

# North Texas State Hospital



Photo by Charles Ashley

North Texas State Hospital's Vernon campus is one of 10 state behavioral health facilities within the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. It is Texas' largest maximum security state hospital and is designed to securely house forensic consumers while providing them with a rehabilitative environment.

It provides maximum security forensic psychiatric services to adults and secured forensic services to adolescents referred from throughout the state. Most consumers are referred through the criminal court system as persons found not guilty by reason of insanity or persons found not competent to stand trial. A lesser percentage of consumers are persons from other state hospitals who have been found to be manifestly dangerous.

The first State Hospital in Vernon, called the Annex, was a geriatric extension of the Wichita Falls State Hospital. It first opened in 1951 at Victory Field, a former World War II Army Air Corp pilot training facility south of Vernon. In 1969, Vernon State Hospital was relocated to a 69-acre site located in the northwest edge of Vernon, while the former Victory Field facility was converted into a statewide treatment facility for drug dependent youth.

In the mid-1990s, Vernon State Hospital was involved in a major reorganization.

In 1995, the Victory Field facility was leased to the Texas Youth Commission to be used as a correctional academy for juveniles. In September 1996, the Vernon Adolescent Forensic Program was relocated to the north campus of Vernon State Hospital, moving into four renovated buildings on the south side of the Maximum-Security Program. The move necessitated an \$8.5 million construction project, which included the construction of two new buildings and additions to several existing buildings. It also necessitated additions to the administrative complex, new fencing, and other renovations. By the late fall of 1997, the adult maximum security and adolescent forensic programs were fully operational at one campus location.

Between 1996 and 1999, administration of the Vernon State Hospital and Wichita Falls State Hospital were combined under one superintendent and the combined campuses were renamed North Texas State Hospital, retaining the location names Vernon Campus and Wichita Falls Campus to designate the individual sites.

Currently, NTSH is undergoing a multi-million renovation of the South or Victory Field campus. The Adolescent Forensic Program will be relocating there. The state legislature has also appropriated funds for the expansion of the main campus.



Photos of the AFP renovation for NTSH taken by Daniel Walker

## Where you can have a career & a **LIFE.**

### What first inspired you to pursue your career?

You'll find it here at North Texas State Hospital in the passion of our expert staff and the courage of your patients. Join our exceptional team at our beautiful campus in North Texas where your profession meets your lifestyle.

North Texas State Hospital is a Drug and Tobacco Free Workplace. An equal opportunity employer.

**North Texas State Hospital of Vernon & Wichita Falls has received a waiver from the Governor of Texas, to hire**

### RNs, LVNs, & Psychiatric Nursing Assistants

For more information, please contact:

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## NORTH TEXAS STATE HOSPITAL



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