Annandale Ranked 4th Best Town in VA

Parks, Stable Housing Prices, and Diversity Take the Prize

Photo: Toll House Park—Pink Knock Out Roses, the Flower of Annandale, courtesy of the Annandale Chamber of Commerce photographic archive with All Rights Reserved

According to city based research group, Movoto, Centreville is the top city in Virginia, while Annandale is the 4th best city, based on many desirable factors such as amenities, cost of living, crime, education, median household income, and diversity.

The rankings came out like this.

1. Centreville
2. Tysons Corner
3. McLean
4. Annandale
5. Oakton
6. Alexandria
7. Chantilly
8. Reston
9. Rose Hill (Fairfax County)
10. Suffolk

The Criteria

Virginia is well known as one of the most beautiful states in the country, it has a rich history, and classic Virginia charm! But, in order to find the top 10, something a little bit more concrete was needed. The list was created with seven criteria in mind.

- Amenities per person (distance to five-star hiking, number of Southern food restaurants)
- Total amenities in each city (distance to five-star hiking, number of Southern food restaurants)
- Cost of living (percent above or below state average)
- Crime (percent above or below state average)
- High school degree attainment rate (percent above or below state average)
- Median household income (city's average compared to state average)
- Home value (percent above or below state average)
- Diversity (percent of most populous ethnicity)

To start, a list of the 50 most populous cities, towns, and Census Designated Places in Virginia were examined, then each city was given a rank from one to 50 in the individual criteria, with one being the best possible score.

As far as amenities go, distance to great hiking, was selected because Virginia has some of the best hiking in the country. We chose Southern food, because Virginia is the quintessence of Southern charm—and a big part of that happens to be boiled and roasted peanuts, Virginia ham, and Shoofly pie. *(Movoto needs to work on this criteria. The cuisine of 21st Century Virginia has expanded dramatically beyond the items mentioned. None of these items are served at Annandale restaurants.)*

From there, this category was broken up into both amenities per person and the total number of amenities per city, because it was important to have a range of choices for each person, and not dock points just because some cities have larger populations.

After each city was rated, the criteria was averaged together with each city receiving an overall score. The lower this number was, the higher the city ranked.

Yet again, Fairfax County brings it home with eight of the top ten cities, with Annandale, scoring the No. 4 spot on the list. Annandale came in as the most diverse city in our top 10, with just 50.4 percent of the population being one ethnicity (as opposed to McLean, for example, which is 79.3 percent Caucasian.) It also scored really well in its median home value—95 percent higher than the state average.

Outside of the numbers though, Annandale is the perfect place to, literally, get outside. Parks like the Mason District Park, the Annandale Community Park, Kendale Woods Park, Ossian Hall Park, and over 20 more, are scattered throughout the area.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Fairfax County	$118,279
Annandale	$123,999
Virginia	$ 71,535

The median household income in Annandale is 91.4% greater than the national average.

MEDIAN HOME VALUE

Fairfax County	$630,000
Annandale	$667,500
Occupied Annandale Housing Units	96.60%

EDUCATION

Completed High School	89.70%
Associate's degree	54.30%
Bachelor's degree	49.20%
Graduate degree	21.30%

RESIDENTIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Total Population	74,135
Greater Annandale (5 mile radius)	342,076
Caucasian	57.18%
African American	7.57%
Native American	.027%
Asian American	19.84%
Hispanic/Latino of any Race	27.43%

**Includes East Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Thai, Korean, & Vietnamese. The Korean & Vietnamese populations are approximately the same at slightly less than 8% each . The demographics above also represent those of two or more races listing them under the demographic with which they identify.