



Amarillo, Texas



Amarillo, Texas, was established near railroad lines and a huge cattle stockyard, which led to it becoming a major cattle shipping center. Amarillo means “yellow” in Spanish.

Museums in Amarillo include the Amarillo Museum of Art, which is on the campus of Amarillo College; the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum; and the Don Harrington Discovery Center, which is a science and technology center. On the campus of Texas Tech University School of Pharmacy, the Texas Pharmacy Museum specializes in the exhibition of the history of pharmacy. Exhibits at the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum showcase the American Quarter Horse and the Western lifestyle. "Hoof Prints of the American Quarter Horse—America's Horse" is a city-wide public art display featuring more than 75 fiberglass replicas of an American Quarter Horse.

Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian features an extensive museum and a dance performance theater. Other performance venues include the Amarillo Civic Center, which hosts sports, Broadway shows, and other performances. The Globe News Center for the Performing Arts, the newest part of the Amarillo Civic Center, is home to the Amarillo Symphony; Amarillo Opera; and Lone Star Ballet. Amarillo Little Theatre is a professionally staffed community theater. Amarillo National Center is the largest facility in Amarillo for equine and livestock events.

The International Route 66 Festival, which is held in a different city along Route 66 each year, was held in Amarillo in June 2011.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Amarillo has more than 800 single-family residences in addition to condominiums, lofts, and apartments. Located in downtown Amarillo, Plemons Eakle Historic District has many historic homes dating back to the early 1900s, including the Harrington House; Lee Bivins House; J.D. Shuford House; Doherty-Masterson House; Shelton-Houghton House; Galbraith House; Eakle House; and Early House.

The Bivins Addition, another historic area, dates from the 1920s and was built on the site of the city's first airport with runways becoming the main street. Housing styles include traditional, ranch, English Tudor, and cottage style. The neighborhood also has a townhouse development. Wolfelin Historic District has brick streets, huge elm trees, and large homes that date from the 1920s and 1930s diverse architectural styles, such as Mission; Craftsman; Bungalow; Classical Revival; and Spanish Revival. Other styles, such as Tudor Revival; Italian and Mediterranean Revival; Federal; and Colonial, are also present in the Oldham Circle section, which was laid out in a radial plan featuring a small central park area with wide side avenues emanating from the park. Another section built in the 1950s and 1960s consists of homes built in the mid-century or ranch style.

Single-family homes dominate newer neighborhoods, such as La Paloma, which features a golf course; Greenways, which is a master planned community that has 80 acres of trails and parks; and the Colonies, which is a master-planned traditional neighborhood that incorporates elements of other Amarillo neighborhoods, such as Bivins and Wolfrin, into its design. Lots for new construction are also offered in these neighborhoods. Townhouses are available in Greenways, as well as other Amarillo neighborhoods.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Amarillo has 5 regional parks; 8 community parks; 20 neighborhood parks; 29 school parks; 3 dog parks; 3 outdoor pools; 2 golf course complexes; and the Amarillo National Tennis Center, which has outdoor and indoor courts. Thompson Park is home to the Amarillo Zoo, Ross Rogers

Golf Complex, an outdoor swimming pool, shaded picnic areas, playgrounds, lakes, tennis courts, Disc Golf Course, and walking trails. Wonderland Amusement Park is also located in the park. Amarillo Botanical Gardens features seasonal themed plantings and the Mary E. Bivins Tropical Conservatory, which showcases exotic plants.

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center and Rock Island Rail Trail offer hiking trails. Rock Island Rail Trail also permits biking.

Other recreational opportunities include the Amarillo Shooting Complex, which is operated by the police department; Splash Amarillo, which is a water park; and the Amarillo Dragway and Route 66 Motor Speedway.

WRCA World Championship Ranch Rodeo is held in Amarillo in November.

Professional sports teams in Amarillo include the Amarillo Bulls (hockey), Amarillo Sox (baseball), and Amarillo Venom (arena football).

EDUCATION

Amarillo is served by 5 school districts. Amarillo Independent School District serves the core of the city, and educates over 30,000 students in 37 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, 4 high schools, an alternative school for struggling middle and high school students, and a specialty high school. The district participates in the Texas Virtual School Network. The Amarillo Area Center for Advanced Learning expands the specialty offerings for students interested in mathematics and science. The district also has a magnet school program for elementary and middle school students. Canyon Independent School District, Bushland Independent School District, Highland Park Independent School District, and River Road Independent School District primarily educate students in other towns but also Amarillo neighborhoods located near the city's boundaries.

Higher education opportunities include the downtown campus of West Texas A&M University, which offers select upper-level and graduate classes; and Wayland Baptist University–Amarillo Campus, which offers associate's, bachelor's, and master's programs for nontraditional students. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has an Amarillo campus for its School of Medicine, School of Allied Health Sciences, School of Pharmacy, and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Amarillo College and Frank Phillips College are community colleges that provide technical and vocational programs, as well as courses in arts and sciences.

HEALTH CARE

Amarillo is served by 2 hospital systems that have approximately 850 licensed acute-care beds. In addition, the city has two surgical hospitals, two long-term acute-care facilities, and a rehabilitation hospital. The Thomas E. Creek VA Medical Center is also located in Amarillo.

CITY STATS

2009

City Population	189,392
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	246,474
Per Capita Personal Income, Amarillo, TX, MSA	\$35,489