



Ames, IA



Ames, Iowa, was founded in 1864 as a station stop on the Cedar Rapids and Missouri Railroad. Railroad president John Blair named the town for Massachusetts Congressman Oakes Ames, who was influential in the building of the transcontinental railroad. Ames was incorporated in 1870, the same year that the Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm, which later became Iowa State University, was established as one of the first land-grant colleges.

Museums in Ames include the Octagon Center for the Arts, which hosts rotating exhibits that feature artwork from around central Iowa and the world and offers various art classes. The Ames Historical Society presents programs and exhibits about Ames' local history and cares for an artifact collection.

Iowa State University has several museums. The Brunnier Art Museum, which is located in the Iowa State Center, is the state's only accredited museum emphasizing a decorative arts collection. The collection consists of ceramics, glass, dolls, ivory, jade, and enameled metals donated by the Brunnier family and prints, paintings, sculptures, textiles, carpets, wood, lacquered objects, silver, and furniture.

Historic Morrill Hall is home to the Christian Petersen Art Museum, which stores and displays the works of Christian Petersen, who sculpted and taught at the university, and exhibits other works of contemporary art. Also located within Morrill Hall is the Mary Alice Gallery (Textile and Clothing Museum). Outside Morrill Hall, the Elizabeth and Byron Anderson Sculpture Garden contains sculptures placed in a landscaped setting.

Iowa State University's Art on Campus Program is one of the largest campus public art programs in the country and features more than 2,000 works of public art located throughout the campus.

The Farm House Museum sits in the center of the university. As the first building on campus, as well as a National Historic Landmark, the Farm House was built in 1860 before the campus was occupied by students or classrooms.

Ames has an active performing arts scene. Ames Community Theater (ACTORS, Inc.) offers a variety of live theatrical presentations and educational opportunities. The Central Iowa Symphony performs concerts at the Ames City Auditorium, which is also the performance venue for Co'Motion Dance Theater, Ames' professional modern dance company. The Ames Municipal Band performs summer evening concerts at the Durham Bandshell in Bandshell Park. Ames Town & Gown Chamber Music Association presents five chamber music concerts per season featuring renowned ensembles and emerging artists.

The Iowa State Center's three performance halls (Stephens Auditorium, Scheman Building, and Fisher Theater) present student theatrical performances, arts series, youth programs, and special engagements. The Maintenance Shop, or "M-Shop," located in ISU's Memorial Union, holds concerts, comedy shows, and theater performances. Hilton Coliseum hosts Iowa State University men's and women's basketball, wrestling, gymnastics, and volleyball teams, as well as large-scale concerts.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Ames is a traditional commercial district with minimal housing options currently available. The nearby Old Town Historic District features homes that were constructed between the 1870s and 1920s in styles that vary from elaborate Queen Anne and Italianate to simpler bungalows and vernacular. Beginning in the 1950s, the need for rental housing resulted in the division of some of the larger structures into several rental units, some of which have reverted to single-family homes. In other areas of the Old Town neighborhood and the adjacent Roosevelt neighborhood, houses date from the 1900s to the 1940s and were constructed in various styles.

Located near the Iowa State campus, the College Heights neighborhood, which was developed in the 1910 to 1940 period, features two-story homes built on curvilinear streets in an assortment of sizes and styles. Oakland is a

wooded neighborhood that abuts McCarthy Lee Park and features large homes on large lots.

The Park Ridge neighborhood was developed in the 1970s and 1980s and features ranch-style homes with many lots adjacent to the park.

Many newer neighborhoods are in the northern section of the city. Homes in Northridge Heights date from 1999 and include townhouse styles, as well as single-family homes. Construction of the Bloomington Heights neighborhood dates from the 1990s to 2005; homes are primarily two-story contemporary styles. The Village of Somerset offers a mix of single-family houses, townhouses, and apartments. The newly acquired Ada Hayden Heritage Park is the focus of newly planned residential developments.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ames boasts 36 parks and recreational facilities, including an indoor Municipal Pool, outdoor Furman Aquatic Center, Brookside Wading Pool, Ames Parks and Recreation Community Center, Carroll Marty Disc Golf Course, Ames Skate Park, Durham Bandshell, Ames Dog Park, and the nine-hole Homewood Golf Course. Other park amenities include walking paths; paved bike paths; playgrounds; tennis, sand volleyball, and basketball courts; ball fields; horseshoe pits; fishing; and open green spaces.

The Ames/ISU Ice Arena provides public ice skating and lessons and hosts hockey games and special events.

Iowa State University's Reiman Gardens feature 17 distinct garden spaces, including several rose gardens, an herb garden, a children's garden, a tropical conservatory, a trial and display garden showcasing the latest advances in annual and perennial plant breeding, and a butterfly wing with approximately 800 live butterflies.

EDUCATION

Ames Community School District educates approximately 4,200 students in five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. The Gilbert School District serves students from Ames' northern neighborhoods.

Higher education is available at Iowa State University, which is composed of eight colleges and two schools and offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs. The university's college of veterinary medicine is the oldest veterinary college operating in the country.

HEALTH CARE

Mary Greeley Medical Center is a 220-bed regional hospital and Level III trauma center.

CITY STATS

2013

City Population	61,792
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	92,406
Per Capita Personal Income, Ames, IA, MSA	\$41,349