



Bismarck, North Dakota



Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota, was named in honor of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck of the German Empire for the purpose of attracting both German settlers to the region and investments in the financially ailing Northern Pacific Railway. For many years, Bismarck was the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railway, which did not have the funds to build a bridge crossing the Missouri River and continue constructing the railway.

Bismarck is home to the North Dakota Heritage Center, which features exhibits that explore the story of life on the northern plains from prehistory to the present; Buckstop Junction, which is a reconstructed village that contains actual buildings reminiscent of the late 1800s through the early 1930s; Gateway to Science, which is a regional resource for hands-on science education; and Historic Camp Hancock, which is the site of a military camp back that was used to protect Northern Pacific railroad workers. The North Dakota State Capitol, the tallest building in the state, is surrounded by a park that includes statues, memorials, trails, the North Dakota State Heritage Center Museum, the Liberty Memorial Building, and the Governor's Residence.

Frances Leach High Prairie Arts & Science Complex is home to the Gateway to Science, Theo Art School, Central Dakota Children's Choir, and Shade Tree Players Children's Theater. The historic Gem Theatre is home to the Dakota Stage community theater. The Bismarck Civic Center offers concerts and family entertainment. The Belle Mehus Auditorium hosts the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra and Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus.

NEIGHBORHOODS

The downtown area, not currently a residential area itself, is surrounded by residential neighborhoods. The Cathedral Historic District was named for the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, which was built in 1945 in the Art Deco style; this district has 11 designated historic homes that belonged to prominent early 20th-century Bismarck residents. These large homes were built in a variety of styles, including Tudor Revival, Prairie Style, Arts and Crafts, and Spanish Colonial Revival. Whereas much of the city is laid out in a grid pattern, the Highland Acres neighborhood, which was built in the 1950s near Bismarck State College, features loops and culs-de-sac. Ranch-style homes dominate this neighborhood.

Several neighborhoods have been built near the Missouri River. Fox Island, Southport, and South Bay are a few examples. Fox Island has many large, newer homes. In addition to single-family homes, Southport has many twin homes. SouthBay Development is a master planned community located on a 53-acre man-made lake. Many houses are under construction in SouthBay.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District operates 58 parks that offer a range of amenities, including archery, ball courts and ball fields, cross-country skiing, curling, disc golf, fishing, golf, indoor and outdoor ice skating and hockey rinks, outdoor skate parks, indoor and outdoor

swimming pools, and sledding hills. Located in Sertoma Park, the Dakota Zoo is home to over 500 reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Raging Rivers Waterpark and Super Slide Amusement Park provide other recreational opportunities.

Professional sports teams in Bismarck include the Bismarck Bobcats (hockey) and Dakota Wizards (basketball).

EDUCATION

Bismarck Public Schools educate over 10,700 students in 15 grade schools, 3 middle schools, 2 senior high schools, an alternative high school, a career and technical center, and an early-childhood program.

Higher education is available at the University of Mary, which offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs; Rasmussen College, which offers bachelor's degrees and associate's degrees in business and justice studies and associate's degrees in allied health and technology; Bismarck State College, which is a comprehensive community college and offers certificates in practical nursing and associate's degrees in nursing; and United Tribes Technical College, which offers associate's degrees and certificates in applied science. Dickinson State University has a relationship with Bismarck State College that allows students to complete their bachelor's degrees on the Bismarck State College campus. Medcenter One has a College of Nursing.

University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences maintains a campus for third- and fourth-year medical students in Bismarck.

HEALTH CARE

Two hospitals serve Bismarck, with a combination of over 500 acute-care beds.

CITY STATS

2008

City Population	60,253
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	104,629
Per Capita Personal Income, Bismarck, ND, MSA	\$37,728