

Below you will see the write up for Brownsville, TX. The city is very much rooted in history and has unique architecture, historical factors, but not a lot of new amenities. The highlight seems to be the Mitte Cultural District, which houses a zoo and a playhouse. It has been undergoing development and renovation since 1988 with the help of outside benefactors. Sadly, I did not find a senior center, but did source a few nearby. It seems the city is poised to be a growth hub in the future, but at this point is dealing with how best to move forward.

Council Visioning Workshop 2023:

City of Brownsville:

Population: 186,738

Land Area: 142 square miles

City Employees: 800+ (could not pin down an exact number)

Community Centers

[Brownsville Events Center](#)

Facility for events and trade shows. The Brownsville Events Center main ballroom can accommodate 1,200 people theater style and has dividable function space depending on your group size. Main ballroom is 13,530 square feet. Waterfront grounds and tropical feel. Used as a Covid-19 testing, vaccine administration facility during pandemic.

[Brownsville Urban Center](#)

Completed in 2008. Designed to host after school programs, concerts, workshops and other community events. Received several awards shortly after opening.

[Market Square Event Hall/Research Center](#)

Originally built in 1850. Was an open-air market for nearly 100 years. Then turned into a bus station in the 1980's. In 2009 it was leased over to the Brownsville Historical Association. It is now home to the city's collections and archives. Houses one of the largest South Texas photograph collections. Event Hall and Plaza are available for rent.

Sports Park & Outdoor Community Center

[Mitte Cultural District](#)

Very large outdoor community center, this seems to be the gem of the City ([cool video](#)). It hosts the Gladys Porter Zoo, Aquatic Center, Dean Porter Park which is 25 acres with a walking and fitness trail. Splash pad and pool. Park is also home to the Ringgold Civic Pavilion which is available to rent. Camille Playhouse -- Broadway and live theater. Children's Museum also located here. Fine art museum. Historic cemetery on site and

Spanish colonial architecture. Dean Porter Park seems to be the anchor of the district, foundation helped expand it's resources starting in 1988.

[Brownsville Sports Park](#) -- [Facebook Page](#)

120-acre regional park. Largest of its kind in the Rio Grande Valley. Home to local athletic teams, football field, baseball diamonds, track, soccer fields, indoor basketball courts, pickleball, tennis, etc. Also hosts several community events. Can accommodate over 200,000 visitors, 2,500 games and dozens of tournaments and events a year.

[Senior Center:](#)

Cannot seem to find a Senior Center for Brownsville. However, nearby McAllen has one -- the Las Palmas Community Center. Been in place for a long time, City of McAllen took over the property in 1989, which was at that point the McAllen Senior Center. Provides classroom and gymnasium space for recreation. Center available for rent.

[Library:](#)

Two Public Library locations. A main branch and a south branch. Conference, glass rooms available, public computing center (free Internet and computer access at their very nice [Internet Resource Center](#). Quiet rooms, meeting rooms and study rooms.

Mixed Use Developments:

Having trouble finding Mixed Use Developments in Brownsville, but there does seem to be projects going on nearby. \$85m investment in Harlingen for 212 homes and 8,000 square feet of commercial real estate. It will take 5 to 6 years to complete and just got started in May [according to this article](#).

Right now, construction is underway on the North Brownsville Industrial Park. It seems to be in the very beginning stages as the development, but going well, only two of 11 lots are still available.

Notable Nearby Attractions - *Brownsville's largest organizations, places to work, seem to be the City of Brownsville and Brownsville ISD. SpaceX is nearby, the Starbase facility is 23 miles west of the city. SpaceX was also recently chosen as the base for the Artemis III mission (possibly Artemis IV, depends on how it goes), meaning they need to staff up. [According to Forbes](#), the company is looking at nearby Brownsville as a place for people to live, shop. There is also a push for housing at Starbase.*

- [Palm View Community Center, McAllen](#) - Opened in 2001. Basketball courts, kitchen, soccer facilities, etc.
- [McAllen Convention Center](#) - Built in 2007. 174,000 square foot multi-purpose convention center with a seating capacity of 3,500. Very beautiful, new building with cool water feature. Located in same area as McAllen Performing Arts Center which was build in 2017.