LAGRANGE, GEORGIA
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LAGRANGE
A Place to Be

The City of LaGrange is one of the state’s West Georgia star communities. In 2018, LaGrange received the Live, Work, Play Award presented by the Georgia Municipal Association for its community assets, innovations and quality of life.

The city is rich in cultural and recreational amenities, with museums, the 26,000-acre West Point Lake, Sweetland Amphitheatre and Great Wolf Lodge Georgia adventure park, to name a few.

There are more than 100 manufacturers in the area, 41 of which are international companies from 18 different countries. Eight are suppliers to the KIA Motors Manufacturing Georgia plant in neighboring West Point, Georgia. The community’s 10,000-acre Georgia International Business Park, stretching along Interstate 85, pledges infrastructure for environmentally conscious businesses. For future workers, Thinc College and Career Academy focuses on real-world learning in a business-driven environment.

Visitors and hometown residents alike feel the energy of LaGrange.

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**FAST FACTS**

**LAGRANGE**

**POPULATION:** 30,472  
**TROUP COUNTY:** 69,786  
**UTILITIES:** Electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, water/sewer and solid waste  
**TRANSPORTATION:** LaGrange has easy access to Interstate 85, and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is just 55 miles from LaGrange  
**NOTABLE EMPLOYERS:**  
- Milliken & Company—textile and chemical manufacturer  
- Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia—auto manufacturer  
- Mountville Mills Inc.—mat manufacturer  
- Jindal Films Americas LLC—packaging manufacturer  
- Great Wolf Lodge—indoor water and adventure park  
- West Georgia Health—medical center  
- InterfaceFLOR LLC—textile manufacturer  
- Kimberly-Clark—manufacturer of towels, wipes and dispensers  
- CW Matthews Contracting Co. Inc.—cement-mixing plant  
- Troup County School System—educational system

"My vision for LaGrange is that it is a thriving city, a safe city and a fun city.”  
Mayor Jim Thornton

**LaGrange Notables:**

- **Sarah B. Marbry** established a hosiery mill in LaGrange shortly after the Civil War. Marbry was one of a few female mill entrepreneurs of the time. Her products were shipped as far away as New Orleans and Philadelphia.

- When **Marquis de Lafayette**, a Revolutionary War hero, visited Georgia, he remarked on the similarity between the west Georgia countryside and his wife's estate in France, LaGrange. Leadership named the city for that remembrance. Today, a French fleur-de-lis icon embellishes the LaGrange brand.

- Born in the early 1800s, **Horace King** learned bridge building as a slave and became a sought-after bridge builder and architect along the Georgia-Alabama border. King was freed in 1846 and later served two terms in the Alabama legislature while continuing to build covered bridges and buildings. He moved to LaGrange in 1873.

- **Great Wolf Lodge Georgia** is an indoor water and adventure park for the entire family. The resort features kid-friendly activities, dining options and adult-friendly amenities, all under one roof. The 93,000-square-foot water park's pools and slides are kept warm at 84 degrees year-round. It is the only one of the company's 16 U.S. properties located in Georgia.
The city of LaGrange has a rich history with the textile industry. The early era of spinning cloth came and went, largely lost to overseas competition. But the vision and leadership of LaGrange textile titans left a legacy that is still very much alive today. It is a thread that weaves through every aspect of city life.

In 1895, Fuller E. Callaway risked his entire life savings to make Dixie Cotton Mills a LaGrange success. With investors from the Northeast and Atlanta, Callaway invested $10,000 to replace the antiquated machinery in the factory on Greenville Street to weave cloth. As he built personal wealth, he crafted a life of philanthropy. He told an early journalist that he was “making American citizens and running cotton mills to pay expenses.”

Today, the Callaway Foundation Inc. ensures that its benefactor’s dedication to community development remains a part of the fabric of LaGrange.

Southbend Park, a downtown greenspace, was funded by the foundation. It is flanked by a wildly popular city-financed skate park and the nearby entrepreneurial gathering place, Wild Leap Brewery. Across the city, municipal leadership, along with private investors and philanthropic dollars, creates abundant opportunity for living, working and playing.

Visionaries imagined a 26-mile multi-use trail winding through the neighborhoods of LaGrange. With a nod to the city’s textile history, the trail network was named The Thread. Over seven miles of The Thread have been built so far, using SPLOST funds. A cadre of volunteers serve on its board, and corporate sponsors underwrite its maintenance.

LaGrange’s 21st century business roster carries on Callaway’s community focus. Milliken & Company, a global company with a floor covering plant in LaGrange, has been a city partner and key employer since 1968, when it purchased Callaway Mills. Milliken & Company amped up its community commitment by repurposing a 143,000-square-foot administrative building into a distribution center and plans a $70 million investment in its LaGrange operations.

InterfaceFLOR LLC, an international textile manufacturer known for its revolutionary carpet tiles, was founded by a local, Ray Anderson, in 1973. The company has been an innovation leader not only on the manufacturing side, but also environmentally. In 1994, Anderson formulated a plan to make Interface an environmentally sustainable and restorative company before sustainability was a movement. Having accomplished its goal of zero environmental footprint, known as Mission Zero®, the company now works toward “giving back” to the environment more than it takes.

LaGrange is indeed a city inspired, with a common thread of innovation and community dedication linking its past and present.
Located less than 15 minutes from the heart of the city is West Point Lake, which provides 26,900 acres of bass and game fishing, boating and camping, plus a 6,397-acre wildlife management area. Just 17 miles away is Callaway Gardens, a four-star recreation and nature resort with golfing, tennis, horticulture and butterfly conservatories surrounding a conference center that hosts groups of up to 1,000.

In 2018, the LaGrange Development Authority officially launched the Georgia International Business Park. This LaGrange park is the largest business park in the Southeast and the fourth-largest in the country. The city also boasts Callaway South Industrial Park, a 1,600-acre development that is home to four Fortune 50 and seven Fortune 500 companies. Located three miles from I-85 and I-185, adjacent to the region’s Callaway Airport, and a designated CSX Select Site, it was the first industrial park in LaGrange.

Hills & Dales Estate was the home of textile magnate Fuller E. Callaway, Sr., and his family. The property features the historic Ferrell Gardens, which are one of the best preserved 19th century gardens in America. The gardens were created by Sarah Ferrell between 1841 and 1903 and include extensive boxwood plantings, fountains, an herb garden and a greenhouse. The centerpiece of the 35-acre estate is a beautiful Italianate villa designed by the noted architects Neel Reid and Hal Hentz, which was completed in 1916. A major restoration of the house was completed in April 2010, and all three floors of the home are open for guided tours.

From lively dramatic theater to symphonic classics and ballet, the arts are showcased in the $2.5 million LaGrange College drama theater, a facility that is greatly appreciated and enthusiastically attended. The works of outstanding and emerging artists are displayed at the Lamar Dodd Art Center and the Chattahoochee Valley Art Museum.