

**T**he City of Folsom (the “City”) was founded in 1856, incorporated in 1946, and chartered in 1990. Folsom is a “full service” charter City, serving a population of over 63,800. The City is approximately 110 miles northeast of San Francisco and 20 miles east of Sacramento. The City is located along the eastern end of the Highway 50 corridor in an area of the Sacramento Valley that has experienced considerable industrial, residential, and commercial growth over the past 10 years.

Folsom is rich in history, established primarily by European and Asian prospectors during the early gold-rush era. Numerous antique dealers make the City one of the oldest and largest centers of the antique trade in the West. The City’s historical district includes the Folsom History Museum and the Folsom Hotel, a landmark since 1885.

Over 130 years ago Folsom was selected as the site for Folsom Prison to provide manpower for the construction of a larger dam and a powerhouse. The Prison has gained notability with the renowned song “Folsom Prison Blues” by Johnny Cash. The Powerhouse provided the world’s first long-distance transmission of electric power. In 1973 the Powerhouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and in 1982 was named a National Historic Landmark.

Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma are at the City’s borders offering an abundance of recreational activities. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area is one of the most popular multi-use, year-round recreational areas in the California State Park System. Each year visitors come to the 18,000-acre park—with 120 miles of shoreline—to fish, hike, camp, ride horseback, water ski, boat, swim, and study nature.

The Folsom Aquatic Center is a state-of-the-art swimming pool facility which includes a family play pool, interactive water play climbing structure, a warm water therapy/instructional pool, and an Olympic size pool. Over 100,000 visitors come each year to visit the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary, home to over 75 animals. Folsom Parks cover over 300 acres of playgrounds and recreational facilities. Additionally, Folsom Parks was the recipient of the 1999 Facility Design and Park Planning Award for the John Kemp Park from CPRS.

The City provides a number of municipal services including, administration, police, fire, recreation, parks, and public works. The City also has its own transit system, Folsom Stage Line, which provides local fixed routes, downtown and light rail commuter service, and a Dial-a-Ride program catered to the seniors and disabled citizens of the community.

The Folsom-Cordova Unified School District operates schools both in the City and in the Sacramento suburb of Rancho Cordova. In the City, the district has two high schools, four middle schools, and nineteen elementary schools serving over 18,000 students. Four of the schools, Natoma Station, Carl Sundahl, Folsom Hills Elementary, and Folsom Middle School, all received the highest rank possible on the State of California’s first Academic Performance Index (API) Report. Additionally, The Folsom Lake College campus is accredited as a branch of the Los Rios Community College District of Sacramento and serves the community of adults achieving higher education.

The City acknowledges the importance of and continually strives towards preserving, enhancing, and managing open space, oak trees, wetlands, and riparian habitats. Folsom has grown to over 15,000 acres, of which over 6,000 acres are parks, schools, and undeveloped open space. Folsom City is a beautiful and thriving community, and home to many families and businesses.

