

CHRISTIE CLINIC
ILLINOIS MARATHON'S
CRISS=CROSS
VIRTUAL CHALLENGE



GUIDEBOOK
WEST-TO-EAST ROUTE

WELCOME FROM

EXPERIENCE CHAMPAIGN URBANA



With the return of the full marathon in 2024, it only makes sense to revive the Criss-Cross Virtual Challenge that kept so many of us going during the pandemic. This challenge provides a great opportunity to not only train for race weekend, but to also explore the many brilliant destinations in the greater Champaign-Urbana area, as well as so many other great communities in Illinois. C-U is ideally situated at the crossroads to the North-South and East-West routes. From scenic outdoor spaces—ideal for a run—to vibrant urban centers, we're a perfect spot to visit while getting your miles in. Don't miss your chance to fill up after your run in our award-winning culinary scene and kick back to some live music to re-energize. Welcome from all of us at Experience Champaign-Urbana!



Welcome from Director Jan Seeley

Welcome to the Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend's Criss-Cross Virtual Challenge! We're thrilled that you're joining us on this virtual journey through the state of Illinois! We originally created the Cross-Cross in 2020 during the pandemic when no in-person events were taking place anywhere in the country. Most single-distance events were pivoting to virtual versions of themselves.

We yearned for something more! The virtual Criss-Cross, with its 4-month timeline, hundreds and hundreds of miles to cover, and celebration of the state of Illinois, offered a running and walking experience unlike any other. Since most of us weren't doing much out-of-state travel back then, it was an ideal time to combine our love of running and walking with learning more about the state of Illinois.

Now, as we prepare for our 2024 Race Weekend next April, when we will welcome our marathon friends back to town and celebrate our REUNITED theme, it seems like a perfect time to resurrect the Criss-Cross. While we train for Race Weekend, the Criss-Cross will provide a fun way to connect with other runners and walkers as we make our way across the two virtual routes.

Did you know there are towns in Illinois named Bonnie, Paradise, and Paw Paw? We didn't either, before the Criss-Cross Virtual Challenge! Let this Guidebook be your companion as you virtually pass through over 70 communities on the north-to-south route and over 30 communities on the west-to-east route. You will learn many fascinating facts about the "jewel" towns along the way. Perhaps you live in one of these towns! Keep staying the course! And remember: in 2024 we are REUNITED (and it feels so good!)



WEST - to - EAST ROUTE

You'll pass through 34 communities on the West-to-East Route!



TOWNS ON YOUR ROUTE

- East Hannibal
- Hull
- Barry
- New Philadelphia
- New Salem
- Griggsville
- Lynnville
- Jacksonville/
South Jacksonville
- New Berlin
- Curran
- Springfield
- Riverton
- Dawson
- Buffalo
- Lanesville
- Illiopolis
- Niantic
- Harristown
- Decatur
- Oreana
- Argenta
- Cisco
- Monticello
- White Heath
- Seymour
- Bondville
- Champaign
- Urbana
- St. Joseph
- Ogden
- Fithian
- Muncie
- Oakwood
- Danville

EAST HANNIBAL

mile 0

An unincorporated piece of land in Pike County.
Named for its location east of Mark Twain's
boyhood home of Hannibal, Missouri.
Platted sometime between 1872 and 1895.
Population...0
Geographic size...unavailable

Known For

- No one lives in East Hannibal today, but decades ago this was not the case. Records show the Sni E'Carte Hunting and Fishing Club, 1890-1947, about 2 miles east; the End of the Trail Tavern that was open in 1949 (we're not sure when it closed); a small train depot right next to the bridge; J.H. Peters store; and the Bird Slough School, from 1912 to 1950 (now Levee Township Hall) about one mile east.
- Being right on the banks of the Mighty Mississippi on the Illinois side, so it's always vulnerable to being flooded, as happened with the Great Flood of 1993.
- Where the Mark Twain Memorial Bridge ends in Illinois. The 4,491-foot long, 86-foot wide, \$55 million dollar bridge was completed in 2000, replacing the original Cantilevered Through Truss Bridge that opened in 1936. That bridge originally carried the two-lane U.S. Route 36 over the Mississippi. With the extension of Interstate 72 west across Missouri, a new bridge was built to the north of the original bridge, which was subsequently demolished. On the Illinois side, the route connected to present-day Illinois Route 106 (Old U.S. 36), now served by I-72's Exit 1 to go east to Hull, Pittsfield, and points beyond. 11,000 cars per day cross the bridge.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- East Hannibal is pretty much open farm land.



Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...184 miles
- Number of 2020 Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon (CCIM) race participants who live in the town...0

Natural Areas and Resources

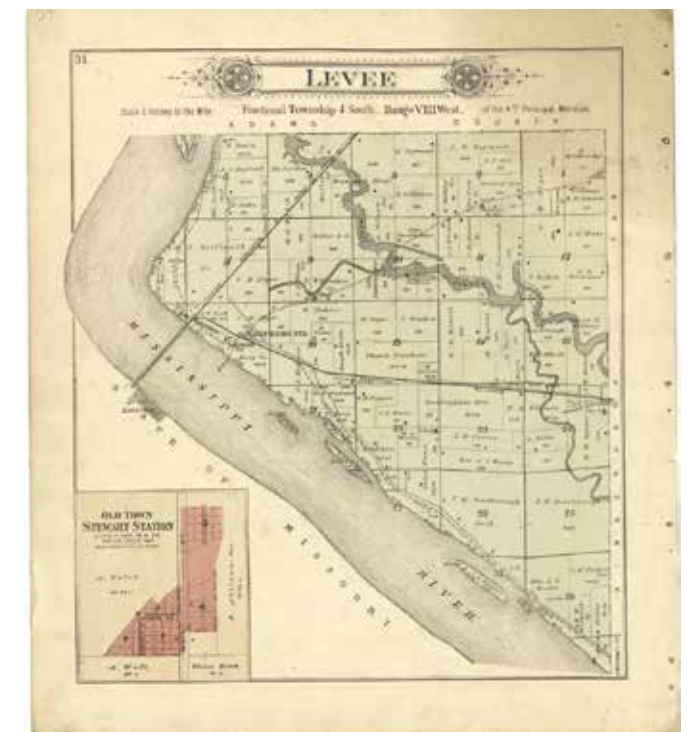
- John Hay Recreation Area is located on Highway 106 near East Hannibal, across the river from the famous Hannibal, MO. It offers a day use facility with boat ramp river access. There are also vault toilets and picnic tables. If you camp on the Illinois side and boat over to Hannibal, be sure to leave enough time for the trek across the Mississippi. The swift current could easily take you downstream and leave you with a strenuous paddle to get to back to shore.

Learn more about East Hannibal, Illinois

- Pike County Chamber of Commerce <http://www.pikeil.org/>
- Pike County Historical Society <https://pikecountyilhistoricalsociety.org/>
- http://www.pikeil.org/visit/docs/Pike_County_Visitors_Guide__NEW_March_2010.pdf



Aerial photo of East Hannibal, Illinois area.



Plat book photo of the East Hannibal area from 1895.

A tiny village in Pike County, founded in 1871
 Population...452
 Geographic size...1.851 square miles



Known For

- “Good neighbors and people helping each other,” according to six-decade resident Ruth Epley.
- The great Mississippi River Flood in July 1993, which covered the entire town in 10 to 12 feet of water, and required nearly a year of recovery for the town.
- 19 communities are located throughout in the United States and Canada named Hull. Of these, 17 are located in the United States and four are in Canada.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Hull is a farming community. Besides homes, there’s a tiny post office, a fertilizer plant, Epley’s Wrecker Service, and one church.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...174 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Public Art

- A World War Memorial honors the town’s veterans—a brick plaza, octagon in shape, with a bench where one can sit to reflect. “In Memory. They Died for our American Way of Life. World War I: Joe J. Geollner, Benjamin Harbourn, and William F. Kund, Jr. World War II: Wallace Clark, Harold E. Hampsmire, Wendall Huntley, Max G. McCrory, and Jerome E. Wilson.”
- There is also an old-style water town in Hull.

Annual Events

- Dating back to 1927 is an annual August picnic in the park downtown. The event used to be three days but is now one, on the third Saturday, and includes a chicken dinner sponsored by the local Lion’s Club and a morning 5K and 10K road race that raises money for Parkinson’s Disease. If any of you can produce one of the 15-year-old race’s iconic Hull-of-a-Race T-shirts, we’ll reimburse you for your Criss-Cross registration! What a classic race shirt!

Natural Areas and Resources

- Lease Park, which has a tennis court, and the park downtown where the annual picnic takes place.

Learn more about Hull, Illinois

- Pike County Historical Society <https://pikecountyilhistoricalsociety.org/>
- http://www.pikeil.org/visit/docs/Pike_County_Visitors_Guide__NEW_March_2010.pdf
- Drive to town and talk to one of the octogenarian residents.



Originally known as the village of Worcester.
Renamed Barry in 1839. Pronounced “berry.”
Population...1,318
Geographic size...1.41 square miles



Known For

- Originally the village of Worcester, Barry was platted in 1836. In 1839, when the town petitioned the state to add a post office, they learned there was already a town in Illinois named Worcester. Resident Mary Brown picked the new name of Barre, after her hometown in Vermont. A state clerk recorded the name as Barry and the typo was allowed to stay.
- Barry Historic District. Founded as an agricultural community in the 1830s, Barry experienced much growth through the mid-1860s. Fires in 1894 and 1913 destroyed business and residential areas, but the town built back better each time. Barry’s “golden” area arrived with the building of the railroad in 1869. The Historical District includes well-preserved examples of commercial architecture of the late 1800s. During the past few years, many of the downtown buildings have been restored to their turn of the century elegance. The district was added to the National Register in 1979.
- Massie Variety Store. Originally built around 1850, over the years it has been a mercantile store, a drug store, an ice cream parlor, a grocery store, a post office, a toy store, and an antique store. The store was added to the National Register of Historic places in 2004.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- The town is still primarily agricultural-based (corn and soybean) but it now also has a new anchor—a marijuana-growing facility servicing the state of Illinois that employs 180 people, with more growth expected.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...164 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Public Art

- Civil War Memorial in Lafayette Park, the only park remaining of the seven that were originally located around the edge of the town plat.

Annual Events

- The Annual Barry Apple Festival, in early October, celebrates the heritage of the community and the apple. The festival also has one of largest car shows in the area, with 300 to 400 cars.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Grubb Hollow Prairie features 50 acres “perched on limestone bluffs amidst the rugged terrain overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain.” The prairie has some plant species that you’d typically find in western US states.

Unique Amenities

- For such a small town, Barry has “one of everything”—a doctor’s and dentist’s office, a golf course, a swimming pool, a grocery store, a small YMCA, schools, and so on.

Learn more about Barry, Illinois

- <https://www.barryil.org/>
- Barry Public Library and museum: <http://www.barrypubliclibrary.org/>
- Pike County Historical Society <https://pikecountyilhistoricalsociety.org/>



The Barry, Illinois, Public Library.

Founded in 1836. The only “town” in Hadley Township, and it is a National Historic Site now rather than a town.
 Population of Hadley Township...255 (all rural)
 Geographic size of Hadley Township...36.8 square miles

Known For

- New Philadelphia was the first town in the United States to be platted and legally registered by an African American, “Free” Frank McWorter, in 1836. McWorter was a self-freed slave who also bought the freedom of 16 family members using money from working a saltpeter mine in Kentucky during the War of 1812 and by selling lots in Hadley Township. That area became a town full of immigrants and freed and escaped slaves. It was a key Underground Railroad stop and was a thriving town into the 1880s, even after Frank died in 1854. After about 1886, the population steadily declined. By 1940, the whole town was gone from sight and the town site was farmland.
- In Hadley Township, other than New Philadelphia, there was Hadley (train) Station about a mile away, a hotel, and a few houses, as well as Cool Bank Post Office (some people refer to it as Cool Bank instead of Hadley Station). Sardinia Post Office was the Post Office in/near New Philadelphia.
- Modern archaeological studies have indicated the area was inhabited through the 1920s. By the late 20th century, all vestiges of New Philadelphia had vanished, save fragments of glass and pottery, and traces of the town’s gravel streets.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- The town site and Frank’s grave (in the family/town cemetery nearby) were added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 2005, and subsequently, New Philadelphia



Town Site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2009 because of the significance of its history and archaeology.

- The town site is part of the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.
- New Philadelphia is working toward becoming a National Park.
- There is a theory that when the Hannibal to Naples Railroad was built in 1869, the railroad passed by New Philadelphia on purpose because the people platting it didn’t want it to go too close to the town because of the immigrants and former slaves who lived there. Pike County historians reject this idea. First, New Philadelphia is not the only town that was “bypassed,” as the railroad went only as far north of Barry because of the hilly landscape there. The location of New Philadelphia is the highest point in a few miles. When the railroad was being platted in the 1850s, there was no way they’d be able to bank the railroad bed enough to reach New Philadelphia over all the hills, let alone up and back down the big hill atop which New Philadelphia sits.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...161 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Learn more about New Philadelphia, Illinois

- <http://newphiladelphiail.org/>
- <https://pikecountyilhistoricalsociety.org/>
- <https://pikecountyilhistoricalsociety.org/historic-sites>
- <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=134869>
- <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=134870>



Founded in 1834
 Population...134
 Geographic size...1.05 square miles

Known For

- Being originally located a half mile north of where the town lies today. The town moved in the 1840s so it would be along the railroad that was coming through the area from Hannibal, Missouri, over to Springfield, Illinois.
- Having the first steam-powered mill in Pike County (1957).
- A famous bank robbery in 1929 involving some local gangsters.
- Having a livery stable, a blacksmith, a newspaper, and an undertaker, between the 1840s and 1880s.
- Not to be confused with Lincoln's New Salem, Illinois, the reconstructed village of Abe Lincoln's young adulthood, located northwest of Springfield, Illinois.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Has been a farming community its entire existence. Corn and soy and cattle.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...105 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0



Public Art

- An historical building in New Salem built in 1851 caught our attention. Originally owned by a member of Abraham Lincoln's administration, the brick building is believed to have been part of the Illinois Underground Railroad. After the Civil War, slaves heading north toward freedom began arriving in Illinois. Though a free state, Illinois was far from safe for slaves, so travel had to be discrete, typically under the cover of darkness. This building was one of the "safe houses" where former slaves could hide for the night. Brad Gleckler purchased the building 40 years ago and opened Underground Railroad Antiques, which he still operates on a limited basis today.

Annual Events

- For 120 years there was an annual United Methodist chicken fry, but that ended about 20 years ago as the population got smaller.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Half a mile from the main town, on the edge of New Salem, is a little band stand that was built in 1857.

Learn more about New Salem, Illinois

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Salem,_Pike_County,_Illinois
- http://www.pikeil.org/visit/docs/Pike_County_Visitors_Guide_NEW_March_2010.pdf
- Pike County Historical Society <https://pikecountylhistoricalsociety.org/>



Underground Railroad Antiques
 New Salem, Illinois

The building was believed to be part of the Underground Railroad after the Civil War.

Founded in 1832-33. Four miles west of the Illinois River.

Population...1,153

Geographic size...1.08 square miles

Known For

- Being the “Purple Martin Capital of the Nation.” Located between the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, Griggsville is a perfect habitat for mosquitoes during the hot and muggy summer. Using pesticides to control the mosquitoes concerned the residents so the city came up with a fabulous alternate strategy. Griggsville is in the migration path of the Purple Martin, a member of the swallow family that subsists by eating bugs of all kinds (a single bird can supposedly eat 2,000 in one day!). Giving the Purple Martins a reason to stop in Griggsville on their migratory journey led local resident and antenna manufacturing factory owner J.L. Wade, in the early 1960s, to convert his antenna factory into a bird house building factory. Trio Manufacturing/Nature House began producing tens of thousands of bird houses, and the town became famous for its association with the endangered Purple Martin. All over town local residents started erecting housing for the birds. Though Trio Manufacturing was bought out by a Chicago company in 2007 and is no longer in Griggsville, love for the migratory birds remains strong—the torch most notably carried today by Ben Westfield and Brian Fitzjarrald, aka the “Bird City Boys.” (See more on pages 18-19.)

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- At its peak, there were over 5,000 Purple Martin bird houses along the city streets, including, near the town center on Illinois Route 107, a 70-foot, 562-apartment bird house high-rise.



Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...153 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Public Art

- The Skinner House hosts a collection of books, photos, and cemetery records as well as genealogical records maintained by families since the town’s founding. Local history is documented at The Skinner House as well as the legendary painting of Bethel Church by artist John Skelton, who was raised in Griggsville.

Annual Events

- Griggsville hosts an Apple Festival on the third weekend of each September.
- One of the oldest Illinois state fairs takes place in Griggsville. Founded in 1889, the Western Illinois Fair is traditionally held during the third week of June. Features the World Famous School Bus Demolition Derby as well as harness racing, music, carnival rides, and farm-related activities.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Griggsville Park is the most popular hangout spot in town. The park is shady so it’s great for picnics, plus there’s swing sets for the kids, a basketball court, and a gazebo. Right next to the fairgrounds.
- Ray Norbut State Fish and Wildlife Area is a 1,140-acre mosaic of bottomlands, woodlands, wetlands, open fields, steep hills, rocky ravines, hollows, brushy draws, and bluffs. Located along the Illinois River, five miles east of Griggsville, this “site offers an exceptional habitat for a wide range of harvestable, non-harvestable, uncommon, threatened, or endangered plants and animals. Examples are the bald eagle, a winter resident of the wooded bluffs, and the jeweled shooting star, a rare pre-glacial relict wildflower species.

Unique Amenities

- Many visitors arrive in Griggsville annually for hunting the abundant wild life, such as deer and turkey, with hunting season beginning in late summer/early fall.

Learn more about Griggsville, Illinois

- <http://www.griggsville-il.org/>
- North Pike District Library <https://www.northpikedistrictlibrary.com/>
- Pike County Historical Society <https://pikecountyilhistoricalsociety.org/>
- Citizens Assistance for Purple Martins <https://www.facebook.com/purplemartincapitol/>

Griggsville's Bird City Boys



Purple Martin identification.



Modern-day Purple Martin high-rise apartments with Ben Westfall, Brian Fitzjarrald, and Kevin Nociar.

Almost 30 years ago, Griggsville native Brian Fitzjarrald put up his first Purple Martin house. Since then, what started as a hobby became a passion and now an “obsession.” Together with high school buddy Ben Westfall, the two men are known as the “Bird City Boys.” If you want to know anything about Griggsville and the Purple Martin, they are the people to talk to. Along with some other townspeople, they were landlords to about 275 pairs of Purple Martins who mated and produced approximately 1,300 baby birds in the colony that took up residence in Griggsville this year. The birds have been coming to Griggsville for five decades. Here are some Purple Martin pearls we learned from Ben and Brian!



- The original Purple Martin project in Griggsville was spearheaded by the local Jaycees in the early 1960s.
- Purple Martins have three flight paths up from Brazil; one brings them right through Griggsville.
- A Watch List bird, Purple Martins are considered a species of special concern in many U.S. states and in Canada.
- Purple Martins are NOT purple.
- Ninety-nine percent of all Purple Martins live in human-made housing. They would be extinct without millions of human landlords.
- In its heyday, Trio Manufacturing made Purple Martin houses by the millions. They also produced “It’s Purple Martin Time” buttons by the thousands.
- The Purple Martin colony arrives in March each year and leaves by mid-August.
- Ben and Brian pre-nest their Purple Martin houses and gourds, to give the arriving birds a head start on their nesting.
- To start a colony, you need at least one pair of Purple Martins. The birds arrive as singles and choose their mates once they arrive in Griggsville.
- You need to “work with the birds,” and make sure sparrows and starlings don’t take over the houses and run off the Purple Martins before they can move into their nests.
- Every year, the goal is to get more and more pairs of Purple Martins to nest in the bird houses and gourdes you’ve set up.
- The same Purple Martins return to Ben and Brian’s respective bird house setups every year.
- Ben has over 100 gourds at his home and another 200 outside his Wolfpack Detailing shop. Brian has 175 gourds/housing compartments at his home.
- According to Ben, any Purple Martin aficionado who says he/she is done with having Purple Martin houses and gourds “is lying!”

A village in Morgan County, Illinois
Not certain when founded
Population...115
Geographic size...0.08 square miles

Known For

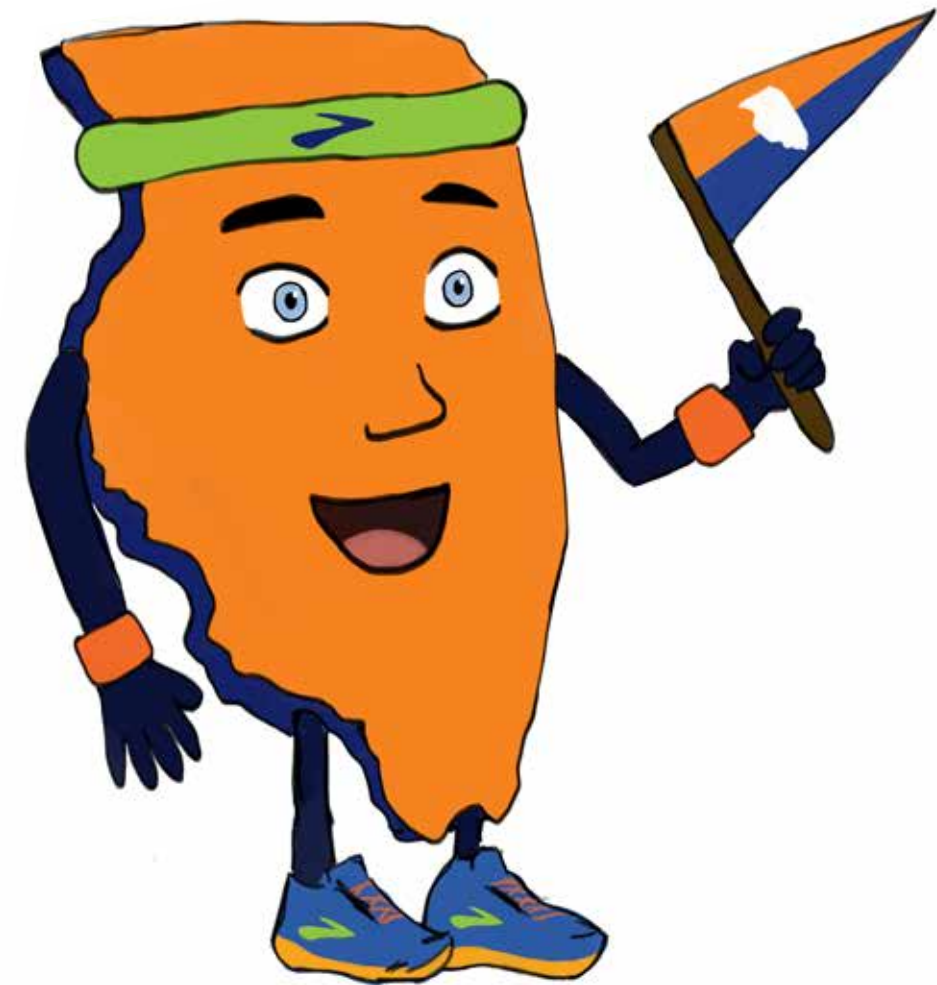
- Being part of the greater Jacksonville, Illinois, area; it has the same zip code.
- There's not really much to Lynnville. Seven streets and one green space.
- Described by one local as a "little stop in the road. You have to take a detour to get it."

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...164 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Learn more about Lynnville, Illinois

- <https://morgancounty-il.com/>



Founded in 1825
 Population...19,446
 Geographic size...10.76 square miles



Known For

- In a young Illinois, Jacksonville was home to Illinois School for the Deaf, Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, a men’s college (Illinois College), and a women’s college (Illinois Conference Female Academy, later MacMurray College), earning a nickname of “Athens of the Midwest.”

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Ken Norton, heavy weight boxing champion, was born and raised in Jacksonville. He became a standout athlete, forcing IHSA to adopt the “Ken Norton” rule, limiting track athletes on the number of activities that they can participate in.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Nestle Products manufactures Coffee mate creamer in Jacksonville. Reynolds trash bags (even scented) are made here. Big Eli Ferris Wheels and Scrambler rides are famously made in Jacksonville.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...122 miles
 Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...18

Public Art

- Jacksonville downtown is home to the “Wall Dog Murals,” a series of murals highlighting the local history in Jacksonville.
- Jacksonville is home to Looking for Lincoln sites, a collection of sites across the town meant to help visitors to walk in Abe Lincoln’s footsteps.
- Civil War memorial statue is a famous landmark in the middle of the downtown square. Also in the downtown square is the Charters of Freedom, a life-sized replica of the most important United States documents.
- Big Eli Ferris Wheel in Central Park welcomes visitors to the town, highlighting our history with the Ferris Wheel attractions.

Annual Events

- Jacksonville is home to a unique celebration where the entire town celebrates New Year’s Day, a celebration that rivals even New Year’s Eve in terms of participation and excitement!
- The Morgan County Fair is held each July. The fair’s motto is “A place to create history and a place to discover history.”
- The Morgan County Historical Society has graciously hosted, for 22 years, the Annual Prairieland Chautauqua.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Lake Jacksonville is a 500-acre man-made lake filled with bass, bluegill, red-ear sunfish, and channel catfish. It is the perfect location for boating, water skiing, fishing, and other water activities. Lake Jacksonville is a famous fishing spot that was once highlighted as the best spot in Illinois for bass fishing!

Unique Amenities

- The Big Eli Ferris Wheel.
- A great downtown with a summer concert series.

Learn more about Jacksonville/South Jacksonville, Illinois

- <https://www.jacksonvilleil.com/>
- <https://www.jacksonvilleareachamber.org/>
- Prairie Land Heritage Museum <https://prairielandheritage.com/>
- Jacksonville Public Library <https://www.jaxpl.org/>

Founded in 1865 by a community of mostly German immigrants
 Population...1,346
 Geographic size...1.27 square miles



Known For

- “Old” Berlin was founded first, so the town was christened New Berlin. Only a few buildings from the original village remain on the main drag, which is old Illinois State Route 54.
- The Sangamon County Fair, held annually during the third week of June. Featuring headlining county music stars like Luke Bryan, Brad Paisley, and Jason Aldean, the Fair draws upwards of 30,000 fans to the village.
- One of only two towns in the country that has a PRETZEL as its high school mascot. The other town is Freeport, Illinois. An annual baseball tournament between New Berlin and Freeport determines which town holds onto bragging rights and the pretzel trophy for the year.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Danenberger Family Vineyards, owned and operated by award-winning vintner Susan Danenberger. Located on the family farm.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...103 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...3

Public Art

- New Berlin Area Veterans Memorial, dedicated in 2013
- Welcome to New Berlin mural, dedicated in 2018

Annual Events

- The Sangamon County Fair each June
- The Danenberger Family Vineyards showcases live music with local bands every Saturday night and on most Friday nights, year-round. The indoor venue was built out of shipping containers.

Natural Areas and Resources

- There are typical small-town parks in New Berlin.

Unique Amenities

- Annually, the Community Development League honors six homeowners with a unique stake-in plaque for their front yard for having the most pride in their homes.
- Capone’s Hideout restaurant is a must-eat.

Learn more about New Berlin, Illinois

- <https://newberlin.il.us/new>
- West Sangamon Public Library <https://wspld.com/>
- New Berlin Area Community Development League <http://www.nbacdl.org/>
- Sangamon County Fair <http://www.sangcofair.com/>
- Danenberger Family Vineyards <https://danenbergerfamilyvineyards.com/>



Welcome to New Berlin mural.

Founded in 1835 and incorporated in 2005
Population...245
Geographic size...1.996 square miles

Known For

- The village of Curran is a sublet of the New Berlin area and is very small. It was founded by Thomas Moffet and A. J. Vanderen.
- The town was named after General Isaac Curran, a Springfield jeweler, politico, and man about town.
- Of the approximately 245 people that live in Curran, a very large percentage of them are lifelong residents. Many grew up here and stayed to raise their families here as well.
- Curran is a quiet, mostly residential village with a good number of businesses, many of them owned and operated by residents of the village.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Corn and soybeans are grown in Curran.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...94 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

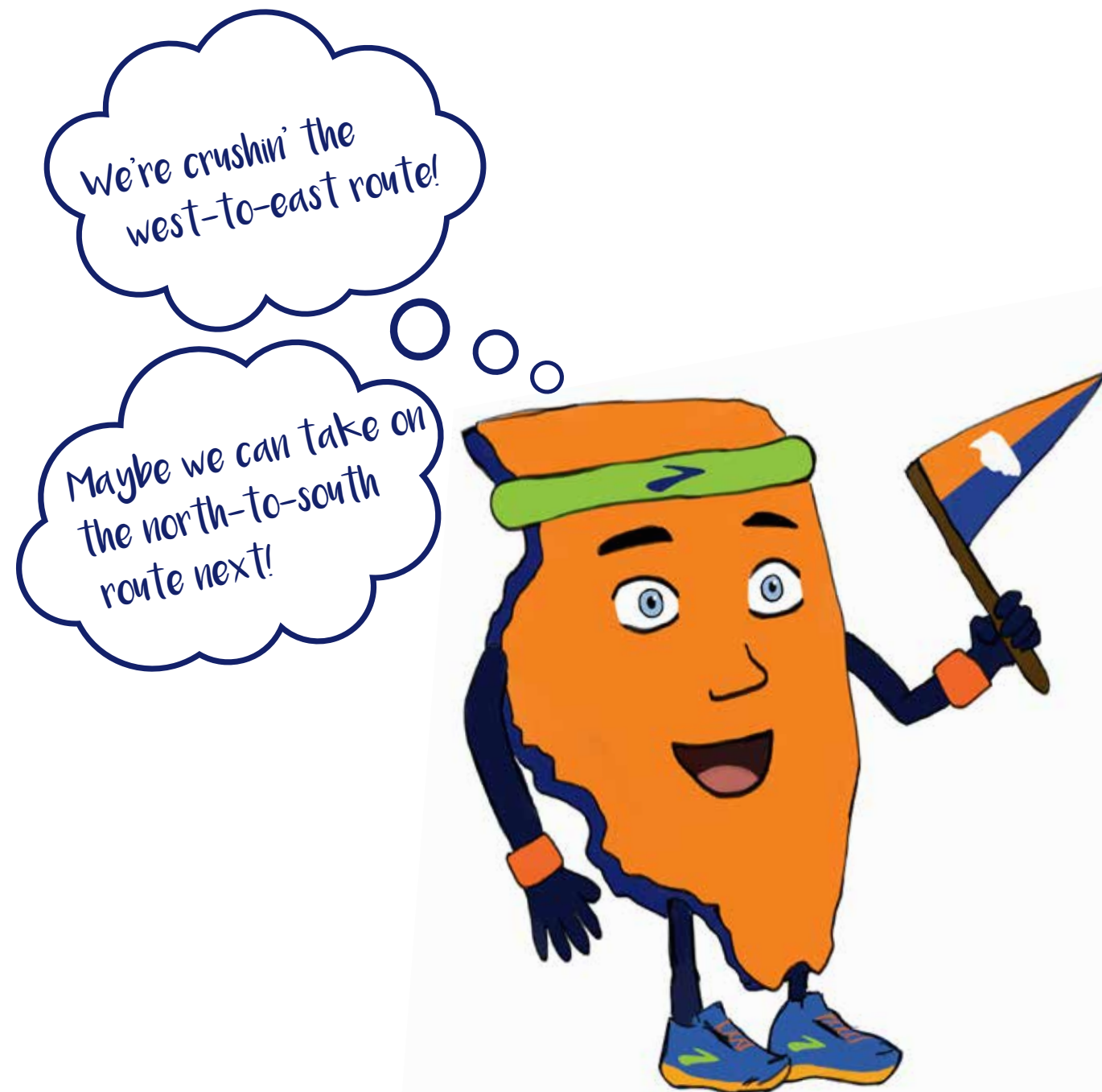
Annual Events

- Curran celebrates the incorporation of the village every September 16 on "Curran Day."



Learn more about Curran, Illinois

- <https://curranil.govoffice2.com/>
- Sangamon County Historical Society <https://sancohis.org>



Founded in 1818
Population...116, 250
Geographic size...65.764 square miles

Known For

- Present-day Springfield was settled by European Americans in the late 1810s, around the time Illinois became a state. Springfield was originally named “Calhoun” after Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina. Settlers from Kentucky, Virginia, and North Carolina came to the developing city. By 1832, Senator Calhoun had fallen out of the favor with the public and the town renamed itself as Springfield. According to local history, the name was suggested by the wife of John Kelly, after Spring Creek, which ran through the area known as “Kelly’s Field.”
- The most famous historic resident was Abraham Lincoln, who lived in Springfield from 1837 until 1861, when he went to the White House as President of the United States.
- Springfield is the capital of Illinois. The government of the state is based in Springfield. State government institutions include the Illinois General Assembly, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the office of the Governor of Illinois.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Cozy Dog Drive-In, Mel-O-Cream Donuts, Maid Rite, Pease’s at Bunn Gourmet, Cocoa Blue Chocolates, Custom Cup Coffee, Engrained Brewing, Anvil & Forge Brewing & Distillery, Obed & Isaacs Microbrewery



Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...87 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...69
- University of Illinois at Springfield

Public Art

- The Pharmacy; Springfield Art Association Collective; Visual Arts Gallery at University of Illinois at Springfield; 1908 Race Riot Mural—local artist created murals located throughout Downtown and in Artist Alley. See blog: https://www.visitspringfieldillinois.com/BlogDetails/Street_Art

Annual Events

- Illinois State Fair, several annual Downtown events including the Old Capitol Art Fair, Farmers Market, and outdoor concerts and marathons.
<https://www.visitspringfieldillinois.com/Events?id=Ongoing>

Natural Areas and Resources

- Lincoln Memorial Gardens, Conservation World at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Botanical Gardens, Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, and Southwind Park

Unique Amenities

- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices State Historic Site, and the Lincoln Tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery.
- Frank Lloyd Wright Dana-Thomas House and Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon.
- Route 66 and the Route 66 Drive-in Movie Theatre at Knight’s Action Park.
- Illinois State Museum

Learn more about Springfield, Illinois

- <https://www.springfield.il.us/>
- The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce <https://www.gsc.org/>
- <https://www.visitspringfieldillinois.com/>
- Sangamon County Historical Society <https://www.sancohis.org/>
- Lincoln Library <https://www.lincolnlibrary.info/>

A village in Sangamon County, platted in 1837,
 incorporated in 1873
 Population...3,455
 Geographic size...3.08 square miles



Known For

- Riverton was founded by John Taylor.
- Originally named Judy's Ferry for the ferry crossing the Sangamon River there, then Jamestown, apparently after James Frazier Reed, one of four men contracted to build the Northern Cross Railroad. Reed set up a sawmill to cut timber, manufacture furniture, and grind corn. He and his family eventually left the area, joining the Donner Party on their ill-fated journey to California.
- Jamestown was soon renamed Howlett. After a state requirement was passed preventing communities from being named after people, Howlett was rechristened as Riverton in the 1870s.
- There are several other communities throughout the world named Riverton, with six locations in the United States and one each in Canada, New Zealand, and Western Australia.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- The village was successful for about a decade, producing lumber for a planned railroad. They also are known for having one of the first coal mines in Sangamon County. In March 1831, Abraham Lincoln, John Hand, and John D. Johnston came to Sangamon County for the first time, traveling on the Sangamon River by canoe to Riverton, then named Jamestown.



- Legend has it that Jesse James and his gang stopped in Riverton en route to Northfield Minnesota in 1876.
- The coal mines along with other business opportunities attracted many Italian-American families to the community during the late 1800s and early 1900s. A street in town with the name "Pizza Street" was originally paid for by several Italian-American families living on the street.
- Birthplace of NASCAR driver Justin Allgaier and writer Nellie McAleney Revell and home to basketball player Mike Tisdale, center with the Philadelphia 76ers and DJK Würzburg.

RIVERTON

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Coal mining and the operation of two working coal mines initially created a growing, thriving community that attracted many to the area.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...78 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...1

Annual Events

- The calendar is full of fun and unique events for the community to enjoy with the Firecrackin' Festival each 4th of July, annual Easter egg hunts, a Car Show, National Night Out, and a Kids' Christmas celebration.

Natural Areas and Resources

- The community boasts several parks and areas for outdoor recreation.
- Wheeland Park, nestled on the east bank of the historic Sangamon River, features 12 campsites with fire rings, gravel drives, picnic tables, and lantern holders at each site. The sites can be rented with or without electricity. Drinking water is available from a water fountain/spigot at the campground entrance, along with a dump station for campers. A boat ramp and sand volleyball court add to the park's amenities.
- Veteran's Park, located at 3rd and Lincoln, has a gazebo and has been used for several weddings. An annually stocked pond with a peaceful fountain is the centerpiece of this beautiful park. A nice place to bring the kids to fish while you enjoy the serene surroundings. This park is home to the village's annual Fishing Derby held each spring. Clearlake Township's Veterans Memorial is immediately adjacent to this park, the site of the annual Veteran's Day ceremony.

Unique Amenities

- The community's "Field of Dreams" was established as an endeavor to meet the growing needs of Riverton and the surrounding community. Plans to convert 20 acres of farmland into a recreational space began in 2004. With ambitious plans to transform the space, the name was selected from the popular movie, *Field of Dreams*. Through fundraising and community

support, the project is underway but is not completed. Support is still needed to bring the project to its full potential.

Learn more about Riverton, Illinois

- <http://riverton.illinois.gov/Home/>
- Riverton Field of Dreams <http://www.riverton.illinois.gov/Riverton-Parks/The-Field-of-Dreams/>
- Sangamon County History <https://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=355>
- City Data <http://www.city-data.com/city/Riverton-Illinois.html>



Easter Egg Hunt at Field of Dreams in Riverton, Illinois.

A village in Sangamon County, laid out in 1854, incorporated in 1883
 Population...466
 Geographic size...0.88 square miles



Known For

- Dawson was named after Hon. John Dawson, a member of the “Long Nine,” along with Abraham Lincoln.
- Sole owners of their water system, which over the period of years has spread throughout the county area, south and west along the Mechanicsburg Blacktop.
- Village motto, “You’re with friends here.”

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- John Dawson was captain of a company from Sangamon County in the Blackhawk War of 1831 and 1832.
- The residents of Vandalia did not want to lose the capitol. There had been an earlier attempt to relocate the capitol. Alton and Springfield were two of the choices. The residents tore down the old capitol building in 1836 without the authorization of Congress. They replaced it with a brick State House costing \$16,000. This building did have space for all the governmental offices except that of the governor. The legislature was able to meet in December of 1836, even though the construction was not complete. Even with the new State House, many of the legislators were not satisfied with Vandalia as the state capitol. One of the most vocal groups in favor of moving the capitol was the group known as “The Long Nine,” a group of legislators from Sangamon County. “The Long Nine” included two Senators and seven Representatives. Archer G. Herndon and Job Fletcher were in the Senate; Abraham Lincoln, Ninian Wirt Edwards, John Dawson, Andrew McCormick, Dan Stone, William F. Elin, and Robert L. Wilson were in the House of Representatives. The

name “The Long Nine” comes from the fact that these men were an average of six feet in height and weighed over 200 pounds. These men belonged to the Whig political party and wanted the capitol moved to Springfield.

- Located along a former trail that led from Clear Lake, Illinois, to Buffalo Hart, Illinois.
- Established due to the expansion of the railroad into the area.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- In the early days Dawson was a booming mining town with three grocery stores, a church, a schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, a barber shop, and a post office. The Wabash railroad ran along the south side of the village. To the west of the depot was the stock yard to which the farmers used to send their herds. During WWII, when the troop trains would run through, the children of Dawson would run up and wave to the soldiers as they went by.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...74.7 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...1

Learn more about Dawson, Illinois

- <http://dawson.illinois.gov/>
- City Data <http://www.city-data.com/city/Dawson-Illinois.html>



Dawson, Illinois, post office.

Platted in 1854 and incorporated as a village in Sangamon County in 1872
Population...503
Geographic size...0.37 square miles

Known For

- Founded as a station along the Wabash Railroad.
- Originally known as Mechanicsburg Station with a post office called Watson, the origin of Buffalo is not clear. Some reference “Buffalo” as a nickname for those who lived along the coastline of the Carolinas, from where Josiah Green and his wife, the first homeowners in the area, hailed. Other accounts point toward the huge herds of buffalo that gathered just west of the town.
- Being the first in Illinois to create a consolidated school district, serving elementary through high school students, in 1938.
- Today, living in Buffalo offers residents a sparse suburban feel and most residents own their homes.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Buffalo was home to *Chicago Tribune* reporter Charles Orr, who began his career as a business writer but moved to reporting on rural affairs and was subsequently farm editor in May 1949. He was recruited to that role at the request of *Tribune* publisher Robert R. McCormick. McCormick operated a farm on Cantigny, his estate in Wheaton, Illinois, and persisted in his requests to Orr for covering stories on topics like double-yolked eggs.



Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Agriculture in the village produces corn and soybeans.
- In its early years, the village was the site of a flour mill, a grain elevator, and the Buffalo Tile Works, whose products helped drain the central Illinois prairie.
- “A flourishing coffin factory” also operated in Buffalo in the 1860s, according to *The History and Stories of Buffalo, Illinois* by Perry Hall, a sesquicentennial booklet published in 2004.

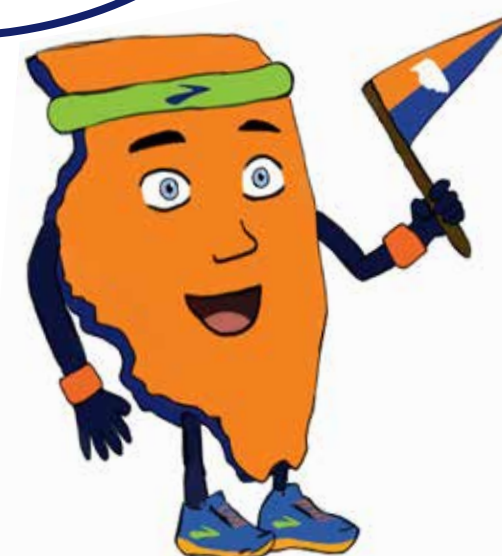
Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...72 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Learn more about Buffalo, Illinois

- Village Information <https://www.facebook.com/vobcityhall/>
- Sangamon County History <https://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=364#:~:text=Buffalo%2C%20founded%20as%20a%20station,railroad%20workers%20for%20several%20years>
- City Data <http://www.city-data.com/city/Buffalo-Illinois.html>

Buffalo is the one town along the route named after an animal!



Located within Lanesville Township and originally part of Illiopolis, the township became its own entity in 1875, under the name Wheatfield.

Population...156

Geographic size...including the entire township, 36.21 square miles



Known For

- The “Farmers’ Review” of 1917 lists several farmers in Lanesville Township.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

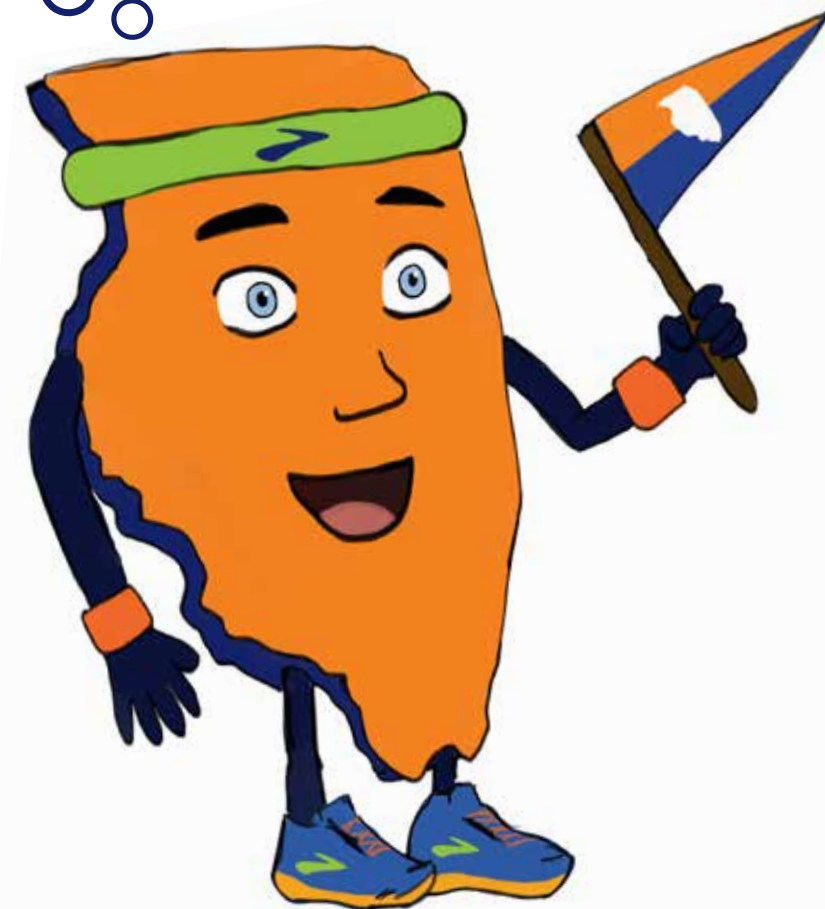
- Distance to C-U from the location... 69 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Natural Areas and Resources

- Lanesville Township’s southern border is the Sangamon River and is located within Sangamon County.

Learn more about Lanesville, Illinois

- Lanesville Township History
<http://www.genealogytrails.com/ill/sangamon/townships.html#LANESVILLE>
- Farmers’ Review, 1917
<https://libsysdigi.library.illinois.edu/oca/Books2007-06/farmersreviewfar00chic/farmersreviewfar00chic.pdf>



Established in 1856
Population...891
Geographic size...0.46 square miles

Known For

- Established as the community of Wilson, the name was quickly changed to Illiopolis and remains.
- Considered for many years as the geographical center of the state and as such was at times considered a location for the state capital.
- A small village in the heart of Illinois, Illiopolis is the product of generations of residents who have volunteered and cooperated to build a community of progress. "A town full of community pride, good neighbors, and Midwest values" is how the Village of Illiopolis describes itself.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Illiopolis has significant ties to professional baseball as the birthplace of outfielder Charles Raymond Demmitt, of the New York Highlanders, St. Louis Browns, Detroit Tigers, and Chicago White Sox and home to pitcher James Eric Weaver of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Anaheim Angels.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Illiopolis was established as an agricultural community.
- Population growth and subsequent business evolved as a result of the community's farming base.
- Eventually became a self-sufficient community complete with lawyers, doctors, dentists, veterinarians, barbers, hairdressers, automobile dealers, auto mechanics,



service stations, grain elevators, grocery stores, hardware stores, restaurants, taverns, a blacksmith shop, a canvas shop, and a movie theater.

- In more recent years, Illiopolis has been home to the following businesses: the Sangamon Ordnance Plant (United States Army manufacturer of artillery used during WWII), Borden Chemical, Formosa Plastics, DeKalb, and Monsanto.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location... 63.2 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...1

Annual Events

- Illiofest, a family event held every June in Wabash Park.
- For the past four years, the Illiopolis Community Service Club has hosted an annual indoor vendor, craft, and rummage sale for the community.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Wabash Park, located on Mary Street, provides a space for events and community gatherings throughout the year.
- Illiopolis Summer Recreation provides experiences for fourth- to eighth-grade children in the area.

Unique Amenities

- The Sentinel*, a weekly newspaper published by Cindy and Maurice Wilson (considered a "mom & pop" organization), serves Illiopolis, Niantic, Harristown, and the surrounding area with a focus on hometown news.
- Illiopolis Community Service Club is an area group with the purpose of serving others through social responsibility and helping others.

Learn more about Illiopolis, Illinois

- <https://illiopolis.illinois.gov/>



Founded as a part of Niantic Township, settled in 1825
 Population...707
 Geographic size...1.04 square miles



Known For

- Originally a temporary home for settlers passing through as they traveled to West Coast destinations until 1840. In 1825, Joseph Strickling, a native of Ohio, erected the first log cabin in Niantic.
- The Potawatomi Trail of Death—the forced removal by militia in 1938 of some 859 members of the Potawatomi nation from Indiana to reservation lands in eastern Kansas—ran through Niantic. During the journey over 61 days and approximately 660 miles, 40 people died, most of them children.
- The Village motto is “The Best Kept Secret Between Springfield and Decatur.”

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Birthplace to Chicago Cubs and Cincinnati Reds infielder Art Phelean and professional horse racing jockey John L. Rotz.
- Lifelong home to resident Herschel W. Pritchett, an active and generous contributor to the community, recognized through the naming of the local park, Niantic Pritchett Park.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- With rich, fertile soil, agriculture has and continues to be key to the area.
- Home to a location of BRANDT, a company serving growers worldwide through service, innovation, and technology.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...59 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Annual Events

- Niantic Park District provides opportunities for youth and families.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Niantic Pritchett Park, named in honor of dedicated community member Herschel Pritchett, provides park space and a playground for year-round enjoyment.

Learn more about Niantic, Illinois

- Niantic Park District https://www.facebook.com/pg/PritchettPark/posts/?ref=page_internal
- History of Niantic Township http://genealogytrails.com/ill/macon/History/niantic_twp.html



Niantic Village Hall and water tower.

First settlers arrived in 1828, established 1969
Population...1,292
Geographic size...1.80 square miles



Known For

- Named for Thomas L. Harris, Major of the Fourth Illinois Regiment of the Mexican-American War.
- The community boasts a shared feeling of pride in a lifestyle rich in cultural history, strength in a commitment to the environment, and progressiveness in their support of business.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Located along the Wabash Railroad, which contributed to the area's population and growth.
- First Illinois home of Abraham Lincoln whose family erected a log cabin and planted corn in the fenced-in 10 acres on the land in 1830. Their home was situated along the banks of the Sangamon River and they resided there for about a year.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Chicago Cubs baseball player Cecil Garriott, 16 th U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, and Illinois state senator Lawrence Rotz have all called Harristown home.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...55 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...1

Annual Events

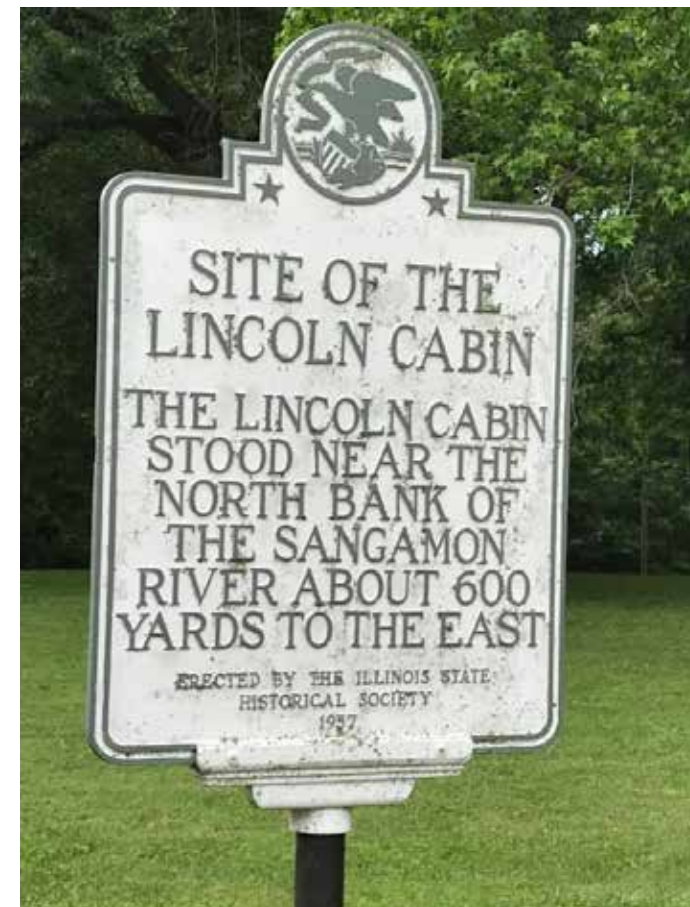
- The Parks & Recreation department of the Village plans and hosts a variety of events for residents annually.
- Of note is the Village of Harristown Fall Festival in September.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Nature enthusiasts, runners, walkers, and sports fans of all ages can find places to play through the community's parks and trails.
- Situated near Decatur, the Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park and Memorial is a nearby attraction for residents and visitors alike.

Learn more about Harristown, Illinois

- <https://villageofharristown.com/home>
- Illiopolis/Niantic Public Library District <https://www.illiopolisniantic.lib.il.us/>
- History of Harristown http://genealogytrails.com/ill/macon/History/harristown_twp.html



Abe Lincoln once lived in Harristown.

Settled 1820, founded 1829
 Population...76,122
 Geographic size...47 square miles



Known For

- Named after War of 1812 American naval hero Stephen Decatur.
- Its location as the half-way point between Springfield and Champaign.
- Cultivation and processing of soybeans, earning the unofficial moniker, “Soy Bean Capital of the World.”
- Distinction as a “Runner Friendly Community” by the Road Runners Club of America due to the community partnerships and over 10 miles of paved trails for walkers and runners to experience.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- A.E. Staley, a visionary in the cultivation and processing of soybeans arrived in Decatur during the 1900s and is considered a “founding father” of the city due to his impact on the community. Notable contributions include the creation of Lake Decatur, the Staley viaduct, the Staley Office Building, and the Staley football club, which eventually became the Chicago Bears.
- Home to the 1860 Republican Convention, which endorsed Abraham Lincoln for president as “The Railsplitter Candidate.”
- Location of the first post of the Grand Army of the Republic (American Civil War organization for veterans).

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Originally an agricultural community that grew into an industrial center with the arrival of the railroad in 1854.
- The grain processing A.E. Staley Manufacturing Company promoted the use of soybeans in human food products such as oils and flours.
- At one time, one-third of the soybeans grown in the world were processed in Decatur.
- Development of several inventions by Hieronymus Mueller—notably the water pressure valve and the recognizable fire hydrant found in most American towns and cities.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...48.6 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...97

Public Art

- Created by artist Preston Jackson, the African American Civil War Soldiers Monument located in downtown Decatur serves as a reminder of the African American soldiers who fought during the war. The city commissioned the work, with Jackson creating several concepts of it, ultimately allowing the citizens of the community to select the “winning” design.
- The Scoville Sculpture Park located between the Scoville Zoo and Children’s Museum of Illinois provides residents and visitors an opportunity to enjoy art in an outdoor setting year-round.



Decatur has been designated by the RRCA as a Runner Friendly Community.

DECATUR

Annual Events

- June brings the Macon County Fair, a family tradition dating to 1856.
- Each August, there is something for everyone at the Decatur Celebration, an annual family friendly 3-day event featuring food, entertainment, a carnival, and unique vendors.

Natural Areas and Resources

- From a dog park to a skate park to 26 neighborhood parks to 10 community parks, outdoor recreation is abundant. Trails, paths, gardens, the Scoville Zoo, and the Overland Adventure Park, with mini-golf and batting cages, delight residents and visitors alike.
- Lake Decatur, a sprawling area of 2,800 acres and 30 miles of shoreline, is a destination for boating, fishing, and sailing, with opportunities for exploring nature, picnicking, running, and walking for those who prefer to stay on land.

Unique Amenities

- The Decatur public library, a Carnegie library, was built with funds donated by the charitable philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. In addition to events, programming, research, and community resources, the library boasts a history room and second floor art gallery.
- The Staley Museum preserves the history of the A.E. Staley Family, the Staley Historic Home, and the A.E. Staley Mfg. Co., and through those efforts educates visitors on contributions to both the agricultural community and the city of Decatur.
- Opportunities to experience the rich history of the area are abundant with the James Milliken Homestead, named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and home to James and Anna Milliken, founders of the Anna B. Milliken Home, Milliken University, Milliken Bank, and Milliken Estate Trust; the Homestead Prairie Farm, a pre-Civil War living history experience; the Mueller Museum, which showcases the accomplishments of inventor Hieronymus Mueller, referred to as Decatur's "Unsung Genius"; the Chevrolet Hall of Fame; the Governor Oglesby Mansion History Museum; the African American Cultural & Genealogical Society of Illinois Museum; the Macon County History Museum where visitors can experience Illinois history during the Prairie Years and Victorian Era; and The Avon, an historic movie theatre dating to 1916.
- Home to Milliken University, a private four-year university providing undergraduate and graduate degree programs, founded in 1901 by Decatur resident and businessman, James Milliken.

Learn more about Decatur, Illinois

- <https://www.decaturlib.org/>
- Decatur Public Library <https://www.decaturlibrary.org/>
- Staley Museum <https://staleymuseum.com/>
- James Milliken Homestead <https://www.jamesmillikinhomestead.com/>
- Mueller Museum <https://www.muellermuseum.org/>
- Chevrolet Hall of Fame <http://chevrolethalloffamemuseum.com>
- Governor Oglesby Mansion <https://oglesbymansion.org/>
- African American Cultural & Genealogical Society <http://www.african-american-cultural.org/index.html>
- Mason County History Museum <http://www.mchmdecatur.org/>
- The Avon <http://www.theavon.com/>
- Milliken University <https://millikin.edu/>



Decatur's African American Civil War Soldiers Monument.

Founded in 1873
Population...900
Geographic size...0.5 square miles



Known For

- Located within Whitmore Township in Macon County, which was named for Revolutionary War Colonel Nathaniel Macon.
- Established in 1873 when the Decatur and Monticello railroad extended through Whitmore Township.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- The Small Town Living non-profit group provides community outreach, development, and coordinates community events for the residents of Oreana.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Location of Akers Packaging Solutions, a third-generation independent box manufacturer with 13 locations throughout a six-state region.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...44 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Annual Events

- Hosted by the community group Small Town Living, holiday fun is abundant with an annual Christmas Parade and 5K for residents and visitors to the community.
- Youth ages 6 to 12 can mark their calendars with fun each June for the Summer Park Program held in Oreana Park.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Oreana Park boasts a bit of something for everyone, with outdoor space, playground areas, a gazebo, covered pavilion, indoor restrooms, and a dedicated walking path.
- Situated within the Macon County Conservation district, nature and outdoor enthusiasts will find the Rock Springs Nature Center, complete with an ecological museum exhibit, live animals, a library, and art gallery just a few miles away. Visitors can also rent equipment to fish, cross-country ski, or explore and hike the onsite trails.

Unique Amenities

- Whether getting delivery, curbside pick-up, or dining in, Everyone's East End Grill in nearby Decatur is known for good prices, good service, and of course, good food!

Learn more about Oreana, Illinois

- <http://oreanail.com/>
- Village of Oreana Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/OreanaIL/?ref=nf&hc_ref=ARTm7c30LxtJMDLoO4xaLTAKK7ArIRUcDC_Q0SOJkp9pzSCZLc0NL1_jVomQuiT7ONo
- Prairie River Historical Society <http://aopld.org/prairie-river-historical-society/>
- Argenta-Oreana Public Library District <http://aopld.org/>
- Rock Springs Nature Center
<https://maconcountyconservation.org/conservation-areas/rock-springs-nature-center/>



Incorporated in 1873
Population...940
Geographic size...0.66 square miles



Known For

- Their motto—"Small town. Big heart."
- The community group, Argenta in Motion, brings events, business, and growth to the community.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Birthplace of silent film actress Genevieve Gerber, known as one of the top 10 "serial queens" of the silent film industry due to the many serial films she starred in, beginning in 1917.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Argenta is home to a location of the Farmers National Company (FNC), a 90-year-old organization providing landowner services nation-wide.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...34.7 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...3

Annual Events

- Popular annual events include Autumn Arts & Animal Festival, a winter Ice Fest, and an opportunity to support local heroes with Safety Days at nearby Prairie Park.
- Holiday shoppers looking for the perfect gift don't want to miss the Alan Thomas Christmas Auction, a community tradition for the past seven years.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Argenta's Prairie Park boasts beautiful open space, playgrounds, the Prairie River Historical Society Museum, and more for year-round enjoyment.

Unique Amenities

- Prairie River Historical Society Museum, housed in the Argenta Grain Office, preserves and interprets the history of Argenta, Oreana, and Cisco, Illinois.

Learn more about Argenta, Illinois

- <http://argentail.com/>
- Argenta Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ArgentaSmallTownBigHeart/>
- Prairie River Historical Society <http://aopld.org/prairie-river-historical-society/>
- Argenta-Oreana Public Library District <http://aopld.org/>



Prairie Park in Argenta, Illinois.

Platted in 1874
 Population...260
 Geographic size...0.37 square miles



Known For

- There have been several stories about the naming of Cisco, which have included being named for a prominent, active community member during Cisco’s early days, being named for a worker on the railroad line, and being named for a derivation of Latin for “copper.”

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Established due to its location along a railroad line coming through the area as Illinois grew from south to north.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- With origins as an agricultural community, agriculture continues today with strawberries as one crop home to Cisco farms.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...29.1 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...1

Annual Events

- An annual Halloween Party at the Cisco Firehouse delights children and families alike.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Runners, walkers, and hikers can enjoy three winding nature trails at Friends Creek Conservation Area, which also boasts outdoor opportunities for fishing, cross-country skiing, and camping.

Unique Amenities

- Prairie River Historical Society Museum in nearby Argenta preserves and interprets the history of Cisco and the nearby communities of Argenta and Oreana.
- With both a post office and library in Cisco, area residents have easy access to these community amenities.

Learn more about Cisco, Illinois

- Cisco Community Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Cisco-Illinois-308658935822547/>
- Prairie River Historical Society <http://aopld.org/prairie-river-historical-society/>
- Willow Branch Public Library District <http://www.everylibrary.com/Cisco-IL/Willow-Branch-Township-Library.html>
- Friends Creek Conservation Area <https://maconcountyconservation.org/conservation-areas/friends-creek-conservation-area/>
- City Data <http://www.city-data.com/city/Cisco-Illinois.html>



Aerial view of Cisco, Illinois.

Founded in 1837
Population...5,534
Geographic size...3.844 square miles

Known For

- The town was named after the Virginia home of our third U.S. president, Thomas Jefferson, but locals pronounce the town name “Monti-sello,” instead of “Monti-cello,” like the musical instrument.
- Monticello’s first resident was George Haworth, who came to the area in 1822. In 1829, James A. Piatt purchased Haworth’s log cabin. When a new county was established in 1841, it was named after the first permanent settler—James A. Piatt. Monticello is the county seat of Piatt County.
- Not your typical small-town, rural community, Monticello has a thriving micro-economy and offers amenities you’d expect in larger towns—and the lowest property taxes in the area.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- The vibrant downtown “Courthouse Square” has over 90 professional and retail businesses, restaurants, and galleries, and was recently named a National Historic District.
- The Monticello Family Aquatic Center offers a 5,750 square foot, six-lane pool; a 12-foot diving well; a 63-foot flume water slide; a 2,400 square foot zero-depth pool; and a 5,000 square foot bathhouse.
- At the Monticello Railroad Museum, you can climb aboard one of the museum’s vintage passenger trains for a 50-minute round trip through the Piatt County countryside and tour vintage pieces of railroad equipment. There are special Museum



events throughout the year, including, mid-November through December, the Polar Express—read along with the story while the train makes its round-trip visit to the North Pole.

- Allerton Park & Retreat Center (see more below) and Robert Allerton, a famous philanthropist, who developed the park and mansion.
- Historic homes on North State Street, known as “Millionaire’s Row.” South Charter Street features some of the city’s first premier residential addresses.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- In 1885, Dr. William B. Caldwell moved to Monticello to practice medicine. He became famous for concocting something called “Caldwell’s Syrup of Pepsin” (a laxative) that put Monticello on the national map. The Pepsin Syrup Company was founded in 1893 and became the leading employer in the city for decades until its closure in 1985.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...23 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...53

Public Art

- Part of Allerton Park’s allure are the gardens and statues on the grounds. There’s a quarter-mile garden that connects to a mile and a quarter-long sculpture walk. Not to be missed are the Fu Dog Garden, Chinese Maze Garden, Sunken Garden, and the Sun Singer and Death of the Last Centaur statues, among many others.



Robert Allerton Park mansion and reflecting pond.

MONTICELLO

Annual Events

- A 20-year-old Farmer's Market downtown runs from June to October.
- On 1st Fridays of each month, you can visit restaurants, cafes, galleries, and shops downtown while enjoying live music, children's activities, and more.
- Christmas in July provides an early look at the holiday, with activities for children and adults alike.
- The Annual Chocolate Fantasy is held days before Valentine's Day.
- For 20 years, Monticellobration has been taking place in September, in the historic downtown Courthouse Square area. The celebration includes arts and crafts, a pet parade, live music, food, a car show, and activities for young and old.



Fu Dog Garden statue from Allerton Park.

Natural Areas and Resources

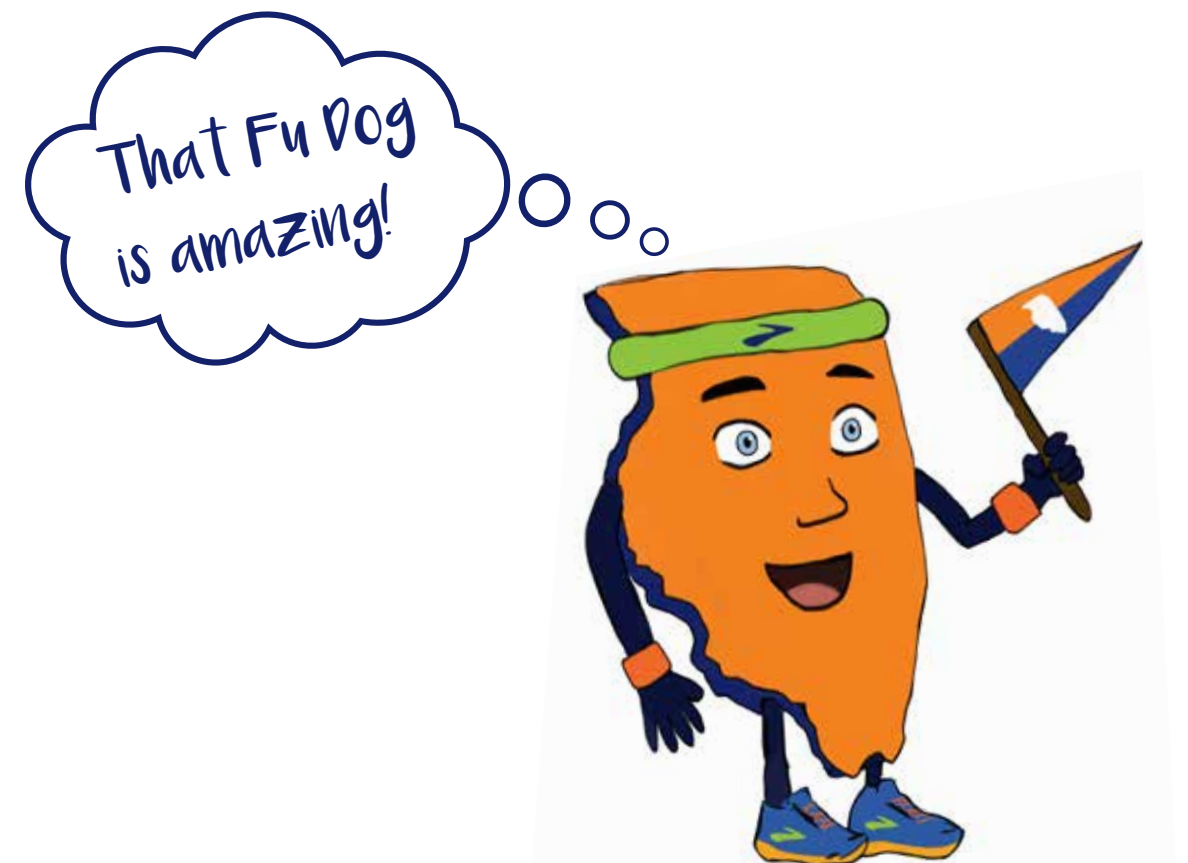
- The Robert Allerton Park & Retreat Center features 1,517 acres of woodland and prairieland, a meadow, a conference and retreat center, formal sculpture gardens, hiking trails, lodging facilities, a summer camp location, and a Georgian style mansion. Sangamon Creek runs through the park, which was built in 1900 as a private residence by artist and philanthropist Robert Allerton and was donated to the University of Illinois in 1946. It has been given National Natural Landmark and National Register of Historic Places designations. The park is considered one of the Seven Wonders of Illinois!

Unique Fact

- Monticello is nearly equidistant (150 miles) from Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis.

Learn more about Monticello, Illinois

- <https://www.cityofmonticello.net/>
- Monticello Railway Museum
<https://www.cityofmonticello.net/1093/Monticello-Railway-Museum>
- Courthouse Square <https://www.cityofmonticello.net/1101/Courthouse-Square>
- Allerton Park & Retreat Center <https://allerton.illinois.edu/the-gardens/>



An unincorporated community in Piatt County,
platted in 1872
Population...243
Geographic size...0.347 square miles



Known For

- According to photos at the Community Building, the area was settled by Frank White and Porter Heath. Heath purchased the land from White, hence the name.
- James Deland platted the area at the junction point of two pioneer railroads that were constructing through the area. The Monticello Railroad and the Havana, Mason City, Lincoln & Eastern Railway were joined at White Heath in June 1872. Deland owned property at the junction point. Because White Heath was located at a railroad junction, it was thought the area would develop into a major town, but when this failed to materialize, Deland sold his land interests in the town. Illinois Central Railroad took over the lines in 1887.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- In 1987, the Monticello Railway Museum purchased seven miles of the former Illinois Central that fall between Monticello and White Heath. White Heath is located at the northern end of the land purchased. The train track arrangement in White Heath forms a complete “wye,” which can be used to turn trains.
- The train tracks into White Heath have been refurbished for operation at 10 mph and are sometimes used by the Monticello Railway Museum for special events. The privately owned freight cars are stored at the northmost two miles of the Museum’s trackage into White Heath. When the track is completely refurbished, Museum trains may enter White Heath and use the wye.

- The Community Building, which is kept operational through local donations, has been home to generations of Girl Scout and Boy Scout meetings, 4H meetings, fitness classes, as well as overflow seating for chili suppers, fish fry dinners, and other events.
- A train depot built in 1942 to replace an earlier structure still stands today but remains unused.
- Despite the small size of White Heath, according to long-time resident and Frank White descendant Mary White Murphy, residents have always had a “very strong sense of being ‘White Heathans,’ especially in the days when the local school was K–8. Our junior high basketball team was very competitive with Monticello, even though we were all part of the same school district.”

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Full-service agricultural retailer United Prairie LLC has an office in White Heath, offering service and solutions to area farmers.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...16 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...11

Annual Events

- A popular annual event called the Pumpkin Hallow was revived in 2013, thanks to Michael Ater. Ray Moefield created the event in the late 1970s and it endured into the 1990s but then fell off the vine. In its new iteration, members of several local families carve pumpkins in Deb McPheeters’s shed, and the resulting creations—over 300 pumpkins—are spread out on the lawns of houses along a quarter-mile stretch of the road that goes straight south out of White Heath. It’s all drive-by visits. Besides the pumpkins, you’ll enjoy super-creative horror and Halloween decorations as well!
- A bike event in July, originally organized by Fritz Miericki and Peter Davis (of Champaign Cycle) in 1993, is called “Ride to the Depot.” Though Fritz has passed away, the event has continued off and on. It’s currently back on, and the depot and the Community Building serve as home base.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Just west of White Heath, on the Sangamon River, lies Shady Rest, a 28-acre natural area that includes a river, a moraine, a forest with herbs and wildlife, and cultural history spots. An abandoned Illinois Central rail-bed trail, owned by Heartland Pathways (HP), runs through the site with a bridge and trestle over the Sangamon River, providing a running and hiking trail. Shady Rest provides a convenient rest stop on the HP hiking and biking trail. Back in the day,

WHITE HEATH

steam trains took on water from the river at this location. According to David Monk from Heartland Pathways, Shady Rest “is a representative jewel on the Sangamon River corridor between Mahomet and Decatur.”

- On the southeast edge of town, you’ll find the White Heath Ball Diamond, where local baseball and softball teams play. The venue was recently doubled in size to accommodate even more teams playing there. The venue is owned by Sangamon Township.

Unique Facts

- Abe Lincoln sometimes road his horse along the stagecoach line that came through the edge of White Heath.
- In the era of interurban, you could take the interurban railroad out to White Heath.

Learn more about White Heath, Illinois

- Piatt County <https://www.piattcounty.org/>
- Sangamon Township
https://www.sangamontwp.org/Sangamon_Twp./Sangamon_Township.htm



Pumpkin Hollow provides great fun in White Heath, Illinois.

An unincorporated area in Champaign County; incorporation year unknown
Population...304
Geographic size...0.090 square miles

Known For

- A very tiny community with a few residential streets, a post office, a church, and a couple of businesses.
- Seymour is a very welcoming community.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Seymour is a farming community, surrounded by corn and soybean fields.
- A company called First Light USA is based in Seymour. They are the “innovation leader in the design and manufacture of hands-enabling lighting tools for tactical professionals.”
- A farmer-owned grain cooperative named Topflight Grain Cooperative also has an office in Seymour.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...10 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...12

Annual Events

- Even a tiny community like Seymour has a 4th of July parade, which is sponsored by the local Methodist Church and goes about 20 blocks. The day ends with fireworks.



- Little known fact: if you park on County Road 200E, just south of the Seymour fire station, on the evening of July 4th, you can see fireworks displays from Champaign, Mahomet, and Seymour—all at once! That’s cool.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Just nine miles from Seymour is Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve in Mahomet. Nine-hundred acres along the corridor of the Sangamon River for hiking; biking; paddle boats, kayaks, and rowboats; golf, a botanical garden, and more. It’s also the location of the Museum of the Grand Prairie.
- Even closer is River Bend Forest Preserve, also in Mahomet. One hundred and thirty acres of clear water in two lakes, 2.5 miles of forest along the Sangamon River, a 1-mile nature trail, and a 1.2-mile multi-use trail. Best of all is Possibility Pier, which juts into Sunset Lake. Designed for universal accessibility, the Pier “allows a seated person to fish through the railing slots and use tackle tables at just the right height.”

Unique Fact

- Students from Seymour are part of the Mahomet-Seymour Community Unit School District 3, with all schools located in Mahomet.

Learn more about Seymour, Illinois

- Visit Champaign County <https://www.visitchampaigncounty.org/>



Seymour, Illinois post office.

A village in Champaign County, incorporated sometime in the 1970s

Population...431

Geographic size...0.25 square miles



Known For

- Bondville is a tiny residential community. Other than houses, you'll find a grain elevator, a Methodist Church, the Bondville Village Park, and a company called Harmon Excavating, Inc.
- The village has a board and a mayor, Karl Kennicker, who has lived in the community since the mid-1980s.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- There had been a post office in Bondville for many, many years, but it closed in April 2020, which created an inconvenience for the residents who had to start driving to Mahomet to pick up their mail. Fortunately, with support from Mayor Karl and the village board, the U.S. Postal Service ended up putting a mail box in everyone's driveway and now Bondville residents get rural delivery, just like the postal customers who live on Illinois Route 10 between Champaign and Bondville.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...7 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Annual Events

- A few years ago, the village started an event called Summer Fun, where townsfolk get together for a day at the local park, with food, music, a car show, and an evening movie to cap the event.

Natural Areas and Resources

- While there are no parks or preserves in Bondville, residents are quite close to Mahomet and Monticello, which offer great options there.

Learn more about Bondville, Illinois

- Visit Champaign County <https://www.visitchampaigncounty.org/>



Old Bondville, Illinois interurban rail station and power plant, 2007.

Founded in 1855
Population...88,909
Geographic size...22.98 square miles



Known For

- Because Champaign is often treated as one metropolitan area with its sister city, Urbana, the twin-cities are known as “Chambana,” “C-U,” or—as the locals sometimes say—“Shampoo-Banana.”
- Like many towns along the Criss-Cross routes, the location and creation of Champaign was impacted by the route of a railroad. In 1850, the Illinois Central Railroad Company began planning a massive railroad construction project, made possible by President Pierce’s approval of a land grant. The main line would run from LaSalle-Peru to Cairo, and the Chicago branch would connect via east-central Illinois to the main line at Centralia. Survey crews from Illinois Central mapped four possible routes for the branch across Champaign County, which was 80 percent prairie at the time. They selected the route that “ran across the open prairie two miles west of the Urbana courthouse.” Urbana had been established since 1833, was the seat of Champaign County, and would have been a ready-made town next to the new train line, but practicality ruled in the selection of the final route. Illinois Central Railroad historian Howard Brownson explains it this way: “the company selected the route entirely upon its economic and engineering merits and with exceptions, the line chosen was the most direct and shortest of the possible routes.” And as a result, the town we call Champaign was created in 1855.
- Originally called “West Urbana,” the town was renamed “Champaign” when it acquired a city charter in 1860. Both the city and county name were derived from Champaign County, Ohio, the area from where many of the first settlers came.

- In January, 1857, the Union announced the anticipated spring opening of the Cattle Bank. Today, restored with the help of the City of Champaign, the building stands on the northeast corner of University Avenue and First Street. It is the oldest surviving commercial structure in the twin-cities and houses the Champaign County History Museum.
- A culturally diverse community, Champaign features very diverse employment opportunities—from health care, banking, light manufacturing, retail, government, and social services to higher education with the University of Illinois and Parkland College.
- With a name like Champaign, the town never stops celebrating. There’s arts and culture, film and music festivals, collegiate sports, state high school tournaments, excellent local parks and youth sports, nearby area lakes and rivers for boating, fishing, canoeing, camping, and nature areas for hiking.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- The University of Illinois, founded in 1867, was one of the original 37 land-grant institutions and is today the #14 ranked public university in the United States, with over 47,000 students from all 50 states and over 100 countries. Originally called Illinois Industrial University, the school was renamed University of Illinois in 1885. There are 15 colleges and instructional units, and the library is one of the largest public university libraries in the world. U of I is also rated as one of the most “disability friendly” campuses in the country. 470,000+ living alumni make the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign one of the largest U.S. alumni organizations. The school has had 24 Nobel Laureates and countless other prestigious Prize winners among its alumni and faculty. Fighting Illini spirit is a huge part of the Chambana culture. “ILL...INI!”
- Virginia Theatre, owned and operated since 2000 by the Champaign Park District, is an historic performing arts center with 1,463 seats that was built in 1921 as a vaudeville house. Now fully restored, the venue hosts concerts, plays, dance, corporate events, and, most notably, is home to the annual Roger Ebert Film Festival—aka Ebertfest. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Home of Jarling’s Custard Cup and Papa Del’s Pizza.



CHAMPAIGN

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- The presence of the University of Illinois Research Park leads to abundant and thriving technology and innovation. Champaign-Urbana is known as the capital of the Silicone Prairie, a reference to a multi-state region comprising Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Cofounders of Yelp, YouTube, Netscape, and PayPal are all graduates of the University of Illinois.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...0 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...1,790

Public Art

- 40 North | 88 West is dedicated to fueling the growth and well-being of Champaign County by nurturing its arts, culture, and education community.
- The Public Art League (PAL) focuses on the installation, maintenance, and promotion of public artworks throughout the twin-cities. As a result, you'll find pieces of art throughout the city and on campus, as well as some murals in downtown.
- A couple of notable statues in Champaign include the statue of Roger Ebert outside the Virginia Theatre and the Prayer for Rain fountain, in the likeness of an American Indian, a panther, and a door at West Side Park.



Hot Rod Power Tour vehicles outside the State Farm Center.



The Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon has been thrilling C-U since 2009.

Annual Events

- With 19 varsity sports and many state-of-the-art facilities, University of Illinois Athletics provide spectator entertainment year-round. Alumni Weekend, as well as Dad's and Mom's Day weekends, add more excitement to the annual University calendar.
- The 13-year-old annual Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon Race Weekend draws an average of 17,000 participants from across the country and abroad for a three-day running festival, featuring seven different distances and a health & fitness expo. There's a spectacular finish inside historic Memorial Stadium and a post-race 27-Mile Celebrate Victory Bash street fest outside the Stadium.



Roger Ebert statue outside the Virginia Theatre.

- Ebertfest was founded in 1999 by the late Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Roger Ebert to celebrate films that were overlooked during their original runs by audiences, critics, and distributors. Hosted each April by Chaz Ebert, Roger's wife, business partner, and fellow film lover. Over the course of five days, about a dozen films are screened, followed by in-depth on-stage Q&A among the filmmakers, critics, and audience.
- Friday Night Live runs from late May to late August in downtown Champaign. Open to the general public, the weekly event features live street-side performances by an eclectic mix of musicians, from bluegrass, jazz, and blues to funk, pop, rock, and more.
- Hot Rod Power Tour comes through Champaign in August. More than just a traveling car show, Hot Rod Power Tour is the largest hot rod road trip in the world. Classic cars and hot rods travel city to city, more than 1,300 miles, enjoying the people and stops along the way. Hot Rod Power Tour is widely considered to be the finest high-end, hot rod-based automotive tour in the world, as performance car lovers join Hot Rod editors and photographers cruising through small-town America.

- Taste of Champaign in mid-August is the premier event of the summer, featuring food from some of the community's best restaurants. In addition to food, music, and beer, there's also a huge assortment of arts and craft vendors, activities for the kids, and an annual Pie Run.

Natural Areas and Resources

- The Champaign Park District manages 62 parks (over 700 acres) and 14 different facilities. CPD has year-round programs for residents of all ages. The list of parks to visit is endless. Some of our favorites are West Side Park, Hessel Park, Sunset Ridge Park, and Heritage Park.
- While not a park, no visit to Champaign is complete without a trip to Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch in southwest Champaign. Curtis Orchard is part of an Illinois centennial farm founded when the Curtis family settled here in 1873. What started as prairieland became a farm and, for the past 40+ years, an apple orchard and much more.

Unique Amenities

- The Flower Island Program, sponsored by local businesses, adds splashes of color throughout the city with over 230 flower beds in front of public and private businesses.
- Downtown Champaign is the heart of a lively entertainment scene with over 35 locally owned restaurants and pubs, a full-service hotel, parks, outdoor cafes, and much more.
- Illinois Terminal serves a dynamic cross-section of East Central Illinois. MTD (bus) passengers and employees, community members, passenger rail and intercity bus riders, students, business travelers, downtown residents, and visitors to our area pass through Illinois Terminal every day.

Learn more about Champaign, Illinois

- <https://champaignil.gov/about/about-champaign/>
- Visit Champaign County <https://www.visitchampaigncounty.org/>
- Champaign Park District <https://champaignparks.com/>
- University of Illinois <https://illinois.edu/>
- Champaign County Chamber of Commerce <https://www.champaigncounty.org/>

Founded in 1822
 Population...42,214
 Geographic size...11.58 square miles

Known For

- The Urbana area was first settled by Europeans in 1822, when it was called “Big Grove.” As Big Grove got bigger, settlers became interested in forming their own county, which would save them having to make trips to Danville, the county seat at the time. When Champaign County was organized in 1833, the county seat was located on 40 acres of land—20 acres donated by William T. Webber and 20 acres by Col. M. W. Busey, considered to be the city’s founder. The County was named after Champaign County, Ohio, where State Senator Joseph Vance grew up. A place was picked as the county seat, and it was named Urbana, after the Senator’s hometown in Ohio.
- When the Central Illinois Railroad made plans for a new train line that would pass through Champaign County, Urbana was bypassed as the location of the tracks. Instead, the new tracks ran “across the open prairie two miles west of the Urbana courthouse” (this led to the eventual creation of the city of Champaign). At the time of the railroad’s arrival, some settlers thought Urbana should move, to be next to the new train tracks, but in the end, the town stayed put.
- Both cities grew, with almost two miles of open, swampy land between them. Planks were laid to create a road to make traveling back and forth more manageable. This land between the two cities is where Illinois Industrial University, later renamed the University of Illinois, was built.
- Urbana is notable for sharing the campus of the world-renown University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign with its sister city of Champaign. More of the physical campus lies in Urbana than in Champaign.



- Urbana has received national recognition by being named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters every year since 1976. Urbana’s trees are a source of shared pride in the community. The urban forest includes trees that are historic, unique, rare, and one-of-a-kind.



Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Numerous Nobel Prize winners, including Philip W. Anderson, John Bardeen, Theodore Gray, Robert W. Holley, Edwin G. Krebs, Paul Christian Lautebur, Sir Anthony James Leggett, Hamilton O. Smith, and James Tobin.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Corn and soybeans are the crops grown on farms in Urbana (same as in Champaign).
- The presence of the University of Illinois Research Park leads to abundant and thriving technology and innovation. Champaign-Urbana is known as the capital of the Silicone Prairie, a reference to a multi-state region comprising Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Cofounders of Yelp, YouTube, Netscape, and PayPal are all graduates of the University of Illinois.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...0
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...721

Public Art

- In 2008, Urbana was designated as an Illinois Arts Friendly Community by the Illinois Arts Alliance and Illinois Municipal League. There’s a wonderful array of art in Urbana, including sculptures, murals, art exhibits, and more.
- There is no better example of this than the Wandell Sculpture Garden at Meadowbrook Park, home to dozens of sculptures. Dedicated in June 1999, the garden was named in honor of Celia and Willet Wandell, who owned a local plant nursery and established a trust to give trees to neighboring communities. “Celia and Willet’s family saw the Urbana Park District’s plans for a sculpture garden in Urbana as a way to both honor their parents and support art in a natural setting.” Some sculptures are a part of the Urbana Park District’s permanent collection; other exhibits are on a two-year loan from the artist and are available for purchase.



- The iconic Alma Mater, a 10,000-pound bronze statue created by sculptor Lorado Taft, is situated in the heart of campus on the east side of Wright Street, which is the Urbana–Champaign dividing line of campus. The beloved symbol of the University of Illinois shows a mother-figure wearing academic robes, flanked by two attendant figures presenting “Learning” and “Labor.” Throughout the year, Alma Mater is dressed up for various events, including our Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon Race Weekend.

Annual Events

- Eleven-plus miles of the annual Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon route (and most of the half marathon route) pass through the city of Urbana, including downtown, Stone Creek, and the prairie wonderland of Meadowbrook Park. With the roads closed throughout the city, participants enjoy a carefree jaunt, with thousands of neighbors lining the route to cheer their efforts.
- Since 1979, Market at the Square has been a signature event in Urbana. Every Saturday from early May until November, dozens and dozens of vendors set up in the Lincoln Square parking lot in downtown Urbana. The Market connects local growers and artisans with the community. You’ll find the best selections of made- and grown-in- Illinois products, including produce, meat, dairy, honey, local beer and wine, flowers, handmade art and crafts, and more.
- The Urbana Sweetcorn Festival was first held in 1975, hosted by Busey bank employees in the parking lot of their downtown Urbana office. The Urbana Business Association now organizes the event, which has grown tremendously over the years to include live music on multiple stages, antique and collector cars, local food vendors, and an expanded family area, all in the heart of downtown. And, let’s not forget the corn! Guests consume some 20,000 ears of local corn each year. An antique steam engine is used to cook the corn, and all the corncobs are composted.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Since its formation in 1907 with one lone park, the Urbana Park District has grown to 21 parks and natural areas and several facilities.
- Crystal Lake Park features a mature urban forest, a scenic parkway drive, the Saline branch, and numerous amenities. It was the Urbana Park District’s first park.
- At the north end of Crystal Lake Park is Busey Woods, a 59-acre bottomland oak-hickory forest with an elevated boardwalk; and the adjacent Anita Purves Nature Center, Champaign County’s premier environmental education center. The nature area is known for its spring wildflowers and birdwatching opportunities.
- Meadowbrook Park offers 130 acres, including 80 acres of recreated Illinois tallgrass prairie. Three miles of wide concrete paths loop in and around the park, suitable for walking, running, and bicycling. Over 20 large and spectacular sculptures from local artists are spread out along the path. You’ll also find unpaved paths that wind through the prairie grass, plus a huge wooden playground, shelters, and various community gardens.
- The University of Illinois Arboretum is located on the south campus and includes 160 acres of gardens, collections, and habitats, creating an amazing “living laboratory” of natural beauty for students as well as the general public.

URBANA

- Carle Park is home to the famous Lincoln the Lawyer statue by acclaimed sculptor Lorado Taft. Originally sited in front of the old Lincoln Hotel, the statue was moved to the park in 1955, across the street from Urbana High School.

Unique Amenities

- The 300,000 square-foot Krannert Center for the Performing Arts opened in 1969 and is recognized as the nation's premier university-based performing arts center and academic facility. It has five indoor stages, each venue designed for a particular style of performance, plus an outdoor amphitheater.
- The Urbana Free Library, one of the first public libraries in Illinois, was founded in 1874 and is located in downtown. The historic building housing the library opened in 1918 and houses historical archives of Champaign County.

Learn more about Urbana, Illinois

- <https://www.urbanainillinois.us/>
- Visit Champaign County <https://www.visitchampaigncounty.org/>
- University of Illinois <https://illinois.edu/>
- Champaign County Chamber of Commerce <https://www.champaigncounty.org/>
- Market at the Square <https://urbanamarket.org/>
- Urbana Park District urbanaparks.org
- Urbana Free Library urbanafreelibrary.org



Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon participants stream through downtown Urbana.

A village in Champaign County, founded in 1881
 Population...4,424
 Geographic size...2.14 square miles



Known For

- Aka St. Joe. The town’s original location was a mile south of where it lies today—moved to be closer to the railroad tracks passing through town.
- The town is named after Joseph Kelly, who ran Kelly’s tavern, which was located near the Salt Fork River bridge. In its early years, the village had the tavern and a few other buildings, but it was a common stopping place for travelers, including at one time Abraham Lincoln, prior to his election as President. An historical marker notes this by the bridge.
- A very friendly, proud, and close-knit community where everyone knows everyone.
- A grade school and high school with exceptional reputations for excellent academics along with state-qualifying extracurricular programs.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Though small, St. Joe has many amenities like gas stations, restaurants, a grocery store, tanning salon, hair salon, 24-hour gym, and even a winery!
- Village president/mayor Tami Fruhling-Voges says, “The quality of people who live and play in our Village is truly what makes St. Joseph the place you want to call home! We have the friendliest and most caring group of residents just waiting to call you neighbor. The Village of St. Joseph has the best small-town living with big-city access.”
- Marianne Dickerson, a world-class long-distance runner, grew up in St. Joseph.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Family-owned Wyldewood Cellars Winery started 23 years ago in Kansas and opened in St. Joe seven years ago. They make over 40 different wines as well as a variety of products with no alcohol. Their elderberry concentrate is legendary. You can visit their shop at 218 E. Lincoln St. <http://www.wyldewoodillinois.com/>

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...11 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...114

Public Art

- A veterans’ memorial along Route 150, south of the high school, was an Eagle Scout project, and is dedicated to all alumni who “bravely served our country.”
- There is a more extensive veterans’ memorial at Woodard Family Park, which the American Legion Post #634 put together.

Annual Events

- Holiday Shop and Stroll, an initiative coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce, occurs in the first part of December, kicking off the holiday season with a special day of sales and other festive activities.
- Called the Community Fall Festival, this multi-faceted event actually takes place in August before the start of the school year. From a parade to a culminating fireworks display, the Festival features live local music, a street dance, a fish fry, a talent show, a mutt show, a senior citizens’ quilt raffle, a kiddie tractor pull, and more. A 5K race happens the weekend before but is considered part of the Festival. All held in the village’s relatively new Community Sports Complex, aka Woodard Family Park.
- Who doesn’t love a race where you can dress up like Santa? The St. Joe Santa 5K Run/Walk in December supports the local St. Joseph food bank pantry and is managed by the St. Joseph Methodist Church in partnership with the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.
- The Spartan Classic is a high school cross-country meet held each September, with dozens of teams competing from all over central Illinois.

ST. JOSEPH

Natural Areas and Resources

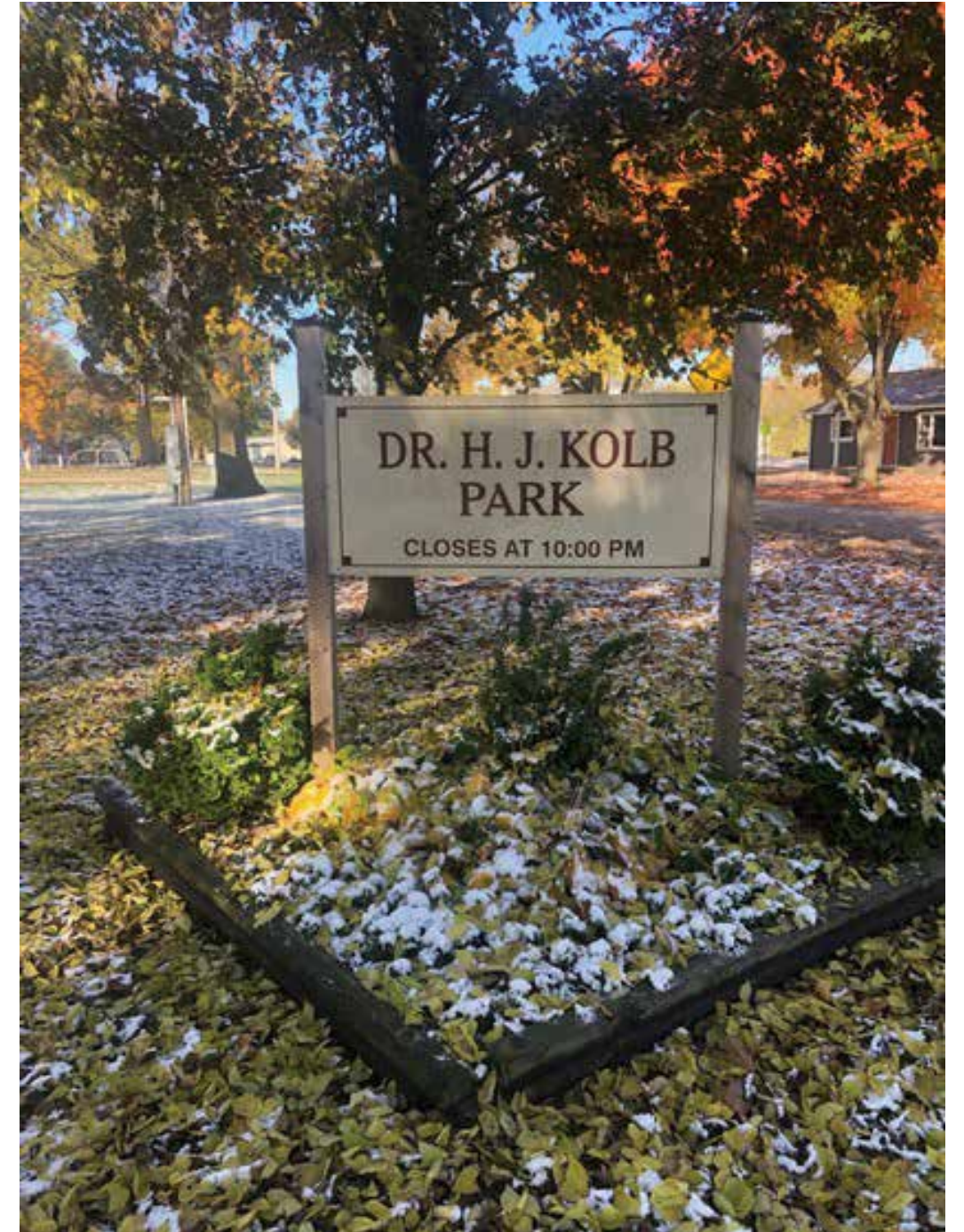
- St. Joe has three neighborhood parks. The oldest, Dr. H.J. Kolb Park, is located just off the Kickapoo Rail Trail (KRT for short) as you come into town from the west. B.J. Hackler Park is on the north side of the Village. The sports complex at Woodard Family Park is the village's pride and joy—40 acres of green space developed through grants, volunteers, and donations. There are ball fields, soccer fields, a pavilion/concession stand. Eventually, the Kickapoo Rail Trail pathway will extend out to the Park. When the KRT is completed, the trail will connect Champaign County with Vermilion County.
- St. Joe borders the banks of the Salt Fork River and is close to the Homer Lake Forest Preserve.

Unique Amenities

- The first phase completed in August 2017, the Kickapoo Rail Trail is a crushed stone trail that starts on the East Main Street spur in Urbana and ends almost seven miles later in St. Joe. Taking the KRT is a wonderful way to get to town, on foot or by bike. Along the way, you'll see corn and soybean fields, grain elevators, a cemetery, an old rail trestle over the Salt Fork River, natural wetlands, and more. St. Joe secured a grant to add some new amenities to the KRT in 2021.

Learn more about St. Joseph, Illinois

- <https://stjosephillinois.org/>
- Visit Champaign County: <https://www.visitchampaigncounty.org/>



St. Joe's oldest park is at the trailhead of the Kickapoo Rail Trail.

A village in Champaign County, founded in 1861
 Population...811
 Geographic size...0.59 square miles



Known For

- The history of Ogden started from Hickory Grove, west of Ogden, which became a campsite for many farmers. John Harmeson came from Anderson, Illinois, to what is now Ogden after he purchased 9,160 acres of land from the government, at \$1.20 per acre. The land was divided by his sons, with one son receiving the land where Ogden now stands. He sold it to one of his relatives, John Leney, in 1861. The town consisted of nine blocks between Market and Leney Streets, to Broadway and North Street. The town was named after a pioneer settler, John Ogden. An agreement was made that if John sold a tract of land to the railroad company, they would name the town after him. The Ogden family lived just south of town in a log cabin.
- Ogden has a rural atmosphere with access to urban amenities and culture, being close to Champaign-Urbana and the University of Illinois.
- Village life is enhanced by highly-rated schools, parks, churches, community events, and a library.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Ogden established many local businesses early on in the 19th century and became a popular stop along the railways, which arrived in Ogden in 1866.
- The first railway in the Ogden area was an east-west line with stations in Ogden, St. Joseph, Urbana, Champaign, and Mahomet. The name of this railroad line was the Champaign-Urbana, Danville Interurban.

- Interstate 74 as well as routes 150 and 49 pass through Ogden.
- A tornado did extensive damage to the downtown area in March 1976, and a devastating F-3 tornado with winds estimated at 170 mph hit Ogden on April 19, 1996, leaving a path of destruction from one end of town to the other. More than 200 homes suffered major damage in the tornado, 80 homes were completely destroyed, and 13 people suffered minor injuries. With help from government agencies, surrounding communities, and thousands of volunteers, Ogden recovered. Over the years Ogden has proven itself a resilient community with supportive and caring residents. According to Sonja Vickers, who has lived in Ogden her entire life and is a trustee on the Village board, everyone in Ogden works well together. As far as the 1996 tornado goes, “we’ve moved on and gotten back to our lives.”

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Ogden is primarily a farming community, surrounded by acres and acres of corn and soybean fields.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...17.2 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...10

Public Art

- In 1959, a lot on the northeast corner of Main and East Streets was purchased by the American Legion and plans were made for a Memorial Park, which stands today in honor of Ogden’s war veterans. The site also has a lovely flower bed.

Annual Events

- For the past couple of years, there’s been an Ogden Community Summer Festival, which includes a car show.
- The library often has special events for kids.

Natural Areas and Resources

- Kickapoo State Park is located less than 15 miles to the east of Ogden (see pages 97–98) and Homer Lake Forest Preserve is less than 5 miles away.
- After Ogden and St. Joseph consolidated their two high schools into one, in 1964, the village acquired the property where the old Ogden High School was and it’s now a park, known locally as Old High School Park.

OGDEN

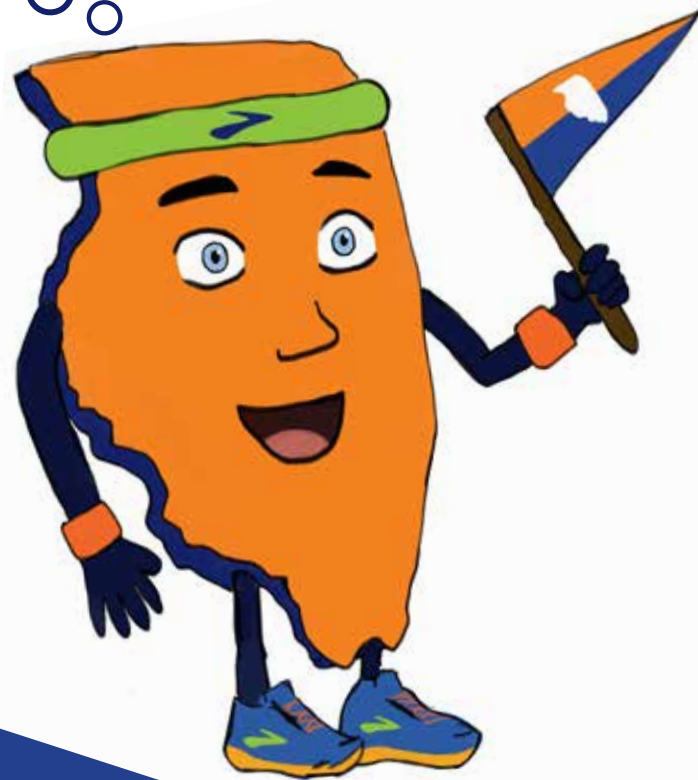
Unique Fact

- It is believed that a prehistoric glacier swept over or across Ogden Township and left few permanent landmarks including irregular land altitudes and rocks.

Learn more about Ogden, Illinois

- <http://www.ogdenil.com/>
- Visit Champaign County: <https://www.visitchampaigncounty.org/>

Wow! We're almost to the finish line of the West-to-East Route!



Welcome to Ogden, Illinois.



Resilient Ogden recovered from the tornado that tore through the community in April 1996.

A village in Vermilion County, founded in 1830
Population...449
Geographic size...0.38 square miles

Known For

- The town was named after Dr. William Fithian, who donated some of the land for the community. He came to Danville in 1830 and had a farm just a mile west of the site of the town of Fithian. He was a friend and supporter of Abraham Lincoln, who was reputed to have stayed at the farm often in the mid-19th century, as he traveled on his circuit prior to his presidency. Dr. Fithian served terms in the Illinois House and Senate.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- The town of Fithian was a center for trading livestock and grain; it thrived when the Illinois Traction System went through in 1903 and declined along with the ITS, especially during the Great Depression.
- When 84-year-old Don Stallings was growing up in the village, you never had to go to Danville or Champaign for anything. You could do all your shopping in Fithian. Now you can't buy even a loaf of bread or a gallon of milk there. Don owns Stallings Ford, a dealership that opened in Fithian in 1912 and has been owned by his family since 1925.

Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- Ludwig Farmstead Creamery, 17591 N 600 East Road, on a 150-acre, fifth-generation family farm originally settled in 1866, produces European-style, artisan cheese. The "Creamery was the vision of Jacob 'Jake' V. Ludwig's passion for cheese making. He recognized the synergy and great potential of using the morning-fresh milk from his father's blue-ribbon cows to handcraft traditional artisan cheeses right on the farm. [After college], Jake studied for a year as a cheese-making intern in



Pennsylvania. He then returned to Fithian where he designed and built his own cheese-making facility. Sadly, Jake lost his life before the cheese production came to fruition. To continue his dream, Jake's father, Dave Ludwig, hired a Dutch cheese maker/consultant, who developed several award-winning recipes. Their handcrafted small-batch cheeses are made with day-fresh milk supplied from their own Holstein cows." Visit www.ludwigfarmsteadcreamery.com You can tour the farm, see the cows and milking parlor, and go behind the scene of their cheese-making process. Yum!

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...22 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...5

Annual Events

- There used to be a local street carnival once a year, but that ended around 1960.

Natural Areas and Resources

- The 814-acre Homer Lake Forest Preserve is a mere 6.3 miles from Fithian, in Homer. From sledding to fishing to boating, Homer Lake is a place to get away for some relaxation.

Unique Amenities

- The Vermilion County Museum Society, organized in 1964, preserves the historical heritage of Vermilion County. The Society maintains four local historical sites, including the Dr. William Fithian Home, an 1855 Victorian mansion once the home of Dr. Fithian and now the site of the Museum.

Learn more about Fithian, Illinois

- <http://www.vermilioncountymuseum.org/history.htm>
- Vermilion County Museum
<https://www.visitdanvillearea.com/attractions/museums-historic-sites-markers/vermilion-county-museum/>



Ludwig Farmstead Creamery is in Fithian, Illinois.

A village in Vermilion County, founded in 1876
 Population...138
 Geographic size...0.18 square miles



Known For

- Years ago, when Route 150 was the main drag through the area, there was a service station and a train depot in Muncie. Today, other than homes, this tiny village has a post office, a couple of businesses, and one church—the Muncie Baptist Church, which dates back to 1852! The current church building is the congregation’s third such home.
- The Conkey Branch, aka Stony Creek, feeds off of the Salt Fork River and meanders through the village.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Hartung Brothers seed corn company is a half mile north of town.
- An anchor in Muncie has to be Shale Hill Stable, which sits right on Route 150. The horse stable has been run for over 60 years by the McGaughlin family—brothers Jerry and Jan, who have lived in Muncie their entire lives, and their families. They breed American Saddlebred horses and Welsh ponies. Over the years, some of the horses born at Shale Hill have become national- and world-champions in horse competitions around the country. The McGaughlin brothers’ great grandfather, William Lynch, lived in Muncie when it was founded in 1876 and was its first railroad agent and postmaster.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...24 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...0

Annual Events

- A town garage sale takes place one Saturday each fall.
- A small fall festival unfolded in October 2020 that locals hope can be an annual event. Organized by a new business in Muncie called the Stony Creek Trading Post, the festival had vendors selling produce and other goods like chicken eggs, pumpkins, and garlic balls.

Natural Areas and Resources

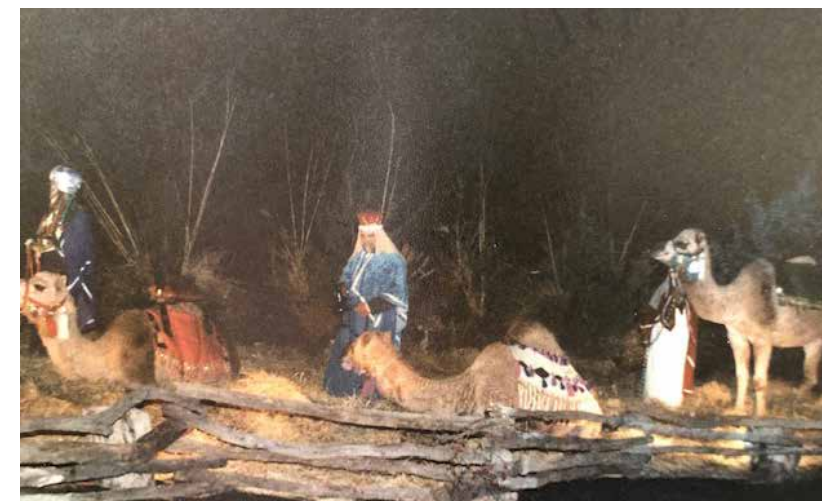
- Muncie Park offers some playground equipment, a bench, and plenty of shady trees. It sits across from the softball field where the Oakwood High School girls softball team plays its games.

Unique Fact

- Muncie Baptist Church pastor Dave Garver told us about the LIVE nativity scene that’s been part of the church’s holiday history for over 30 years. When live donkeys, camels, and sheep came from a local animal farm, joining the human cast of characters, the nativity scene was set up as a drive-through on three successive Friday, Saturday, and Sundays in December. With the farm no longer in business, the church has to rent the animals, an expensive proposition, so the live nativity event is now a one-night affair, drawing crowds from all over the area. The pandemic cancelled the 2020 event, but it will be back next year, promises Pastor Dave!

Learn more about Muncie, Illinois

- <http://www.vermilioncountymuseum.org/history.htm>



The Muncie Baptist Church LIVE nativity scene, quite unique.

A village in Vermilion County, platted in 1870,
incorporated in 1910

Population...1,600

Geographic size...0.93 square miles

Known For

- Oakwood Historical Society president Clifford Peak told us the town was named after a family named Oakwood; even today, there are a lot of people who live in the village and have Oakwood as their last name. Located along the Salt Fork River.
- The first inhabitants of the area were Native Americans from the Kickapoo and Potawatomi tribes, and they discovered the salt mines in the area. (Where the current-day Oakwood trailer park is located, reports Clifford, is where the Potawatomi tribe camp was located.) In 1819, Army surveyors found the mines that had been built by the tribes. John Vance leased the grounds from the state of Illinois from 1824 to 1831.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- The salt works was the area's first industry until a more profitable commodity was discovered—coal.
- In 1870 and 1871, the Indiana, Bloomington and Western Railway, from Indianapolis to Bloomington, came through, which led to Oakwood being platted at the court house on April 14, 1870. The arrival of the railroad really helped Oakwood prosper.
- The landmark Salt Kettle, previously located on Route 150, is now located at the rest area on I-74 near Oakwood.
- Former professional baseball player Darren Fletcher is from Oakwood.



Product Grown, Produced, Discovered There

- The Salt Kettle Tourist Information Center (aka the rest area in Oakwood on I-74) was named after the iron kettle, a monument on Route 150, until the rest area was built and it was moved there. The monument commemorates the town's early heritage. In the early 1800s, iron kettles were used for the commercial production of salt at the old salt works. Salt springs were first utilized by Native Americans. Later, settlers dug wells 50-feet deep, and the salt water was boiled in large iron kettles that produced one bushel of salt per 100 gallons of water. The kettle became a symbol of progress. The official shield of Vermilion County displays a silhouette of a salt kettle and the motto "ye are the salt of the earth."



The landmark Salt Kettle, previously located on Route 150, is now located at the rest area on I-74 near Oakwood.

OAKWOOD

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...27 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...17

Public Art

- A War Memorial honoring all branches of the military lies in the center of the village.

Annual Events

- 4th of July celebration, with a parade and other festivities.
- Farmers Market, every Wednesday night at Oakwood Park from June to September.
- Santa Claus is Coming to Town, in early December at First Farmers Bank & Trust. Santa visits, hot chocolate, and treats.
- Community Christmas Lighting Contest, with plaques awarded to three homeowner winners selected by a judge from out of town.
- Halloween Trunk or Treat invites townsfolk to decorate the trunks of their cars and fill them with treat bags. Local kids can get their sweet fill in a safe and fun way. Hosted by Dollar General and Oakwood Christian Church.

Natural Areas and Resources

- The Oakwood Park on the northwest end of town has ball fields, a tennis court, playground, pavilion, picnic tables, and so on. Night lights allow enjoyment into the evening.
- On a larger scale is the amazing Kickapoo State Park, which lies between Oakwood and Danville. See the last town in the Guide, Danville, for all the details about this recreational heaven.

Unique Amenities

- A new village hall is under construction, with an estimated finish date of spring 2021.

Learn more about Oakwood, Illinois

- <http://oakwoodil.org/>
- Vermilion County Museum Society <http://www.vermilioncountymuseum.org/history.htm>



Founded in 1827
Population...30,479
Geographic size...18.11 square miles



Known For

- Danville was founded on 60 acres of land donated by Guy W. Smith and 20 acres donated by Dan W. Beckwith. In 1819 Beckwith accompanied the first white explorers to the area where Danville later existed because of his interest in the salt springs of the Vermilion River. The first post office was established in May of 1827 in the house of Amos Williams, a prominent Danville citizen. Williams and Beckwith drew up the first plat map. The city was named after Dan Beckwith, at Williams's suggestion.

Place of History, Place of Entertainment, Product, Person

- Danville became a major industrial city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. From the 1850s to the 1940s, Danville was an important coal mining area; some of the first open pit mining techniques were practiced here.
- With the closure of the mines and many factories, Danville's economic base suffered in the latter half of the 20th century. The former mines were converted into lakes, creating fishing and recreation opportunities at parks such as Kickapoo State Recreation Area and Kennekuk Cove County Park.
- Danville is broadly divided into three districts—the downtown district, the retail district, and the campus district. The downtown district consists of the historic core of the city, the retail district includes the northside retail corridor, and the campus district includes the Danville Area Community College (DACC) and VA campuses on the city's east side.

- The Danville Dans are a summer collegiate wooden-bat baseball team that plays in Danville Stadium. They were founded in 1989 as a member of the Central Illinois Collegiate League, which later merged with the Prospect League. The team has won nine championships, all of them coming in the CICL. The Danville Dashers are now the oldest team in the Federal Prospects Hockey League, being founded in 2011. They play in the David S. Palmer Arena.
- Other attractions include the historic downtown district, home of the Fischer Theatre, which includes a museum dedicated to the many famous performers who have lived in Danville, including Dick Van Dyke, Jerry Van Dyke, Donald O'Connor, Bobby Short, and Helen Morgan.

Ties to Champaign-Urbana

- Distance to C-U from the location...35 miles
- Number of 2020 CCIM race participants who live in the town...131

Public Art

- The City of Danville is a regional hub for artists and artistic expression. There are more than a dozen active arts groups including theater, visual arts, choirs, and a symphony.

Annual Events

- Balloons Over Vermilion, held annually in July at the Vermilion Region Airport, offers a colorful celebration of hot air balloons and other activities for lots of family fun.
- In June regional artists descend on Danville for the annual Arts in the Park event in the historic Lincoln Park.
- Throughout the summer, downtown's Temple Plaza hosts the Summer Sounds Concert Series.

Natural Areas and Resources

- The city of Danville maintains 20+ parks and recreation facilities, from small pocket parks to large regionally significant parklands. Danville's parks contribute to a county-wide collection that includes four county parks and three state parks. When combined with the city parkland, these total more than 15,000 acres, providing more acres of public park per capita than in any other county in Illinois.
- Kickapoo State Recreation Area is an Illinois state park on 2,842 acres that was purchased by the state of Illinois in 1939 with donations from Danville residents. Located between Oakwood and Danville, the park is easily accessible from I-74. It is 28 miles from Champaign-Urbana. According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the name Kickapoo originated from the Kickapoo village that once existed near the junction of the Salt Fork and Middle Fork branches of the Vermilion River. Today, Kickapoo State Park has 221 acres of ponds and lakes with nearly 35 miles of trails for many types of recreational activities including running, hiking,

DANVILLE

camping, canoeing, hunting, mountain biking, and fishing. In the winter season, ice fishing and cross-country skiing are popular pastimes for park visitors. Campsites are available year-round with RV and electric hookups available. There are 22 deep water ponds accessible to electric motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. Visitors may rent a canoe or kayak to paddle down the Vermilion River, which runs through the center of Kickapoo State Park. Scuba diving is also allowed within the park.

Unique Amenities

- Over 200 acres have been allocated for mountain bike use in Kickapoo State Park. There are 11 mountain biking routes, ranging from easy to difficult, located in the northeast section of Kickapoo State Park. Some of the more difficult trails have one- to two-foot jumps, steep inclines, switchbacks, and benchcut ravines. The bike trails wind through the forest, abandoned strip mine areas, and along the Vermilion River. Mountain bike trails are open for visitors to use year-round, although they close during the annual fall firearm hunting seasons (usually falling on two to four weekends in November and December), and occasionally due to extended muddy conditions such as the spring thaw or damage following heavy storms.

Learn more about Danville, Illinois

- <https://www.visitdanvillearea.com/>
- Danville Area Visitors Bureau
<https://www.vermilionadvantage.com/business/danville-area-visitors-bureau>
- Vermilion County Museum <http://www.vermilioncountymuseum.org/>
- Illiana Genealogical and Historical Society
<https://www.facebook.com/IllianaGenealogicalAndHistoricalSociety/>



Balloons Over Vermilion festival in Danville, Illinois.