

# WHERE IN WILLIAMS COUNTY?

**WHERE TO  
PLAY**

**WHERE TO  
LIVE**

**WHERE TO  
WORK**

[www.WhereInWilliamsCounty.com](http://www.WhereInWilliamsCounty.com)



**Spring in Downtown Williston**  
*Williams County*

# WHERE IN WILLIAMS COUNTY?

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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.

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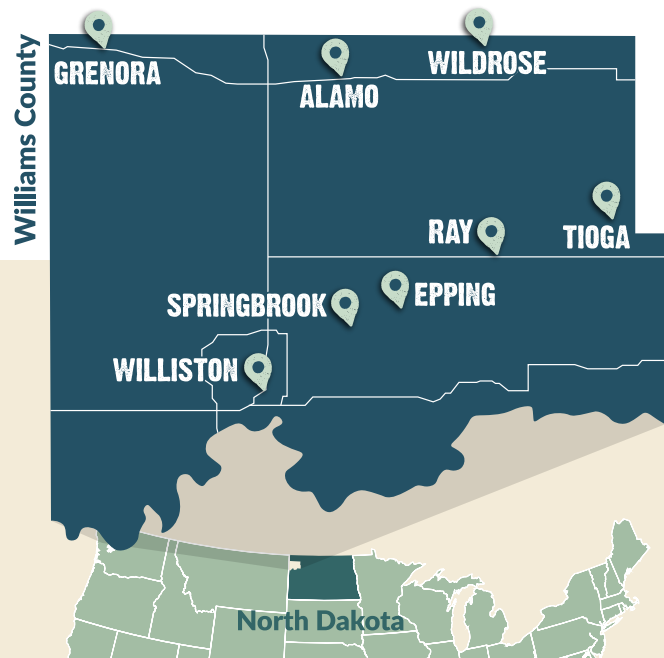
Do you have a question, comment, addition, or feedback? Let us know!

# WAIT... WHERE?

## Where the Unexpected Awaits

Where? Williams County, North Dakota, of course!

Welcome! If there's something you want to know about the area, you can probably find it right here in this handy-dandy guide. Whether you are considering applying for a job, just making a visit, or have already decided to make the move, we hope this information helps you start your adventure.



### Are you sure that's not Canada?

Not quite. Williams County is in northwestern North Dakota, bordering Montana to the west and the mighty Missouri River to the south. Our endless horizon means sunrises and sunsets that are guaranteed to take your breath away! With a lake that has more shoreline than California, vibrant communities, and interesting weather that will always give you something to talk about, Williams County has it all.

### What have you heard about us?

Is it the oil boom of the mid-2000s? We'd be lying if we said there weren't some growing pains – but believe us when we say we came out of the boom better than before. While it's true the oil and gas industry fueled enormous growth in the region since 2008, what you might not know is the energy industry has been continuously active here since the 1950s. Though 2008 was a major turning point in our history, it wasn't completely unprecedented.

Williams County is also an agricultural hub with vast fields of canola, flax, wheat, and sunflowers just to name a few.

Over the past 20 years, Williams County has grown from less than 20,000 to more than 40,000 people and has welcomed new businesses, housing developments, restaurants, and industries. There are brand new schools, roads, an international airport, modern water and sewer infrastructure, and expanded broadband access. All the amenities you need are here, plus some amazing bonus features that take life in Williams County to the next level.



Pump Jack in a Canola Field  
Williams County

### Want even more info?

We've included QR codes throughout the guide that link to our website, [WhereInWilliamsCounty.com](http://WhereInWilliamsCounty.com). Just scan when you want to learn more about any topic!

# 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.



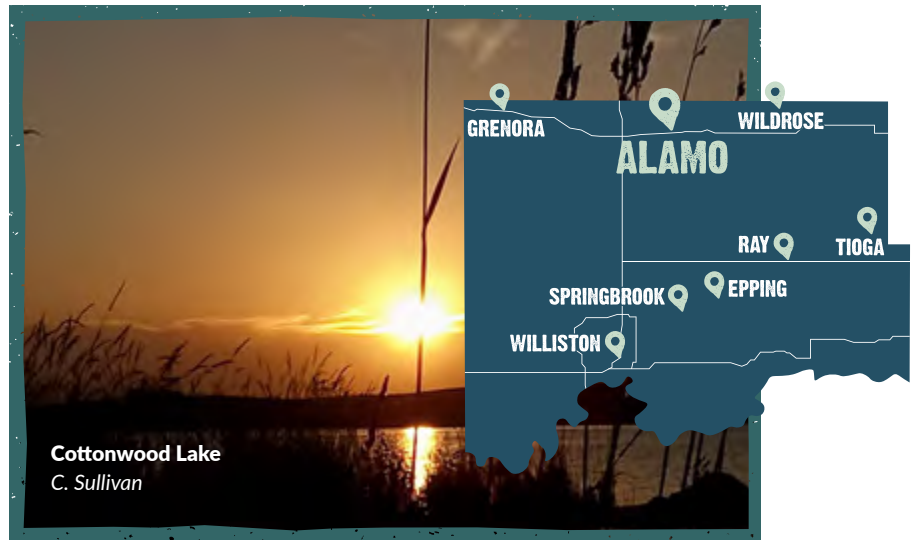
Want to learn more about our communities and everything they have to offer? Scan here!



**QUICK TIP!**

Williams County has everything from walkable urban downtowns (Williston is our largest city with nearly 30,000 people) to quiet, country settings (Springbrook is our smallest with only 37 people!)

## ALAMO



### Let's Go to Alamo | 2020 Population: 53

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? | 2020 Population: 84

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!

# GRENORA



Grenora Color Run  
Grenora Community Club

## What's Great in Grenora? | 2020 Population: 221

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.

# RAY



Ray  
Williams County

## Ray is Just Right | 2020 Population: 740

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, local 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.

# SPRINGBROOK



Epping/Springbrook Dam  
Williams County



## Take a Look at Springbrook | 2020 Population: 37

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



Movie Night at the Tioga Community Pool  
City of Tioga



## Take Your Time in Tioga | 2020 Population: 2,202

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.

# WILDROSE



Wildrose Summerfest  
A. Sevre



## Life Grows in Wildrose | 2020 Population: 115

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!

# WILLISTON



Chamber Event at The Range Indoor Golf and Shooting  
Williston Area Chamber of Commerce



## What's Up in Williston? | 2020 Population: 29,160

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!

# 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!



## 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.

Building permits and zoning approval may be needed if you plan to build or renovate your new home. Contact the local city hall or Williams County Development Services for all the details.



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





**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!**

## **JOBS & 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. Whether you're a seasoned pro at your chosen profession, or just starting out, you'll have plenty of options.

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 Steel Energy Services, medical facilities like CHI St. Alexius Health - Williston, 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 also bring those remote jobs with you.



**Need help finding a job?  
Scan here for career and  
business resources!**

### **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.





**QUICK TIP!**



**Childcare spots fill fast, and many providers have waiting lists. Contact providers early and often to schedule a phone call or visit or get on their list. You may need to get on the list right away, even if you won't be moving for a while.**

## CHILDCARE

If you're moving to the area with kids, we understand that childcare is an extremely important (and sometimes nerve-wracking) 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. There are a variety of preschools and after school programs too (check with your school district for more info)!



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



**QUICK TIP!**



**Williston State College offers generous scholarships, some of which fully cover tuition and fees!**

Study Time  
Williston  
State College

## EDUCATION

With A+ schools, amazing teachers, and supportive communities, your little Einstein will be in great hands. Whether you prefer big school action, small school connections, or something in between, the schools in Williams County are sure to meet your needs.

Are your kiddos hands-on learners? No problem! Williams County offers plenty of opportunities for experiential learning, from museums and historical sites to the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center opening in 2025! Students can follow pathways programs that lead directly into the workforce or continue their education right here at Williston State College with 13 career and technical programs to choose from. There are also options for adult technical education through TrainND Northwest, so the learning never has to stop!



**Scan here to learn more about preschool, 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. Our schools are top notch, our communities and neighborhoods are safe, and we have everything you and your kids need to help create those cherished childhood memories.

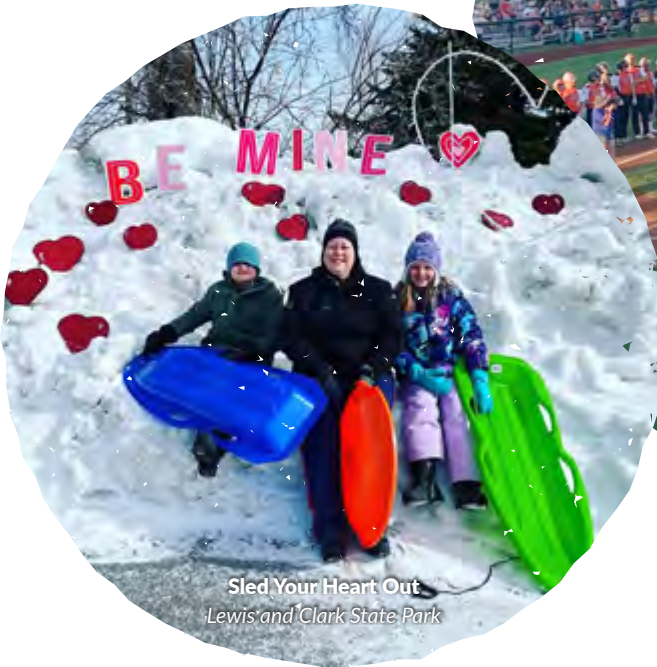
Families who love the outdoors will appreciate the beautiful landscape, scenery, rivers, lakes, and all the activities that they provide such as hiking, fishing, kayaking, golfing, camping and so much more. History buffs can check out the museums and historical sites while road tripping around the region.

But what about those chilly months? We have tons of indoor opportunities to get moving and stay warm all winter long. Grab a new book at a local library, 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!**



*Sled Your Heart Out  
Lewis and Clark State Park*



*2022 Babe Ruth World Series  
J. Strietzel*

# THINGS TO DO

Where Activities are Endless

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. Scan the QR code to see why we love Williams County and why you will too!



Fort Union Trading Post  
National Historic Site  
Williams County

## 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. And when the sun goes down, the stage lights up with music and local events.



Bakken Fest  
City of Grenora

## 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? We've got you covered. Or how about munching on a juicy bison burger while watching a live rodeo? Yep, we've got that too. Mom and pop diners? Yes. 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.



Empty Bobbin Ribbon Cutting  
Williston Area Chamber  
of Commerce



Night on the Town  
Williston CVB

# OUTDOORS

With wide-open prairies, rolling hills, endless lakes and rivers, and a variety of parks – there’s no shortage of breathtaking scenery to explore. 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.”

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. Whatever the season, Williams County has something for everyone!

# 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. Whether 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 entire 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.

**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!



Williston Basin International Airport  
City of Williston

# 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.



**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!

Boating on Lake Sakakawea  
Williston CVB

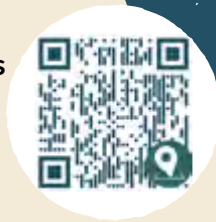
Sledding Fun on the Ice  
Williams County

# 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 - such as how to get connected to utilities, where to find groceries and unique local foods, how to get a North Dakota driver's license, and where to get your local news. We've also gathered important information about healthcare, the weather, places of worship, public safety, and community organizations.



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.

### Check out what our residents have to say about Williams County!



RaeAnne Hayes  
Originally from  
Minneapolis, MN

“You need to soak it in. You need to live it. A visit alone won't cut it. Everyone here strives to do well. If someone is struggling, people in the community come together to help them get through it.”

“People really need to just come for a visit and drive around the area - it will change their perspectives. There is a palpable energy and unmatched opportunity here.”



Kenley Nebeker  
Originally from  
Southern Idaho

“I actually know my neighbors here. That hasn't been the experience in many other places I've lived.”



Anna Nelson,  
Originally from Rolla, ND  
via Klamath Falls, OR



 **WHERE IN  
WILLIAMS  
COUNTY?**



Scan to learn  
more online!

**Blacktail Dam**  
Williams County

