



Amarillo, TX



Amarillo, Texas, is located in the northern portion of the state known as the Texas Panhandle. The city was established near railroad lines and a huge cattle stockyard, which led to it becoming a major cattle-shipping center. Historic Route 66, now replaced by I-40, runs through the city. Amarillo means “yellow” in Spanish.

Museums in Amarillo include the Amarillo Museum of Art on the campus of Amarillo College, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum on the campus of West Texas A&M University, and the Texas Pharmacy Museum on the campus of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. The Don Harrington Discovery Center and Space Theater is a science and technology center. Exhibits at the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum showcase the American Quarter Horse and the Western lifestyle. “Hoof Prints of the American Quarter Horse—America’s Horse” is a city-wide public art display featuring more than 100 fiberglass replicas of an American Quarter Horse painted in realistic and creative ways.

Created in 1974, Cadillac Ranch consists of 10 graffiti-decorated Cadillac cars that are buried halfway, nose-down, in a line 10 miles southwest of Amarillo on I-40.

Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian features extensive exhibits and a dance performance theater. The Amarillo Civic Center hosts sports, Broadway shows, and other performances. The newest part of the Center, the Globe News Center for the Performing Arts, is home to the Amarillo Symphony, Amarillo Opera, and Lone Star Ballet. Amarillo Little Theatre is a professionally staffed community theater. Amarillo National Center is the largest facility in Amarillo for equine and livestock events.

Neighborhoods

Downtown Amarillo has more than 800 single-family residences in addition to condominiums, lofts, and apartments. Located in downtown Amarillo, Plemons Eakle Historic District has many historic homes dating back to the early 1900s, including the Harrington House, Lee Bivins House, J.D. Shuford House, Doherty-Masterson House, Shelton-Houghton House, Galbraith House, Eakle House, and Early House. The U.S. Route 66-Sixth Street Historic District comprises 13 blocks of commercial development in the San Jacinto Heights Addition west of Amarillo’s central business district.

The Bivins Addition, another historic area, dates from the 1920s and was built on the site of the city’s first airport with runways becoming the main street. Housing styles include traditional, ranch, English Tudor, and cottage. The neighborhood also has a townhouse development. Wolfiin Historic District has brick streets, large elm trees, and spacious homes that date from the 1920s and 1930s in such diverse architectural styles as Mission, Craftsman, Bungalow, Classical Revival, and Spanish Revival. Other styles, such as Tudor Revival, Italian and Mediterranean Revival, Federal, and Colonial, are also present in the Oldham Circle section, which was laid out in a radial plan featuring a small central park area with wide side avenues emanating from the park. Another section built in the 1950s and 1960s consists of homes in mid-century or ranch styles.

Single-family homes dominate newer neighborhoods, such as La Paloma, which features a golf course; Greenways, which is a master-planned community with 80 acres of trails and parks; and the Colonies, which is a master-planned traditional neighborhood that incorporates elements of other Amarillo neighborhoods, such as Bivins and Wolfrin, into its design. Lots for new construction are also available in these neighborhoods. Townhouses are available in Greenways as well as in other Amarillo neighborhoods.

Parks and Recreation

Amarillo has 55 regional, community, neighborhood, and school parks. The city also has 3 dog parks, 3 outdoor pools, 2 golf course complexes, and the Amarillo National Tennis Center, which has outdoor and indoor courts.

Encompassing 610 acres, Thompson Park is home to the Amarillo Zoo, Ross Rogers Golf Complex, an outdoor swimming pool, shaded picnic areas, playgrounds, lakes, tennis courts, a disc golf course, a dog park, walking and biking trails, and a section for flying model airplanes. Wonderland Amusement Park is also located in the park.

Amarillo Botanical Gardens features seasonal themed plantings. Its Mary E. Bivins Tropical Conservatory showcases exotic plants.

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center covers 640 acres of wide-open Texas Panhandle with opportunities for hiking. Rock Island Rail Trail follows an old rail corridor through an older mixed residential and commercial part of the city and offers trails for hiking, biking, and inline skating.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park offers more than 30 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, along with opportunities for camping, geocaching, nature studying, and birdwatching. During the summer, the park’s Pioneer Amphitheater hosts performances of the outdoor musical drama, *TEXAS*.

Other recreational opportunities include the Amarillo Shooting Complex, which is operated by the police department; Splash Amarillo, which is a water park; and the Amarillo Dragway and Route 66 Motor Speedway.

WRCA World Championship Ranch Rodeo is held in Amarillo in November.

Professional sports teams in Amarillo include the Amarillo Bulls (hockey) and Amarillo Venom (arena football).

Education

Amarillo is served by 5 school districts. Amarillo Independent School District, serving the core of the city, educates over 33,000 students in 37 elementary schools, 12 middle schools, and 6 high schools. Canyon Independent School District, Bushland Independent School District, Highland Park Independent School District, and River Road Independent School District primarily educate students in other towns but also in Amarillo neighborhoods located near the city’s boundaries.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has an Amarillo campus for its Schools of Medicine, Health Professions, and Pharmacy and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Other opportunities for higher education include West Texas A&M University, which offers select upper-level and graduate classes in downtown Amarillo at the new WTAMU Amarillo Center, and Wayland Baptist University–Amarillo Campus, which offers associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degree programs for nontraditional students.

Amarillo College is a community college that provides technical and vocational programs, as well as courses in arts and sciences.

Health Care

- The following health care facilities serve Amarillo:
- BSA Hospital: 445 licensed beds
- Northwest Texas Hospital: 385 licensed beds
- Northwest Texas Surgery Center: 4 licensed beds
- Physicians Surgical Hospital–Panhandle Campus: 21 licensed beds
- Physicians Surgical Hospital–Quail Creek Campus: 20 licensed beds
- Plum Creek Specialty Hospital: 47 licensed beds
- The Pavilion: 106 licensed beds
- Vibra Hospital of Amarillo: 72 licensed beds
- Vibra Rehabilitation Hospital of Amarillo: 44 licensed beds

The Thomas E. Creek VA Medical Center is also located in Amarillo.

City Stats

| | 2016 |
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| City Population | 198,576 |
| Metropolitan Statistical Area Population | 263,342 |
| Per Capita Personal Income, Amarillo, TX, MSA | \$43,664 |