

I. COUNTY DESCRIPTION

A. County Profile

Jefferson County, located in the northeastern section of Tennessee, was established in 1792. It was named for President and statesman Thomas Jefferson. Portions of Greene and Hawkins Counties were taken to form Jefferson County. Jefferson County lies between the Holston River to the west and the French Broad River to the east. The county has shoreline on two of the largest lakes in the State of Tennessee, Cherokee and Douglas Lakes.

The county seat of Jefferson County is the town of Dandridge, founded in 1793. It was named in honor of President George Washington’s wife, Martha Dandridge Curis Washington. Dandridge is the second oldest town in Tennessee and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Historical Museum at the Jefferson County Courthouse was established in 1845 and is one of the oldest still in use.

Jefferson City is the largest city in Jefferson County. It was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson, the 3rd President of the United States. Originally, Jefferson City was known as Mossy Creek for the vivid green moss that grew on the banks of its creeks. The community dates back to 1788. The Strawberry Plains community, the only so named in the United States, was named by the first pioneers because of the endless fields of wild strawberries. White Pine is located in the Southeast part of the county and was formerly known as Dandridge Crossing. White Pine received its name in 1872 because a name was needed for the new post office on a government post office form. The Postmaster Esquire Richard White wrote down White Pine for a very tall white pine tree that he could see from his cabin.

Today Jefferson County is rated fourth overall among the state’s 95 counties in growth. With its many business opportunities, access to I-40 the main central East–West route and the quality of life, Jefferson County is experiencing tremendous growth. Jefferson County’s numerous recreational opportunities from golfing, camping, boating, fishing and hunting, and the beautiful mountain vistas are also important factors for the growth the county is experiencing.

Jefferson County Community Profile

Location

Region: East Tennessee

Square Miles: 274

Distance from Knoxville: 45 miles

Population (1998 est.)

Total: 43,663

Cities/Towns/Communities

Baneberry Strawberry Plains

Chestnut Hill White Pine

Dandridge

Jefferson City

Education

Middle Schools----2

K-5 Schools-----5

K-8 Schools-----2

High Schools-----1

Carson-Newman College