

HISTORY

The gated community of Mira Vista lies approximately seven miles west southwest of the Fort Worth Central Business District with Hawthorne Park Estates and Monarch Hills to the north of Mira Vista. Both are included in the 1872 Nathan Proctor Survey and the 1874 John F. Heath Survey. Vista Ridge and Trinity Heights lie just outside the gates to the south of Mira Vista. The area is bounded by Bryant Irvin Rd. on the east, Dirks Rd. on the South, the Clear Fork of the Trinity River on the west and Bellaire Dr. S. on the north.

Mira Vista, Hawthorne Estates, Vista Ridge and Trinity Heights were part of the Rall Ranch, founded by E.G. Rall in 1917. The 2,500 acre ranch extended from what is now Winscott Rd. in Benbrook on the west to the old Granbury Rd. on the east. The original rock ranch house, which the family called the camp house, stood on land called the Cliffs that is now under water just below the south side of the dam of Benbrook Lake. They believe the house may still be standing in that deep part of the lake, now a house for catfish. The Benbrook Dam and part of the lake covered about 600 acres of Rall land.

After World War II, before the dam and lake were built, a new ranch house was constructed on the westernmost knuckle knoll of the ranch with a kitchen window view of Pecan Valley, which is now a golf course. The ranchers called the hills on the ranch knuckle knolls because they resembled knuckles to them. That ranch house was torn down in about 1994 to make room for more new homes in Mira Vista, however the street where it stood is named Old Homestead Road. E.G. Rall died in 1944, but his son Budge Rall and his family occupied the new ranch house until the property sold to the Mira Vista developers in the 1980s.

The ranch property was very rough. The only way to cross it was by horseback, jeep or pickup truck. Dirks Road was a dirt trail. Most of Mira Vista is in what was called the Big Pasture, with some of the lower areas on the west in what was the north and south Dixon fields, named for a family named Dixon who apparently lived there in the very early days. A bull pasture was near Dirks and Granbury Roads.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

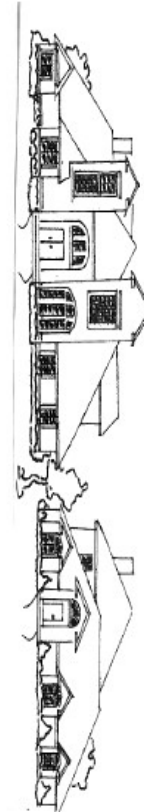
Mira Vista is a gated community with guards at the gates and a golf course running throughout the neighborhood. Lakes, bluff lots with views, a nature trail and winding roads make for a very scenic area. Trees in the lower areas and newly planted trees everywhere add to the ambience. A country club with a pool and golf memberships is a drawing point. Houses vary from large mansions to garden homes, predominantly two story.

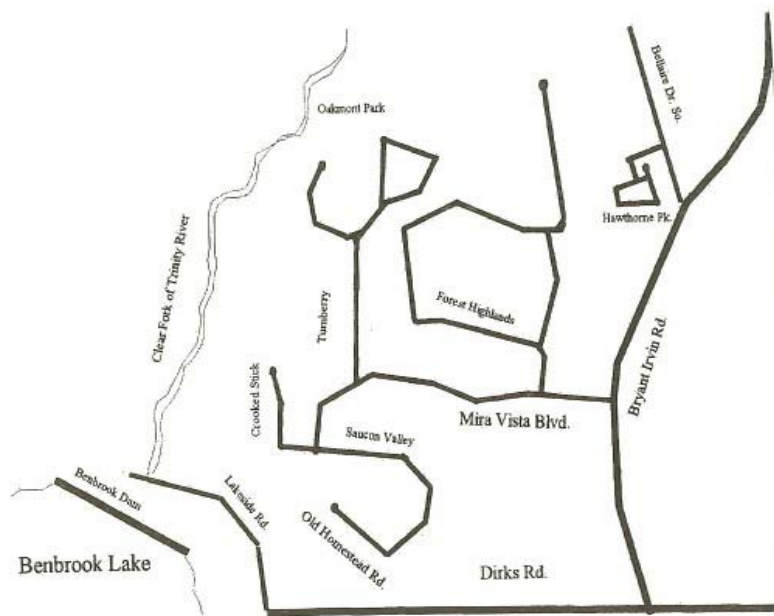
Hawthorne Park Estates and Monarch Hills, just north of the Mira Vista gates, have hilly streets and mature trees, most of which were saved by the builders.

Vista Ridge and Trinity Heights which are south of the Mira Vista gates, are also gated communities just off Bryant Irvin Rd.



MIRA VISTA
Hawthorne Park Estates, Monarch Hills, Trinity Heights, Vista Ridge
Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS®





SCHOOLS

Elementary
Ridglea Hills, 6817 Cumberland Rd., 817/377-7345

Middle
Wm. Monnig, 3136 Bigham Blvd., 817/377-7250

High School
Arlington Heights High School, 4501 W. Rosedale, 817/377-7200

Private
Trinity Valley School and Fort Worth Academy are just across Bryant Irvin Rd.

OTHER INFORMATION

Nearest fire station: 4416 Southwest Blvd., emergencies 911
Nearest medical facilities: All Saints Hospital, 7100 Oakmont Blvd, 817/346-5700, and Harris Hospital, 6100 Harris Pkwy., 817/346-5000, both in City View
Nearest Post Office: 3020 Cherry Lane, 817/244-5239
Nearest grocery shopping: City View
Nearest Mall: Ridgmar Mall and Hulen Mall
Nearest Park: Clear Fork Park
Nearest Library: 3628 Bernie Anderson

FORT WORTH FACTS

History: Fort Worth was established as a frontier army post in 1849 and named for Gen. Wm. Jenkins Worth. The outpost became a stopping place on the Old Chisholm Trail and a shipping point for great herds of cattle being sent to northern markets.

Population: 700,000
Land Area: 293 square miles
Altitude: 670 feet above sea level
Weather: Normal sunshine averages 250 days a year
Average mean temperature: 65.5 F
Annual avg. precipitation 29.46 in.

Medical Facilities: 46 hospitals

Education: 66 elementary schools, 19 middle schools, 12 high schools, 13 special education schools, 11 major private and parochial schools, 9 college and university campuses.

Libraries: 1 main library with 1 regional library and 9 branches
Museums: 11
Parks : 9,026 + acres
Churches and Synagogues: more than 910 with 45 denominations

Communications: 1 daily newspaper, 2 weekly papers, 10 TV stations plus cable.

This information was conceived, researched and written by Wini Klein, REALTOR®, for the Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS®, with assistance from the City of Fort Worth Planning Department, Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Historic Fort Worth, Inc., Texas Christian University, Junior League, Fort Worth Independent School District, Tarrant County Tax Office, League of Neighborhoods and encouragement from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

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