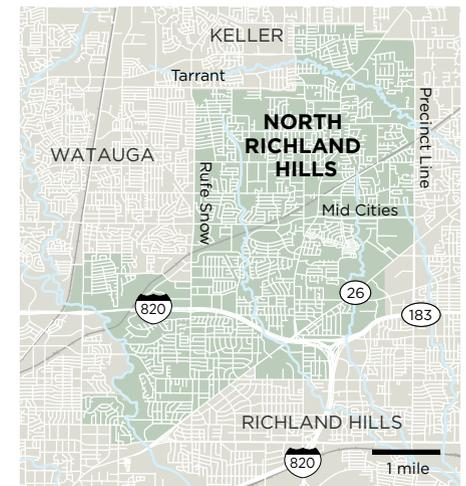
North Richland Hills offers a mix of comfortable housing choices, abundant shopping and dining options, and many recreational amenities.

"We've expanded our park system, which now features more than 800 acres of parkland and 30 miles of hike and bike trails," said City Manager Mark Hindman.

City efforts to move forward have led to recent openings of a new City Hall, animal adoption and rescue center and the NRH Centre, a combination recreation and senior center and banquet facility. The new public library houses The Maker Spot, an innovative high-tech center where hobbyists create everything from quilts to music and video productions.

North Richland Hills has grown from about 55,000 residents in 2000 to around 70,000 now. More growth is anticipated to accompany economic redevelopment and revitalization along the improved Northeast Loop 820 corridor.

The 2018 opening of TEXRail commuter service is also expected to boost growth, giving residents another option to commute to jobs in downtown Fort Worth, DFW International Airport or points in between.



Laurie Joseph/Staff Artist