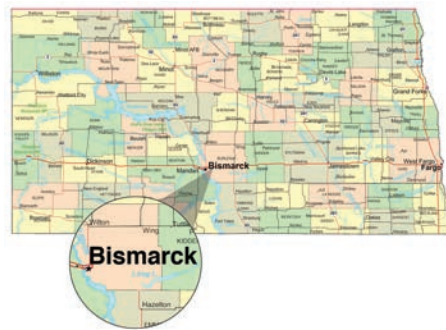




# Bismarck, ND



**B**ismarck, the capital of North Dakota, was named in honor of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck of the German Empire for the purpose of attracting German settlers to the region and German investments in the financially ailing Northern Pacific Railway. Established on the eastern bank of the Missouri River in 1872, Bismarck was the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railway, which for many years did not have the funds to build a bridge crossing the Missouri River to continue the railway.

Bismarck is home to the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, which features exhibits that explore the story of life on the northern plains from prehistory to the present. Buckstop Junction is a reconstructed village that contains buildings dating from 1875 to 1935 that were moved to this site by the Missouri Valley Historical Society for preservation. Gateway to Science is a regional resource for hands-on science education. Built in 1872, Historic Camp Hancock is the site of a military camp that was used to protect Northern Pacific railroad workers.

The North Dakota State Capitol is the tallest building in the state. It is surrounded by a park that includes statues, memorials, trails, the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, the Liberty Memorial Building, and the Governor's Residence.

Frances Leach High Prairie Arts & Science Complex is home to the Gateway to Science, Theo Art School, Central Dakota Children's Choir, and Shade Tree Players Children's Theater. The historic Gem Theatre is home to the Dakota Stage community theater. The Bismarck Event Center offers concerts and family entertainment. The Belle Mehus Auditorium hosts Broadway shows, concerts, comedians, the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra, and Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus.

## Neighborhoods

The downtown area, not currently a residential area itself, is surrounded by residential neighborhoods. The Cathedral Historic District was named for the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, which was built in 1945 in the Art Deco style; this district has 11 designated historic homes that belonged to prominent early 20th-century Bismarck residents. These large homes were built in a variety of styles, including Tudor Revival, Prairie, Arts and Crafts, and Spanish Colonial Revival. Much of the city is laid out in a grid pattern; however, the Highland Acres neighborhood, which was built in the 1950s near Bismarck State College, features loops and culs-de-sac. Ranch-style homes dominate this neighborhood.

Several neighborhoods have been built near the Missouri River, including Fox Island, Southport, and South Bay. Fox Island has many large, newer homes. In addition to single-family homes, Southport has many twin homes. SouthBay Development is a master planned community located on a 53-acre manmade lake. Many houses are under construction in SouthBay.

## Parks and Recreation

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District operates 68 parks that offer a range of amenities, including archery, ball courts and ball fields, cross-country skiing, curling, two disc golf courses, fishing, three golf courses, indoor and outdoor ice skating and hockey rinks, two outdoor skate/roller-blade parks, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, 52 playgrounds, three dog parks, tennis courts, and sledding hills. There are currently four community garden sites in Bismarck.

Dakota Zoo, located in Sertoma Park, is home to over 500 reptiles, birds, and mammals.

General Sibley Park & Campground has a 24-hole disc golf course, a

boat ramp (for small boats less than 15' and for canoes and kayaks), a sand volleyball court, horseshoes, an interpretive trail, a Little Free Library, playgrounds, and poetry boxes. Tent camping and camper sites are available.

Local high school and college teams play in Cottonwood Park's 12-acre Aaron Haaland Memorial Baseball Field, which consists of a baseball field and batting cage, a scoreboard, a grandstand, outfield lights, a ticket booth, and a restroom/concessions building.

McDowell Dam Recreation Area is a 271-acre park located near Bismarck. The park offers a public beach and a fishing dock. Paddleboats, paddleboards, a rowboat, canoes, kayaks, and a tandem kayak are available for rental. Other amenities include horseshoe pits, a small concessions area, a playground, and restrooms. A nature trail encircles the banks of McDowell Dam. In addition, there is a paved recreational trail on the grounds and a wooded area for nature walks or runs.

The BSC Aquatic & Wellness Center, located on the Bismarck State College Campus, offers a 50-meter competition pool, diving, recreation and lap pools, a wellness center with strength and cardio equipment, and group fitness classes. The facility also has the Turtle Beach playground and meeting rooms.

The Capital Ice Complex is home to youth hockey, figure skating, and public ice skating.

Raging Rivers Waterpark and Super Slide Amusement Park provide other recreational opportunities.

The Bismarck Bobcats is a professional hockey team in Bismarck.

## Education

Bismarck Public Schools educate over 13,000 students in 16 elementary schools, three middle schools, three senior high schools, an alternative high school, and a Career Academy and Technical Center.

Higher education is available at the University of Mary, a private, Benedictine university that offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Bismarck State College is a comprehensive community college and offers associate's degrees, diploma and certificate programs, and a bachelor's degree program. United Tribes Technical College offers a variety of programs ranging from certificates to bachelor's degree programs in applied science and business.

University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences maintains a campus for third- and fourth-year medical students in Bismarck.

## Health Care

Bismarck is served by the following two health care facilities:  
Sanford Medical Center Bismarck with 223 licensed beds  
St. Alexius Medical Center with 287 licensed beds

### City Stats

2017

City Population	72,960
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	132,142
Per Capita Personal Income, Bismarck, ND, MSA	\$54,606