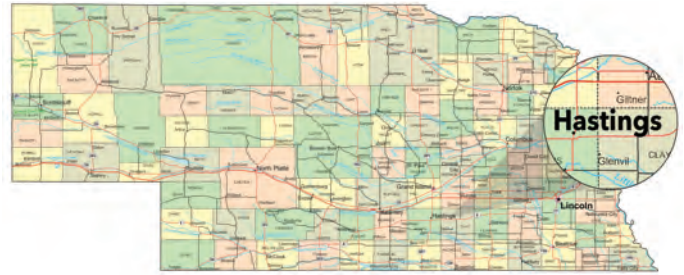




Hastings, NE



The original settlers to the Hastings, Nebraska, area came in 1871 as a result of activities of American immigration agencies that operated in Great Britain and promoted the inducements available for people willing to settle in unoccupied areas of the country. The town was incorporated in 1874 and was named for Colonel Thomas D. Hastings, a contractor for the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad.

The Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History, with its Lied Super Screen Theatre and large domed planetarium, chronicles the history of the early inhabitants of the Nebraska plains, from paleo-Indians to euro-Americans, and houses dozens of animal species set in their natural habitats. The museum also contains an exhibit about the invention of Kool-Aid, the famous soft drink invented in Hastings. The Historical Society Archives are located in the museum.

The Children's Museum of Central Nebraska provides interactive hands-on educational environments and exhibits.

Several options for performing arts are available. Hastings Symphony Orchestra performs in the Masonic Center Auditorium. The Listening Room at the Lark features shows of nationally known singer-songwriters. Hastings Community Theatre offers an annual season of comedies, musicals, and dramas. Hastings College also produces an annual series of theatrical productions.

The annual Flatwater Music Festival offers live performances and activities at Prairie Loft Center for Outdoor and Agricultural Learning in June. Fairfest boasts concerts by top-notch musicians, demolition derbies, carnival rides, and free entertainment in July.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Hastings is primarily a commercial district; however, some second-floor loft apartments are available.

North of Mary Lanning Healthcare in the area of North Lincoln and North Kansas Avenues is a neighborhood consisting of traditionally-styled homes that were built between approximately 1915 and 1945. Most homes vary in size and are two-story, although some ranch-styles can be found. Lots contain mature trees, but vary in size.

The Skye Loch neighborhood is situated on the west side of Lochland Country Club's golf course and contains large ranch and two-story contemporary homes on large lots. Building began in the 1970s and new construction is still available. The neighborhood on the north side of the country club also features large homes built beginning in the 1990s and has available lots for new construction.

Westbrook is a newer neighborhood with primarily ranch-style homes dating from the late 1990s. This neighborhood is quite rural and is surrounded by agricultural fields. The Eastridge Meadows neighborhood consists of newer ranch-style houses built in the 2010s that are situated close to Hastings College and Heartwell Park.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Hastings has 15 parks with amenities that include baseball and softball fields, playgrounds, basketball courts, an outdoor waterpark, disc golf course, a lake for fishing and boating, a sand volleyball court, and trails.

Prairie Ridge Park is home to the Bill Smith Softball Complex, which is used for city league games, and many state and national tournaments each year. The park is home to the Nebraska Softball Hall of Fame.

Chautauqua Park features the historic Chautauqua Pavilion and is located adjacent to the Hastings Aquacourt. The park's playground equipment includes a handicapped accessible playground structure. Hastings Aquacourt Waterpark boasts a wave pool, diving boards, family water slide, flute slide, tube slide, drop slide, a lazy river, and more.

Highland Park features an arboretum, annual and perennial flower gardens, trial beds of native grasses, and a rainwater garden. Highland Park is also home to Hastings' oldest cemetery and several bronze sculptures.

Lake Hastings offers many recreational activities, including fishing and boating on the lake, a disc golf course, playground equipment, a sand volleyball court, and trails for hiking and biking.

Brickyard Park contains a large amphitheater with bleacher and hillside seating, as well as many acres of landscaping and a playground and basketball court.

The Oregon Trail Rodeo is an annual event held in Hastings in August and features a professional rodeo, 10K/5K Run/Walk, and other entertainment.

EDUCATION

Hastings Public Schools educates approximately 3,400 students in 6 elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school.

Hastings College is a private, four-year liberal arts institution and offers 64 majors in 32 areas of study and 12 pre-professional programs. Central Community College is a multi-campus community college serving a 25-county area in central Nebraska. The Hastings Campus offers associate's degrees, diplomas, and certificates in 28 career and technical education programs, as well as academic transfer courses in 17 areas for students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges to complete a bachelor's degree.

Mary Lanning Healthcare hosts a School of Radiologic Technology. The hospital partners with Creighton University College of Nursing in Omaha to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and with Nebraska Methodist College to offer an Associate of Science Degree in Respiratory Care.

HEALTH CARE

Mary Lanning Healthcare is a 180-bed, full-service acute care medical facility that provides cancer, cardiac, and obstetric care; diagnostic imaging; inpatient and outpatient surgery; and psychiatric services.

CITY STATS

2013

City Population	25,093
Micropolitan Statistical Area	31,610
Per Capita Personal Income Micropolitan Statistical Area, Hastings, NE	\$42,960