

WHITE PLAINS TOWN GUIDE



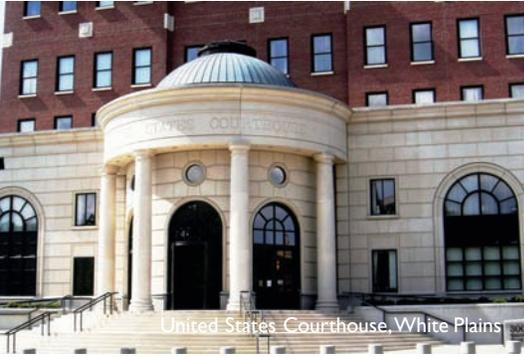
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OVERVIEW



United States Courthouse, White Plains



White Plains Public Library

White Plains is a thriving suburban city north of New York City in the center of southern Westchester County.

Home to the County Seat, government buildings and courts, it is located a short distance from the rural villages to the north and New York City to the south. As the birthplace of the State of New York, the city is dotted with historical sites and exhibits, several on the National Register of Historic Places.

A building boom and “renaissance” in recent years has strengthened the reputation of White Plains as a premier, suburban locale, with an atmosphere that it is “the place to be” in Westchester. A revitalized downtown district, with an abundance of first-rate entertainment, cultural activities, fine restaurants and active nightlife, has helped make this city a desired destination on the east coast.

The population of White Plains soars to more than 200,000 during the day as office workers, shoppers and visitors arrive. As one of the top suburban business centers in the nation, with the county’s largest concentration of retail activity, it is a corporate hub. Often called the “City in the Park,” White Plains has taken steps to preserve its open green space and tree-lined neighborhoods, ensuring it retains a small-town feel.

With its impressive credentials, White Plains is one of the most attractive and desirable cities in the state in which to live, work, shop and play. It offers an efficient public transportation system, a wide range of housing options, is the gateway to both metropolitan and upstate New York and home to a culturally diverse mix of people. From the latest in hi-rise apartment complexes to small estates, modest single family homes or condominiums, it offers something for almost everyone. This unique city has successfully combined clean, green, suburban living with the convenience of urban amenities.

AREA Approximately 10 square miles

POPULATION Approximately 60,000

HISTORY

White Plains was originally settled by the Weckquaeskeck tribe, members of the Mohican nation, who called it “Quarropas,” a name which has remained today. It was known as “the White Plains,” from the white balsam which covered it or from the heavy mist over the swamplands near the Bronx River. In 1683, it was founded as the first non-native settlement by Connecticut Puritans from Rye, who bought 4,400 acres from the Weckquaeskecks.

In 1758, White Plains became the seat of Westchester County when the colonial government for the county left West Chester, in what is now the borough of the Bronx, in New York City. The unincorporated village remained part of the Town of Rye until 1788, when the Town of White Plains was created.

During 1776, George Washington’s troops fought the historic “Battle of White Plains.” On July 9, 1776, the Declaration of Independence, delivered to the Congress at the courthouse, declared the colony’s independence and the formation of the State of New York.

The population swelled after the arrival of the New York Central Railroad. White Plains was incorporated as a village in 1866 and as a city in 1916. In the early 20th century, the downtown became a suburban shopping district, leading to a building boom. After the construction of the parkways in the 1940s and 1960s, White Plains’ population and role as a destination location was enhanced.

GOVERNMENT

Elected officials consist of a Mayor and six other members of the Common Council, elected for four-year terms. The Chief Executive Officer is the Mayor. The Legislative function is performed by the Common Council.

TRANSPORTATION

New York City: Approx. 25 miles
Kennedy Airport: Approx. 31 miles
LaGuardia Airport: Approx. 24 miles
Newark Airport: Approx. 45 miles
Westchester County Airport: Approx. 7 miles

Two Metro-North Railroad stations serve the city; they are North White Plains and White Plains with commuting times of approximately 30 minutes into Grand Central Terminal in New York City. There is bus service via Bee-Line, along with Para-transit and taxi service.

LIBRARY

The White Plains Public Library is approached by Library Plaza, with an outdoor sculpture exhibition. Its first charter was signed in 1899 by Melville Dewey of Dewey Decimal system. The facility offers programs for all ages and is home to the city’s historical archives. “The Trove,” a combination library and children’s museum provides a multisensory learning experience. The library is a member of the Westchester Library System, which enables cardholders to borrow directly from any of the 38 member libraries.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & CIVIC GROUPS

There are many branches of National and Fraternal organizations along with local clubs and philanthropic groups. They include, but are not limited to, The Elks Club, League of Women Voters, Rotary Club and numerous neighborhood associations. The White Plains Historical Society is housed in the Jacob Purdy House, built in 1730 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Originally used as General George Washington’s headquarters, it was restored in the 1960’s and moved to its current location.



White Plains High School

SCHOOLS

The White Plains School District includes five elementary schools for kindergarten through fifth grade, two middle school campuses for grades six through eight and the high school, for grades nine to twelve. Auxiliary programs include a Pre-Kindergarten for four-year olds, a Newcomer Center, Adult and Continuing Education.

The mission of the White Plains School District is to educate and inspire all students, while nurturing their dreams so they learn continually, think critically, pursue their aspirations and contribute to a diverse and dynamic world. The middle school and high school have been designated Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence by the New York State Education Department and the U.S. Department of Education. Students participate in All-County academic teams and Honor Societies.

Each elementary school has a different focus, including science and technology, communication arts, global understanding, to individualized learning or cooperative learning. While each has a unique personality, the instructional standards, resources, core curriculum and mix of students are the same in all. Each offers art, music, physical education, special education, “arts in education” programs, enrichment opportunities, special programs, computers in every classroom, media centers and after-school child care.

The middle school is divided between two campuses, Eastview and Highlands, distinguished by their difference in size and the beginning grade for language instruction. Thought of as “One School, Two Campuses,” they follow the same curriculum and academic programs, utilize a team approach, and offer accelerated and Regents courses,

National Honor Society, special education, extracurricular programs, intramural sports, orchestra, band and art programs.

The assignment of elementary and middle school-age students is based on the rules of the nationally recognized “Controlled Parents’ Choice Program.” Before students enter kindergarten and again, before they enter sixth grade, parents indicate their choice of school, ranked in order of preference.

The high school, located on a 75-acre campus, offers a wide scope of educational opportunities and facilities that includes tennis courts, a pool, a fitness center, many sports fields, and state-of-the-art media and science centers, along with over 400 courses and over 25 honors and advanced placement classes. The vast majority of high school graduates continue their studies in institutions of higher education.

Some students in grades seventh through twelfth who perform better in a smaller, less structured environment attend the district’s alternative program, the “Community School.”

NATURE AND CONSERVATION

The White Plains Beautification Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to perpetuate the motto, “A City in the Park,” by planting and creating relaxing areas. The city’s efforts to protect green space has included the purchase of five acres of woodland to insure it will never be developed. It links two other greenways, The Ridgeway and The Greenway Nature Trails. Tree preservation guidelines and a Tree Preservation Committee enhance the qualities of properties while preserving existing trees and planting new ones. The Open Space Acquisition Fund works to secure more open space for future generations.



White Plains Performing Arts Center

RECREATION

White Plains offers one of the widest arrays of culture, entertainment and recreational opportunities in Westchester County. The neighborhood parks help to comprise the City's 78 acres of public parkland, 14 active play areas, 3 outdoor swimming pools and 23 acres of nature areas, along with ball fields, tennis and racquetball courts and an ice skating rink.

Residents can kayak, fish, picnic, pedal and go rowing on Silver Lake in Liberty Park, play hockey at Ebersole Ice Rink or hike along the Greenway Trail. Gardella and Kittrell parks have pools to keep cool in the summer. The county-owned Saxon Woods Park also offers swimming, along with mini golf, picnicking, hiking and the first ever artificial turf soccer/lacrosse field in White Plains. Resident dogs can exercise at Baldwin Farm Bark Park.

The White Plains Recreation and Parks Department sponsors programs that include athletics, summer camps, dances, cultural activities and special events for residents of all ages. It is located in a stone building in Gillie Park. The White Plains Youth Bureau provides children and youth with programs that include after-school enrichment, clubs, teen lounges, intergenerational and summer programs. There is an active White Plains Senior Center.

The City celebrates its heritage and diversity with holiday parades, cultural celebrations, noontime concerts in the park, outdoor arts festivals, theater in the park, and an international Open Air Market in City Hall Plaza with vegetables and crafts. The Westchester Arts Council runs a performance gallery in its downtown building, compiles an events calendar and offers workshops and programs. The Music Conservatory of Westchester provides opportunities for aspiring musicians and theater performers of all ages. The Westchester County Center presents continually changing programs and exhibits.

Renaissance Plaza has a state-of-the-art water feature and large open space that is the centerpiece of downtown White Plains. This is the most modern and technically advanced water feature in all of New York State, choreographed with music and colored lighting.

The City Center complex features two residential towers and 600,000 square feet of retail, restaurant and entertainment space, with a 17-screen movie theater, the White Plains Performing Arts Center, and an extensive selection of specialty shops, brand name stores and restaurants.

The Westchester, which opened in 1995, is another large shopping venue that includes Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, Tiffany & Co, Gucci, Coach, Williams-Sonoma, Brooks Brothers and more. Another retail complex called "The Source at White Plains" features Fortunoff, Whole Foods, Morton's of Chicago, The Cheesecake Factory, Bloomingdales.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 914.422.6111

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 914.422.6322

NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL

Emergency: 888.694.5700
Main Number: 914.682.9100
www.nyp.org

WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL

Emergency Department: 914.681.1155
Main Number: 914.681.0600
www.wphospital.org

WESTCHESTER COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER

Emergency Department: 914.493.7307
Main Number: 914.493.7000
www.wcmc.com

POST OFFICE

100 Fisher Avenue: 914.287.2501
620 Mamaroneck Avenue: 914.684.1160
170 Martine Avenue: 914.997.1436

LIBRARY

100 Martine Avenue
914.422.1400

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Assessor's Office: 914.422.1223
Building Department: 914.422.1269
City Clerk: 914.422.1227
City Court: 914.824.5675
City Marshall: 914.437.7430
Department of Public Works: 914.422.1206
Justice Court: 914.824.5675
Planning Department: 914.422.1252
Mayor's Office: 914.422.1411
Recreation Department: 914.422.1336
Recycling Office: 914.422.1293
Sanitation Department: 914.422.1217
Senior Citizen Center: 914.422.1423

White Plains Public School District: 914.422.1221
www.wpcsd.k12.ny.us
Water and Waste Water: 914.422.1221
Zoning Board: 914.422.1283

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amtrak: 800.872.7245 • www.amtrak.com
Bee-Line Bus System: 914.813.7777 • www.beelinebus.com
City of White Plains: www.ci.white-plains.ny.us
Metro North: 800.638.7646 • www.mta.info/mnr
Westchester County: www.westchestergov.com
Westchester County Airport: www.whiteplainsairport.com
Westchester ParaTransit: 914.995.2957

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