



National Weather Service North Platte, Nebraska Office Information

Office Location:

WFO North Platte is located in Lincoln County, in the west central area of Nebraska. Home to the worlds' largest railroad yard and the home of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, North Platte attracts visitors from all over the world. North Platte is the county seat for Lincoln County and offers a wide range of activities and shopping experiences for visitors and community members alike.



Office Activity:

The North Platte NWS office (LBF) is a full-featured Weather Forecast Office (WFO) with a 26 county Warning Area (CWA). We also compose aviation forecasts for two sites: North Platte and Valentine. We have a comprehensive hydrology program with contacts in every county and several river forecast points. The surface observation program is limited to the supplemental climatological observations (SCD/ SDO). There also is an upper air program at WFO LBF. The office programs eight NOAA radio transmitters for Merriman, Valentine, Bassett, Mullen, Merna, Ord, Sutherland and Oshkosh. We also have our Doppler radar in Thedford, NE., covering all of West Central and North Central Nebraska. We have an active outreach program with ongoing training for spotters and emergency managers. Our Cooperative Observation program is large with nearly 70 cooperative sites in operation in our CWA Community.

Description:

North Platte is home to the world's largest railyard, Bailey Yard. The Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center is an eight story tower people can go to that overlooks Bailey Yard. Lincoln County Historical Museum contains the display detailing the history of the North Platte World War II Canteen, which greeted 6.5 million service personnel from Christmas Day 1941 through April 1, 1946. It also contains a Prairie Village with local landmark homes and other buildings including a Pony Express Station and pioneer church among many others. Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park is located near North Platte, a Nebraska living history park about Buffalo Bill Cody. The park includes his actual house known as Scout's Rest Ranch. The park is two miles west of U.S. Highway 83 along U.S. Highway 30. During the 1930s, high crime rates and corruption caused North Platte to be infamously known as 'Little Chicago,' as depicted in the novel *Evil Obsession* written by award-winning author Nellie Snyder Yost.



Population: As of the census^[1] of 2000, there were 23,878 people, 9,944 households, and 6,224 families residing in the city. The population density was 2,281.5 people per square mile (880.5/km²). There were 10,718 housing units at an average density of 1,024.1/sq mi (395.2/km²). The racial makeup of the city was 93.47% White, 0.71% African American, 0.64% Native American, 0.39% Asian, 0.03% Pacific Islander, 3.30% from other races, and 1.45% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 6.68% of the population.

Transient and Permanent Living Accommodations:

There are numerous motels in the North Platte area. Reservations are a must, as there are a large number of tourist and business travelers in the area. Permanent housing is plentiful with prices generally ranging from the \$70's. Newer subdivision houses range from \$120k to \$250k. Most homes in the area do not have basements due to the high water table. Apartments, duplexes and condos are numerous in numbers.

Local Transportation:

There is no municipal ground transportation available, however a cab company does operate in the North Platte area. The weather is good enough to allow biking for about 8 months of the year and many residents use this to get around. The North Platte Airport offers daily flights to Denver. Access to the airport is less than 15 minutes from anywhere in the city.

Eating Facilities:

There are a number of restaurants within North Platte and with the booming economy of the Union Pacific Railroad more are opening regularly. Prices for meals vary greatly depending on cuisine; however, most are very reasonable. The city of Paxton, just west of North Platte, offers Ole's Big Game Steakhouse that offers exotic meats such as buffalo, ostrich and emu and sporting over 200 big game trophies .

Taxes:

Taxes in Lincoln County are the highest in the state of Nebraska mainly due to the Union Pacific Railroad. While the cost of living is low, people are surprised by the high taxes.

Education:

The Primary and Secondary schools in Lincoln county are very good and rank well above the state average on standardized tests. School District Profile: North Platte offers both private and public schools. The North Platte Community Schools consisting of three high school (9-12), 17 middle school (7-8), and 14 elementary schools (K-6), one alternate education building (9-12), four private schools and one community education facility. Student enrollment for the 2008 school year was over 5000 students. Mid Plains Community College is also based in North Platte, NE and offers both a vocational technical campus and the academic campus. There are several degrees offered by this college.

Child Care Facilities:

There are numerous day care and after school care facilities.

Economy:

The local economy in the North Platte is booming. The main industry in the county is the railroad, followed by construction, ranching, repair and maintenance, drivers, administration, education services and other occupations. The North Platte Chamber of Commerce is very aggressive in attracting industry to the area.

Climate:

To see climate information, please go to our webpage at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lbf/>



Recreation:

North Platte is home to the Union Pacific's Bailey Railroad Yard, the largest railroad yard in the world. You can see all of the action from the top of the Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center.

You can also tour the home of Col. William F. Buffalo Bill Cody. Cody made his home in North Platte during the heyday of the Wild West Show. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has preserved 25 acres of the 4,000 acre ranch Cody had here, complete with his Victorian mansion and large horse barn. You will find the rich history of the early days of Lincoln County at the North Platte Historical Museum, including a large display of Native American artifacts, and a western heritage village. Also at the Museum is the exhibit of the North Platte Canteen, a heartwarming story of generosity and sacrifice on the home front of World War II.

You can fill your days with visits to our many other attractions, including America's 20th Century Veterans Memorial, the Stones and Bones Emporium and Gallery, the Cody Park Railroad Museum, Cody Go-Karts and the Dancing Leaf Cultural Learning Center, among many more.

