

LIVING IN
MCKENZIE
COUNTY

STRONG COMMUNITY, NATURAL BEAUTY, ENDLESS OPPORTUNITY



MCKENZIE

★ ★ ★ TABLE OF ★ ★ ★

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for taking time to look through this **Living in McKenzie County** publication. We love living in our community and we hope that this publication will help you and others connect with the many opportunities we have here. If you are interested in hosting an event here, have a business idea, are looking for visitor information or craving an ice cream cone, please stop by the Long X Visitors Center and let us get you in touch with our resources.

McKENZIE
★ COUNTY ★

WATFORD
★ CITY ★



Vawnita Best
City of Watford City



Brock White
City of Watford City



Keith Olson
Small Business Dev Center



Daniel Stenberg
McKenzie Co Econ Dev



John Suter
McKenzie Co Econ Dev



Doug Bolken
McKenzie Co Tourism



Long X Visitors Center | 701-444-5804

FIND US



econdev.mckenziecounty.net
visitwatfordcity.com

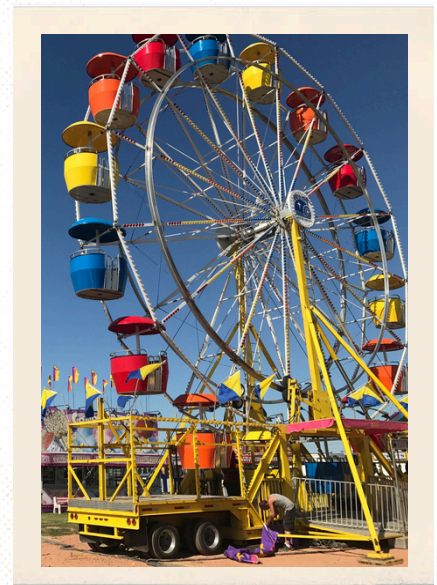
✪ ABOUT US ✪



Scan the QR code or search bit.ly/TheModernHistoryofWatfordCityandMcKenzieCounty to hear from local leaders on how McKenzie County has grown to the great community it is today.

From the homesteaders who arrived to stake their claims in the early 1900s to those seeking opportunities in petroleum development and many other industries, McKenzie County attracts adventurous, resourceful and hardworking people.

Agriculture has been a major economic driver through McKenzie County's 100+ year history with both ranching and farming. Oil was discovered here in 1952 and has been a part of the economy since then. The county's northern boundary is Lake Sakakawea--one of the largest manmade lakes in the nation. Theodore Roosevelt National Park's North Unit lies on the southern end of our county and attracts visitors from near and far.



★ ★ ★ ★ **QUICK LOOK** ★ ★ ★ ★

MCKENZIE COUNTY

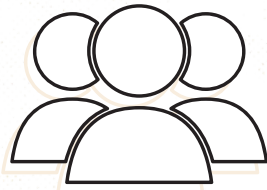
14,704
Population
 as of 2020 US Census



Major industries include oil and gas production, agriculture, and tourism



Did you know? People from over 30 countries live here



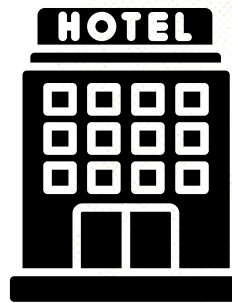
Annual Growth Rate 6.2%

Median income: \$93,269

Median Age: 31.2

Median Housing Value: \$213,600

Over 1 billion barrels of oil have been produced here since its first discovery in 1952



800+ hotel rooms



Gigabyte internet available

20+ parks



Monthly Average Temperature:

January: 18° F

July: 84° F

Annual Average Rainfall: 14"

Annual Average Snowfall: 39"



There are about 5 cows for every person in McKenzie County



Over 2,500 students from Kindergarten through 12th grade countywide.

LEARN MORE



econdev.mckenziecounty.net/data-resources/data-center/

A DECADE OF COMMUNITY GROWTH



Wolf Pup Daycare

2014



Watford City High School

2016



Rough Rider Center

2016



Law Enforcement Center

2017



McKenzie Health

2018



Fox Hills Elementary

2020



Fox Hills Golf Course
(expansion)

2021



McKenzie Co Heritage Park
(expansion)

2022



McKenzie Co Sportsman Club

2022



McKenzie Co Ag Expo

2023



Wolf Pup Daycare-Foxhills

2024



Alexander Daycare

2025

☆☆☆ OUR COMMUNITIES



WATFORD CITY

Watford City residents and visitors enjoy beautiful parks, over 10 miles of walking paths, a fishing pond, an indoor and outdoor water park and the 268,000 square foot Rough Rider Center. In addition to the facilities and parks, Watford City Parks and Rec organizes and manages sport and recreation programs for people of all ages throughout our four unique and distinct seasons. Population: 6,207

ALEXANDER

Alexander is a small town with a great central location to access the Williston, Watford City and Sidney communities and events. The Alexander Public School recently finished a large addition with new classrooms, a gym and other facilities to accommodate the growing population of students and families moving into the area. Every year Alexander fills with people from near and far to celebrate an annual event known as Old Settler's Day. This three-day celebration takes place on Labor Day weekend and has been a great tradition of the community. Population: 319



ARNEGARD

Arnegard is a group of close knit community members. In the summer, the Lions Club hosts weekly burgers in the park and the community is known for its annual 4th of July celebration. Local businesses include Charlie's Service and Arnegard Auto Sales, Short Stop Convenience Store and Taco La Mexicana. Arnegard is a friendly town in a rural setting with several local businesses. Population: 282

OUR COMMUNITIES ★★ ★



GRASSY BUTTE

Grassy Butte is an unincorporated community in southeastern McKenzie County and lies along U.S. Highway 85, south of Watford City. It is home to a Post Office listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as many other businesses including a welding production shop, a tractor repair shop, a rodeo arena and various construction companies.

MANDAREE

Located in the MHA Nation on Fort Berthold Reservation, Mandaree is nationally known for its annual Powwow, held the second weekend in July, as well as for being the home of the Mandaree Singers, a tribal musical group. The community offers its own school district with an elementary and high school, historical attractions, a new meeting and events center, and a thriving nearby casino featuring live entertainment, a water park and marina.



OTHER COMMUNITIES

Census-designated communities: East Fairview, Four Bears Village

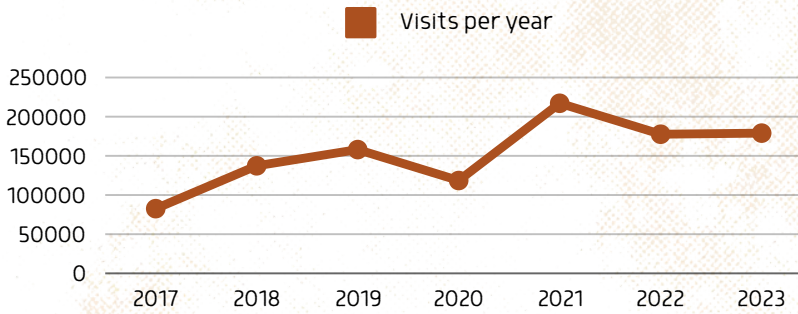
Unincorporated Communities: Banks, Cartwright, Charbonneau, Charlson, Dore, Hawkeye, Johnsons Corner, Keene, Kroff, Rawson, Schafer, Skaar

Townships: Alex, Antelope Creek, Arnegard, Blue Butte, Charbon, Elm Tree, Ellsworth, Grail, Hawkeye, Keene, Randolph, Riverview, Sioux, Tri, Twin Valley, Yellowstone



★ ROUGH RIDER CENTER ★

KEY INSIGHTS



The RRC reached its one-millionth visit in December 2023.

1,000,000

2016 ★★★★★
Rough Rider Center Opens

The RRC has flexible spaces that have been used for:



- Weddings
- State Hockey Tournaments
- Charity Events
- State Conferences
- Dodgeball Tournaments
- Baseball Tournaments
- Food Truck Rodeos

And so much more!

Facility Includes:

- Multiple meeting facilities
- Aquatic Center
- Sports facilities (multiple gyms and ice rinks)
- Coffee shop, concessions, catering



LEARN MORE



RoughRiderCenter.com

★ AG EXPO ★

KEY INSIGHTS

2023 ★★★★★
McKenzie Co. Ag Expo Opens

112,000 Sq. Ft. facility ★★★★★

The Ag Expo has flexible spaces that have been used for:



- Livestock Shows
- Rodeos
- Trade Shows
- Meetings & Conferences
- Fairs
- Motorsports
- Weddings

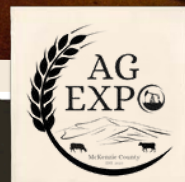


Facility Includes:

- 53,000 Sq. Ft. Livestock Arena
- 3 Exhibit Halls between 4,000 & 7,000 Sq. Ft. (15,000 Sq. Ft. in all)
- Outdoor Arena with seating for 2,300 in the grandstands
- Bar, Concessions, Kitchen
- Over 850 Parking Spots
- 103 RV/Camper Spots



And so much more!



LEARN MORE

MCAgExpo.com



A WORD FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS



Scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/CommunityAlignmentCreatingVibrantCommunityinWatfordCity to watch these short spotlight videos



MCKENZIE CO. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

DANIEL STENBERG

"While it's really hard to diversify a community like ours with great jobs and wages and the difficulties of bringing in new people and businesses, we've still been able to grow because the community has been great at creating a vibrant place to live"

"The Bakken Area Skills Center is going to be one of those other community elements such as the Rough Rider Center or Ag Expo where it's really a game changer for our community"

"Healthcare in rural areas is a challenge, but it's amazing what our locally-run healthcare facility has been able to do for our community... investments from not just the private sector but also from the city and the county helped make that a reality"

- "Community Alignment - Creating a Vibrant Community in Watford City"

CHELSEA BULZOMI

"The big reason why we moved back to Watford City was because we wanted our kids to have the same community support I had when I grew up here"

"We would not be able to live and work here if we did not have the support of things like the daycare facility, an amazing school district and so many after-school activities for our kids... we almost have to limit it because you could spend your whole day at the Rough Rider Center"

- "Community Alignment - Creating a Vibrant Community in Watford City"



CITY COUNCIL, WATFORD CITY, ND



MCKENZIE COUNTY AG EXPO DIRECTOR

CHRIS KUBAL

"The vision that this community has for McKenzie County is unbelievable"

"What we have in McKenzie County with our population size should not be here - we have the Ag Expo, the Rough Rider Center, the new schools, the new hospital, the brand new shooting range, an updated golf course, a state-of-the-art veterans park. It's awesome"

- "Community Alignment - Creating a Vibrant Community in Watford City"

UNFORGETTABLE **THINGS TO DO**



Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, history buff or simply seeking a relaxing getaway, McKenzie County has something for everyone.

Explore the vast expanses of the Maah Daah Hey Trail, a haven for hikers, bikers and horseback riders, offering breathtaking views of the Badlands. The state-of-the-art Rough Rider Center in Watford City hosts a variety of events, from sports tournaments and games to festivals and concerts. Indulge in local flavors at charming cafes and restaurants, learn local history at one of our museums or partake in a livestock show at the McKenzie County Ag Expo. From fishing on the serene Lake Sakakawea at Tobacco Gardens Resort and Marina to enjoying a quiet hike through the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, you'll find that McKenzie County is not just a destination; it's an unforgettable journey.




Scan the QR Code or visit www.VisitWatfordCity.com to find all there is to do in McKenzie County.



Scan the QR Code or visit www.WatfordCityEvents.com to check out the events and activities calendar for the area.

ATTRACTIONS & ENTERTAINMENT

Think there's nothing to do in McKenzie County? Think again!

Dive into a world of attractions and entertainment that redefine small-town living. From the enchanting charm of our museums and historic sites to the thrills of Watford City's Ribfest and Alexander's Old Settler's Day, McKenzie County has it all.

DINING

Hungry for excitement?

Explore McKenzie County's local restaurants and eateries, each offering a unique flavor of the region. Whether you crave the warmth of a hometown diner, the laid-back vibes of a trendy brewery or the savory food of our diverse restaurants, your dining desires are met here. Savor every bite, from farm-to-table freshness to international cuisine, and discover why McKenzie County is a haven for food enthusiasts.



Scan the QR Code or visit www.VisitWatfordCity.com/dine to check out dining options.

SHOPPING

Shopping in McKenzie County is more than just a transaction - it's an experience!

Explore charming boutiques, offering handcrafted treasures and one-of-a-kind finds that reflect the essence of our community. Whether you're hunting for a special gift or simply indulging in a day of browsing, McKenzie County's shopping scene invites you to uncover hidden gems and support local owners while enjoying the pleasures of small-town charm.



Scan the QR Code or visit www.VisitWatfordCity.com/discover/shopping to check out shopping options.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

OUTDOOR RECREATION

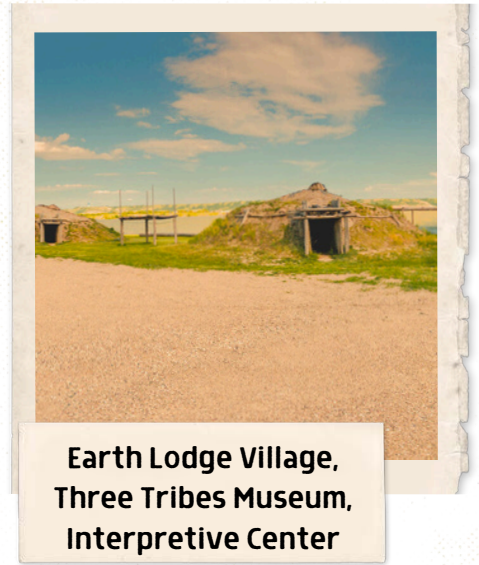
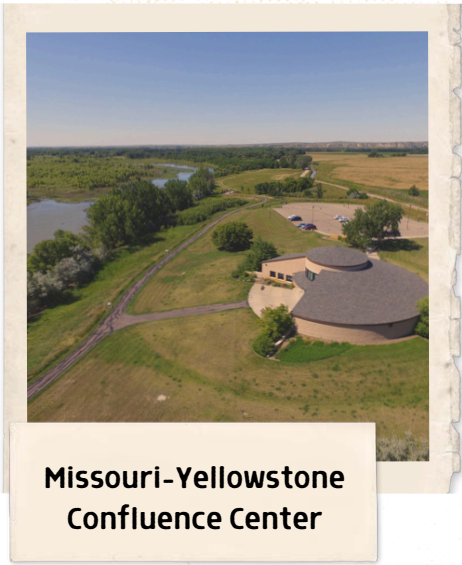
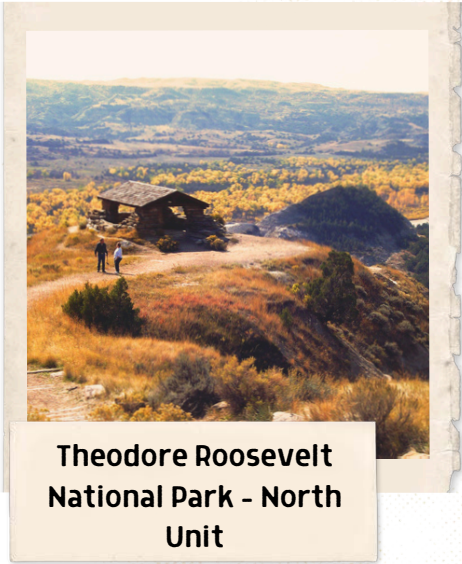


Explore the natural wonders of McKenzie County, where iconic landscapes like the Badlands, the renowned Maah Daah Hey Trail and the vast expanse of Lake Sakakawea set the stage for extraordinary outdoor adventures.

With hundreds of miles of walking and biking trails, this area is a haven for those seeking unparalleled natural beauty. Immerse yourself in the captivating Theodore Roosevelt National Park - North Unit, where the stunning badlands and diverse wildlife await your discovery. For angling enthusiasts, Tobacco Gardens at Lake Sakakawea beckons, promising the thrill of reeling in a mouth-watering walleye. Tee off at the picturesque Fox Hills Golf Course in Watford City, where 18 holes unfold amidst native grass, offering a lesson in appreciation for the land's inherent beauty. McKenzie County isn't just a home; it's a gateway to world-class outdoor recreation and natural splendor eagerly awaiting your exploration.



★ ★ ★ ★ CAN'T MISS DAY TRIPS ★ ★ ★ ★

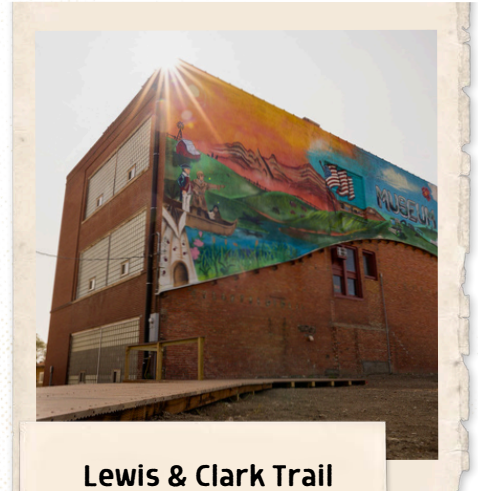



Scan the QR Code or visit www.VisitWatfordCity.com/TravelPlanner to further learn how you can explore the great sites of McKenzie County!

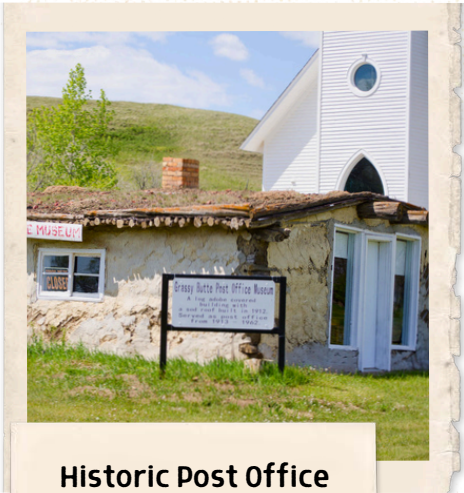
★ MUSEUMS IN THE COUNTY ★



**McKenzie County
Heritage Park & ND Oil
Museum - Watford City**



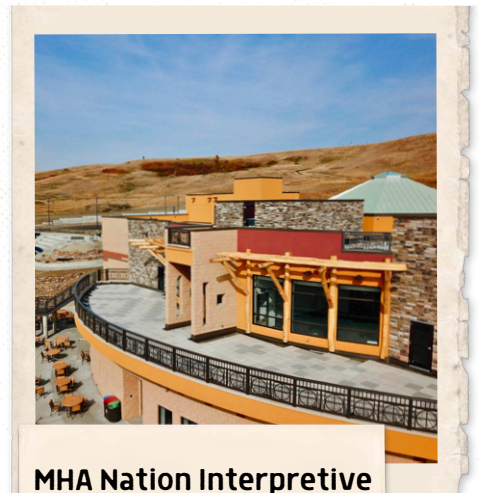
**Lewis & Clark Trail
Museum - Alexander**



**Historic Post Office
Museum - Grassy Butte**



**Three Affiliated Tribes
Museum - Four Bears**



**MHA Nation Interpretive
Center - Four Bears**



Scan the QR Code or visit
www.VisitWatfordCity.com/Discover/Museums-Landmarks to learn more on McKenzie County's museums and plan your next historic adventure!



ANNUAL EVENTS

MCKENZIE COUNTY FAIR

Mid June

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

4th of July

HOMEFEST

Mid July

RIBFEST

Early August

OLD SETTLER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Labor Day Weekend

HERITAGE DAYS

Mid September

TURKEY BINGO

Mid November

PARADE OF LIGHTS

Friday after Thanksgiving



Scan the QR Code or visit www.WatfordCityEvents.com to access the community calendar of events

SIX SHOOTERS SHOWHALL & CAFE



Looking for a movie theater? Look no further than our Six Shooters Showhall & Cafe, where you can catch the latest blockbusters as soon as they hit the big screen!

Six Shooters Showhall & Cafe features two state-of-the-art movie theatres. Savor fresh-popped theatre popcorn or other treats in the comfort of stadium-style seating while enjoying the rich experience of our Dolby surround sound theatres.

Six Shooters Showhall is available to rent for birthday parties, corporate events, field trips and more! Visit www.sixshootersnd.com/ for more information.



★ FOX HILLS GOLF COURSE ★

KEY INSIGHTS

Spectacular golf, a terrific tournament schedule and joys of a rolling prairie course are just a few of the reasons that people choose Fox Hills Golf Course.

16,790 rounds played in 2023



2021



Renovated 18-hole course opens

Course Includes:

- Private Lessons from PGA Pro Tony Carmichael
- Pro Shop
- 500+ acres of prime golf terrain
- The Foxhole restaurant and bar

Fox Hills Golf Course has held top tournaments and events including:



PGA Jr. League Youth Clinics

Little Linksters Golf Camps

Tour stop for Dakota Jr. Golf Association

PGA Jr. League Drive, Chip & Putt Qualifying Host Site

And many public tournaments!



Golf Inc. 2022 Redevelopment of the Year Award Finalist



LEARN MORE



FoxHillsGC.com

★ ★ ★ ★
SUMMER
★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ★
FUN
★ ★ ★ ★

WILD WEST WATER PARK



SATHER LAKE RECREATION AREA



**TOBACCO
GARDENS**
RESORT & MARINA



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHTS

THINGS TO DO



Scan the QR Code or visit www.bit.ly/42egn05 to watch these short spotlight videos



BEN WELNAK

"Having 100-150 miles of trail accessible to me where nobody else is appeals to me"

"I lived in several big cities across the country... when my wife asked if we wanted to move to Watford City for her job, I didn't hesitate to say yes because that's where the Maah Daah Hey Trail is"

-Voices of Watford, "Maah Daah Hey in a Day"

BELLE AND CORY BROWN

"Once we moved here, it was really cool to know we had the Theodore Roosevelt National Park right in our backyard... it has views, camping, biking, kayaking, everything you'd want in a park"

"We can make family happen even with a career here in McKenzie County. It's just a gorgeous place to live and we can't wait to discover more of it"

-Voices of Watford, "National Park...Local Treasure"



MATT LIEBEL

"It's a beautiful lake, and the scenery changes a lot from one end to the other. Plus, it's right at our backdoor. Within 20 minutes you can be on the water experiencing the beauty of Lake Sakakawea and being away from the hustle and bustle"

"What better way to show people the great outdoor opportunities we have here than becoming a fishing guide. Seeing peoples eyes light up when they catch a fish is the best part of guiding"

-Voices of Watford, "Get Reel...Go Fishing!"

ATTRACTION MAP

MCKENZIE COUNTY

1. Long X Arts Gallery, Visitor Center & Pioneer Gifts and Books
2. The Lewis & Clark Trail Museum
3. Sundheim Park, Fairview Liftbridge & Cartwright Tunnel
4. Sather Dam
5. Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Unit
6. Walter Chaloner Memorial
7. Maah Daah Hey Trailhead & CCC Campground
8. Grassy Butte: The Old Sod Post Office National Historic Site
9. Little Missouri State Park
10. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center
11. Tobacco Gardens Resort & Marina
12. MHA Interpretive Center & Earthlodge Village
13. Theodore Roosevelt National Park Scenic Byway
14. Killdeer Mountain Four Bears Scenic Byway
15. Birnt Hill Trail & Little Missouri National Grasslands
16. McKenzie County Ago Expo & McKenzie County Athletic Park
17. McKenzie County Sportsman's Club



★ DIVERSE

CULTURE

★ ★ ★ ★

The inclusive spirit of McKenzie County fosters mutual respect, cultural exchange and shared experiences among residents, making it a welcoming home for all.

The first settlers of what is now McKenzie County, the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes, or MHA Nation/The Three Affiliated Tribes, contribute a rich layer of tribal heritage to our communities. Alongside this, McKenzie County has experienced a rapid growth in its Hispanic population, and a blend of various mixed cultures, fostering a dynamic community. This inclusive spirit not only spreads through workplaces but also resonates through daily life, encouraging mutual respect, cultural exchange and shared experiences among residents. As the area prospers economically, the commitment to diversity underscores McKenzie County's resilience, making it an extraordinary and welcoming home where individuals from all backgrounds can flourish and find a sense of belonging.





OUR PEOPLE



Data from U.S. Census Bureau 2022

54.3 % of McKenzie County residents were born outside of North Dakota

McKenzie County's Hispanic population saw the fastest growth in all U.S. counties



2.6% of McKenzie County residents were born outside of the United States

9% of McKenzie County's population is American Indian/Alaska Native

11.9% of McKenzie County's population is Hispanic





MHA NATION



4 BEARS CASINO & LODGE

Located four miles west of New Town, ND, on Lake Sakakawea, 4 Bears Casino and Lodge is your winning destination for the best gaming, big-name entertainment, fine dining and hotel accommodations. The casino offers great attractions and events including concerts, sporting events, conferences, and the best slots, blackjack and sports book in the region.

MHA NATION INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Learn the fascinating history of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Sahnish (Arikara) people at the MHA Nation Interpretive Center. The world class museum takes visitors on a captivating journey through the rich history and vibrant culture of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes. Come connect with the past and embrace the spirit of MHA Nation.



EARTH LODGE VILLAGE

Experience the reconstructed earth lodges and tipis at the Earth Lodge Village. Learn the history and the stories of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara while exploring the magnificent earthen structures where they lived. Located on the picturesque shores of Lake Sakakawea, you can stay the night in an earth lodge, take a trail ride, hear stories of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara peoples from cultural interpreters and experience living culture at powwows and other events throughout the year.

POWWOWS

Powwows hold profound significance within the cultural fabric of the MHA Nation. Powwows are traditionally held and bring the community together with dancing, singing, beautiful handmade costumes, renewing friendships and making new ones. They are much more than gatherings; they are living expressions of the MHA Nation's cultural vitality, serving as dynamic spaces where tradition, community and celebration intersect in a spirit of unity and reverence for their ancestral heritage.



☆☆☆ **CULTURAL SPOTLIGHTS** ↓



MHA NATION POWWOW

"The origins of a powwow is a celebration - it's a big festival... we have a real strong dance society amongst Native American people"

"Our traditions are who we are... we still have a lot of customs and tradition with the way we dance"

**-Voices of Watford,
"Public Powwow"**



Scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/42egn05 to watch "Public Pow Wow."

LA NUEVA AMERICA IN MCKENZIE COUNTY

"The job security is what made us [Hispanics] stay... but even with the decline in oil in 2015, many still stayed in McKenzie County and found opportunities elsewhere"

"North Dakota was our new beginning. This is our shot at a brighter future - the American Dream"

- Yolanda Rojas



Scan the QR Code or visit youtu.be/watch?v=Wx40rWJ6pBQ to watch the Scripps News video.



WCHS CULTURAL FAIR

With the help of the Long X Arts Foundation and Vision West ND, the Watford City High School Ambassador Program created the Cultural Fair. 25 different countries and 32 cultures were represented at the fair - all of which live in McKenzie County - and shared food, dance, culture and experiences from around the world.

"It's so fun to see the pride we have in our community and our different cultures"



Scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/WCHSculturalfair to watch the WCHS Cultural Fair recap.

ABUNDANT

CAREERS



Embark on a journey to redefine your career in McKenzie County where an abundance of job opportunities are catered to diverse interests and skillsets!

While McKenzie County has grown dramatically due to the oil and gas industry, the area has shifted to include more industries and opportunities in a wide variety of fields. From the conventional domains of agriculture, energy and healthcare to starting your own business, McKenzie County has endless possibilities.

Large corporations such as ONEOK, Conoco Phillips, Kinder Morgan, Continental Resources, Chord Energy and Energy Transfer are large, local employers where any level of employee can climb the ladder and become a top employee in just a few years. McKenzie Health and McKenzie County School District #1 have greatly contributed to the quality of life in the county, and are great places to work.

Find your future with a career in McKenzie County where change isn't just encouraged, but embraced. The canvas is vast, and the brush is yours to wield.





A WORD FROM LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS



Scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/CelebratingCommerceinWatfordCity to watch the short video "Celebrating Commerce in Watford City"



WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE SBDC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

KEITH OLSON

"The communities I work in, Watford City and Williston, I think are better than most communities in the state for supporting small business and investing in stuff the city needs"

"The one thing that these communities do is if you're willing to stick your neck out to start a business, anybody is eligible for the programs we have... that is the biggest thing that gets people over that first hurdle to take some risk"

"The North Dakota Small Business Development Center (ND SBDC) is a free service that is provided funds to work with clients on whatever they need, whether that's to get a business plan done, financials, registrations and things that will make it easier for people who want to start a business"

- "Celebrating Commerce in Watford City"

JOSH ANDERSEN

"I don't think I've ever been in a community where there's this much support... the growth, the development and the want, you don't find that very often. If you don't have the support, you won't have a successful business in your town"

"Watford City is big on bringing in these 'ma & pa' shops. That helps keep the money in the town"

- "Celebrating Commerce in Watford City"

"When you work hard and put in the long hours for your business, it's appreciated here. That's what keeps us going and what keeps our employees going. You know you're making a difference"



ELITE CABINETS & BUILDING SUPPLY LLC



CITY OF WATFORD CITY COMMUNITY & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

VAWNITA BEST

"The Rough Rider Fund is a 1.5 cent city sales tax. The city has been great at keeping that tax focused on its mission to expand and diversify the economy and strengthen its sustainability long-term"

"What we know about our community is that we have a very supportive community who supports small, locally owned and operated businesses, making it an excellent business climate. With the services and programs that we have, it really is an excellent place to be a small business owner and a business owner expanding in this community"

- "Celebrating Commerce in Watford City"



JOBS, CAREERS & OPPORTUNITY

Discover the heartbeat of opportunity in McKenzie County.

McKenzie County is a bustling place. There are hundreds of jobs available for skilled laborers, technicians, professionals and others that require no prior experience or training. Contact Daniel Stenberg, McKenzie County Economic Development Director, at 701-444-8856 for questions regarding job and career opportunities in McKenzie County.

STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

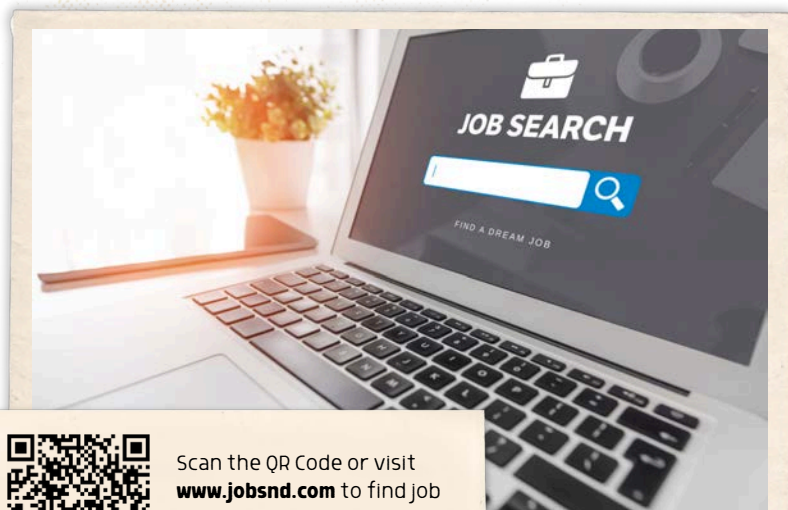
Unlock the pathway to entrepreneurial success in McKenzie County with the support of our SBDC.

Interested in starting or improving a business in McKenzie County? Our area's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides no-cost, confidential services to McKenzie County entrepreneurs and existing business owners. They can provide assistance with all facets of owning and operating businesses including business plans, cash flows, loan preparations, research and many other small business items.

Reach out to Keith Olson, SBDC Williston Region Director, for information and assistance on starting your own business.



Scan the QR Code or visit willistonstate.edu/about/Community/Small-Business-Development-Center/ for additional assistance



Scan the QR Code or visit www.jobsnd.com to find job opportunities today!

JOB SERVICE ND

Your gateway to employment success!

Job Service North Dakota provides workforce and unemployment services across North Dakota in nine Workforce Centers with a central location in Bismarck, ND. They offer a variety of services for both job seekers and employers. McKenzie County's Job Service Workforce Center is located in Williston, ND at 422 1st Ave W.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHTS

OPPORTUNITY



Scan the QR Code or visit www.bit.ly/42egn05 to watch these short spotlight videos



PAT BERTAGNOLLI

"Bringing my family out here, each of my kids has benefited from the opportunities here... they are so excited about the opportunities that Watford City has been able to provide for them"

"The skills initiative and relationship with the schools here has inspired me to see that we have amazing things to achieve"

"If we can create a great experience for the workforce coming out here, we can really tap into a huge thing - and that's their network... it's really about creating a great experience"

-Voices of Watford, "Land of Opportunity"

SHANNON & JESSE WELLEN, OMAR MOHAMED AND DAWN TSCHETTER

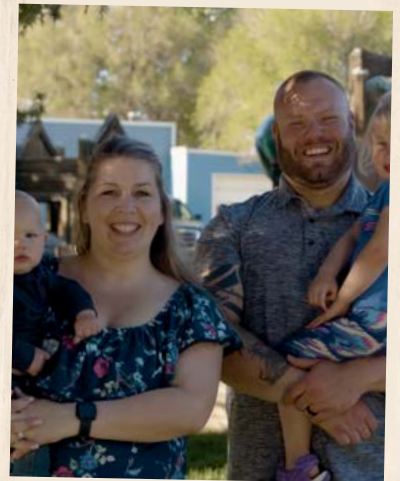
"I'm so thankful now that Watford City has gone through all that growth [during the oil boom] and they really ended up creating that stable environment for more families to move here and excel"

"There's a lot of opportunity here, not just engineering... when I came here, the community welcomed me. You're not just a number in a population - people will know you"

"There is ample opportunity for career growth here in Watford City, in every occupation. I think they happen here a lot faster than most places in the nation"

"We have major industry, major business going on, but we also have that small town feel"

-Voices of Watford, "It's All Here in Watford City"



JARRET & KELCEE WOLD, AARON PELTON AND RACHEL MEUCHEL

"I was working in the restaurant business in Arizona, and a new opportunity came up to take over a new restaurant in Watford City, and it was a really, really good fit"

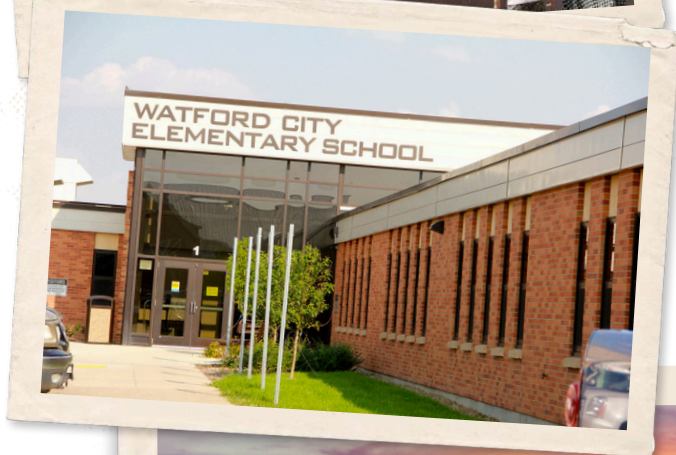
"There's a lot of growth in town, a lot of opportunity for entrepreneurship... there are an endless amount of great paying jobs for men and women - it's a great place to work"

"I think we have one of the most dedicated school systems in the state. I've worked at four different schools and this has been my favorite place that I have worked"

-Voices of Watford, "Moved Back and Loving It"

SUSTAINABLE

EDUCATION





MCKENZIE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

McKenzie County School District No. 1, located in Watford City, currently has over 2,000 students enrolled in grades PK-12 with a student-teacher ratio of 15 to 1. The school district is comprised of two elementary schools (grades K-5), one middle school (grades 6-8) and one high school (grades 9-12). Aside from an outstanding academic curriculum, the district offers art, music, drama, athletics and technology opportunities to build upon the student's education and life skills. Visit www.watford-city.k12.nd.us for more information.

MORE K-12 OPTIONS

Alexander Public School
Alexander, ND | K-12
www.alexanderschoolnd.us

Mandaree Public School
Fort Berthold Indian Reservation | K-12
www.mandaree.k12.nd.us

Johnson Corners Christian Academy
Watford City, ND | K-12
jcchristian.com

East Fairview Elementary
East Fairview, ND | K-8
eastfairview.k12.nd.us

Horse Creek School
Southwest McKenzie County | K-8
www.facebook.com/horsecreek58838



WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Local graduates in McKenzie County are eligible for a full tuition scholarship at nearby Williston State College. The Williams County Graduate, Regional County Graduate and Academic Achievement Award (WRA) Scholarships cover tuition and fees for eligible high school graduates and GEDs earned within qualifying counties, including McKenzie County. Eligible McKenzie County high schools include Alexander High School, Mandaree High School, Watford City High School and Johnson Corners High School. Visit willistonstate.edu/admissions/Student-Financial-Aid/Scholarships/ for more information.



BAKKEN AREA SKILLS CENTER

The Bakken Area Skills Center is a state-of-the-art high school and post-high school training facility that opened in 2024. The 40,000 sq. ft. facility is on 25 acres of land and holds career and technical education (CTE) and training for high school and adult workers throughout McKenzie County and the surrounding region. There are four shop areas for building trades, welding, auto and diesel mechanics, and automation. There are two health career classrooms. There are also two general rooms, two large conference rooms, offices, a health screening room, testing area, four exterior pad areas, and a Corp of Discovery mobile trailer. Virtual programs are also included in the facility, including Agriculture Processing, Farm and Ranch Management, Intro into Health Careers, Health Science 1, Medical Terminology, Intro to Sports Medicine, Nursing Assistant (CNA), CDL, and Drone and UAS. Other programs included are welding, information technology (IT), aviation, and career development. A Mobile Meats Lab, Mobile Automation Lab, and Tools Library will also travel to regional schools. Adult classes for health careers and the oil field industry are being hosted by Bismarck State College (BSC) and Williston State College (WSC).

The Bakken Area Skills Center is located at 2112 Wolves Den Parkway in Watford City, ND. Visit www.facebook.com/people/Bakken-Area-Skills-Center/61556441432921 or contact 701-444-3626 for more information.



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHTS

EDUCATION



Scan the QR Code or visit www.bit.ly/42egn05 to watch these short spotlight videos



THE LEDAHL-BERGER FAMILY

"Don't be afraid to join activities, clubs, community groups - because that's where you're going to find joy in this community"

"The chances we get are, I think, better than the bigger schools"

"Here you can play three or two sports a year in school where in other, bigger cities, you pick one sport and that's it"

-Voices of Watford, "Be Who You Want to Be in Watford City"

BRAD FOSS & ALEX VEEDER

"The changes I've seen since going to school here is there's a lot more culture, new kids and new faces"

"It's a lot more than just the curriculum, it's life. Life skills are part of the expectation... we're trying to teach life skills so kids can use that for the rest of their lives"

"Watford City Elementary School has basically been the American melting pot... there has been all 50 states represented and 20 different countries represented in the school"

"The teachers support each other, the families support each other, and Watford City is a great town"

-Voices of Watford, "Watford City Elementary School"



JUSTIN JOHNSRUD

"The school has been a focal point of the community. That's where people were on Tuesday and Thursday nights for basketball games, on Friday nights for football games. It was the community gathering together, socializing and knowing they were going to see everyone else from town"

"It's a very exciting time to live in Watford City - for both students and teachers"

-Voices of Watford, "Building for the Future"

ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE



Embark on a journey of wellness in McKenzie County, where top-notch healthcare services cater to every need.

Having access to excellent healthcare services in McKenzie County is a blessing for the community and surrounding rural areas. With top-notch medical facilities and skilled healthcare professionals in every field, residents can trust that their and their animal's health needs are met with the utmost care and expertise. Whether it's routine check-ups, specialized treatments or emergency care, McKenzie County prioritizes the well-being of every individual (and their pet). The access to quality healthcare, dental care, eye care, pharmaceutical care, veterinary care and all other medical services not only enhances the quality of life but also fosters a sense of security and peace of mind for all members of the community. McKenzie County is fortunate to have a robust healthcare system that ensures leading healthy and fulfilling lives.



Scan this QR code or follow econdev.mckenziecounty.net/relocation/ for a complete list of McKenzie County's many healthcare services



MCKENZIE HEALTH



KEY INSIGHTS

2018



McKenzie Health Opens

McKenzie Health's goal is to achieve the highest level of healthcare for patients and families. They provide hometown values committed to quality services, continuity of care, assurance of qualified staff and family involvement for individual patients and clients.

McKenzie Health consists of:



24-bed Critical Access Hospital (includes 24 inpatient rooms, 9 emergency bays, helipad, 3 operating rooms, Inpatient Birthing Unit, Imaging Center - MRI, Echo CT, 3D Mammography, Ultrasound)

Rural Health Clinic

Specialty Clinics

Walk-in Clinic + Emergency Department

Good Shepherd Home (long-term care center with 46 licensed beds)

Horizon Assisted Living (15 apartments)

Connie Wold Wellness Center



Scan the QR Code below or visit bit.ly/FindYourFutureatMcKenzieHealth to see the what it's like to work at McKenzie Health

Facility Highlights:

- 67 births in 2023
- 100+ expected births in 2024
- 400+ employees
- Contributed more than \$67 million to local economy in 2023



LEARN MORE



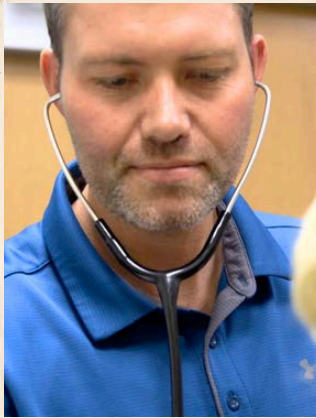
McKenzieHealth.com

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHTS

HEALTHCARE



Scan the QR Code or visit www.bit.ly/42egn05 to watch these short spotlight videos



MCKENZIE HEALTH STAFF

"Small communities don't always have healthcare available to them...they maybe have to go 50 miles or more for healthcare, but we've always been very fortunate to have a hospital, and now we have a really awesome hospital. It's been a blessing for people here"

"We have providers that provide services here who come from the more urban communities that talk about the fact that our equipment is on par with the larger cities"

-Voices of Watford, "Health and Happiness"

LARRY LARSEN, DEBBIE LARSEN & JENNA WAHLSTROM

"My dad opened [Larsen Drug] in November of 1952 and a lot has changed since then, but in a lot of ways we're still the old-time pharmacy"

"We know our patients by name, we know their family history. Our pharmacy is going to give you the best service, you're going to feel so well-taken care of, and it's because of that personal relationship we have with our patients"

-Voices of Watford, "Putting Patients First"



PETE EDIS

"It's the backbone of our community (Healthcare). Without good healthcare, people aren't going to move here or stay here. You don't realize how important it is to have healthcare until you need it and it's not there and you have to travel"

"I've worked in communities where there were different interests and not focusing on the good of the whole. What I found here is everyone all supports each other. It really is a team in the community... through the generous support of the community, we've been able to buy top-of-the-line equipment that you don't normally see in a community hospital"

-Pete Edis, CEO of McKenzie Health

RELIABLE

CHILDCARE



With a focus on safety, education and reliability, the childcare facilities in McKenzie County offer a range of programs that meet the diverse needs of families.

Wolf Pup Daycare was established in Watford City in 2014 to provide the highest quality childcare to the growing community and surrounding area. As a non-profit organization, Wolf Pup Daycare is licensed for up to 211 children and has seventeen classrooms, an indoor multipurpose room, a commercial kitchen that provides four nutritious meals to the children and three fenced playgrounds. They care for children from birth through 5 years old, as well as preschool services at Wolf Pup Learning Center. Wolf Pup Daycare 2 was opened in 2023 to support the growing population and will fully open its brand new facility in August 2024 that will provide services to another 200 kids.

The City of Alexander has multiple daycare centers that care for children of all ages. Bright Minds Daycare has been open since 2014 and serves children from 0-12 years old. The Turtle Crossing, another daycare in Alexander, was started by the Alexander School District to help attract and retain employees. Alexander, in a partnership with McKenzie County, will open a large daycare facility in 2025 that will hold approximately 70 children.

With the multiple daycare facilities and after-school programs like KidStop, McKenzie County is ready to handle childcare and give relief to parents and families.



Scan the QR Code below or follow econdev.mckenziecounty.net/relocation/ for more information on local childcare options.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHTS

CHILD CARE



Scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/FindYourFutureatWolfPupDaycare to watch this short spotlight video



OPERATOR, WOLF PUP DAYCARE

TESSA MOBERG

"There aren't T.V.'s or iPad's that they're watching, we keep them very active and going at all times"

"We have a lot of employees who have been here 6 or 7 years and a lot of the lead teachers who have been here 4 or 5 years. There's enough spaces where we're always looking for people to promote and with the growth we're experiencing, there are those extra positions"

- "Find Your Future at Wolf Pup Daycare"

MEGAN JARLAND

"Spring, Summer and Fall are definitely where we're outside constantly. We try to get them outside as much as possible. We go to different activities like events on Main Street, different parks around town or the movie theater for movies. During winter we have the gym so we can be active inside as well, but we always have their snow gear and extras so everyone can still go outside and play in the snow"

"I love the environment here. We do stuff all together as a group and come together and it's just really great"

- "Find Your Future at Wolf Pup Daycare"



HEAD TEACHER, WOLF PUP DAYCARE



GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY



Embarking on a new chapter in McKenzie County entails more than just relishing its awe-inspiring landscapes and number of career prospects; it involves becoming an integral part of a vibrant and welcoming community.

McKenzie County boasts a diverse array of clubs, teams and organizations, catering to every age group and interest, offering newcomers ample opportunities to immerse themselves and cultivate meaningful connections. Whether it's joining local sports teams and indulging in spirited competition at venues like the Rough Rider Center or participating in community theater productions and music groups to celebrate artistic expression, there's a space for everyone to thrive. McKenzie County is not just a place to reside; it's a community that encourages active participation, where individuals contribute their skills and passions to enrich both personal journeys and the vibrant tapestry of the county itself. So, whether one's interests lie in sports, arts or community service, McKenzie County extends a warm invitation to delve into the heart of community life and forge lasting connections that enrich both individual experiences and the collective spirit of the community.



LONG X ARTS FOUNDATION



The Long X Arts Foundation connects and strengthens the McKenzie County community through art, music and theater. With programs and events for all ages, they encourage creative discovery, artistic development and community engagement.



Programs include

- Art Classes
- Art Gallery
- Concert Series
- Missoula Children's Theatre
- Community Theatre
- Summer Art Camps
- Art for Life



FIND US:



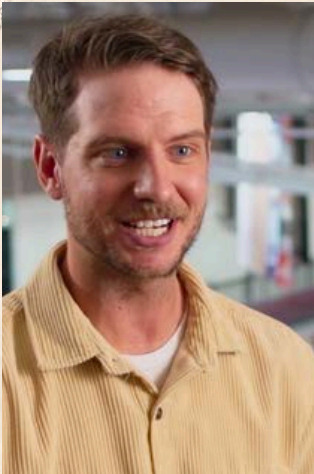
Long X Visitors Center
LongXArts.com

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHTS

GETTING INVOLVED



Scan the QR Code or visit www.bit.ly/42egn05 to watch these short spotlight videos



JOSH NOLLMAYER

“What the Rough Rider Center can provide and do for our users, the people of McKenzie County, are having an excellent time here”

“The Rough Rider Center has hockey rinks, a swimming pool, multiple gyms and fieldhouses. The opportunities for what we can host here are endless”

-Voices of Watford, “Paving Avenues of Connections”

“We want to make sure everyone that walks into the Rough Rider Center feels welcome, and that’s what Watford City is. It’s a welcoming community that makes you feel at home - and we want to equate that, too. We want to pave avenues to get people connected”

JIM GREEN & PAT SPACHER

“The sense of community and the sense of everyone wanting the community to succeed is so great”

“Don’t be afraid to join activities, clubs or community groups because that’s where you’re going to find joy in Watford City... it doesn’t necessarily have to be baseball, football, basketball or hockey - we have a dedicated community to the arts as well”

-Voices of Watford, “Finding Joy in Family-Centric Watford City”

“One of the first things that stood out to us was the number of parks in Watford City... it feels like there are more parks per capita than any other community that I’ve been a part of”

“I think Watford City has something for everybody. It’s a wonderful place with wonderful opportunities and so much freedom to get to be who you want to be”



SHILO CHAVEZ

“When we first moved here our kids were worried about being the new kids, but it only took a couple weeks for them to not be the new kids anymore and they fit right in. Most of the students here aren’t from the area and it’s a blend of students who work together and know they all have different backgrounds”

-Voices of Watford, “Home in Watford City”

“The community is the biggest supporter of our schools. The community sees the need for the kids and they’re willing to do what they have to do to make sure the kids are provided for”

“They have programs here for almost everything that a big city would have... Watford City has been a huge blessing in my family’s life”

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



Alexander Lions Club
 Arnegard Boosters
 Arnegard Lions Club
 Badlands RC Club
 Bakken Oil Rush Ministry
 Carl E Rogen American Legion Post 29
 Carl E Rogen American Legion Post 29 Auxiliary
 District 1 Cattlewomen
 FFA Alumni Association - McKenzie County
 Fox Hills Golf Club
 Fort Union Masonic Lodge 128
 Grassy Butte Community Club
 Knights Of Columbus - Watford City
 Knights On Bikes North Dakota
 Long X Arts Foundation
 Long X Wagon Train
 McKenzie Co Community Coalition
 McKenzie Co Extension
 McKenzie Co Food Pantry
 McKenzie Co Homeschoolers
 McKenzie Co Right To Life
 Mule Deer Fndn. Bakken Roughnecks Chapter
 Pheasants Forever McKenzie Co Chapter
 Power Of 100 - McKenzie County
 Prairie Rose Quilt Guild
 Rotary International
 Save The Maah Daah Hey Foundation
 Sons Of Norway Enighed 4-307
 Watford City Anti Human Trafficking Task Force
 Watford City Area Chamber Of Commerce
 Watford City Curling Club
 Watford City Eagles Aerie 3543
 Watford City Economic Development Corporation
 Watford City Lions Club
 Watford City Bakken MomCo
 Watford City Parks & Rec
 Watford City Preschool Co-Op
 Watford City Shutterbugs
 Western Area Builders Association
 Wild Turkey Federation
 Young Professionals



Youth Organizations ★

4H Club
 Badlands Gymnastics Club
 Boy Scouts
 Cub Scouts
 Girl Scouts
 IPTND Watford City
 Keene Youth Program
 Long X Arts Foundation
 McKenzie Co Hockey Club
 Watford City Karate and MMA
 Watford City Parks & Rec
 Watford City Swim Team Club
 Watford City Figure Skating
 Watford City Youth Basketball

GET INVOLVED! 



Scan the QR Code or follow bit.ly/GettingInvolved Brochure to the full Getting Involved brochure.

EMBRACING WINTER



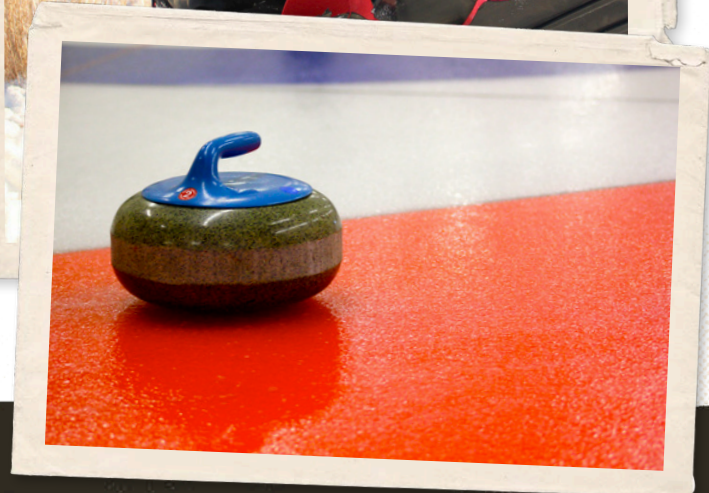
McKenzie County has four distinct seasons and winter provides unique opportunities - both indoors and outdoors!

These opportunities include different youth and adult sports leagues at the Rough Rider Center, ice fishing at Tobacco Gardens on Lake Sakakawea, snowmobiling in the prairies, fat-tire biking and cross-country skiing in the badlands and attending the never-ending indoor events around the community. This not only brings entertainment and fun but also promotes mental and physical well-being in the winter months. Along with enjoying the winter activities comes adhering to winter weather guides and knowing where to find winter tips and resources. By staying informed, prepared and active, residents of McKenzie County can navigate and thrive in our legendary North Dakota winters. Here are some North Dakota resources that will help you better prepare for winter:

National Weather Service Winter Survival Guide and Tips - www.weather.gov/safety/winter

Winter Activities - www.ndtourism.com/winter-activities

North Dakota DOT Road Conditions Map - travel.dot.nd.gov/



MORE RESOURCES



Scan the QR code to download the "Experience Watford City" App and get all the information on Watford City and the surrounding area - all at your fingertips! The app includes:

- Events Calendar
- Dining
- Shopping
- Attractions
- Deals



And more!



For information on McKenzie County and where to find services, resources and guides to get around town, scan the QR code or visit www.econdev.mckenziecounty.net/relocation/



To find a listing of Houses of Worship, scan the QR Code or visit www.econdev.mckenziecounty.net/wp-content/uploads/GettingInvolvedBrochure-2023.pdf

Access Watford City's YouTube page and watch the many videos of the great quality of life in Watford City. Access the YouTube page by scanning the QR Code or visit www.youtube.com/channel/UCY93GsrVclalhTKdJ8FQzA



Stay up to date with Watford City by following their Facebook and Instagram pages! You can find their Facebook page by scanning the QR Code or by visiting www.facebook.com/watfordcitynorthdakota/ Visit www.instagram.com/watfordcitynd/ to check out Watford City's Instagram page!



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