

WHERE IN WILLIAMS COUNTY?

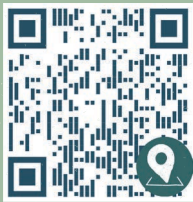
2024 - 2025

WHERE TO
PLAY

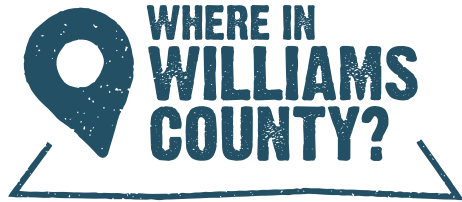
WHERE TO
LIVE

WHERE TO
WORK

www.WhereInWilliamsCounty.com



Want to know what it's really like in Williams County? Check us out on YouTube for a glimpse into our vibrant communities, local events, and breathtaking landscapes!



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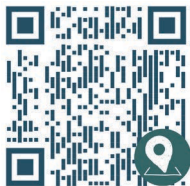
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This guide was developed by Williams County along with AE2S; contributions and input were provided by numerous individuals and organizations including the Williston Convention and Visitor's Bureau (Williston CVB), the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Ray, and the City of Tioga.

Any errors or omissions are entirely unintentional.



Do you have a question, comment, addition, or feedback? Let us know!

WAIT... WHERE?

Where? Williams County, North Dakota, of course. Where the unexpected awaits!

Whatever you think you might know about us, I bet we can surprise you. Located in northwestern North Dakota, bordering Montana to the west, the mighty Missouri River to the south, and a hop, skip, and jump to Canada to the north - we're ready to shatter your expectations.



Williams County Quick Facts

- Population: **40,950**
- Total Housing Units: **20,415**
- Median Age: **31.9 Years**
- Median Household Income: **\$86,139**
- Median Home Value: **\$310,040**
- Average Household Size: **2.5 People**
- PreK- 12 School Enrollment: **7,400+ Students**

Williams County is one of the top four producers of oil in North Dakota, and a top national producer for durum, peas, and lentils. You may even spot a few sunflower fields while you are out exploring!

What have you heard about us?

You're probably thinking about the oil boom of the mid-2000s. It's true that oil and gas have fueled enormous growth in our region, which came with its fair share of growing pains. However, over the past decade, the industry has stabilized while continuing to grow at a sustainable pace.

In that time we have welcomed new families, new businesses, housing developments, restaurants, and diverse industries. There are brand new schools, roads, an international airport, water and sewer infrastructure, and expanded broadband access.

Our economy is more diversified than ever, our communities are family friendly, and our job and career opportunities are unmatched. All of the amenities you need are here, plus some amazing bonus features that take life in Williams County to the next level.



Sunflower Fields
Williams County

Want even more info?

We've included QR codes throughout the guide that link to our website, WhereInWilliamsCounty.com. Just scan when you want to learn more about any topic! The website is integrated with Google Translate and can be translated into 100+ languages.

THINGS TO DO

Where Activities are Endless

OUTDOORS

Hike lakeside trails for panoramic views, cast a line and reel in a walleye, or paddle your way down the river. Visit Little Egypt or Lewis and Clark State Park to camp along the beautiful shores of Lake Sakakawea, or tee off at some of the state’s top-rated golf courses – including The Links of North Dakota, one of Golf Digest’s “Top 100 Courses You Can Play.” Explore the extensive Williston Parks Trail System for a refreshing hike or bike ride, or cool off at the Williston Splash Pad, perfect for family fun on a warm day.

For those who prefer a bit more horsepower, hit the trails on an ATV or take a scenic drive on one of our many backroads. But that’s not all – our wildlife is just as exciting as our landscapes. Keep an eye out for pronghorn sheep, elk, and mule deer – especially if venturing into the nearby North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Williams County is also a hunter’s, fisher’s, and birdwatcher’s paradise!

YEAR-ROUND RECREATION

From snow-covered hills to ice-glistening lakeshores, there’s always something to do in our neck of the woods when the weather gets “a little chilly.” While the snow is falling, strap in for some cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or ice skating, or hop on a snowmobile and drill into some ice fishing. You can also join in on an activity – curling, volleyball, archery, trivia, cornhole, and many more bring people together indoors all winter long.

When the snow melts, trade your snow skis for a jet ski – or maybe some boat keys! You can reel in a keeper at one of our lakes or rivers. Take some horses or ATVs off the beaten path and catch one of our stunning sunsets. As the colors start changing, soak up the beautiful autumn foliage while cruising along our bike and hiking paths.

ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

From frontier museums to front row seats at the local theater, Williams County is where art, culture, and the western prairie collide. Visit one of several museums and historical sites that harken back to the days of the first frontier settlers, or get your fill of western-themed paintings, Native American artifacts, and even a few dinosaur fossils. When the sun goes down, the stage lights up with music and local events.



Don't say there's nothing to do here. We won't believe you! In Williams County, you can experience the best of the west in arts, culture, dining, entertainment, outdoors, and more! Whether it's a relaxing evening exploring local shops and restaurants, an exciting adventure camping and hiking at one of our local or state parks, or an adrenaline-packed weekend of hunting or fishing, we have it all! Scan the QR code for great ideas for things to do!



TRAVEL & LODGING

With a variety of options to choose from, you're sure to find the perfect place to rest your head after a day of exploring. If you're looking for a rustic cabin in the woods, a cozy home with river views, or a luxurious hotel suite, we've got you covered.

Need to get away for a while or planning a visit? The Williston Basin International Airport (XWA) is one of the newest international airports in the country. XWA currently offers year-round direct flights to Denver, CO, Minneapolis, MN, and seasonal direct flights to Las Vegas, NV. Trains more your thing? Downtown Williston is home to an Amtrak Station on the Empire Builder line.

DINING

Williams County has a range of diverse dining experiences for adventurous (and not so adventurous) foodies. Looking for a world tour of flavor at international restaurants? This is the place for you. We have a variety of cuisines from Thai to Turkish to Japanese to Mexican and more!

You can often find food trucks at our parks and local festivals. And for those with a sweet tooth, our local bakeries and ice cream shops will satisfy your cravings with delicious treats.

SHOPPING

With a variety of local boutiques, unique shops, and engaging markets, you're sure to find something that catches your eye. Both Williston and Tioga offer historic walkable downtowns with shopping and dining options. It's also an easy drive to Minot, Dickinson, or Bismarck for even more shopping fun.



LOOKING FOR SOME FUN?

Adventures and attractions await in Williams County. Visit *Williston*, the local convention and visitors bureau, provides up-to-date information on all of the great activities taking place throughout Williams County.

[VisitWilliston.com](#)

Get information about where to eat, where to shop, and where to play at your fingertips. Download the Discover Williston app, provided by the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce.



[WillistonChamber.com/DiscoverWilliston](#)

or download from your device's app store.

Want to get involved in your community? Williams County is where nine out of 10 residents say they stay because of the people and sense of community. The tenth person is an introvert – but he's happy here, too!

From social and charitable organizations to senior centers and everything in between, you'll find where you fit in Williams County.

[WhereinWilliamsCounty.com/community-organizations](#)



Annual Chokecherry Festival
Williams County



BBQ Picnic in Ray
Williams County

Check out what our residents have to say!

“

“Growing up in Limon, CO and graduating with 16 people, Williston was a big city to me! When my husband switched jobs, we had an opportunity to move, but we love it here! My parents are considering moving here now as well.”



Kenzi Brown
Originally from
Simla, CO

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Whether you are visiting for the first time, thinking about a potential move, or are a life-long resident, you truly can “choose your own adventure” in Williams County to find new and exciting things to do.

EXPLORE

INDOORS

- Knock down some pins at Strike Zone Bowling Alley
- Soar at the Safari Trampoline Park
- Splash at the waterpark in the Williston Area Recreation Center
- Take in a show with Entertainment Inc. or live music at the local watering hole
- Shop ‘til you drop at our boutiques, shops and markets
- Hit the rink for a Williston State College Tetons hockey game

OUTDOORS

- Adventure in the bluffs of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Take a hike, grab a bike, rent a boat, or ATV through Spring Lake Park or Lewis & Clark State Park
- Race the track at Thunder Valley Go-Karts
- Sing along at Summer Nights on Main or the County Parks Summer Concert Series
- Skate, snowmobile, ice fish and more all winter long

RELAX

INDOORS

- Catch a flick at Williston Grand Theatres or the Tioga Movie Theater
- Grab a bite at one of our local restaurants
- Warm up in the winter at a local coffee shop
- Get pampered at one of the day spas in Williston or Tioga
- Hit the links on one of our six golf courses

OUTDOORS

- Soak in the sun or set up camp at Little Egypt County Park
- Drop a line in Lake Sakakawea
- Gaze at the Northern Lights from your own backyard
- Take in a night under the lights with a baseball game at Ardean Aafedt Stadium
- Take a stroll back in time along the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers and nearby historic sites

QUICK TIP!



Scan the QR code to check out a couple of fun-filled itineraries to help you fully experience all that Williams County has to offer!



Confluence of Missouri and
Yellowstone Rivers
Williams County

LOOK WHAT'S COMING!

Don't miss these exciting new developments coming to Williams County soon.

2024 - 2027: Upgrades to Williams County Parks

2024 - 2025: Tioga Community Center Expansion

2025: New Turf Complex at Williston State College

2025: Williston Water World

2025: Great Northern Events Center (Downtown Williston)

LIVING HERE

Where Small-Town Charm Meets Big-City Opportunity

From where to live, to where to send your kids to daycare or school, or where to get help finding a job – everything you need to know about living in Williams County is here – and more!

Curious what it's like to live in Williams County? Scan the QR code to learn more!



Williston Band Day Parade
Williams County



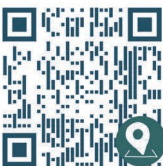
Williston Basin CTE Center
Williams County

EDUCATION

For elementary through high school, Williams County is home to five public school districts and two private schools, all with enthusiastic teachers and plenty of activities. Whether you prefer big school action, small school connections, or something in between, the schools here are sure to meet your needs.

We have had many exciting updates in our education community - like the opening of the new Williston Basin Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center, a groundbreaking for a new elementary school in Williston (opening in 2026), and an expansion at Tioga High School to be completed in 2025.

Students can follow pathways programs that lead directly into the workforce or continue their education right here at Williston State College, which offers two-year higher education in several technical programs; multiple options to complete a Bachelor's degree; and a brand new, state-of-the-art healthcare training facility (to be complete in Fall 2025). Williston State College also offers generous scholarships, some which fully cover tuition and fees. There are also options for adult technical education through TrainND Northwest, so the learning never has to stop!



Scan here to learn more about Pre-K-12, higher, and continuing education offered in Williams County!

YOUTH & FAMILY

Williams County is where families grow, prosper, and have a ton of fun! With countless family-friendly activities, events galore, and an abundance of destinations to explore, there's really no excuse for boredom.

Families who love the outdoors will appreciate the beautiful landscape, scenery, rivers, lakes, and all the activities that they provide such as hiking, fishing, kayaking, golfing, camping and so much more. Sports and recreation programs are abundant through area park districts or recreation councils, and check out the art classes through the James Memorial Library. Water bugs can check out the Williston Splash Pad, Tioga Community Pool, or the new Williston Water World coming in 2025!

What about those chilly months? We have tons of indoor opportunities to get moving and stay warm all winter long. Grab a new book from the Williston Community Library, Tioga Community Center Library, or the Williams County Bookmobile, which makes stops all around the County! Our libraries also have programs and reading activities for all ages. Catch the latest movie at the theater or ride some waves at the Williston Area Recreation Center.

Build your community connections by attending local events like concerts, theater productions, rodeos, and street fairs just to name a few. New mom in town? Check out Olive Motherhood Foundation for fun events and friendly connections. There's so much for the whole family to experience in Williams County, just stop by and we'll show you!



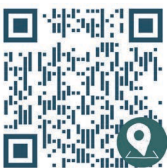
Scan to find your guide to all things family-fun!

CHILDCARE

If you're moving to the area with kids, we understand that childcare is an extremely important (and sometimes nerve-racking) consideration. Williams County is where you can find larger centers with more flexibility, as well as cozy home daycares for your little tykes to learn, play, and explore.

Several new licensed childcare providers have opened throughout the County over the past few years.

There are also a variety of preschools and after school programs. Check with your school district for more info.



Need help finding a childcare provider or assistance programs? Scan here!



Upper Missouri Valley Fair
Williams County



Williston Splash Pad
Williams County

QUICK TIP!



Childcare spots can fill quickly and some providers may have waiting lists. Contact providers early and often to schedule a phone call or visit or get on their list.



Bright Beginnings
Grand Opening
Williams County

ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS

Nesson School District #2 (Ray)
Mascot: Jays
2024-2025 Enrollment (PreK-12): 443

Eight Mile School District #6 (Trenton)
Mascot: Tigers
2024-2025 Enrollment (PreK-12): 319

Williston Basin School District #7
Mascot: Coyotes
2024-2025 Enrollment (K-12): 5,413

Tioga School District #15
Mascot: Pirates
2024-2025 Enrollment (PreK-12): 544

Grenora School District #99
Mascot: Gophers & Thunder
2024-2025 Enrollment (PreK-12): 166

Williston State College
Mascot: Tetons
2024 Fall Enrollment: 1,058

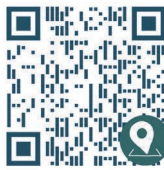
*Note: Districts have limited enrollment for PreK classes, but PreK is also privately offered through some childcare providers

HOUSING

Ready to settle down? Williams County is where there's acres of options for you to find your next home.

Looking to rent? Great! Rather buy? There are options big and small! Whether you're seeking a charming bungalow in a family-friendly neighborhood, a modern downtown apartment close to the action, or want to build your own sprawling ranch with room to grow, you'll find it here.

Our growing population means there is growing opportunity to build your perfect dream home. There are independent builders as well as up-and-coming subdivisions, such as the new housing development that broke ground in Williston Square in mid-2024.



Looking for assistance with buying, renting, building, or renovating? Scan here!



City of Ray
Williams County



New Homes in Williston
Williams County



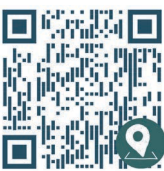
Apartment living in Williston
Williams County

JOB & CAREERS

Ready to take your career to new heights? Williams County is where you can find a wide variety of job opportunities to suit every interest and skillset.

While the oilfield helped spark our growth, our economy has diversified over the past decade to include everything from traditional industries like agriculture, energy, and healthcare to emerging fields like technology and drones/unmanned aerial systems (UAS). Our largest employers include oilfield services companies like Nabors Drilling Technologies U.S.A., and public entities like Williston Basin School District #7.

Williams County is also a hub for entrepreneurs and innovators looking for fresh ideas and talent. Our excellent broadband network (even in our rural areas) means you can bring those remote jobs with you.



Need help finding a job? Looking to start a business? Scan here for resources and contacts!



Oilfield Services Lab
Williston CVB

Check out what our residents have to say!

“

I knew something big was happening and there would be a lot of opportunities. I wouldn't have been able to advance my career this quickly anywhere but here.”



Anthony Dudas
Originally from Austin, Minn.

QUICK TIP!



Visit the Job Service office in Williston, or swing by one of their site visits in Tioga, to get help with your resume, practice your interview skills, and more!



Resources at the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce

Starting a Business

Want to start your own business? North Dakota is a very business-friendly state, and we have excellent local resources to help you get off on the right foot (or boot if it's winter).

The Small Business Development Office and Tri-County Regional Development Council can assist with finding funding and formulating a business plan.

Reach out to a local Economic Development Office for additional assistance and financial incentives.

OUR CITIES

Where You'll Find Your Next Hometown

From Alamo to Williston – and Epping-thing in between – Williams County is where you can find the perfect mix of communities to explore – or even settle down.



Want to learn more about our communities and everything they have to offer? Scan here!



Williams County has everything from walkable urban downtowns (Williston is our largest city with more than 30,000 people) to quiet, country settings (Springbrook is our smallest with only 35 people!)

ALAMO

Let's Go to Alamo
Population: 56

Nested in a shallow valley east of Cottonwood Lake, Alamo's panoramic views boast the most beautiful sunsets you'll ever see! Alamo is where you'll find a big-hearted rural community with deep roots in the farming industry.



EPPING

What's Happening in Epping?
Population: 79

In Epping you can brush up on your history at the Buffalo Trails Museum before grabbing a burger and a beer at the Eagles Nest. Interested in recreation? Head a few miles west to the Epping/Springbrook Dam for boating, camping, fishing, and more!

SPRINGBROOK

Take a Look at Springbrook
Population: 35

Springbrook is a small agricultural community 14 miles from Williston, and right in the center of outdoor opportunities. You can almost see the Epping/Springbrook Dam from town, and you're just a hop, skip, and a jump from many Missouri River resorts, campgrounds, and Lewis and Clark State Park.



TIOGA

Take Your Time in Tioga
Population: 2,056

Ever wonder where the North Dakota oil boom started? Look no further. The discovery back in 1951 changed Tioga and the state of North Dakota forever! Tucked along the eastern border of Williams County, just a stone's throw north of Highway 2, Tioga has everything you'll need and more, including an impressive community center, an outdoor pool, several annual events, and other amenities for the whole family to enjoy.



GRENORA

What's Great in Grenora?
Population: 210

This tight-knit community with a rich farming and ranching tradition is nestled up in the northwest corner of Williams County. It won't take long for you to get to know the people and places that make Grenora shine.



WILDROSE

Life Grows in Wildrose
Population: 121

This sweet-as-a-rose community is home to a golf course, city park, tennis court, and a bar/café, The Mixer. Wildrose is where you can have small-town fun whenever you'd like. If you enjoy friendly people and a pleasant atmosphere, Wildrose is the place to grow!



RAY

Ray is Just Right
Population: 714

Ray is pretty much on the way to everywhere when you're traveling through Williams County. Here you'll find highly rated schools, a great golf course, restaurants, and of course, the one-stop-shop Ray Mall. Ray is just the right size to settle down your boots and plant your roots.



WILLISTON

What's Up in Williston?
Population: 30,330

Williston is a bustling Missouri River community that doubled in population between 2010 and 2020, and continues to thrive today. You won't need to look far to find opportunities in both lifestyle and business, urban and suburban settings, and a variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment. Explore the outdoor beauty and recreation at local and state parks or head downtown for a night on the town!

WEATHER

Where Winters Can be Frosty, but the Seasons Are Spectacular

About the weather... YES, winter is cold in Williams County, but we do have four seasons! You might get four seasons in a day, a week, or a year, but we sure have them!

On average, about three feet of snow falls each year (usually not all at the same time!). But it's not that bad...honest! Our occasional below zero temps make the other seasons even sweeter! In fact, it's not unusual to see the locals in shorts when it hits 40 degrees around here. It's amazing how warm it feels after a couple months of winter.

Spring and fall are typically in the 50s and 60s and the summer averages *perfect* 70- and 80-degree weather. Whether it's the dead of winter or the heat of summer, there are a variety of year-round recreational opportunities to keep you active and engaged.

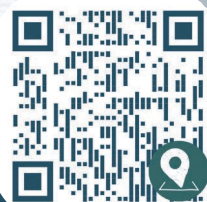
Sledding Fun on the Ice
Williams County



QUICK TIP!



If you get stuck in the snow, chances are a neighbor has a big pick-up, skid loader, or tractor to help pull you out.



Scan for weather resources and more info!



ATV on the Snow,
Williams County

RESOURCES

Where the Middle of Nowhere Meets the Middle of Everything

Although the region's history includes pioneers homesteading on the prairie, you certainly won't be "roughing it" in Williams County. All the modern essentials are available to keep you and your family connected, safe, and healthy.

Check out our Newcomer 101 resource, which includes information on all the necessities to help you feel at home.

NEWCOMER
101



Did you know North Dakota is in the top 10 states for internet coverage, speed, and availability? This is true for most of our rural areas, which have fiber connections that are faster than many large metropolitan areas.

Newcomer 101 Will Help You Know 'Where in Williams County' You Can Find:

- Banks and Financial Institutions
- Food Pantries
- Grocery Stores and Markets
- Hospitals, Clinics, Pharmacies, and Behavioral Health Resources
- Internet, Television, and Telephone Providers
- Local News
- Mail and Shipping Services
- Places of Worship
- Public Assistance
- Public Safety Information
- Transportation
- Vehicle Registration and Drivers License Services
- Voter Registration
- Water, Sewer, Gas, and Electric
- And Much More!

Check out what our residents have to say!

“

"The scenic views of western North Dakota are matched only by the high caliber of neighbors we have. The community has tons of activities, friendly people, and an airport with two major airlines making work and leisure travel easy and accessible."



Levi Hall
Originally from
Berthold, ND



Scan to learn
more online!



Bluffs and Beach at Lewis & Clark State Park
Williams County