



Wausau, WI



Wausau is situated on both banks of the Wisconsin River in central Wisconsin. The Ojibwe Indians controlled the Wisconsin River Valley before they were removed by the U.S. government in 1836. Wausau means “a faraway place” or “a place which can be seen from far away” in the Ojibwe language. George Stevens settled in Wausau, or Big Bulls Falls as it was originally called, in 1837 and built the area’s first lumber mill. Wausau incorporated as a village in 1861. The completion of the Wisconsin Valley Railroad in 1874 led to Wausau’s economic expansion.

Wausau’s Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum has a permanent collection of paintings, sculptures, and works on paper that focuses on birds and hosts an annual Birds in Art exhibition in September and October. Museum gardens contain various sculptures. The Center for the Visual Arts provides exhibition space for local and regional artists in all artistic media and features thematic exhibits throughout the year.

Marathon County Historical Museums include the Yawkey House Museum, the 1900 Classical Revival/Prairie School-style home that belonged to lumberman Cyrus C. Yawkey and Alice Richardson Yawkey, and the Woodson History Center, the 1914 Prairie School-style home of A.P. Woodson and Leigh Yawkey Woodson.

The Ingwal S. Horgen Farm Museum houses a collection of farm equipment, hand tools, household utensils, and other related items.

Wausau offers various opportunities for performing arts. The Grand Theater hosts Broadway shows, national touring acts, and local productions and concerts. Nearby Schofield is home to the Wausau Community Theater that offers hit plays, musicals, and dinner theater performances. Children perform and produce full-scale musicals and plays throughout the year at the Central Wisconsin Children’s Theatre. Wausau Dance Theatre is a regional company that presents a variety of productions each year.

Wausau Symphony & Band perform in the First Presbyterian Church in Wausau and elsewhere in the area. The Wausau Concert Band also plays outdoor concerts in the summer in area parks, including Marathon Park. The Wausau Lyric Choir is a local ecumenical community choir dedicated to the performance of sacred choral music.

NEIGHBORHOODS

On the east bank of the Wisconsin River, historic downtown Wausau is the county seat of Marathon County, the regional shopping center, art, museum, and business center of Central Wisconsin.

The sixty-two buildings in the Andrew Warren Historic District were built between 1868 and 1934 on the east side. Architectural styles include Prairie School, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Neoclassical Revival. Some large homes have been converted to commercial use. The two homes that comprise the Marathon Country Historical Museum are located in this district.

East of the Warren District is the even larger 30-block East Hill District that includes more than 100 houses that were built between 1874 and 1930. Housing styles include Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Georgian Revival, and Tudor Revival. The Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum is located in this district.

Mid-20th-century ranches, bungalows, and Cape Cod style homes are available in the southeast section of Wausau and in the northeast Riverview neighborhood, which also features larger lots and new construction of contemporary style houses farther from the river.

In the far west side of the city near Aspirus Wausau Hospital, most homes were built after 1950 in ranch and two-story styles on large lots. This area also has new residential developments currently under construction.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Wausau has 35 city parks. Specialized athletic and recreation facilities include swimming pools, a snow tubing hill with a 1000 foot run, outdoor ice skating

rinks, ball diamonds, a skateboard and BMX bike facility, pickleball courts, horseshoe pits, ball diamonds, tennis courts, volleyball pits, disc golf course, and boat launches.

The 400 Block Park in the downtown area is considered the heart of the city and has an outdoor stage with overhead canopy and sound, lighting, and electrical systems. The park is the site of many summertime performances and in the winter becomes an ice skating rink.

The largest city park is Sylvan Hill Park with 70.6 acres. This park features a tubing hill with 6 runs, bike trails, cross-country ski trails, and play equipment. At 23.4 acres, Memorial Park, which is located on Lake Wausau, is home to a disc golf course, an outdoor pool, tennis courts, play equipment, a boat landing, little league diamond, and pickleball court. The 25.5-acre Brockmeyer Park has 3 soccer fields, a little league diamond, and play equipment. Oak Island and Fern Island Parks comprise 27.2 acres on the Wisconsin River. Park amenities include the Rose Bowl baseball diamond, lighted tennis courts, boat landing with dock, paved path, playground equipment, a little league diamond, open play areas, and hiking trails.

Located near Wausau, Rib Mountain State Park features the Granite Peak Ski Area, hiking trails, an amphitheater, and an observation tower.

Wausau is home to the Wisconsin Woodchuck’s baseball team.

EDUCATION

Wausau School District educates approximately 8,400 students in 13 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 2 high schools. Wausau Area Virtual Education (WAVE) is a collaboration between the Wausau School District and Wisconsin Virtual School and offers full-time enrollment to students in grades 6 through 12.

Higher education is available at the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County, a two-year campus of the University of Wisconsin System that offers associate’s degrees and general education credits for transfer into a four-year UW institution. Bachelor’s degrees are offered on campus through UW-Stevens Point and collaborative nursing degrees are offered through UW-Oshkosh.

The Northcentral Technical College-Central Campus is another public institution that offers two-year associate degrees that combine technical skills with general education, one- and two-year technical diplomas, and transfer opportunities to four-year colleges and universities.

Broadview University and Rasmussen College are career-focused institutions that offer bachelor’s and associate degrees in selected fields.

HEALTH CARE

The following health care facilities are located in Wausau:
 Aspirus Wausau Hospital: 325 licensed acute care beds
 North Central Health Care: 16 licensed psychiatric beds

CITY STATS

2016

City Population	33,282
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	135,603
Per Capita Personal Income, Wausau, WI, MSA	\$45,076