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Rating the Suburbs

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PICTURE PERFECT: Mature trees and quaint new homes make Flower Mound an ideal suburb.

10. Flower Mound

Population: 62,350

Annual growth since 1990: 10.4%

Average home sales price in 2007: \$294,269

Median age of residents: 33.3

Families with kids under 18: 56.8%

Median household income: \$95,416

What They Say: People in Flower Mound always mention the trees and the proximity to the airport. Housing is relatively inexpensive compared to neighboring cities, and commercial development has brought residents a Kroger, pizza, and burgers. What it hasn't brought is diversity. "I don't like the white bread nature of it," one resident says. "Everybody is just like us. It gives the kids a tainted view of what life is really like." Still, it's a friendly town, a place where you have to factor in talking time for a trip to the grocery store because you'll always run into people you know. "We have watched Flower Mound go from cow pastures to city without losing the essence of 'rural,'" another resident says. You can get an older home, probably from the mid-'70s, in the \$150,000s, while a place on Lake Grapevine will go for more than \$1 million.

What We Say: Love the lack of chains in the city's Parker Square. Okay, there's a Smoothie King inside the Excite Gym and a Mi Cocina, but you've never heard of anything else: Kay's Kloset, Thai Tango, Crush! Wine Boutique, Burger Bistro, and the Music Conservatory of Texas. We respect Flower Mound's nature, as do they: almost 13 acres of the original mound of wildflowers belong to a non-profit, and the city mandates developers work around existing trees.