The 200-year old Downtown Bastrop neighborhood is centered around a nationally designated historic district along the banks of the Colorado River. A cluster of imported rustic buildings blend urban form with nature between the historic core and the river, providing dining, recreation, and shopping opportunities built into the hillside toward the river bank.

This “historically hip” neighborhood is home to First Friday Art Walks, permanent art galleries, frequent live music, and textile sales. The neighborhood’s wide sidewalks, narrow roads, bus route, and safe streets for bicyclists, all encourage passersby to enjoy the Downtown Bastrop experience. Locals from the surrounding residential areas have easy access to the Downtown core, and a mix of apartments and short-term rentals are available.

City leaders have made great strides to revitalize Downtown Bastrop and take advantage of its regional location and historic fabric to transform it into a true urban neighborhood. In 2014, City Council adopted a new vision for Downtown and conducted a market analysis to ensure recommendations are market supported. In 2015 after an extensive public engagement campaign, the city adopted a new Form-Based Code for Downtown Bastrop. Due to the success of Downtown, the City has recently started the Building Bastrop initiative to create new codes from key downtown components that provide a unique sense of place to locals and visitors.

The City continues to work with the County, Economic Development Corporation, and local leaders foster the unique sense of place and identity of Downtown Bastrop as rapid growth occurs.