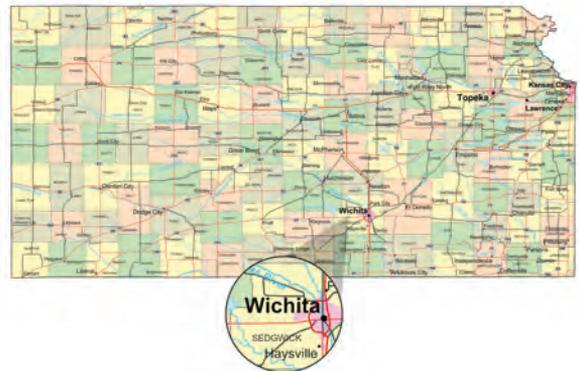


Wichita, Kansas



Wichita, Kansas, was named for the Wichita Indians, whose collection of grass houses is the first recorded permanent settlement in the area. Known as the “Air Capital of the World,” Wichita is a center of commercial and military aircraft manufacturing.

Wichita has a wide range of museums, including the Wichita Art Museum; Exploration Place, which is a science and discovery museum; Mid-America All-Indian Center and Museum; The Kansas African American Museum; Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum; Kansas Firefighters Museum; Kansas Sports Hall of Fame; and McCormick School Museum. At the Old Cowtown Museum, historic structures, period artifacts, livestock, and costumed interpreters demonstrate life in the 1870s. Located in the former municipal airport terminal, Kansas Aviation Museum houses historic, significant, and one-of-a-kind aircraft and aircraft engines; an aviation archive; aviation memorabilia; and the Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame. Galleries in the Museum of World Treasures range from fossil and gem collections to exhibits about U.S. military history, the American frontier, and pop culture. An assortment of railroad equipment is displayed at the Great Plains Transportation Museum. The permanent collection of the Wichita Center for the Arts emphasizes American decorative arts, printmaking, and art of the Midwest. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, Allen-Lambe House contains 23 pieces of original furniture.

The collection in the Wichita State University's Ulrich Museum of Art focuses on modern and contemporary art.

The Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Wichita Grand Opera, Ballet Wichita, Wichita Pops, as well as guest and community musicians and actors, perform at Wichita's many venues for performing arts. These include the Music Theatre of Wichita, Cabaret Old Town, Theatre On Consignment, Music Theatre for Young People, Wichita Children's Theatre & Dance Center, Wichita Center for the Arts, Wichita Community Theatre, The Orpheum Theatre, Mosley Street Melodrama, Crown Uptown Theatre, and Century II Convention Center. Hartman Arena and Intrust Bank Arena host various sports, musical, and family programs.

Theater and musical events are also held at Wichita State University, Newman University, and Friends University.

NEIGHBORHOODS

The Old Town district of Wichita features many loft condominiums and apartments in converted warehouses and an eclectic mix of restaurants, shops, clubs, museums, and theaters. Wichita's finest homes in the early 20th century were built in College Hill because its elevation protected them against flooding. This historic area features homes built in Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Prairie, Dutch Colonial, Italian Renaissance, Classical, and Neoclassical styles. Delano, another historic area, started as the terminus of the Chisholm Trail where cowboys deposited their cattle and enjoyed recreational activities. The earliest houses in Delano date back to the 1800s; however, most were constructed prior to the Depression or after World War II. Architecture in Delano combines elements from Queen Anne, Prairie-Colonial, Victorian, Craftsman Bungalow, National Folk, and Classical-Romanesque styles. Multifamily and rental units are especially available around Friends University.

Wichita has many suburban-style neighborhoods that were built between 1960 and 2000 in various styles and prices, such as Rockwood, Amarado, Lakepoint, and Briarwood, in addition to some golf course communities, such as Vickridge; Tall Grass; and Willowbend. New home construction is primarily occurring in the northwest and southeast areas of Wichita.

PARKS AND RECREATION

In total, Wichita's 120 parks have 6 baseball diamonds, 48 softball diamonds, 38 basketball or multi-use courts, 76 playgrounds, 2 frisbee

disc golf courses, 5 golf courses, 29 horseshoe courts, 11 outdoor swimming pools, 48 soccer fields, 75 tennis courts, 3 skate parks, 7 shuffleboard courts, 12 exercise and fitness trails, 8 nature trails, 5 model airplane flying areas, 19 pedal boat rides, 8 football fields, and 13 fishing ponds. In addition, the city operates 10 recreation centers and an ice skating center. Emery Memorial Park has a raceway for remote control cars and trucks and a BMX bike track. Garvey Park is home to the community garden.

Wichita has a bicycle route system that stretches over 100 miles.

Other attractions include the Sedgwick County Zoo, which has almost 400 species of animals, and Botanica, The Wichita Gardens, which boasts 24 themed gardens that are decorated with sculptures, streams, waterfalls, and fountains.

The Wichita Thunder (ice hockey), Wichita Wingnuts (baseball), Wichita Wild (arena football), and ICT Roller Girls (women's roller derby) are Wichita's professional sports teams.

EDUCATION

Wichita Public Schools serve 50,000 students in 57 elementary schools, 2 kindergarten through grade 8 schools, 17 middle schools, and 11 high schools. The district offers an online public school for home-schooled students at all grade levels, separate schools for students who need special education or have disabilities or disciplinary problems, magnet programs at all levels, and alternative schools for students in grades 7 through 12.

Wichita has many opportunities for higher education. Wichita State University offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The College of Health Professions includes programs for students interested in the nursing and physician assistant fields. Friends University provides a Christian-based liberal arts undergraduate and graduate education. Newman University, a Catholic liberal arts institution, offers associate's, bachelor's, and graduate degree programs in fields such as nursing. University of Phoenix's Wichita Campus offers associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs, including in the nursing field. Baker University has undergraduate and graduate degree programs for working adults. ITT Technical Institute and Vatterott College provide associate's and bachelor's degree programs in selected areas of study.

Associate's degrees and certifications are available in various fields from Wichita Area Technical College, Heritage Institute & Heritage College, Cowley College, and Wichita Technical Institute.

HEALTH CARE

Wichita is served by 4 acute-care hospitals, which together operate over 1,500 beds. In addition, the city has two long-term acute-care facilities; two inpatient physical rehabilitation hospitals; two hospitals that specialize in cardiac problems; an adult and adolescent psychiatric hospital; and a hospital that specializes in spinal problems. The Robert J. Dole Veterans Affairs Medical Center provides health care services that include mental health, primary, and specialty care to veterans in the area.

CITY STATS

2009

City Population	372,186
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	612,683
Per Capita Personal Income, Wichita, Kansas, MSA	\$37,723