



Rapid City, SD



Rapid City, South Dakota, is located on and named after the Rapid Creek on the eastern edge of the Black Hills where gold was discovered in 1874. The city was founded in 1876 by a group of miners, who promoted their new city as the “Gateway to the Black Hills.” Competition for resources between these new immigrants and the Lakota Native Americans created tension and battles.

Several museums are located in Rapid City. The Museum of Geology, located on the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology campus, has exhibits that focus on paleontology and mineralogy. The interactive exhibits of the Journey Museum present the geography, people, and events that shaped the region. The Dahl Arts Center houses the Cyclorama, a 200-foot mural of American History with special narration and lighting, and 3 formal galleries. The Apex Gallery features rotating educational art and science exhibits.

Chapel in the Hills is an exact replica of the Borgund Stave Church in Norway and contains a museum showing how Scandinavian immigrants may have lived.

Major concerts and touring Broadway shows appear at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. Theater and musical performances are held at The Dahl Arts Center. Black Hills Community Theatre produces a show series, a children’s series, and a dinner theater series. Black Hills Symphony Orchestra performs at the Rapid City High School Theater. The historic Elks Theatre hosts concerts. Other local entertainment venues include the Firehouse Dinner Theater, the Flying T Chuckwagon and Show, and Fort Hays Chuckwagon and Cowboy Music Variety Show.

NEIGHBORHOODS

The downtown area does not currently have a strong residential component. The West Boulevard Historic District contains homes built between the 1920s and 1970s in various styles, including Queen Anne and Foursquare.

Many established and new subdivisions are located near Rapid City Regional Hospital, including Enchanted Hills, Enchanted Pines, Elks Country Estates, Gemstone, PLM, and Elks Crossing. Ranch, split-level ranch, contemporary, Dutch Colonial, Craftsman, and Prairie are among the housing styles found in these neighborhoods.

The custom-built homes of the Skyline Ranch and Pevans Parkway subdivisions are situated along the scenic Skyline Drive that follows a finger of the Black Hills through the city. The Estates at Red Rock, another custom-built development, features a highly rated public golf course.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Rapid City has 32 municipal parks and sports complexes that include such amenities as baseball, soccer, and softball fields; an all-weather running track; a BMX track; disc golf courses; community centers; an inline skate park; tennis, basketball, sand volleyball, horseshoe, and racquetball courts; outdoor pools; an indoor pool; and off-leash dog parks. Main Street Square in the downtown is surrounded by life-size bronze statues of many U.S. presidents and features special events, concerts, seasonal ice skating, and interactive fountains.

Amenities at Memorial Park include tennis courts, Memorial Lake, Flood Memorial Fountain, a formal rose garden, Berlin Wall Memorial, Veterans Memorial, and the Band Shell. Roosevelt Park’s amenities include, Rapid City Swim Center, Roosevelt Park Ice Arena, multipurpose sport courts and fields, a playground, formal rose gardens,

and Xeriscape Demonstration Garden. Storybook Island is a children’s park with storybook characters and a train ride. Seven life-size concrete replicas of monstrous prehistoric reptiles inhabit Dinosaur Park.

Eight Black Hills area national parks, monuments, and historical sites are located near Rapid City: Mount Rushmore National Memorial, The Badlands National Park, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, Wind Cave, Jewel Cave National Monument, Devils Tower National Monument, Crazy Horse Memorial, and Custer State Park.

Other area attractions include Reptile Gardens, Bear Country USA, Black Hills Caverns, Cosmos Mystery Area, Sitting Bull Crystal Caverns, Watiki Indoor Waterpark,

Rapid City Rush is a professional ice hockey team in Rapid City. The city also has professional rodeo events during the year. The annual 10-day Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo® features 96 different events, including rodeos, sheep dog trials, and horse and cattle shows and sales.

EDUCATION

Rapid City Area Schools educates more than 13,800 students in 16 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 2 high schools, and an alternative high school program. The district’s Western Dakota Tech offers more than 25 degree and diploma programs in a variety of fields.

Higher education is also available at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, which offers undergraduate and graduate education with specialties in engineering, science, and computer technology. The National American University–Rapid City offers associate and bachelor’s degree programs with a focus on business and information technology. Oglala Lakota College HeSapa Campus is chartered by the Oglala Sioux Tribe to provide associate, bachelor’s, and graduate degree programs and to promote the Lakota perspective. University Center Rapid City is a partnership among South Dakota’s six public universities (Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota State University, and the University of South Dakota) that delivers higher education at the certificate, associate, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree levels.

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine at Rapid City Campus provides third- and fourth-year medical students an opportunity to complete clerkships on campus.

HEALTH CARE

Rapid City is served by a 329-bed regional hospital, a dedicated surgical hospital, a regional cancer center, an acute medical rehabilitation facility, and a behavioral health center. The Public Health Services Indian Hospital at Rapid City provides health care to Native Americans in Rapid City.

CITY STATS

2011

City Population	69,200
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	128,361
Per Capita Personal Income, Rapid City, SD, MSA	\$41,286