



# Tri-Cities, WA



**P**asco, Kennewick, Richland, and West Richland, Washington comprise the Tri-Cities area located along the confluence of the Columbia, Snake, and Yakima Rivers. This area was explored by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in 1805, and the site of their encampment is named Sacajawea State Park. The Tri-Cities area is also known for its golf courses and wineries, and for being the site of the country's first nuclear reactor.

Museums located in the Tri-Cities include East Benton County Historical Society Museum; Franklin County Historical Museum; Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science and Technology; Hanford Reach Interpretive Center; and Washington State Railroads Historical Society Museum. The White Bluffs Quilt Museum exhibits and teaches quilting, weaving, spinning, and basketry. Three Rivers Children's Museum is another local attraction, as is the Moore Mansion, which was built as a private home in 1905 but functioned as a speakeasy with secret underground tunnels for "rum running" during Prohibition.

Performing arts in the Tri-Cities area include the Academy of Children's Theatre, Mid-Columbia Ballet, Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, Mid-Columbia Musical Theatre, the Richland Players, and Mid-Columbia Symphony. Three Rivers Convention Center hosts symphony performances and other events. The Toyota Center hosts concerts, family shows, and sporting events. Columbia Basin College Arts Center offers theatrical performances, concerts, lecture series, and gallery exhibits.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Kennewick is the largest city in the region. Restored Craftsman, Dutch Colonial Revival, Tudor, and Spanish Eclectic style homes are available in the historic downtown area, which has become a center for local artists and boutiques. Other neighborhoods, such as Canyon Lakes, are golf course communities and have ranch-style (ramblers) and custom-built homes. Newly constructed neighborhoods include the Hansen Park subdivision and Creekstone, which is a master-planned community and offers green homes and other environmentally friendly features. Apartments are also available in Kennewick.

Country Ridge is one of the older neighborhoods in the Richland area and is a horse-riding community. Houses were custom-built in rambler, Tudor, French stucco, and modern styles. Other neighborhoods consist of houses built by the government in 1943 for workers at the Hanford Site and are known as "alphabet" houses. Horn Rapids is a master-planned community with a golf course and has new homes currently under construction. Many townhomes and apartments are also available in Richland.

In the mid-1990s, a new minor league baseball stadium was built in Pasco. Sunny Meadows, a subdivision with baseball-themed street names, was built nearby. Other developments followed and led to the city's rapid growth. Some neighborhoods consist primarily of starter homes, but others are more upscale. Riverfront homes range from modest bungalows to mansions.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

The Hanford Reach National Monument is the only free-flowing, non-tidal stretch of the Columbia River. Rare birds and animals find refuge in this protected wilderness and in the McNary National Wildlife Refuge near the Snake River.

Sacagawea State Park offers boating, swimming, fishing, hiking trails, horseshoe pits, a playground, a volleyball court and the Sacajawea Interpretive Center. The Sacagawea Heritage Trail connects this park with other waterfront parks in the Tri-Cities area.

Kennewick maintains 34 public parks and facilities with amenities, including 2 pools, an aquatic playground, a skate park, ball fields,

basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds, in-line skating, and horseshoe pits. Columbia Park is located along the river and offers the Family Fishing Pond, the splash park, the Playground of Dreams, a public golf course and disc golf course, horseshoe pits, train ride, skate park, and ropes course. Columbia Park is also the site of the "Kennewick Man" discovery, a 9,200-year-old skeleton found in 1996.

Pasco has 33 parks and recreational facilities, including a golf course, 3 outdoor swimming pools, 3 community centers, ball fields and courts, playgrounds, horseshoe and volleyball pits, a professional indoor rodeo arena, and spraygrounds. Chiawana Park, the city's largest, is located along the Columbia River and features a boat dock, boat launch, horseshoe pits, playground, volleyball court, and a walking trail.

Richland has 51 parks and recreational facilities, including a golf course, an aquatics facility, ball fields and courts, playgrounds, an off-leash dog park, a BMX track, and a skate park. Howard Amon Park is located along the Columbia River and has lighted tennis courts, playgrounds, wading pool, a basketball court, swimming area, docks, and a boat launch.

West Richland supports a senior center and 13 developed parks with a variety of amenities, including baseball, soccer, and football fields; tennis courts; and playgrounds.

Professional sports teams include the Tri-City Americans (ice hockey), the Tri-City Dust Devils (baseball), and the Tri-Cities Fever (arena football).

## EDUCATION

The Kennewick School District educates over 15,000 students in 15 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 3 traditional high schools, and 2 alternative high schools. The district provides support for a home-schooling program for the region. Pasco School District instructs more than 15,000 students in 11 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 2 high schools, and an alternative high/middle school. Richland School District serves approximately 11,000 students in Richland and West Richland with 9 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 3 high schools. The districts share a vocational high school and a high school specializing in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Higher education is available at Washington State University Tri-Cities, which offers bachelor and master degree programs. Columbia Basin College is a community college with campuses in Pasco and Richland.

## HEALTH CARE

Tri-Cities is served by 3 hospital systems with over 400 licensed beds. In addition, the region has a mental health hospital.

### CITY STATS

2010

- Kennewick City Population	73,917
- Pasco City Population	59,781
- Richland City Population	48,058
- West Richland City Population	11,811
- Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	253,340
Per Capita Personal Income, Kennewick-Pasco-Richland, WA, MSA	\$35,259