



Billings, Montana



Billings, the largest city in Montana, was developed as a railroad town and named after Frederick H. Billings, President of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The city is located on the Yellowstone River and is bordered in the north by a massive wall of sandstone cliffs known as rimrocks.

The Yellowstone Art Museum, which is located in Billings, emphasizes art from Montana and surrounding regions. The Peter Yegen, Jr. Yellowstone County Museum exhibits materials from prehistoric times to the 1950s on the Northern Plains Indian Tribes; the Western Expansion, including mining, herding, and transportation industries; the military; and household items. Western Heritage Center contains historic photographs, American Indian beadwork and artifacts, Western art and artifacts, and oral histories of the Crow, Northern Cheyenne tribes. The 35-room, red sandstone Moss Mansion Historic House Museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and displays early 20th century objects belonging to the Preston Boyd Moss family. Rooms in the mansion include the formal French parlor, the Moorish entry hall, and the English library. SkyWindWorld organizes kite exhibits in major public venues.

Billings offers opportunities to experience a variety of performing arts. The Billings Symphony and Choral and the Rimrock Opera perform at the Alberta Bair Theater, which also hosts professional touring companies and other local performing groups. Venture Theatre stages contemporary comedy, musicals, and dramas for adults and families, as well as the Venture Improv Troop. MetraPark hosts concerts, family shows, rodeos, basketball, wrestling, figure skating, indoor football, livestock shows, motor sports, and festivals.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Billings features upper story condominiums, and loft apartments. Located adjacent to downtown is the Highland neighborhood, which consists primarily of single-family and two-family residences. The city's two hospitals, Montana State University Billings, Pioneer Park, and a private golf course are also located within this neighborhood. About 70% of the housing was built before 1960. The Billings Heights neighborhood was built on top of the rimrocks bordering the city and has duplexes and large single-family, multi-level homes or ranch-style homes available on large lots. Home construction began in the 1970s and continues in Billings Heights currently. Lake Elmo is located within this neighborhood. The West End neighborhood offers large houses, including ranch homes, split-levels, and two-story styles, on smaller lots. Development in this neighborhood began in the 1970s, but surged between the late 1990s and 2007. Townhouses are also available in the West End.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Billings has 47 developed parks. Two parks have disc golf courses, 3 have volleyball courts, 7 have tennis courts, 8 have swimming pools or spray grounds, 23 have baseball or softball fields, 13 have soccer or football fields, and 21 have basketball courts. The city also operates a par 3 golf course, a skate park, and an off-leash dog park. Pioneer Park features wooded, hilly green space with a winding creek, golf course, tennis courts, a wading pool, and other amenities; Symphony in the Park and Montana Shakespeare in the Parks performances are held here during the summer. North Park and South Park were part of the original town plat. South Park features a swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, and softball and baseball fields. North Park has a playground, horseshoe and tennis courts, softball and baseball fields, a recreation center, and a spray ground. Amend Park is primarily a soccer venue and is also favored by kite and remote control airplane enthusiasts. Rose Park offers many amenities, including a swimming pool, waterslides, a playground, and ball fields and courts. Lake

Elmo State Park offers opportunities for swimming, nonmotorized boating, windsurfing, and fishing; the park also has an off-leash dog park.

Zoo Montana exhibits animals and plants that originate in areas with climates and temperatures similar to Billings and includes specimens from the northern latitudes of Europe and Asia.

Professional sports teams in Billings include the Billings Mustangs (baseball) and the Billings Bulls (ice hockey). The Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) ProRodeo features the world's best rodeo athletes.

Points of interest located near Billings include Little Big Horn National Monument, Chief Plenty Coups State Monument within the Crow Reservation, Yellowstone National Park, Yellowtail Dam & Big Horn Reservoir, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Pompeys Pillar, and Pictograph Cave State Park. The Buffalo Bill Historical Center consists of the Buffalo Bill Museum, the Whitney Gallery of Western Art, the Cody Firearms Museum, and the Plains Indian Museum. Billings is also located near several ski areas.

EDUCATION

Billings Public Schools educate approximately 15,715 students in 22 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 3 high schools and a vocational and technology education center.

Opportunities for higher education are available at Montana State University Billings, which offers associate's, bachelor's, and master's degree programs in 5 areas: arts and sciences, business, allied health professions, education, and technology. The College of Technology provides the comprehensive two-year college mission with university transfer education, career preparation, developmental education, GED preparation, and workforce training. Rocky Mountain College is a church-related, nonsectarian college that provides liberal arts education and practical training for specific careers. The University of Mary Billings Center offers working professionals the opportunity to participate in undergraduate and graduate business courses. Walla Walla College, which is based in Washington, offers its Missoula Master of Social Work program in Billings. Yellowstone Baptist College offers courses in Bible and related Christian subjects.

HEALTH CARE

Billings has two hospitals with a total of 558 acute care beds. In addition, the city has a long-term acute care facility.

CITY STATS

2009

City Population	105,845
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	154,553
Per Capita Personal Income, Billings, MT, MSA	\$39,212