

Oklahoma City

OFFICIAL WELCOME GUIDE



GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY
A BETTER LIVING. A BETTER LIFE.



Welcome

HOME



No matter what brings you here, there are plenty of reasons to be excited about your new hometown. With its momentum and growth, Oklahoma City is a place where you can create the kind of life you want. And Oklahoma City's job opportunities, low cost of living and high quality of life give you the resources to make that life possible.

Inside this guide, you will find a glimpse of what it is like to live here. From housing and culture to education and employment, Oklahoma City has an energy all its own, and there is room for you at the table. These are indeed exciting and intriguing times to be living and working in the Oklahoma City region as more and more accolades continue to roll in that tout the metro's many positive qualities and accomplishments.

We can't wait for you to experience all that Oklahoma City has to offer, and we look forward to you being an active partner in this transformation for many years to come. We are so glad you are here!

GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY CHAMBER

123 Park Ave., Oklahoma City, OK, 73102
www.okcchamber.com • 405.297.8900

This guide is brought to you by the
Greater Oklahoma Chamber, the visionary
organization of the region since 1889.

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More Resources

FOR NEW RESIDENTS

This guide is your best starting point for moving to Oklahoma City, but this community has so much going on that it is impossible to fit it all into one book. That's where ABetterLifeOKC.com comes into the picture. A project of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, this comprehensive relocation website provides updated information on housing, education, industries, utilities and more.

Looking for something to do on the weekends? A Better Life can help you out there, too. The Better Life blog and weekly newsletter give you inside information about starting your life in Oklahoma City; including attractions, events, volunteer opportunities, history and more. Visit ABetterLifeOKC.com/blog to sign up for weekly email alerts about the latest and greatest ways to get connected to your new community.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

View these other Chamber websites for more information on the community.

VELOCITYOKC.COM

With news about Oklahoma City's growth, this website provides an overview of Oklahoma City's economy, culture, attractions, events and more.

VISITOKC.COM

Visit Oklahoma City is the best place to learn where to dine, shop and have fun in Oklahoma City for residents and visitors alike.

GREATEROKLAHOMACITY.COM

Geared toward business leaders and entrepreneurs, GreaterOklahomaCity.com is an important economic development resource for businesses looking to grow or locate in our region. The site features useful tools, including a web-based property locator and access to the latest market data.

OKCCHAMBER.COM

Learn more about Oklahoma City's vibrant business community and the vision that is moving Oklahoma City forward. Keep up to date with Chamber events as well.

ON THE GO

Read the digital edition of this guide on your tablet or smartphone and be a click away from Oklahoma City resources. The digital edition is even easier to share with friends, family and colleagues. Access the guide online at ABetterLifeOKC.com/welcome.



One of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S. with a population of about 1.4 million people, you can see the excitement and progress everywhere you look in Oklahoma City, from the urban fabric of our growing downtown to the unique flavor of our historic neighborhoods and districts.

When you combine our momentum with the faces of our famously friendly residents, the entrepreneurial spirit of our leaders and a diverse and strong economy, you have a community that is beloved by its residents and the envy of other cities across the country. Oklahoma City's increasingly diverse economy provides us with a strong foundation so we can continue to look forward and play a larger role in this global economy.

Our community has used public improvements and large-scale projects to propel our renaissance and make Oklahoma City a big-league city, not to mention a great place to live, work and play. This enterprise and energy are evident everywhere. From urban hustle to suburban living, Oklahoma City not only makes it all possible, but it makes it easy. This is a place where innovation and invention are embedded in our DNA.

Whether you show up in cowboy boots, a business suit or Birkenstocks, there's more common ground in Oklahoma City than you might think. Oklahoma City embodies the "Modern Frontier" by embracing its roots and paving the way to become a center of innovation and entrepreneurship where anything is possible.

ABOUT THE REGION

Oklahoma is a land of diversity, beauty and hospitality, which is easily seen in the state's landscape. Mile for mile, it has the nation's most diverse terrain. With 11 distinct ecoregions, four mountain ranges and more man-made lakes than any other state, the opportunity to enjoy Oklahoma is as unlimited as your imagination. The Greater Oklahoma City region is located in the center of the state, making it easy to explore all that Oklahoma has to offer. When combined with its unique history and the spirit of its people, Oklahoma is a place where anything is possible. To learn more, visit the state's tourism website at TravelOK.com.

THE MAPS IMPACT

You may wonder about Oklahoma City's genesis of becoming a modern Cinderella story, and the answer is simple: Oklahoma City is not afraid to bet on itself. After a decade of economic depression in the 1980s, Oklahoma City leaders knew that if they didn't invest in themselves, no one else would. A bold plan to reshape Oklahoma City's future began to take form and the Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS) program was born. On Dec. 14, 1993, residents of Oklahoma City went to the polls and voted to advance Oklahoma City's future by approving a temporary penny sales tax. As a result, nine projects were funded and drew attention from around the country. That community-backed investment was spent on renovations to the city's convention center, performing arts center and fairgrounds; construction of a 15,000-seat ballpark, a mile-long canal, a 20,000-seat arena and a downtown library. MAPS also funded the complete renovation of an often-dry riverbed



THE 17-ACRE MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS IS A CALM AND PEACEFUL URBAN RETREAT IN THE HEART OF OKLAHOMA CITY.

THE PARK OFFERS A GRAND PERFORMANCE LAWN, A CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY GARDEN, A DOG PARK AND MANY COMMUNITY AND SEASONAL ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

into the Oklahoma River. The return on investment is tangible: To date, more than \$7 billion in economic impact can be directly attributed to the original MAPS program. However, it's the things you can't quantify that have contributed the most to Oklahoma City's story.

Because of the original MAPS programs, Oklahoma City is now home to the Oklahoma City Thunder, an NBA team that plays in Paycom Center, a MAPS-funded arena. There is an Olympic and Paralympic training site at the Oklahoma River. MAPS also had a significant impact on downtown Oklahoma City, which has grown to more than 80,000 employees and over 11,000 residents. The first iteration of the MAPS program was so successful that Oklahoma City residents have approved three additional versions. The MAPS for Kids program invested \$700 million into construction, transportation and technology projects benefiting Oklahoma City's public school students. Residents continued investing in their city with MAPS 3, a \$777 million capital investment program that is scheduled to be completed in late 2023.

Many MAPS 3 projects have changed the landscape of downtown Oklahoma City, including the new Oklahoma City Convention Center, Scissortail Park, the OKC Streetcar and an Olympic-caliber whitewater facility called RIVERSPORT Rapids. In 2019, the MAPS 4 initiative was approved, which will bring nearly \$1 billion in investment to the city, including major investments in the city's social service organizations. The 16 MAPS 4 projects will span from the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds, where a new arena will be built, to the northeast corner, where the new Clara Luper Civil Rights Center is being constructed. The package has projects that will ultimately improve life for all residents, including four-legged ones. Learn more at okc.gov/maps4.





MOVING TO OKC

Being equidistant from both coasts at the junction of three of the nation's major interstate arteries, Oklahoma City's location ensures easy travel and transportation to anywhere in the United States, whether by plane, train or automobile. Oklahoma City is the Modern Frontier in the Southwest, with a variety of cultural influences combining to make it an exceptional place. Read more at ABetterLifeOKC.com/GetAround.

TRAVELING BY CAR

Two of the nation's most important highways – Interstate 40, which runs from Los Angeles to Raleigh, N.C., and Interstate 35, which runs all the way from Mexico to Canada – meet in downtown Oklahoma City. The intersection of these major highways, along with the nearly 13,000 miles of streets in the city, secures Oklahoma City's status as the crossroads of America. It also makes Oklahoma City incredibly easy to navigate. One of the many perks of living in Oklahoma City is that residents don't spend their free time trapped in traffic going to and from work. In fact, the average person spends about 22 minutes commuting one way to work, compared to the national average of 27 minutes. A generous network of interstates and free-flowing arteries make it easy to commute from one corner of the metro to another. And Oklahoma City's streets are made up of a grid system, making navigation a breeze. State and local transportation officials are continuously

working to improve the transportation system and ensure that Oklahoma City's commute stays congestion-free as the region continues to attract new residents.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's current eight-year construction work plan includes a significant number of key metro-area projects, and the City of Oklahoma City began its largest investment in streets in its history in 2018. In September 2017, Oklahoma City residents approved \$1.2 billion in general obligation bonds and sales tax funds to make sure Oklahoma City's transportation infrastructure is growing alongside its population. In addition to the \$847 million that will be invested in repairing Oklahoma City's streets, bridges and improving drainage, the bond and sales tax packages also include funds for adding more bike lanes, building new sidewalks and investing more money in public transit.

TRAVELING BY AIR

The key aviation hub of Greater Oklahoma City and its connection to cities across the nation and world is Will Rogers World Airport. Seven air carriers are helping to get passengers to their destinations as needed, including Alaska, Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier, Southwest and United. WRWA has been a busy hub in recent times, serving more than two million passengers annually. The airport recently completed an \$89 million renovation

and expansion, which includes seven new gates, new streamlined security, a public observation gallery, increased shopping and dining, and space for future international screening/air service.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The primary provider of public transit in Oklahoma City is EMBARK, which is operated by the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA). EMBARK provides fixed-route and paratransit services in Oklahoma City, including ferry river transit and downtown bike share service. Buses operate every 30 to 60 minutes in a hub-and-spoke system from the downtown transit center, located at NW Fifth Street and N Harvey Avenue. EMBARK has made significant upgrades to its system in recent years, including increased frequency, additional stops and later service. EMBARK's technology improvements include a mobile trip planner, SMS real-time bus arrival info and on-board Wi-Fi.

Because of their commitment to providing the best public transit to residents, EMBARK was named North America's Outstanding Public Transit System by the American Public Transportation Association in 2016, the highest recognition in the United States. In 2018, Oklahoma City started offering transportation via streetcar in downtown. The 6.8-mile route is two loops, one that travels north and south in downtown and another through Bricktown. The Bricktown loop operates on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. One streetcar ride costs \$1, or \$3 for a 24-hour day pass. A 30-day unlimited pass is available for \$32, and an annual pass is \$384. For more information about the streetcar, including a route map and stops, visit okcstreetcar.com.



The streetcar is just one way the city's leaders have been looking to expand transportation options. With Greater Oklahoma City's population forecasted to grow by almost 500,000 people in the next 20 years, cities in the region acknowledge that commuter rail can be a critical component of a future transportation system. Several Greater Oklahoma City communities – Oklahoma City, Edmond, Norman, Midwest City, Moore and Del City – originally formed a regional transit authority that studied and subsequently approved a transit system plan to include four regional corridors that will connect Oklahoma City with its partner cities with commuter rail service.

The RTA has identified four regional corridors in the plan that would quickly and efficiently transport people to various “regional activity centers,” including educational institutions, commercial centers and entertainment areas. The north/south corridor will connect Edmond to the north and Norman to the south; the east corridor connects downtown OKC to Tinker Air Force Base; the airport corridor will connect downtown OKC to Will Rogers World Airport; and the west corridor would connect downtown OKC to the west towards Yukon. The four approved routes would all meet at the Santa Fe Station Intermodal Hub, which will serve as a connection for the Oklahoma City Streetcar and Oklahoma City's passenger rail service through Amtrak.

Another key component of the RTA's approved plan is bus rapid transit (BRT). In 2018, Oklahoma City was awarded a \$14.4 million federal grant to build a BRT line between downtown and northwest Oklahoma City. The line, which has been named RAPID, will run 9.5 miles each way with 30 stops between the city's northwest side, midtown and downtown via Northwest Expressway and Classen Blvd., stopping at Meridian Avenue. The city is providing about \$13 million in matching funds. Construction should be completed in late 2023.

AMTRAK SERVICE

Amtrak's service via the Heartland Flyer runs a daily 418-mile round trip between Oklahoma City and Fort Worth, Texas. From there, connections can be made to Dallas and San Antonio. The train arrives and leaves from the Santa Fe Station Intermodal Hub and also includes a stop in Norman. There are plans to expand this service north to Wichita, Kansas, which would allow service to Chicago and Los Angeles through Amtrak's Southwest Chief line.



Oklahoma City is the kind of place where you can live large and for less. Oklahoma City residents spend 29% less than the national average on housing costs, and Oklahoma City's growing economy offers you plenty of ways to enjoy your extra savings. Learn more about where to live at ABetterLifeOKC.com/housing.

From modern, urban lofts in the heart of downtown to historic homes on tree-lined streets and spacious homes on even more spacious lots, Greater Oklahoma City offers an expansive choice of desirable neighborhoods and a wide range of prices for housing. Compared to other housing markets, you will be pleasantly surprised at how far your money will go in Oklahoma City's housing market. The average cost of a single-family home is about \$198,000 with the average cost of a condo at around \$137,000.

Also available are thousands of rental apartments ranging from brand-new luxury complexes to modest, garden style apartments with the average rental price ranging from \$600 to \$2,200. In Oklahoma City, the average 950-square-foot apartment costs \$860 per month, compared to \$1,841 in Denver, \$2,889 in Chicago, \$3,031 in Seattle and \$3,182 in Los Angeles.

In downtown Oklahoma City, the housing market has significantly expanded in the past decade with 5,290 housing units on the market and 1,824 additional units under construction or in the planning stages. Districts like Deep Deuce, located east of the Central Business District, and Midtown are key urban housing centers, providing restaurants, retail and multiple downtown housing options.

In Oklahoma City, living in a more suburban or rural atmosphere without sacrificing proximity is attainable. The city's large land area lends itself to all the best aspects of suburban life, while its low commute times and excellent traffic grid management make it easy to get where you need to be. Oklahoma City's suburban and pastoral neighborhoods allow you to enjoy a quieter atmosphere just minutes away from the city center.

Oklahoma City has garnered national attention over the last several years for its affordability and housing costs. Some of the most recent national "top-10" accolades – and there are many – include recognition for its low cost of living (C2ER); low property tax (Lending Tree); low rent (Realtor.com), best home values (The Ascent); and one of the best cities to live in (Bankrate). OKC was also recognized as a top-10 city for college grads (Zumper.com) and best capital cities (WalletHub).



OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS,
AS MAPS HELPED MAKE DOWNTOWN A
DESTINATION, MORE PEOPLE HAVE WANTED
TO LIVE NEAR THE ACTION AND THE CITY'S
DEVELOPERS HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL.

GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR NEW HOMETOWN

There's no better way to get to know your new hometown than by exploring the communities that give it a special flair. Read on for more about the districts and neighborhoods that you will soon call home, sweet home. Within the city limits there are many distinctive districts that showcase Oklahoma City's creativity and charm. From museums to murals, each district is part of the unique tapestry of Oklahoma City's culture.

URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS

If living among all the excitement of downtown is your dream, then Oklahoma City has a variety of options for you. In the last several years, as MAPS helped make downtown a destination, more people are wanting to live near the action and the city's developers have answered the call.

One of the most unique areas is the Cottage District, sitting south of SSM Health St. Anthony's Hospital. The area only measures a few blocks, but it has given architects and their clients a place where they can redefine luxury apartments and cottages. Sitting on a hill, the district offers amazing views of the downtown skyline, all while sitting in your living room.

If apartments are more your style, hundreds of new units have been built in the last decade. The challenge will be picking where you want to live. Apartments can be found in the historic Deep Deuce neighborhood, the exciting Bricktown district, in the charming Midtown area and even on the developing west side of downtown. Many apartments are within walking distance of breweries or the OKC Streetcar line. Living downtown could mean you don't have to drive your car for several weeks. The First National Center, one of OKC's most storied structures downtown, enjoyed a grand re-opening in 2022 following several years of renovation work. Alongside its numerous amenities and retail and dining offerings, the art-deco style building also includes an array of upscale apartment units.

Other housing options around downtown include condominiums and historic homes. Urban living has become even more popular with the development and ongoing growth of downtown's John Rex Charter School.

HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

Tree-lined streets, charm and character abound in Oklahoma City's beautiful historic neighborhoods. Some of the homes pre-date statehood, though they have since had modern upgrades. Most of the historic neighborhoods surround downtown.

One of the first "planned unit developments" west of the Mississippi, Edgemere Park was developed starting in 1926 and consists of Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival and Spanish Eclectic-style homes surrounding a park and creek bed. Closer to the state Capitol lies Jefferson Park, filled with small bungalows. But if history and affordability are more your style, check out the Shepherd neighborhood, located a few miles northwest of downtown. The Shepherd neighborhood is the perfect place to find historic charm on a smaller scale, both in terms of square footage and budget.

Many of the city's historic neighborhoods have such ornate homes that they are in Historic Preservation Districts. The neighborhoods that are overseen by the Historic Preservation Commission are Crown Heights, Edgemere Park, Jefferson Park, Mesta Park and Heritage Hills, Paseo, Putnam Heights and Shepherd. For more information about the Historic Preservation Commission, visit okc.gov/departments/planning.



SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOODS

In Oklahoma City, living in the suburbs doesn't necessarily mean living out of the city. The city's large land area lends itself to all the best aspects of suburbia, while our low commute times and excellent traffic grid management make getting where you need to go easy. OKC makes it possible to get that suburban feel without feeling far away.

Oklahoma City also has cities within its boundaries such as Mustang, Bethany, Warr Acres, The Village and Nichols Hills. Each city boasts an array of housing types, from apartments to large, multi-story homes.

In Nichols Hills and The Village, a variety of residences can be found, ranging from '30s-platted mansions and '50s-built ranch-style to '70s-developed subdivisions with larger footage. Situated west of Oklahoma City near Lake Overholser, Warr Acres and Bethany saw growth after World War II as they developed into bedroom communities for Oklahoma City.

Farther north, you can find newly built homes in Northwest Oklahoma City and the west side of Edmond. Some communities are gated, and all offer outstanding neighborhood/community involvement. Good highway and turnpike access comes standard, as do excellent public schools. Edmond has been a favorite destination for folks looking to establish roots in the Oklahoma City region. Boasting top-quality schools and safe neighborhoods, Edmond residents have a short commute to Oklahoma City for work or play. It is a golfer's paradise with seven golf courses and is home to the University of Central Oklahoma, a NCAA Division II member.

South Oklahoma City boasts more room, more new subdivisions, more new retail, more diversity, more

value and more excitement than ever before. Like its counterparts in northwest Oklahoma City, newer construction and larger floor plans come standard, as do excellent public schools.

The cities of Moore and Norman, located in the southern parts of the OKC metro, are two of the largest communities in the state with a variety of housing options, sizes and prices. Both communities have relatively easy access to I-35, which is a direct route to places like downtown OKC to the north, and the Arbuckle Mountains and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to the south. They also offer excellent school systems as well as an abundance of retail and restaurants. Norman is home to the University of Oklahoma.

PASTORAL NEIGHBORHOODS

If wide open spaces are more your style, Oklahoma City has them. Here, you can still enjoy a quieter atmosphere without sacrificing amenities or distance to the heart of Oklahoma City.

If land and a large home are more your style, check out development in the Piedmont or Deer Creek areas. Just outside of the hustle and bustle, the far northwest side offers a definite change of pace at lower commute times than you would expect. Farther west, Mustang and Yukon offer that small-town feel with quick access to downtown. New homes are being built frequently in the area that also offers sought-after public schools.

On the metro's east side, Midwest City, Choctaw and Jones are other options for large plots of land. The area is heavily wooded, creating that "out of the city" feel, but still within a quick drive of downtown. Near Tinker AFB and great outdoor activities, eastern Oklahoma County has lots of room and lots to offer.

Where are you taking your career?

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Experience what it means to join a fearlessly
innovative team. Invest in your growth with
comprehensive benefits, skills-based
training, leadership opportunities and a
collaborative campus culture.



Learn more at





THE REGIONAL *Economy*

The Greater Oklahoma City region is a well-known hub of entrepreneurship and a land of opportunity for job seekers. After all, the city was built by brave individuals and innovative companies. Many of those original residents came here with little except the determination to make a new start. Risk-taking, a sense of optimism and community cooperation remain hallmarks of Oklahoma's business climate and community spirit. Read more about the region's industries at ABetterLifeOKC.com/industries.

For generations, many of the nation's most-renowned energy entrepreneurs operated out of Oklahoma City. But the city's major industries have changed over the last several decades with the ongoing diversification of Greater Oklahoma City's economy.

With Tinker Air Force Base's presence, businesses in the aerospace industry continue to look to Oklahoma City as their next home. The city's investment in attractions and meeting spaces keeps it on the radar for event planners from across the globe. And with the Innovation District and its institutions near downtown, Oklahoma City's biomedical industry is creating healthier futures for everyone.

Building upon the strength of the state's early beginnings, the city's growing industry sectors include aerospace, professional services, bioscience/health care, government, manufacturing, hospitality and retail trade.

AEROSPACE

In Greater Oklahoma City, there are 291 public and private aerospace companies employing 43,250 Oklahoma workers, the majority of whom are employed in the public sector by Tinker Air Force Base, FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center and the Oklahoma National Guard. Recent relocations and significant capital investments by The Boeing Company highlight Oklahoma City's potential for even more aerospace growth. Kratos Defense and Security Solutions, Skydweller Aero, United Dynamics and Wilder Systems are just a few of the latest aerospace companies that have decided to relocate or expand into Oklahoma City.

BIOSCIENCE/HEALTH CARE

Ground-breaking discoveries made by Oklahoma City-based researchers have helped put Oklahoma City on the map as a contender in the bioscience and technology marketplace. Oklahoma's bioscience companies boast annual revenues of \$6.7 billion while supporting more than 51,000 employees. The designation of the Oklahoma City Innovation District near downtown and future home of Convergence, a \$700 million mixed-use project expected to be completed in 2024, should help further solidify OKC as a growing bioscience and technology mecca.

ENERGY

Oklahoma's energy industry is a major employer in the state, providing more than 85,000 jobs with an economic impact of \$19 billion. Several of the nation's top energy producers are headquartered in Oklahoma City, including Devon Energy, Continental Resources and Chesapeake Energy. OKC is even leading the new energy landscape with innovative energy companies, such as Baker Hughes, which recently donated its research and innovation center located in the Oklahoma City Innovation District to Oklahoma State University. Now known as Hamm Institute for American Energy at OSU, the center houses new hands-on learning opportunities, allowing students to tackle real-world problems in a state-of-the-art facility.

HOSPITALITY

Oklahoma City's increasing status as a visitor destination contributes strongly to this sector's growing employment and impact on the region. In the Greater Oklahoma City region, more than 70,000 people are currently employed within the broader Accommodation and Food services sector. Over the past five years, total travel spending in Oklahoma County alone averaged \$2.3 billion. During the pandemic, however, the industry suffered like the rest of the nation but has since rebounded as the economy has opened back up and people are feeling more comfortable about traveling and visiting various sites and attractions.

LOGISTICS

There's a reason the Greater Oklahoma City region is such a great place for logistics: location. Located in the geographic center of North America, the U.S. and the growing south-central region. OKC sits at the junction of three of the nation's major interstates (I-35, I-40 and I-44) and is equidistant from the east and west coasts and major trade partners of Canada and Mexico. From OKC, companies have access to more than 4 million people within a 2.5-hour drive, and the majority of the U.S. can be reached within a two-day trucking distance. Oklahoma City is the headquarters of Hobby Lobby, one of the largest retailers in the U.S. The arts and craft giant processes orders for all of its 900-plus national stores from its 10-million-square-foot distribution center in Oklahoma City. Amazon also has a huge footprint in OKC with 4.5 million square feet of distribution space following the expansion of its fulfillment center in 2021. UPS and FedEx also have

a large presence in Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City is also home to Will Rogers World Airport - Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) 106. Companies located here have access to two Class 1 railways, close proximity to two inland ports, and the port of Houston is within 500 miles.

RETAIL TRADE

A growing economy and a diverse population with disposable income combine in Oklahoma City to create an environment that attracts major retail investment. With a strong corporate presence and residents with strong buying power, Oklahoma City generates 18% of the state's total sales tax revenue. The metro has also spawned significant retail businesses and is the headquarters of national retailers Hobby Lobby, the largest privately owned arts-and-crafts retailer in the world operating in 47 states; Love's Travel Stops; and Sonic Drive-In, the largest chain of drive-in restaurants in the U.S. The increasingly diversified economy is due largely to the city's entrepreneurial streak and a business environment that enables company success. There is a strong partnership among business, government, civic leaders and economic development partners that have led to significant growth and a quality-of-life renaissance unlike any other location in the United States.

RESOURCES FOR JOB SEEKERS

Has all this talk about OKC's strengths inspired you to look at your career options here? We don't blame you. With Oklahoma City consistently boasting one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, you may learn that finding a job here is relatively easy compared to other cities. That comes as no surprise as OKC has consistently received esteem for employment opportunities, including one of the best places for young entrepreneurs and best cities for job seekers.

For full-time employment, the state offers OKJobMatch.com, a website where you can create or upload a résumé and search for jobs. The website also allows for Oklahoma employers to search for candidates just like you. A Better Life's employment resources can help you find your fit in Oklahoma City's job market. Resources include a job board, internship listings, staffing agencies and industry-specific tools. View those and more at ABetterLifeOKC.com/Employment.

RESOURCES FOR ENTREPRENEURS

A common theme in the story of Oklahoma City is its entrepreneurial spirit that has carried it to success throughout its history. That spirit is alive and well today, with Oklahoma City being ranked as the best city in the nation to start a business by many national groups. If you've got a great idea and you're ready to dive into the world of entrepreneurship, then Oklahoma City is for you.

Today, the Greater OKC region is home to 75,500 small businesses and boasts business costs that are 15% lower than the national average, a quality that creates a healthy environment for new businesses. Combined with the area's incentive programs, these factors allow startup businesses not only to survive, but also to thrive. While the process of starting a business can be daunting, Oklahoma City has ample support and resources.



Over the last decade, our region has invested millions of dollars in the areas that entrepreneurs need it the most, which are infrastructure, access to capital and support. Greater Oklahoma City has several organizations dedicated specifically to supporting high-tech entrepreneurs and are walking alongside entrepreneurs through the startup process.

- i2E is an Oklahoma City-based non-profit dedicated specifically to growing innovative small businesses by helping entrepreneurs, researchers and companies commercialize their technologies and access capital.
- OCAST (the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology), is a state agency dedicated to investing in technology transfer and commercialization.
- In 2018, the Oklahoma City Thunder partnered to create an entrepreneurial startup program to begin the Thunder Launchpad. The application process seeks technology-driven entrepreneurs, then the programs help them get their ideas off the ground and ready to be venture-backed. More information can be found at StitchCrew.com.
- gBETA, Oklahoma City, is a pre-accelerator that started in the fall of 2021. It is a free, seven-week business accelerator for early-stage companies with local roots. gBETA is designed to help startups gain early customer traction on their product or idea, and establish and execute metrics that make them competitive applicants for full-time, equity-based accelerators or seed investment. Participants receive intensive and individualized coaching and access to a national network of mentors, customers, corporate partners and investors. For more resources, visit GreaterOklahomaCity.com.
- Builders + Backers Idea Accelerator began in early 2022. This rapid-paced 90-day virtual program teaches participants how to put ideas into action, followed by 45 days of actually executing their ideas through a single experiment.

FIND CASE | FIND HOME



ARTISAN CROSSNG
405-857-8835



24HUNDRED
405-252-7400



THE RIDGE AT 66
405-806-1186



VILLAS AT STONEBRIDGE
405-359-3081

CASE
& ASSOCIATES

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

EDMOND:

Fountain Lake
14025 N Eastern

Villas at Stonebridge
157 Stonebridge Blvd

MOORE:

Mission Point
2900 S Service Road

NORMAN:

Artisan Crossing
1303 W Tecumseh Rd

Cimarron Trails
3100 Rock Creek Trail

NORTH OKC:

24Hundred
24000 Watermark Blvd

Cimarron Pointe
8301 N Council Rd

Council Place
10800 N Council Rd

Crown Pointe
12600 N MacArthur

Hunter's Ridge
9211 N Council Rd

Park at Tuscany
2737 NW 140th St

Persimmon Square
12113 Heritage Park Rd

Prairie Springs
9777 N Council Rd

Stonehorse Crossing
14320 Mezzaluna Blvd

Summerfield Place
11777 N Meridian

Tammaron Village
11100 Roxboro

The Warrington
12700 N MacArthur

SOUTHWEST OKC:

Cross Timbers
10700 S. May

Waters Edge
4317 SW 22nd St

YUKON:

The Park on Westpointe
301 Point Parkway

BRAND NEW

Ridge at 66
4300 Caravel Dr

CASEUSA.COM



Education

More than 55 schools in the Greater Oklahoma City region have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools, a program that recognizes schools with academic excellence and a safe, welcoming learning environment. Oklahoma City schools have received national recognition for alternative education, early childhood accessibility and the increasing number of teachers earning National Board Certification – the profession’s top credential. Oklahoma City has also invested \$700 million into school construction, transportation and technology projects through the MAPS for Kids program. Voters in the Oklahoma City Public Schools District approved a \$955 million bond issue late in 2022, the largest in the district’s history. The funds will enable the school district to provide much needed resources to improve buildings, technology, transportation and other capital improvement projects. Other school districts around the metro have continued to invest in their facilities as well. For example, Mustang Public Schools recently opened a new performing arts center for the district’s fine arts program and a venue for various community events and performances. In Edmond, the three high schools all have new college-level football stadiums. Districts are constantly tracking their student population and making the necessary adjustments to keep up with growth and technology. Through the dedication of the community, excellent schools can be found in both the city’s urban center and in the surrounding suburban areas.

For a full list of schools serving the OKC metro, visit ABetterLifeOKC.com/education. The OKC metro area is

home to public school districts that differ in size and scope, but all are committed to seeing their students succeed. View a complete list of the 24 public school districts at ABetterLifeOKC.com/education/public-schools.

OKLAHOMA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Innovation and improvement are the watchwords of the Oklahoma City Public Schools. With a student population of approximately 34,000 students, the district covers 136 square miles and includes 33 neighborhood elementary schools, 12 middle schools, eight high schools, four alternative schools and six charter school campuses. Additionally, about 16,500 of OKCPS students are bilingual, while approximately 13,000 are English Language Learners. OKCPS also offers specialized learning for students through its career academy program. Areas of focus include entrepreneurship, engineering, law and public safety, finance, health science, information technology, hospitality and tourism, health sciences, fine arts and teacher preparation.

Classen School of Advanced Studies, part of the Oklahoma City Public School District, also offers OKCPS students in grades six through 12 two distinct areas of study, which are its International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and its visual and performing arts program. It’s one of the top high schools in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2020 analysis.



OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

One of America's premier math and science high schools, Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (OSSM) has been operating for 25 years, during which the school has produced more than 400 National Merit Finalists and over 200 National Merit Commended Scholars. A tuition-free residential high school for juniors and seniors with exceptional ability in math and science, OSSM has been cited as one of "America's Best Schools" (Redbook) and deemed "the most rigorous academic program of its kind in the nation" by Dr. Julian Stanley of Johns Hopkins University. OSSM is located on a 32-acre site to the northeast of downtown Oklahoma City, adjacent to the libraries and research resources of the Oklahoma Health Center.

EDMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Edmond is a suburb located directly north of Oklahoma City and covers 130 square miles, and the school district includes parts of OKC and south Logan County. One of the fastest-growing school districts in Oklahoma, Edmond Public Schools has 27 schools total, including three high schools, each named as a top 10 high school in the state by U.S. News & World Report's 2022 Best High School Rankings. More than 23,800 students are learning at 18 elementary schools, six middle schools, three high schools and an alternative high school, as well as one early childhood center. Eleven schools within the district have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

MID-DEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Midwest City-Del City School District is located immediately east of Oklahoma City and serves nearly 12,500 students. The district covers 70 square miles and includes 13 elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools and a virtual academy.

MOORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The city of Moore is located directly south of Oklahoma City. Moore Public Schools offers Pre-K through 12th grade and has a student population of nearly 26,000, making it the fourth-largest system in the state. The district includes 25 elementary schools, six junior high schools and three high schools, encompassing 159 square miles in Moore and South Oklahoma City. Wayland Bonds and Leslie R. Fisher elementary schools, along with Brink Junior High School, are MPS's National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2022, while Brink was one of just five Oklahoma schools named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2021.

MUSTANG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

While the city is only 12 square miles, the district encompasses 72 square miles in the southwest part of the metro. The district has eight elementary schools, three intermediate schools, three middle schools and one high school. It is the 13th largest district in the state, with nearly 12,000 students. The Niche research firm ranked Mustang as the sixth-best school district in the state for student athletes.

NORMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Located south of Oklahoma City, Norman is the third largest city in Oklahoma and is home to the University of Oklahoma. NPS serves nearly 14,500 students, spread across 17 elementary schools, four middle schools, two high schools and one alternative school. McKinley Elementary School was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2022.

PUTNAM CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Putnam City Public School district, the fifth largest in the state, is located in Oklahoma City. Covering 43 square miles, the district serves more than 19,000 students at 18 elementary schools, five middle schools, three high schools and an academy. The district has five National Blue Ribbon Schools: Coronado Heights Elementary, James L. Dennis Elementary, Putnam City North High School, Wiley Post Elementary and Will Rogers Elementary.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are public schools established by contract with sponsors and often promote a specific curriculum and learning style. Several Greater Oklahoma City school districts are authorized by state law to have charter schools. To see a list of all charter schools in Oklahoma, including the Greater Oklahoma City region, please visit the State Department of Education's website at sde.ok.gov/current-charter.

ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CHARTER (ASTEC) SCHOOL

Address: 2401 NW 23rd St., Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Phone: 405.947.6272

Website: asteccharterschools.com

Grades: Pre-K through 12th

Overview: Oklahoma's first start-up charter school, ASTEC is a tuition-free science, technology, engineering, arts and math (S.T.E.A.M.) school in which student scholars have technology as a core subject every day in engaging classrooms where the liberal arts are fully integrated. In addition to these core subjects, ASTEC values character, manners, proper etiquette, social and cultural awareness, a strong work ethic and entrepreneurship. Today, the combined enrollment of the elementary school, middle school and high school totals 1,250 students.

DOVE SCIENCE ACADEMY

Address: 9212 N. Kelley Ave., Ste. 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Phone: 405.605.0201

Website: doveschools.org

Grades: K through 12th

Overview: Serving more than 2,100 students in five preparatory schools, Dove Science Academy focuses on math, science, engineering and computer technologies, providing opportunities for underserved communities. With a college acceptance rate of 100%, Dove Science Academy has earned the reputation of providing a distinct, high-quality education.

SANTA FE SOUTH SCHOOLS

Address: 7000 Crossroads Blvd., Suite 4000, Oklahoma City, OK 73149

Phone: 405.601.5440

Website: santafesouth.org

Grades: Pre-K through 12th

Overview: With 3,500 students enrolled, Santa Fe South is the largest comprehensive charter school in the state.

There are no testing or other requirements for admission other than to be a student in the Oklahoma City Public Schools district. Students are provided with a challenging academic program through an expanded and rigorous curriculum that emphasizes college prep habits, the development of social responsibilities, lifelong skills, and self-confidence.

HARDING FINE ARTS ACADEMY

Address: 3333 N. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Phone: 405.702.4322

Website: hardingfinearts.org

Grades: 9th through 12th

HARDING INDEPENDENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

Address: 1301 NE 101st St., Oklahoma City, OK 73131

Phone: 405.606.8742

Website: hardingcharterprep.org

Grades: 5th- through 12th

JOHN REX CHARTER SCHOOL

Address: 500 W. Sheridan Ave., Oklahoma City

Mailing: P.O. Box 2119, Oklahoma City, OK 73101

Phone: 405.587.8100

Website: johnrexschool.com

Grades: Pre-K through 8th

KIPP OKC COLLEGE PREP

Address: 8400 N. Robinson Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73114

Phone: 405.849.9700

Website: kippok.org/kippokc

Grades: 4th through 8th

LE MONDE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Address: 1123 E. Main St., Norman, OK 73071

Phone: 405.701.2125

Website: lemondennorman.org

Grades: Pre-K through 5th

WESTERN GATEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Address: 1300 S.W. 15th St., Oklahoma City OK 73108

Phone: 405.276.9170

Website: westerngateway.school

Grades: Pre-K through 2nd

Virtual or blended options

If the in-class experience is not right for your family, Oklahoma offers several accredited virtual or blended education options. EPIC Charter Schools is a free, public online charter school for grades Pre-K through 12th. The school delivers comprehensive, full-time personalized education, allowing students freedom and flexibility. Epic combines the convenience of online learning with the support of one-on-one instruction from an Oklahoma-certified teacher. To learn more, visit epiccharterschools.org

PRIVATE EDUCATION

Oklahoma County is home to 44 private schools educating nearly 10,000 students. About 73% of all private schools are religiously affiliated. To view a list of area schools, visit ABetterLifeOKC.com/education/private-schools.

CHILDCARE

In the Oklahoma City 10-county region, there are more than 1,100 daycare providers with an average weekly cost of \$143 for centers and \$132 for in-home care. For a list of childcare resources, visit RainbowFleet.org.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOOLS

When it comes to career and technology schools, Oklahoma's system is nationally acclaimed. Greater Oklahoma City's nine technology centers and 18 campuses not only provide training to high school and post-secondary students, but they also provide invaluable education services to a variety of businesses in several different skill areas.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Greater Oklahoma City is home to 18 colleges and universities. Through these institutions, nearly 132,000 students are furthering their education and pursuing thousands of graduate and undergraduate opportunities. Two Division I universities are located in the Oklahoma City region, both providing their students with a world-renowned education.





Belle Isle High School

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO OKLAHOMA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

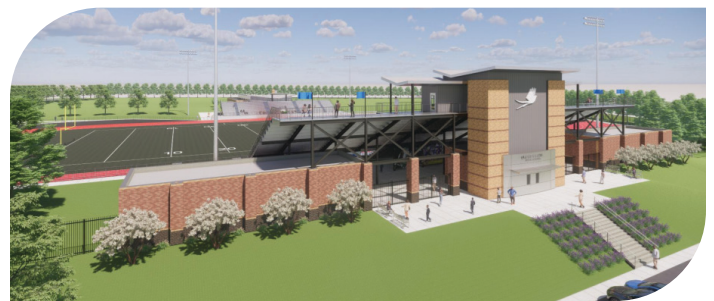
Transformational change is underway at Oklahoma City public schools. Every school in the district will be renovated, expanded, improved or replaced. The upgrades are funded by a historic \$955 million bond voters approved in November 2022.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Major projects include two new high schools, a regional sports stadium, and five 20,000 sq ft flexible spaces customized for the school it serves. School officials say those facilities could be used for vocational training, performing and visual arts, or college and career preparation.

In a district where the average school building age is 72, the list of enhancements is lengthy. It includes new or renovated cafeterias, auditoriums, gymnasiums, playgrounds, walking trails, outdoor learning areas and more.

The bond will also pay for new buses, security systems, furniture, books, art supplies and musical instruments throughout the district. The district hopes to have all the work complete by the fall of 2026.



North Regional Stadium



*Adelaide Lee Shidler Elementary School



*Wheeler Capitol Hill Middle School

*OKCPS policy will be followed when the time comes to name the new schools.

For over 130 years, the University of Oklahoma has pursued academic and research excellence for the betterment of all people. With campuses in Norman, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, OU changes lives by inspiring the next generation of leaders, and by harnessing ingenuity to advance our state and society. Accelerating to remarkable heights, the university has enjoyed record fundraising and legislative funding, and in fall 2021 welcomed its largest, most diverse and academically qualified class in history.

Oklahoma State University, located 66 miles north of Oklahoma City, has been named a Truman Honor Institute as a result of having 15 Truman Scholars. Study.com ranked OSU fourth in the nation for the best online bachelor's degree. In 2021, the Princeton Review ranked OSU as one of the top schools in the Western Region. The Donald W. Reynolds School of Architecture ranks among the top 20 in the U.S.

With strong connections throughout the Oklahoma City metro, the University of Central Oklahoma, which is located in the suburb of Edmond, is dedicated to developing in students the confidence to succeed through transformative learning experiences. Founded in 1890, UCO connects its nearly 14,000 students to unmatched value found in 119 undergraduate areas of study and 80 graduate programs from its main campus in Edmond and facilities throughout the metro area.

Other higher education programs located in the Oklahoma City metro include Langston University, Mid-America Christian University, Oklahoma Baptist University, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, Randall University, Redlands Community College, Rose State College, Southern Nazarene University, Southwestern Christian University and the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma.



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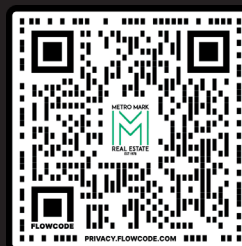


WWW.METROMARKREALESTATE.COM

When it comes to buying or selling a home in the Oklahoma City Metro Area, as the metro area's oldest and longest-running locally-owned real estate brokerage, we are highly experienced and passionate about providing our clients with exceptional service.

Our Broker-Owner, Amanda Kirkpatrick-Lawler, is committed to seeking new and innovative ways to better serve our clients, which includes the recent launch of an entirely new Land Division, new websites, and additional agent tools so we can best help you reach your goals!

Let us be one of the first to say welcome to Oklahoma City. Remember, when you work with a Metro Mark agent, you're not just working with a professional but also a neighbor you can depend on.



405.848.8818
6501 Avondale Dr,
Nichols Hills, OK 73116





With a spirited environment, unique history and creative drive, Oklahoma City is a place where culture and commerce thrive. From sporting events to opera performances, Oklahoma City's diversity, creativity and its can-do attitude can be seen all around town. Learn more about what to see and do at ABetterLifeOKC.com/things-to-do.

ARTS & CULTURE

No matter what you're looking for, Oklahoma City is sure to dazzle you. You can gaze in awe at the world's largest Chihuly glass tower. Be sure to catch an outdoor concert at one of two parks in the middle of downtown. Don't forget to explore the treasures of our major museums. And take time to browse the organic creativity flowing from dozens of art galleries and performance venues. With three major arts festivals each year and more than 50 independent galleries showcasing local artists, Oklahoma City's exuberant art scene provides the perfect mix of mainstream and off-beat art encounters. Art can be seen just driving down the road or browsing a neighborhood. The city has become a hub for murals, with some even changing every few months. In fact, USA Today named Oklahoma City as the best place in the nation for public art over the last two years.

CIVIC CENTER MUSIC HALL

This renovated Art Deco concert hall in downtown Oklahoma City has been entertaining residents since 1937, but a major renovation as part of the original MAPS initiative gave it a whole new life. The Civic Center Music Hall hosts a wide variety of performances, including Broadway musicals,

ballet, opera and symphony orchestra concerts. The Civic Center staff also programs events at the Hudiburg Events Center in Midwest City. For a taste of local talent, the Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, Jewel Box Theatre, Painted Sky Opera and the Carpenter Square Theatre all produce a full roster of live performances, ranging from classic musicals to national-debuting scripted dramas. Those performances can be seen at the organization's own theaters or at the Civic Center. There are also live performances by Shakespeare in the Park on the Paseo Arts District stage.

OKLAHOMA CONTEMPORARY

For more than 30 years, Oklahoma Contemporary has been a vital resource for contemporary art experiences of all kinds in the region and those experiences will only increase following the opening of the center's new home in 2020. While the building itself is a piece of art, the new Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center continues the organization's legacy of creating opportunities for different communities to experience art, encounter new ideas and explore their creative potential. The exhibitions are always free to view and feature work of living artists from around the world that challenge the ideas seen in today's culture.

OCCC VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Drive south of Interstate 40 along Interstate 44 to Oklahoma City Community College and check out a show at the Visual Performing Arts Center. From country music to acclaimed plays, the VPAC stays booked with a variety of events.



OKLAHOMA CITY MUSEUM OF ART

Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art serves more than 135,000 visitors annually and hosts special exhibitions drawn from throughout the world. OKCMOA's collection covers a period of five centuries, with strengths in American and European art of the 19th and 20th centuries. In 2021, the museum hosted an exhibition of Roman frescoes from Ancient Pompeii, the lone exhibition of those frescoes in the entire world. The museum also includes a comprehensive collection of glass sculptures by Washington-native Dale Chihuly.

ARMSTRONG AUDITORIUM

Equal parts architectural marvel and performance venue, the Armstrong Auditorium in Edmond is a luxury venue that hosts premier concerts and performing arts, ranging from the Russian National Ballet to classical, jazz or even bluegrass music, depending on the season.

ACM@UCO

The University of Central Oklahoma teamed up with the Academy of Contemporary Music of London to offer a music education unlike any other in the United States. Students are taught by accomplished musicians, production experts and music business professionals, and receive master class instruction from some of today's stars from the world of rock, pop, gospel and country music. ACM @ UCO is located in Oklahoma City's thriving Bricktown Entertainment District, where the streets bear the names of the city's rock-music legends.

MCKNIGHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

This world-class venue on the Oklahoma State University campus in Stillwater opened in October 2019 with a performance by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. The McKnight Center for the Performing Arts returned to hosting several groups, musicians, musicals and other performers during the 2021-22 season. Visit mcknightcenter.org to see who will be on stage as part of the 2023-24 lineup.

RED EARTH ART CENTER

Red Earth, a museum and gallery dedicated to showcasing Native American arts, is home to a permanent collection of more than 1,000 items of traditional and contemporary fine art, pottery, basketry, textiles and beadwork. The Red Earth Festival includes a juried art competition and a powwow celebrating Oklahoma's Native American cultural roots.

OKLAHOMA CITY ARTS FESTIVALS

Mark your calendars for three can't-miss arts festivals. Since 1967, the Festival of the Arts has brought imagination to downtown Oklahoma City in April, as one of the largest and most successful arts festivals in the U.S. With hundreds of world-renowned artists from across the country, the Festival of the Arts is Oklahoma City's rite of spring. It's also a foodie destination, as the metro's top restaurants vie for a spot at the festival.

On Memorial Day weekend, you can experience Oklahoma City's local arts community in the Paseo Arts District, located just north of downtown. At the annual Paseo Arts Festival, stroll down the district's winding streets and take in the original Spanish-style stucco buildings. The district is home to 20 galleries and more than 80 artists, in addition to restaurants, art schools and boutiques. Then, save some time on the first weekend of October to visit the Plaza District's annual arts and music festival. The district is on NW 16th Street, between Classen Boulevard and Pennsylvania Avenue. Live music rings through the streets as people browse local art booths, check out the latest addition on the Plaza Walls mural gallery and dine on food truck cuisine.

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Oklahoma City's history, spanning more than 125 years, is packed full of tragedy and triumph. There is no better way to understand your new hometown than by getting to know its past.

FIRST AMERICANS MUSEUM

Opened in the fall of 2021 and designed to Smithsonian Institute standards, the First Americans Museum tells the stories, histories and cultures of Oklahoma's 39 federally recognized tribes through various galleries and artifacts. The museum is located near the south shoreline of the Oklahoma River near the junction of interstates 40, 35, and 235.

GAYLORD-PICKENS OKLAHOMA HERITAGE MUSEUM

Through high-tech, interactive exhibits, meet the famous and everyday Oklahomans who have shaped the history of our state, country and world.

NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM

More than 10 million visitors from around the world have sought out this museum to gain a better understanding of the West. Featuring one of the most comprehensive collections of Western art in the world, this is a can't-miss attraction in Oklahoma City.

OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

This peaceful monument and museum honors the 168 people who were killed by the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. With interactive exhibits, a reflecting pool, chairs representing each of the victims and the Survivor Tree that withstood the blast, the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum remembers the events of that day and displays the Oklahoma Standard, the community's spirit of generosity that carried Oklahoma City through the healing process afterward.

OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER

Located across from the state Capitol, this affiliate of the Smithsonian offers a chance to explore Oklahoma's story through interactive exhibits covering subjects such as geology, transportation, commerce, culture, aviation, heritage and more.





STOCKYARDS CITY

The largest stocker and feeder cattle market in the world is located in Oklahoma City, and it's a living reminder of the city's beginnings as an agricultural powerhouse. Stroll along the streets of Stockyards City and explore more than 70 businesses featuring Western wear, ranch needs, entertainment and fine dining.

AMERICAN BANJO MUSEUM

In Bricktown, all things relating to "America's Instrument" are on display at the world-class treasure that is the American Banjo Museum. The ABM features the largest publicly displayed collection in the world, with more than 400 instruments, recordings, film, video, printed music and memorabilia related to the banjo. Actor Steve Martin and Kermit The Frog have banjos in the museum's collection.

FRONTIER CITY

Open mostly year-round, Frontier City is the region's premier theme park and includes its sister water park, Hurricane Harbor. Frontier City, along north Interstate 35, has more than 50 rides, shows and other attractions, spread across 40 acres. Hurricane Harbor is along I-40 West. Both parks are owned and operated by Six Flags, so season passes for Six Flags are honored at both OKC parks.

MUSEUM OF OSTEOLOGY

One of the most unique attractions in Oklahoma, the 7,000-square-foot Museum of Osteology showcases hundreds of skulls and skeletons, from tiny bats to a humpbacked whale hovering overhead.

OKLAHOMA CITY ZOO

Go wild at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden! Home to more than 1,000 animals and 314 species, including many that are endangered, the OKC Zoo, which was named one of the top 10 zoos in the nation, is a conservation organization dedicated to preserving wildlife and wild places.

METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

With 19 locations across the county and an online virtual library accessible 24/7, users can check out books, download eBooks and magazines, research genealogy and even learn computer skills from almost anywhere. With a library account, users have access to subscription online resources and can also stream movies and television shows as well as download eBooks, eAudiobooks and magazines. All libraries have story times and book clubs, but now they also have classes and events that engage and entertain both the young and the old.

ORR FAMILY FARM

Whether you're looking for a weekend staycation or the perfect pumpkin, Orr Family Farm has plenty to offer. The farm offers overnight camping and "glamping" in covered Conestoga wagons and teepees as well as outdoor games, a train, fishing pond, an animal barn and plenty of room outdoors to run around.

SAM NOBLE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, located on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman, boasts thousands of artifacts tracing Oklahoma's natural history, including dinosaur fossils and Native American cultural exhibits.

SCIENCE MUSEUM OKLAHOMA

Located next door to the zoo, this museum houses numerous galleries all under one roof. It also features live science and planetarium shows, one of the nation's tallest spiral slides and CurioCity, a 20,000-square-foot village featuring eight whimsical neighborhoods where children can learn about science. Adults should keep an eye out for the SMO 21 events, which are offered several times a year. The after-hours events allow people age 21 and over to celebrate science with cocktails, special guests and other attractions to fit the theme.

BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER SHRINE

Located in southeast Oklahoma City near the city of Moore, the 6,000-square-foot Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, which opened in 2023, honors the life of Father Stanley Rother, who was murdered by unknown assailants in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala, in 1981 where he served as a missionary priest until his death. The Catholic Church recognized Rother as the first U.S.-born martyr for the faith and subsequently beatified the Okarche, Okla., native in 2016. The shrine church is designed in the Spanish-mission style and is the largest Catholic church in the state. There is also a chapel and pilgrimage center, which contains a museum and gift shop.

The museum highlights the story of Blessed Stanley Rother's life and mission. It features artifacts from every stage of his life and provide information about his martyrdom and beatification. With God's blessing, one day, it also will contain information related to his canonization!

RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING & NIGHTLIFE

Oklahoma City's low cost of living means that its residents have more disposable income in their pockets. The city's restaurants, retail and nightlife options give residents plenty of opportunities to enjoy the savings.

ASIAN DISTRICT

Located between NW 23rd and NW 36th along Classen Boulevard, the Asian District was first formed in the mid-1970s when refugees from Vietnam settled in this area of Oklahoma City following the fall of Saigon, bringing with them their unique culture and foods. Today, the district is home to many successful Asian (and non-Asian) restaurants and businesses.

AUTOMOBILE ALLEY

Located north of downtown along Broadway Avenue, the Automobile Alley district was originally home to the city's car dealerships, a fact that is immortalized in the neon signs that still hang from its original buildings.

The past and the present combine to make this district effortlessly cool with lots to offer, including some of Oklahoma City's best shopping, dining and nightlife.



OKLAHOMA CITY'S
ASIAN DISTRICT IS
WELL KNOWN FOR
ITS INTERNATIONAL
CUISINE, CULTURE
AND SHOPPING.

BRICKTOWN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

Just a short walk from downtown's central business district, this former warehouse area is filled with restaurants, shops, nightlife and entertainment options. From taking a cruise along the Bricktown Canal to catching an Oklahoma City Dodgers game at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark, Bricktown is a favorite destination for visitors and locals alike.

MIDTOWN

On the northern edge of downtown and just west of Automobile Alley, the Midtown district connects the hustle and bustle of downtown with the stately historic neighborhoods to its north. With a mix of local restaurants, neighborhood pubs and distinctive shops, it's a great place to experience the best of OKC's urban renaissance.

CLASSEN CURVE AND WESTERN AVENUE

North of downtown in central Oklahoma City, Western Avenue is the perfect stretch of street to explore if you like curated antiques, atmospheric dive bars and established local restaurants. Alongside anchors like Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, Classen Curve has all the upscale shopping that you might need, including luxury clothing, athleisure brands, jewelry and homewares.

FILM ROW

Equal parts historic and revitalized, Film Row was once home to the film distribution offices for Hollywood's major studios. It's now home to a mix of artistic businesses, locally owned restaurants and Oklahoma City's 21C



Museum Hotel, a unique art gallery/hotel concept housed in a former Ford Model T manufacturing facility. The art gallery is open to the public and free to tour.

MEMORIAL ROAD CORRIDOR

The Memorial Road corridor, located in north Oklahoma City, is one of Oklahoma City's most dynamic retail areas. In addition to established restaurants and the Quail Springs Mall, the corridor is also home to Main Event entertainment center and the Chisholm Creek mixed-use center. At Chisholm Creek, there is plenty to do, including explore locally owned shops, drive some balls at TopGolf, go high at iFly indoor skydiving or dine at one of many local and national chain restaurants.

NORTHWEST EXPRESSWAY CORRIDOR

Similar to Memorial Road but offering some local fare, Northwest Expressway is a major hub of retail and dining in northwest Oklahoma City. A wide variety of restaurants and pubs abound, as does upper-end mall shopping and dining at Penn Square Mall and family entertainment options like Chuck E. Cheese. While you're in the area, don't miss the opportunity to have dinner and play some games at Dave & Buster's.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

In downtown Oklahoma City and its surrounding districts, you will find Olympic-training venues for rowing, canoeing, kayaking and whitewater rafting. There's a baseball stadium packed with cheering fans for the Oklahoma City Dodgers, the Triple-A affiliate for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

And, of course, at Paycom Center, one can find a raucous crowd cheering for the Oklahoma City Thunder.

If you would rather be on the field than in the stands, Oklahoma City's more than 250 days of sunshine each year make it the perfect place to maintain an active lifestyle. The city offers a growing number of ways to enjoy sports and being outdoors.

OKLAHOMA CITY DODGERS

The Oklahoma City Dodgers have won three division titles and one conference title in their seven Pacific Coast League seasons in OKC (The 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic). The team plays in the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark, a venue that USA Today tabbed as one of the country's top 10 minor league stadiums.

OKLAHOMA CITY ENERGY

Oklahoma City Energy FC, a professional men's soccer club, completed its inaugural season in USL Pro in 2014. The Energy FC plays in Oklahoma City's recently renovated Taft Stadium. The Energy suspended their 2022 season as

Taft Stadium undergoes additional renovations, which includes turf upgrades and modern LED lighting. The team is hopeful it can resume play in the very near future.

OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER

The NBA's presence in Oklahoma City has transformed Paycom Center into one of the toughest places to play – and one of the best places to watch – professional sports. During the 2022-23 season, the Thunder advance to the NBA Western Conference Play-in Tournament. With a young core of skilled and talented players, including 2022-23 All-Star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and NBA Rookie of the Year Runner-up Jalen "J-Dub" Williams, the Thunder's rise to one the league's top teams should continue unabated. The Thunder's G-League team, the Oklahoma City Blue, is also based in OKC and plays its games at Paycom Center as well.

USA SOFTBALL COMPLEX

The National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum, the headquarters of the governing body of USA Softball, is located in Oklahoma City. The adjoining USA Hall of Fame



FOR YOU. FOR FAMILY. FOR COMMUNITY.

The YMCA is more than a gym. Your household membership comes with pool-splashing, soccer-ball-kicking family time with year-round activities, aquatics programs and free developmental youth sports for the whole family.

When you join the Y, you get access to 14 metro locations with free group exercise classes, indoor pools, basketball courts, indoor tracks and personal trainers. Youth sports, early registration access and discounts on several programs can also be included with your membership.

Visit ymcaokc.org for more information.



Stadium Complex, home to the OGE Energy Field, is the site of the NCAA Division I Women's College World Series. The complex also hosts other collegiate-level softball championships, as well as national and international men's softball tournaments.

COLLEGIATE SPORTING EVENTS

OKC's region is home to two Big-12 Conference universities with powerhouse sports teams. The University of Oklahoma Sooners play 20 miles south of Oklahoma City in Norman. The Oklahoma State University Cowboys call Stillwater home, which is an hour's drive north of OKC. Closer to home, collegiate teams to cheer for include Oklahoma City University, Southern Nazarene University (in Bethany), Oklahoma Christian University and the University of Central Oklahoma (both in Edmond).

MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS

The 17-acre Myriad Botanical Gardens is a calm and peaceful urban retreat in the heart of Oklahoma City. The park offers a grand performance lawn, vintage carousel, water features, children's discovery garden, dog park and many community and seasonal activities that take place throughout the year. In 2015, the Urban Land Institute awarded the Myriad Botanical Gardens its prestigious Urban Open Space Award. The Garden's centerpiece, the Crystal Bridge Conservatory, recently completed an \$11 million renovation.

SCISSORTAIL PARK

In September 2019, Oklahoma City residents celebrated the opening of another MAPS 3 project, Scissortail Park. The 40-acre Upper Park has a stage for live music, a skating rink, a paddle boat pond, a restaurant and a children's area. The Lower Park, which opened in September 2022, has a walking trail, nature area for kids, basketball and pickleball courts, artificial turf soccer field and futsal court. It is connected to the Upper Park by SkyDance Bridge, a 380-foot-long pedestrian bridge with a 197-foot-tall sculpture. The programming of Myriad Gardens and Scissortail Park complements each other.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOATHOUSE DISTRICT

Oklahoma City transformed its abandoned riverbed into its crown jewel of outdoor recreation. Today, the Oklahoma River is home to a U.S. Olympic and Paralympic training venue for rowing and canoe/kayak and the only permanently lit paddle sport racing course in the world. Even beginners and casual athletes can enjoy the facility through corporate rowing leagues and rowing classes. The Oklahoma City Boathouse District is also home to RIVERSPORT Rapids, which includes whitewater rafting and kayaking as well as surfing, skiing and snowboarding. The district also includes 14 miles of paved trails that connect to Lake Overholser, the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge and Lake Hefner, which are all northwest of downtown Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma River is also home to the Oklahoma River Cruises, which offers connections to Bricktown and OKC's historic Stockyards City.

OKLAHOMA CITY PARKS & RECREATION

The city's parks department offers recreational sports leagues for adults and children throughout the year. For adults, the department has competitive and recreational basketball, softball, baseball, pickleball and soccer leagues. There are also men's, women's and co-ed softball leagues. Soccer stars can take the field in the OKC United FC soccer league. For those not into competitive sports, but still enjoy being outside, there are department-managed parks and splash pads throughout the city. More information about all the department's programs can be found at okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation.





HEALTH AND *Wellness*

With miles of trails, Oklahoma City is a great place to train for your next event, whether it's on two wheels or your own two legs. If you prefer a more laid-back activity, there are many public golf courses in the metro. When an emergency arises, you're never too far from world-class medical care. Learn more about where to stay active and healthy at ABetterLifeOKC.com/health.

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

With nearly 250 days of sunshine a year and a growing number of parks, trails and sporting activities, Oklahoma City is the perfect place to maintain an active lifestyle. Thanks to Oklahoma City's emphasis on improving infrastructure and the community funding new wellness centers, sidewalks, trails and facilities, Oklahoma City has the quality of life that produces healthy, happy citizens.

There are a myriad of ways you can enjoy outdoor activities in Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City has 107 miles of cycling and running trails, with more planned. These trails and designated bike lanes total nearly 150 miles, which make it possible for bicycle commuters to travel all the way from northwest Oklahoma City to downtown on designated bike paths. Bluff Creek and Lake Stanley Draper, both located in Oklahoma City, have more than 15 miles of mountain biking and hiking trails. Three large lakes – Hefner, Draper and Overholser – provide outdoor recreational activities in and around each lake, including boating, fishing, biking, paved jogging trails and golf.

MAPS-funded senior health and wellness centers will soon occupy every quadrant of the city. Open to people ages 50 and up, the wellness centers include amenities to support and promote a healthy, active lifestyle, social interaction and overall quality of life for Oklahoma City adults. Two centers are already open and two more are on the way.

The Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge at the north end of Lake Overholser is a pristine expanse of 1,000 acres. Hiking the area will put you in close contact to wildlife, not to mention beautiful views of lakes, bottomland forest and marshlands. The refuge's trails can accommodate bicyclists or hikers. You can also rent kayaks or canoes and explore the North Canadian River/Oklahoma River as it snakes through the refuge.

The Oklahoma River, a seven-mile stretch of the North Canadian River that runs through the heart of Oklahoma City, offers world-class canoeing, kayaking and standup paddle boarding. Nearby, an Olympic-level whitewater kayaking facility at the Boathouse District provides whitewater training and fun for both athletes and amateurs. An Olympic-level whitewater kayaking facility at the Boathouse District provides whitewater training and fun for both athletes and amateurs. You can even try your hand at snow skiing or surfing on new simulators that recently opened.

It's easy and cheap to be a golfer in the OKC metro. The city has five public golf courses, with fees starting as low as \$26 for 18 holes or less (\$15.75 for seniors), though there

are lower prices later in the day. The cities of Edmond, Midwest City and Norman also have public golf courses. Try your inland boarding skills at the Mat Hoffman Action Sports Park, offering 26,000 square feet of terrain for skateboarding, in-line skating and BMX freestyle biking. The city opened a new skate park in 2019 at Stars and Stripes Park near Lake Hefner.

For four-legged family members, check out the many dog parks sprinkled around the metro, including Mutts Park in the Midtown District, Paw OK Dog Park in northwest OKC, a two-acre, off-the-leash area with a swimming pond and enclosures for both large and small dogs, and Bar K, a new dog park, bar and restaurant located in the Boathouse District. The downtown Scissortail Park also features a free and enclosed dog park area.

Oklahoma City is home to the annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, held each April, which attracts more than 25,000 runners and walkers from all 50 states and several foreign countries.

MEDICAL CARE

With one of the nation's leading heart transplant teams, one of the country's most complete medical research centers and one of the medical profession's most respected eye institutes, area residents' access to health care is among the best. Oklahoma City is also home to one of the first proton therapy centers in America. These facilities are on the cutting edge of battling cancer. Oklahoma City residents can find quality health care at 35 hospitals, with most providing specialty services in areas such as oncology and hematology; orthopedics; burn treatment; hearing and vision care; neonatal care; infertility; spinal disorder care; sports medicine; and after-hours urgent care. The state's only Level 1 Trauma Center with MediFlight service is based in Oklahoma City, the perfect location for regional service. And the Oklahoma City area's thriving biosciences industry adds to the quality of health care, with organizations and businesses dedicated to the discovery, development and distribution of advanced technology to improve treatments and health.

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OU HEALTH

OU Health is the state's only comprehensive academic health system of hospitals, clinics and centers of excellence. The flagship academic health care system is the clinical partner of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, one of the most comprehensive academic and research campuses in the country. With 11,000 employees and more than 1,300 physicians and advanced practice providers, OU Health is home to Oklahoma's largest doctor network with a complete range of specialty care. OU Health serves Oklahoma and the region with the state's only freestanding children's hospital, the only National Cancer Institute-Designated OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center and Oklahoma's flagship hospital, which serves as the state's only Level 1 trauma center.

Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health was named one of the Top 50 Children's Hospitals for Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Gastroenterology by U.S. News & World Report in its most recent rankings. OU Health's oncology program at OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center was named Oklahoma's top facility for cancer care by U.S. News & World Report in its 2020-21 rankings. OU Health also was ranked by U.S. News & World Report as high performing in these specialties: colon surgery, COPD and congestive heart failure. OU Health's mission is to lead health care in patient care, education and research. To learn more, visit ouhealth.com.

SSM HEALTH ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL

Opened in 1898 by two sisters from the order of the Sisters of St. Francis, SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital was Oklahoma City's first hospital. Headquartered in Midtown, St. Anthony has a long-standing and ongoing commitment to excellence and quality. As the recipient of two very prestigious awards, St. Anthony's excellence in quality shines. In 1998 and again in 2004, St. Anthony was awarded the Oklahoma Quality Award. In 2002, SSM Health St. Anthony was honored as the first health care system in the nation to receive the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige Award.

SSM Health continues to expand its presence across the Oklahoma City metro area with the recent additions of the SSM Health Medical Group office building in northeast Edmond and an expansion of the Frank C. Love Cancer

Institute at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital. The Edmond facility opened early in 2021, providing 13,000 square feet of space for urgent care services as well as primary care, pediatrics and specialty care provider offices. The Frank C. Love Cancer Institute expansion opened in early 2020 and has provided St. Anthony Hospital with 16,000 square feet of additional clinic space designed to enhance exceptional care for cancer patients. The cancer institute program was formerly housed on the first floor of the hospital but is now located on the third floor where patients and their families receive the utmost care and treatment.

INTEGRIS HEALTH

INTEGRIS Health is the state's largest Oklahoma-owned health care corporation and one of the state's largest private employers, with hospitals, rehabilitation centers, physician clinics, mental health facilities, fitness centers, independent living centers and home health agencies throughout much of the state. Its corporate headquarters is located on the campus of INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. It is a not-for-profit corporation governed by a 19-member board of directors made up of business, medical and community leaders from across the state. INTEGRIS offers top-notch care at facilities throughout Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma Proton Therapy Center in Oklahoma City provides patients with advanced radiation therapy in a supportive environment. The center is equipped with the most advanced proton therapy technology available. The center is integrated with the new, state-of-the-art INTEGRIS Cancer Institute of Oklahoma, which is adjacent to the center and can provide any additional medical services one might need while undergoing proton therapy. For women-focused health care, INTEGRIS has a specialized center off Lake Hefner Parkway. Lakeside Women's Hospital has a wide variety of doctors ready to care for women.

Early in 2022, INTEGRIS Health broke ground on a \$200 million project that will include a heart and intensive care unit expansion at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center on Northwest Expressway. This state-of-the art, 206,000-square-foot expansion is expected to be completed in 2024 and is being built in response to a dire need for intensive care in our state. INTEGRIS also operates a hospital on Portland Avenue, offering a full range of health services.

MERCY HOSPITAL OKLAHOMA CITY

Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City implements and advocates for innovative health and social services to improve the health and quality of life of communities served, with particular concern for people who are economically disadvantaged. Mercy is a full-service tertiary hospital. It provides the following services: BirthPlace, breast care, cancer resource center, day surgery, emergency care, Gamma Knife, home care, heart care, hospice, multiple sclerosis center, NeuroScience Institute, neonatal intensive care, physical medicine/rehab center, robotic surgery and urgent care. Construction is underway at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City on a new, four-story building that will house the Love Family Women's Center. This new \$98 million, 175,000-square-foot facility is expected to be completed in fall 2023. In 2020, Mercy opened its south location at Sooner Road and I-240 that features more than 200,000 square feet of space and 36 additional beds, enough room for an entire care team to provide specialty services, including oncology, imaging, and inpatient and outpatient surgery.

OKLAHOMA HEART HOSPITAL

This physician-owned hospital was designed by cardiologists to ensure that patients receive expert, individualized care with utmost comfort. Oklahoma Heart

Hospital (OHH) is the first of its kind in Oklahoma and the first all-digital hospital in the U.S. It has two locations – the North and South hospital campuses – as well as a network of more than 90 cardiovascular specialists at more than 60 clinic and hospital locations across the state. OHH focuses on treating and preventing the diseases of the heart and lungs.

OKLAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Discovering the next life-saving cure has been a part of Oklahoma City's DNA since 1946. That year, a statewide fundraising campaign was held to start the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. All told, 7,000 Oklahomans donated a total of \$2.25 million to build laboratories and a research hospital. And what began as a two-person operation in 1946 has grown into an internationally recognized research institute, employing more than 400 people. The team studies cancer, heart disease, autoimmune disorders and diseases of aging. Their discoveries have yielded hundreds of patents and a pair of life-saving drugs now available in hospitals and clinics around the world. By studying the ways in which the human body functions, OMRF develops deeper insights into disease, then translates those findings into diagnostics and therapeutics.





The Oklahoma City metro gets lots of sunshine during the year, so there are plenty of days to get out and explore. When the wind comes sweeping down the plains, the city has a great warning system to help keep you safe. And while winter days can be harsh, Old Man Winter doesn't stick around too long.

SUNNY DAYS AHEAD

Oklahoma City's solid four seasons and its sunny days give residents plenty of opportunities to get outdoors and explore. Oklahoma City's climate is enjoyably average with sunny and warm summers, bright and cold winters, and crisp autumns. The spring season is often wet, but filled with plenty of clear days to get out and watch Oklahoma's landscape bloom. In addition to its temperate climate, Oklahoma City boasts clean air so you can breathe easy.

Oklahoma's location east of the Rocky Mountains and north of the Gulf of Mexico means that we are sometimes a hot spot for some interesting weather. Cold, dry air from the Rocky Mountains and Canada have the potential to combine with the warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico, sometimes resulting in thunderstorms or even more severe weather, including tornadoes. Like other states that have a potential for severe weather, Oklahoma is well-prepared for what Mother Nature might throw its way. The Greater Oklahoma City metro area has hundreds of outdoor

warning sirens that inform residents when their area is under a tornado warning.

In Oklahoma City, these tornado sirens are tested every Saturday at noon unless there is severe weather in the area.

Oklahoma City is also home to the nation's best meteorologists who help residents stay aware and informed when severe weather happens. Just 20 miles south of Oklahoma City in Norman is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service and the Storm Prediction Center. Oklahoma City has access to the best and most advanced equipment to predict and detect potential severe weather.

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Much like states along the East Coast and Gulf Coast are prepared for potential hurricanes, residents in Oklahoma City do their best to be prepared for severe weather and tornadoes. At home, have a family tornado plan in place by identifying where you will take shelter. Flying debris is often the greatest danger in tornadoes, so store protective head coverings in or next to your shelter space. Many homes in Greater Oklahoma City have tornado shelters or safe rooms.

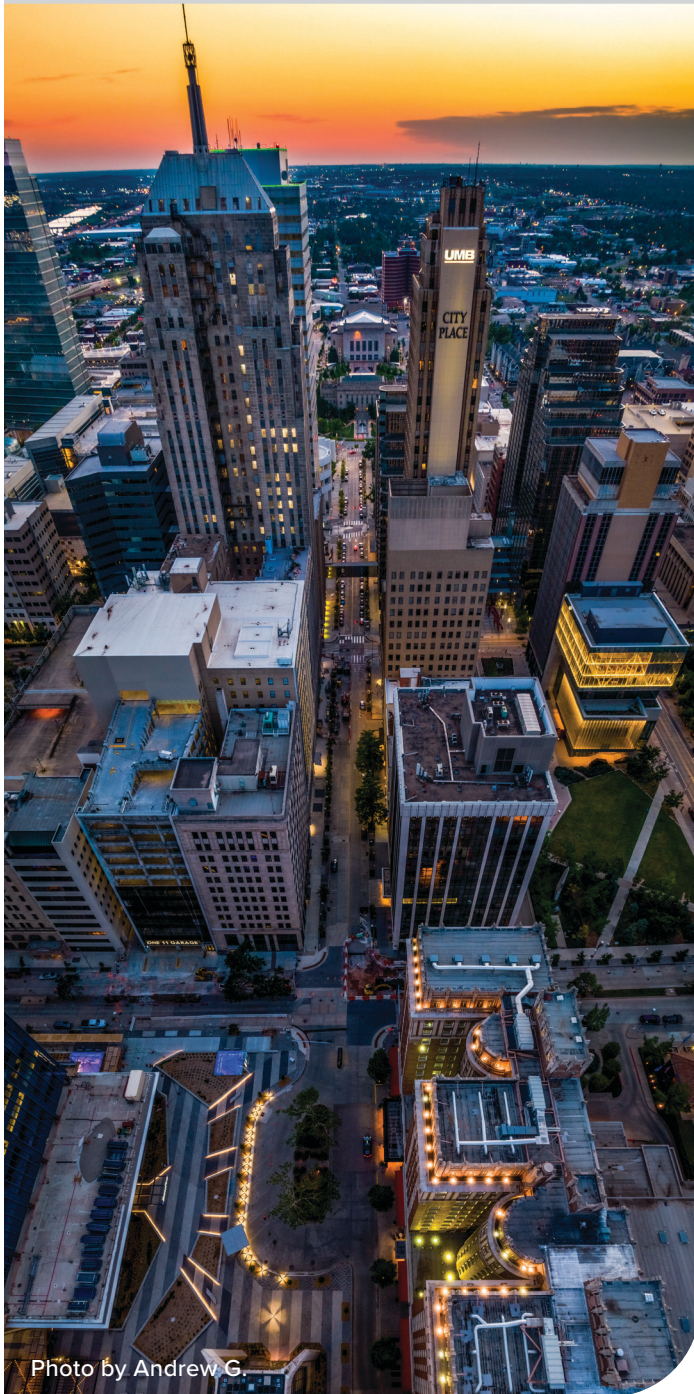


Photo by Andrew G.

OKLAHOMA CITY'S
CLIMATE IS ENJOYABLY
AVERAGE WITH SUNNY
AND WARM SUMMERS,
BRIGHT AND COLD
WINTERS, AND CRISP
AUTUMNS.

While not all builders include a shelter in the house, they often take the steps to make it very easy for one to be added by the homeowner. The region's hard clay soil and water table mean that most newer homes do not have a basement, but many homes in historic neighborhoods do. No matter the age of your home, adding a tornado shelter inside your house or on your property is a good way to be prepared for potential severe weather. For more information about tornado safety and preparation, visit the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management's site at ok.gov/oem.

A GUIDE TO WEATHER WATCHES AND WARNINGS

If you aren't familiar with the categories for severe weather, watching a meteorology report can be a little confusing. Here is a no-frills guide to severe weather reporting:

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH

What it means: The potential exists for the development of thunderstorms that might produce large hail and/or damaging winds.

What to do: Go about your normal activities, but be aware of the weather. Listen to the National Weather Service's weather radio or local stations for further weather updates.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING

What it means: A severe thunderstorm – meaning a storm with large hail and/or damaging winds – is occurring or is imminent.

What to do: Move indoors or to a place of safety.

TORNADO WATCH

What it means: Conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms to form, and these storms may be capable of producing a tornado.

What to do: Go about your normal activities, but be aware of the weather. Listen to the National Weather Service's weather radio or local stations for further weather updates.



PDS TORNADO WATCH

What it means: This type of tornado watch is issued when the National Weather Service deems a storm to be a “particularly dangerous situation” with the potential for multiple strong or violent tornadoes. Only a very small percentage of tornado watches nationwide have historically been classified as PDS tornado watches.

What to do: Go about your normal activities, but be more aware of the weather. Listen to the National Weather Service’s weather radio or local stations for further weather updates.

TORNADO WARNING

What it means: A tornado has been spotted or intense low-level rotation has been indicated on weather radar or by a trained spotter. A tornado siren will likely be sounded, meaning the twister is close to the area.

What to do: Take cover immediately in an enclosed, windowless area on the lowest level of your home or office, or in a shelter, if possible. A vehicle is not a safe place in a storm. Go to the nearest building to seek shelter.

A photograph of a family moving into a new home. A man is leaning over a large cardboard box, a woman is sitting on the floor holding a baby, and a coffee cup is visible in the foreground. The scene is bright and warm, suggesting a sunny day.

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If you've been thinking it's time to move, it's definitely time to let us show you what a pleasant homebuying experience can look like. Our local loan experts are passionate about helping people find a home loan that's just right with a process that feels a lot more like a relationship than a transaction. If you'd like to discover a better way to buy a home, let's talk.

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THERE ARE EXCITING EVENTS AND
NEW DEVELOPMENTS ANNOUNCED
WEEKLY IN THIS GROWING CITY.

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