Lima, Ohio, is located on both sides of the Ottawa River in an area that once was the Hog Creek Reservation for the Shawnee Native Americans. Named for Lima, Peru, the city was officially established in 1842. Lima’s early growth was due to the discovery of oil in 1885.

The Allen County Museum’s varied collections include exhibits that focus on the city’s historic oil and locomotive industries; the Children’s Discovery Center; Native American items; historic vehicles, including an 1830s Conestoga wagon and a Sherman Tank; antique musical instruments and firearms; fossils and minerals; and pioneer room settings, such as a 1900s country store, doctor’s office, and barber shop. The Elizabeth M. MacDonell Memorial Library specializes in information for researchers and genealogists. The Allen County Museum’s campus also includes the 1893 Victorian MacDonell House and the John H. Keller Railroad Archives, which contains a large repository of railroad history.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Lima is not currently residential. However, the city anticipates the development of residential options with the construction of the James A. Rhodes State College’s new downtown campus.

The West Market Boulevard Historic District consists of large primarily brick homes built during the 1920s in a mix of Tudor and Colonial styles. The houses are set back from the street, which contains landscaped islands in its middle. A smaller neighborhood, which boarders Faurot Park, was originally platted as large estates; however, many of the properties were subdivided during the 1940s and smaller houses are interspersed. Housing styles include an assortment of late Victorian mansions, Colonial revivals, Arts and Crafts styles, 1920s merchant class mansions, ranch-style homes, and small bungalows.

Two-story and ranch-style homes were built between the 1920s and 1960s in the neighborhood between West Market and West Elm Streets that features narrow winding roads in contrast to the grid-patterned streets found in most of the city. Most newer homes have been built in suburban neighborhoods, such as Shawnee Hills, Indian Hills, Lost Creek, and Country Club Hills, where construction began in the 1960s.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Lima has 12 city parks with amenities that include soccer fields; basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts; paved walking trails; ball diamonds; playgrounds; ponds for recreational fishing; a skate park; and a pool. The Ottawa River Bikeway connects numerous park areas and offers paved paths for walking, biking, skating, and jogging.

Faurot Park is 89 acres of green space that includes 7 ball diamonds, 4 lakes, a concert pavilion, 2 playground areas, 3 sand volleyball courts, a cross-country running course, a skate park, and a children’s fountain/splash pad. Faurot Park is home to the annual July 4th Star-Spangled Spectacular.

Schoonover Park is a 69-acre park that features a 25-acre lake, a public pool, basketball courts, playground equipment, and the Schoonover Observatory. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center Park consists of 40 acres and offers open spaces for football and soccer, 3 basketball courts, ball diamonds, and a lake for recreational fishing.

The 26-acre Robb Park provides 5 ball diamonds, 4 soccer fields, 2 tennis courts, an area for midget league football, and a playground.

The Collett Street Recreation Area offers more than 20 acres of green space, 8 lighted tennis courts, 3 soccer fields, and 2 fenced-in ball diamonds. The Collett Street Recreation Area also shares land with Safety City. Once part of the Shawnee Indian Reservation, the 16-acre Hover Park is located across the street from the Collett Street Recreation Area and has a playground, basketball court, and a 4-acre pond for recreational fishing.

Lincoln Park is adjacent to the Indiana & Ohio Railroad and houses a small railroad exhibit, including the last steam locomotive built in Lima, and a replica of a train depot. Lincoln Park also offers green space, 3 playground areas, horseshoe courts, and basketball courts.

EDUCATION

Lima City Schools educates approximately 4,000 students in 4 elementary schools, a 5th- and 6th-grade building, a 7th- and 8th-grade building, 2 kindergarten through 8th-grade magnet schools, and a comprehensive high school that offers academic and career-technical education programs.

Higher education is available at The Ohio State University Lima, which is a public university that offers 9 bachelor degree programs and 3 completion programs. James A. Rhodes State College is a public institution that offers more than 90 associate degrees, majors, and certificates programs. The University of Northwestern Ohio is a private, not-for-profit institution that grants master’s, bachelor’s, and associate degrees with a focus on automotive technology, business, health professions, and occupational professions.

HEALTH CARE

Lima Memorial Hospital has 329 licensed beds and is a Level II Trauma Center. St. Rita’s Medical Center has 424 licensed beds and is a Level II Trauma Center. Kindred Hospital Lima is a 26-bed transitional care hospital providing long-term acute care.

CITY STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
<td>38,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
<td>105,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita Personal Income, Metropolitan Statistical Area Lima, OH</td>
<td>$34,428</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photograph courtesy of The Ayers Company and Lima/Allen County Convention & Visitors Bureau.