Nampa, Idaho, is located in the southwestern portion of the state near Lake Lowell. As the Oregon Short Line Railway expanded from Wyoming to Oregon, Alexander and Hannah Duffes settled in an area adjacent to the tracks in Idaho in 1885 for the purpose of creating a town. They formed the Nampa Land and Improvement Company with James McGee and divided the property into lots. Nampa was incorporated in April 1891. The origin of the name Nampa is unknown; however, some believe that it is related to the Shoshoni Indian word “namb,” which translates as “footprint” or “moccasin.”

The Warhawk Air Museum is located at the Nampa Municipal Airport. The museum’s collection includes items that represent the home front as well as the battlefields during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. In addition, the museum has a large collection of historic airplanes and other equipment.

The Canyon County Historical Society supports two museums. The Nampa Train Depot Museum is home to the original Canyon County Historical Museum, which contains extensive archives of Canyon County photos, newspaper clippings, and books for research purposes. Our Memories Indian Creek Museum in nearby Caldwell displays thousands of artifacts depicting various scenes from the past in over 30 rooms.

The Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History is located on the campus of The College of Idaho in Caldwell.

Nampa has several state of the art exhibit and performance facilities. The Ford Idaho Center contains an amphitheater, arena, horse park, and sports center and is the venue for concerts by top touring performers. In addition, its horse park hosts thousands of horses in events and the sports center hosts top-ranked collegiate meets and athletic championships. The Nampa Civic Center offers arts events and concerts.

The Brandt Center at Northwest Nazarene University is a performing arts center that attracts musical and dramatic performances attended by both students and the community. The Brandt Center’s Friesen Art Galleries provide gallery space for Northwest Nazarene University’s art students to exhibit their work.

**NEIGHBORHOODS**

Downtown Nampa is mostly commercial and surrounded by residential neighborhoods. The Old Nampa District Neighborhood consists of approximately 700 single-family homes and 100 multifamily housing units and is situated just south of the downtown area. Many of the homes were Sears Roebuck Kit Homes from the 1900s, which were ready-to-assemble houses ordered by mail, shipped by rail, and included precut lumber and all the necessary materials to build a well-designed house. Nampa’s newer communities date from the 2000s. Hunter’s Point at Red Hawk Golf Course consists of single-family houses in a planned residential community with views of Lake Lowell, the Owyhee Mountains, and the Treasure Valley. Housing styles vary by neighborhood. For example, Herron Springs offers craftsman-style homes on generous lots. Custom homes are now available in Miller Crossing, which is located along fairways 12 and 13. Royal Ridge sits above the 15th fairway on a private cul-de-sac with lots up to half an acre in size.

Two-story contemporary and traditional style homes are available in the Carriage Hill North community, which is also located near Red Hawk Golf and Lake Lowell. This neighborhood provides unobstructed views of the Boise foothills.

Stiehl Falls is a small community that features new custom-built, single-family ranch and 2-story home designs on lots around two-thirds of an acre in size.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Nampa has 25 parks and 2 golf courses (Centennial Golf Course and Ridgecrest Golf Club). The Nampa Recreation Center features a 6-pool aquatics center, 3 gymsnasiums, 6 racquetball courts, a walking/running track, a weight room and exercise equipment, a climbing wall, aerobic and gymnastic centers, dance and ballet rooms, art and craft facilities, snack area, and a play center.

The 44-acre Lakeview Park is Nampa’s oldest park and features a rose garden and amphitheater for outdoor concerts and plays. Lakeview Park is home to the Les Goodman Baseball field and Lakeview Water Park. Other park amenities include horseshoe pits and a sand volleyball court. Creech’s Court, an outdoor basketball court, is located nearby.

Stampede Park covers nearly 11 acres of land and has 4 baseball fields that are transformed into a soccer complex in the fall. The park is home to Nampa’s first skate park and also has playground equipment.

West Park’s 44 acres offer 4 softball fields, a sand volleyball court, a 9-hole disc golf course, playground equipment, an outdoor basketball court, and a jogging and fitness path.

Other parks include Optimist Park, which offers football fields, soccer fields, baseball fields, and playground equipment. In addition to the 4-field softball complex, Skyview Park has 3 soccer fields, a sand volleyball court, and playground equipment. The 15-acre Lions Park provides a playground, swimming pool; Daniel’s softball field; 3 baseball fields; and tennis, basketball, and sand volleyball courts. The Nampa Dog Park has separate off-leash play areas for small and large dogs.

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge surrounds Lake Lowell and is a protected habitat for bird conservation. It serves as a resting and wintering area for birds along the Pacific Flyway and was named a “Globally Important Bird Area” by the American Bird Conservancy. The Refuge offers hiking and riding trails and seasonal hunting and fishing.

Nampa is home to the Snake River Stampede Rode, which is one of the top 10 regular season professional rodeos in the nation.

**EDUCATION**

Nampa School District #131 educates approximately 15,000 students in 14 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 3 traditional high schools, and 1 alternative high school.

Northwest Nazarene University is a comprehensive, Christian liberal arts university and offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

College of Western Idaho is a comprehensive community college and offers associate degrees, continuing education, and certificates in a full range of academic and professional/technical programs. Nampa campus of Stevens-Hovenier College offers associate and bachelor degrees in business-related fields.

College of Idaho is a private liberal arts college located in nearby Caldwell.

**HEALTH CARE**

The following hospitals serve the Nampa community: Saint Alphonsus Medical Center: 152 licensed beds. A replacement hospital is under construction, with a projected spring 2017 completion date. St. Luke’s Nampa Hospital is currently under construction with a spring 2017 completion anticipated. West Valley Medical Center is located in Caldwell: 150 licensed beds.

**City Stats**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>City Population</th>
<th>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</th>
<th>Per capita personal income, Boise-Nampa, ID, MSA</th>
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<td>2014</td>
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Photograph courtesy of the City of Nampa.