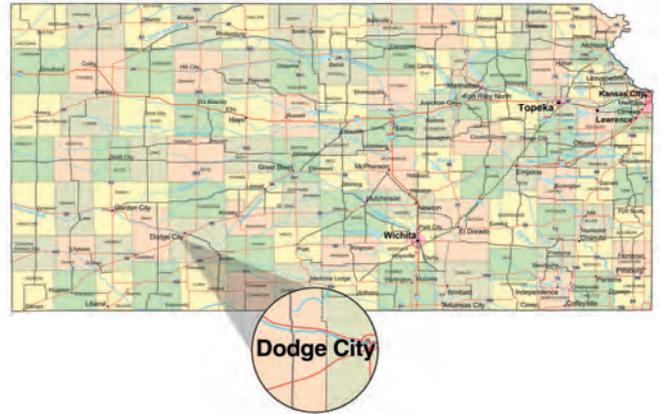




Dodge City, KS



Dodge City, Kansas, was founded in 1872 near Fort Dodge, which had been established in 1865 to protect wagon trains, railroad workers, and the mail service on the Santa Fe Trail and to serve as a supply base for troops engaged in the Indian wars. Dodge City became a stop on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad and a trade center for travelers, buffalo hunters, and cowboys driving Longhorn cattle from Texas up the western branch of the Chisholm Trail. At that time, Dodge City acquired a reputation for lawlessness and gunslinging.

Many attractions in Dodge City focus on the city's history. Although Fort Dodge is currently used as a retirement community and nursing facility for retired Kansas veterans, a historic library and self-guided walking tour tell the fort's history. Dodge City Boot Hill Museum features exhibits that illustrate the life and times of early Dodge City, its characters, and thriving economy. The Gunfighters Wax Museum has life-size wax figurines of famous western personalities like Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Doc Holliday, and Davey Crockett. The Kansas Heritage Center emphasizes the history of Kansas, the Great Plains, and the Old West. The Dodge City Trail of Fame has sidewalk markers and statues that commemorate the many famous inhabitants of historic Dodge City. The Santa Fe Depot, the largest remaining train depot in the state, has been renovated and restored and is used as a theater and for other recreational, cultural, and social activities. Historic twin sundials that have been renovated to show both Central and Mountain times are located outside the Depot.

The Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame, which is dedicated to early and present day teachers, is another attraction in Dodge City. The Mueller-Schmidt House Museum displays the parlor, basement kitchen, bedrooms, and the exterior of the Mueller-Schmidt House as it was designed in 1881. The Carnegie Arts Center is housed in an old Andrew Carnegie Library location and provides gallery space for local artists.

The Depot Theater Company offers state-of-the-art dinner theater, cutting-edge "Side Track" productions, cabarets, and other performances.

United Wireless Arena hosts concerts, sporting events, family shows, motorsports, trade shows, rodeos, equestrian events and community events. The Dodge City Civic Center hosts concerts, basketball games, and family entertainment.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Dodge City is rapidly growing and currently has a shortage of houses and rental units. Although the downtown area is not currently residential, the city has recently introduced a program to create homes in this area.

Some of the neighborhoods north of the Dodge City Country Club were built in the 1950s and 1960s and feature large ranch-style brick houses on large lots with mature trees and landscaping. Newer neighborhoods are located east of the country club and feature houses in various styles, including ranch and two-story styles.

Many new neighborhoods have been planned and are under construction in the city. Summerlon is a neighborhood that has been developing over the past ten years and offers single-family homes, duplexes, and condominiums. Housing styles vary and some custom homes are available as are lots. The neighborhood features extensive landscaping, including shade trees, waterfalls, and a lake. Many newer neighborhoods surround the hospital and include rental units and single-family houses. Although various architectural styles are available, the ranch-style dominates the area. Rental units and single-family houses are also under construction in this area.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Dodge City has 24 parks including an outdoor swimming pool. Park amenities include playgrounds; basketball, tennis, and sand volleyball courts; soccer, baseball, and softball fields; and a skate park. The city also has an 18-hole public golf course. The Sheridan Activity Center has a gym, wellness center, indoor pool, and aerobics studio.

Wright Park is home to the Wright Park Zoo, which has more than 45 mammals and birds on display. The park's Liberty Garden honors those people who were touched by the attacks on September 11, 2001. The garden houses a piece of steel from the World Trade Center, a piece of limestone from the Pentagon, and a piece of Pennsylvania sandstone from the hemlock grove next to the crash site of United Flight 93.

Baseball and softball tournaments are held at Legends Park, which consists of four baseball/softball diamonds, elevated shaded seating, and changing rooms.

Longhorn Park includes corrals for a small herd of longhorn cattle and commemorative signs that relay the history of the cattle drives.

Dodge City Raceway Park is a 3/8-mile dirt track that is used for car racing.

Dodge City Days is an annual ten-day summer festival with more than 50 events. Dodge City Roundup PRCA Rodeo, also known as "The Greatest Show on Dirt," is one of the highlights of the festival.

EDUCATION

Dodge City Public Schools educate 6,500 total students in nine elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. The city also offers alternative high-school education opportunities.

Dodge City Community College grants associate degrees in arts, science, general studies, and applied science and offers transfer courses in traditional academic areas and occupational and technical programs.

HEALTH CARE

Western Plains Medical Complex is a 99-bed hospital that serves as a regional referral center.

CITY STATS

2010

City Population	27,340
County Population	34,078
Per Capita Personal Income, Ford County	\$31,347