

= Norman , Oklahoma =

Norman / ˈnɔːrmən / is a city in the U.S. state of Oklahoma 20 miles (30 km) south of downtown Oklahoma City in its metropolitan area . The population was 110 @, @ 925 at the 2010 census . Norman 's estimated population of 118 @, @ 040 in 2014 makes it the third @-@ largest city in Oklahoma , and the city serves as the county seat of Cleveland County .

Norman was settled during the Land Run of 1889 , which opened the former Unassigned Lands of Indian Territory to American pioneer settlement . The city was named in honor of Abner Norman , the area 's initial land surveyor , and was formally incorporated on May 13 , 1891 . Economically the city has prominent higher education and related research industries , as it is the home to the University of Oklahoma , the largest university in the state , with approximately 30 @, @ 000 students enrolled . The university is well known for its sporting events by teams under the banner of the nickname " Sooners , " with over 80 @, @ 000 people routinely attending football games . The university is home to several museums , including the Fred Jones Jr . Museum of Art , which contains the largest collection of French Impressionist art ever given to an American university , as well as the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History .

The National Weather Center , located in Norman , houses a unique collection of university , state , federal , and private sector organizations that work together to improve the understanding of events related to the Earth 's atmosphere . Norman lies within Tornado Alley , a geographic region where tornadic activity is particularly frequent and intense . The Oklahoma City metropolitan area , including Norman , is the most tornado @-@ prone area in the world . The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) , a branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is located at the NWC . SPC forecasts severe storm and tornado outbreaks nationwide . Additionally , research is conducted at the co @-@ located National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) , which includes field research and operates various experimental weather radars .

In 2008 CNN 's Money Magazine ranked Norman as the sixth best small city within the United States in which to live .

= = History = =

The Oklahoma region became part of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 . Prior to the American Civil War the United States government began relocating the Five Civilized Tribes ? the five Native American tribes that the United States officially recognized via treaty ? to Oklahoma . Treaties of 1832 and 1833 assigned the area known today as Norman to the Creek Nation .

Following the Civil War , the Creeks were accused of aiding the Confederacy and as a result they ceded the region back to the United States in 1866 . In the early 1870s , the federal government undertook a survey of these unassigned lands . Abner Ernest Norman , a 23 @-@ year @-@ old surveyor from Kentucky , was hired to oversee part of this project . Norman 's work crew set up camp near what is today the corner of Classen and Lindsey streets ; it was there that the men , perhaps jokingly , carved a sign on an elm tree that read " Norman 's Camp , " in honor of their young boss . In 1887 , the Atchison , Topeka and Santa Fe Railway began service to the area , which was later opened to settlement as part of the Land Run of 1889 ; early settlers decided to keep the name " Norman " .

On April 22 , 1889 , the Land Run saw the founding of Norman , with at least 150 residents spending the night in makeshift campsites ; by the next morning a downtown was already being constructed . Almost immediately two prominent Norman businessmen , former Purcell railroad freight agent Delbert Larsh and railroad station chief cashier Thomas Waggoner , began lobbying for the territorial government to locate its first university in Norman . The two were interested in growing the city and had reasoned that , rather than try to influence legislatures to locate the heavily contested territory capital in Norman , it made sense to attempt to secure the state 's first university instead (a move that would be far less controversial) . On December 19 , 1890 , Larsh and Waggoner were successful with the passage of Council Bill 114 , establishing the University of Oklahoma in Norman approximately 18 years before Oklahoma statehood .

The City of Norman was formally incorporated on May 13 , 1891 . The city has continued to grow throughout the decades . By 1902 the downtown district contained two banks , two hotels , a flour mill , and other businesses ; by 1913 there were over 3 @, @ 700 residents living in Norman when the Oklahoma Railway Company decided to extend its interurban streetcar running from Oklahoma City to Moore into Norman , spurring additional population growth . The rail lines eventually transitioned to freight during the 1940s as the United States Numbered Highway system developed . The city population reached 11 @, @ 429 in 1940 .

In 1941 , the University of Oklahoma and Norman city officials established Max Westheimer Field , a university airstrip , and then leased it to the U.S. Navy as a Naval Flight Training Center in 1942 . The training center was used for training combat pilots during World War II . A second training center , known as Naval Air Technical Training Center , and a naval hospital were later established to the south . In the years following World War II the airstrip was transferred back to the university 's control . Today the airstrip is called the University of Oklahoma Westheimer Airport . Following the war the remaining military presence and post @-@ war veterans who came to Norman to get an education again grew the city 's population , which was 27 @, @ 006 by 1950 . The Navy again utilized the bases in a lesser capacity from 1952 to 1959 in support of the Korean War effort .

With the completion of Interstate 35 in June 1959 , Norman found its role as a bedroom community to Oklahoma City increasing rapidly ; in 1960 Norman 's population was 33 @, @ 412 but by the end of the decade had grown to 52 @, @ 117 . Throughout the 1960s Norman 's land mass increased by 174 square miles (450 km2) by annexing surrounding areas . The city 's growth trends have continued early in the 21st century , with the population reaching 95 @, @ 694 in 2000 and 110 @, @ 925 in 2010 .

= = Law and government = =

A council @-@ manager government has been in place in Norman since the adoption of its city charter on June 28 , 1919 . A councilor from each of the city 's eight council wards is elected to office every two years , each serving a term of two years . Councilors are elected from their own respective wards based on a plurality voting system ; a councilor from each ward serves on the Norman City Council . A mayor is elected by the entire voting population of Norman and serves as an at @-@ large councilor ; the mayor serves for a term of three years . As a whole , the council acts as the legislative body of city government ; it aims to pass laws , approve the city budget , and manage efficiency in the government . The City Council appoints a professional City Manager who is responsible for the day @-@ to @-@ day administrative activities of the city . The City of Norman has approximately 650 employees working in eleven departments and 31 boards and commissions that help oversee and implement the policies and services of the city . The City Council meets bi @-@ weekly in City Hall located at 201 W. Gray Street in downtown Norman ; various boards and commissions meet in accordance with their own schedules . The present mayor of Norman is Lynne Miller (elected in 2016) , and the city manager is Steve Lewis (appointed in 2007) . In accordance with the charter of the city of Norman , all city elected positions are nonpartisan .

Municipal and state laws are enforced by the Norman Police Department . In 2010 , Norman 's crime index was 33 % less than the national average . There were two murders , 47 rapes , 36 robberies , 53 assaults , and 811 burglaries in 2010 .

The city serves as the county seat of Cleveland County .

= = = Twin towns ? Sister cities = = =

In accordance with Sister Cities International , an organization that began under President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956 , Norman has been given four international sister cities in an attempt to foster cross @-@ cultural understanding :

Arezzo , Italy

Clermont @-@ Ferrand , France

Colima , Col. , Mexico

Seika , Japan

= = Geography = =

The U.S. Census Bureau reported Norman 's geographical coordinates as 35 @. @ 240577 ° N 97 @. @ 345306 ° W ? / 35 @. @ 240577 ; -97.345306 (35 ° 14 ' 26 " N 97 ° 20 ' 43 " W) . This appears to be the geographical center of the city limits , which include all of Lake Thunderbird . Virtually all of Norman 's development is well to the west of this point .

In the Geographic Names Information System of the United States Geological Survey , the city 's geographical coordinates are shown as 35 @. @ 2225668 ° N 97 @. @ 4394777 ° W ? / 35 @. @ 2225668 ; -97.4394777 (35 ° 13 ' 21 " N 97 ° 26 ' 22 " W) . This is a location in downtown Norman .

As of 2010 , the city has a total area of 189 @. @ 42 square miles (490 @. @ 6 km²) , of which 178 @. @ 77 square miles (463 @. @ 0 km²) is land and 10 @. @ 65 square miles (27 @. @ 6 km²) is water .

The center of this large incorporated area is 20 miles (30 km) from the center of Oklahoma City and , separated primarily by Moore , is in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area .

= = = Topography = = =

Norman and the surrounding areas are mostly flat with an elevation near 1 @, @ 171 feet (357 m) . The terrain in the western section of Norman is prairie , while the eastern section , including the area surrounding Lake Thunderbird , consists of some 6 @, @ 000 acres (24 km²) of lakes and Cross Timbers forest . The lowest point within city limits is approximately 970 feet (296 m) above sea level (located at 35.20388N , 97.17735W) . The highest point is approximately 1 @, @ 245 feet (379 m) above sea level (located at 35.21266N , 97.39000W) .

= = = Climate = = =

Norman falls within a temperate , humid subtropical climate region that is identified as " Cfa " class on the Köppen climate classification . On average Norman receives about 38 inches (970 mm) of precipitation per year ; May and June are the wettest months . Temperatures average 61 ° F (16 ° C) for the year . Average daytime highs range from 50 ° F (10 ° C) in January to nearly 93 ° F (34 ° C) in August ; average lows range from 28 ° F (? 2 ° C) in January to 71 ° F (22 ° C) in July and August . Summers can be extremely hot , as was evident in the historically @- @ hot summer of 1980 , and again in 2011 , when temperatures climbed above 100 ° F (38 ° C) over most days from mid @- @ June through early September (see [http : / / www.nws.noaa.gov / climate / index.php ? wfo = oun](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=oun) , look up June , July and August 2011 data) . Consistent winds , averaging near 10 mph (16 km / h) and usually from the south to southeast , help to temper hotter weather during the summer and intensify cold periods during the winter .

Norman averages a growing season of 209 days , but plants that can withstand short periods of colder temperatures may have an additional three to six weeks . Winter months tend to be cloudier than summer months , with the percentage of possible sunshine ranging from an average of about 55 % in winter to nearly 80 % in summer .

Norman lies within Tornado Alley , the region of the United States where tornadic activity is most frequent . The city has a tornado season lasting from March through June with over 80 % of all reported tornadoes occurring during these months . The Oklahoma City metropolitan area , including Norman , is the most tornado @- @ prone area in the United States . As recently as May 10 , 2010 , a tornado outbreak occurred in southeastern Norman that resulted in the loss of multiple homes and businesses . Again on Friday April 13 , 2012 Norman was struck by a weak tornado . On Wednesday May 6 , 2015 , the northwestern part of Norman was hit by a weak tornado .

= = Demographics = =

As of the census of 2010 , there were 110 @, @ 925 people , 44 @, @ 661 households , and 24 @, @ 913 families residing within the city . By population , Norman was the third @-@ largest city in Oklahoma and the 225th @-@ largest city in the United States . The population density was 616 people per square mile (208 @. @ 7 / km ²) . The racial makeup of the city was 84 @. @ 7 % White , 4 @. @ 3 % African American , 4 @. @ 7 % Native American , 3 @. @ 8 % Asian , 0 @. @ 1 % Pacific Islander , 1 @. @ 9 % from other races , and 5 @. @ 5 % from two or more races . Hispanic or Latino of any race were 6 @. @ 4 % of the population .

Of the 44 @, @ 661 households , 25 @. @ 0 % had children under the age of 18 , 41 @. @ 5 % were married couples living together , 10 @. @ 1 % had a female householder with no husband present , and 44 @. @ 2 % were non @-@ families . Individuals living alone made up 30 @. @ 7 % of all households ; 7 @. @ 3 % had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older . The average household size was 2 @. @ 33 and the average family size was 2 @. @ 94 .

The age distribution was 5 @. @ 8 % under the age of 5 , 5 @. @ 7 % from 5 to 9 , 5 @. @ 2 % from 10 to 14 , 8 @. @ 9 % from 15 to 19 , 16 @. @ 0 % from 20 to 24 , 9 @. @ 0 % from 25 to 29 , 6 @. @ 6 % from 30 to 34 , 5 @. @ 6 % from 35 to 39 , 5 @. @ 3 % from 40 to 44 , 5 @. @ 9 % from 45 to 49 , 5 @. @ 9 % from 50 to 54 , 5 @. @ 4 % from 55 to 59 , 4 @. @ 6 % from 60 to 64 , 3 @. @ 2 % from 65 to 69 , 2 @. @ 3 % from 70 to 74 , 1 @. @ 8 % from 75 to 79 , 1 @. @ 4 % from 80 to 84 , and 1 @. @ 3 % over 85 years of age . The median age was 29 @. @ 6 years . Males made up 49 @. @ 7 % of the population while females made up 50 @. @ 3 % .

The median household income in the city was \$ 44 @, @ 396 , and the median income for a family was \$ 62 @, @ 826 . Males had a median income of \$ 41 @, @ 859 versus \$ 35 @, @ 777 for females . The per capita income for the city was \$ 24 @, @ 586 . About 11 @. @ 8 % of families and 19 @. @ 2 % of the population were below the poverty line , including 18 @. @ 9 % of those under age 18 and 8 @. @ 9 % of those age 65 or over .

Although religious information is not collected by the U.S. census , according to a 2000 survey by Dale E. Jones of the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies , 50 @. @ 2 % of the population in Norman is affiliated with a religious institution . Of those 43 @. @ 6 % were Southern Baptist , 15 @. @ 0 % Catholic Church , 13 @. @ 0 % United Methodist , 3 @. @ 3 % Assembly of God , 2 @. @ 8 % Churches of Christ , 2 @. @ 1 % Latter @-@ day Saint (Mormon) , 2 @. @ 1 % Christian Churches and Churches of Christ , 1 @. @ 9 % Disciples of Christ , 1 @. @ 7 % Presbyterian Church , and 14 @. @ 6 % other Christian denominations or religions .

= = Economy = =

The University of Oklahoma employs over 10 @, @ 700 personnel across three campuses , making it a significant driver of Norman 's economy . The campus is a center for scientific and technological research , having contributed over \$ 277 million to such programs in 2009 .

Norman is also home of the National Weather Center , a cooperative research effort between the University of Oklahoma and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that houses a number of weather- and climate @-@ related organizations ; the city is also the proposed location of a future National Weather Museum . As a result of this on @-@ going academic and public weather research , several private meteorological businesses are present in the city , including Weathernews Americas , Inc . , Vieux and Associates , Inc . , Weather Decision Technologies , WeatherBank , Inc . , and Computational Geosciences , Inc .

In addition to weather Norman is a center for other scientific ventures ? public and private . The Oklahoma Geological Survey , which conducts geological research , and the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council , which is a public @-@ private alliance that fosters renewable energy technology with the aim of establishing more viable applications , make the city their home . SouthWest NanoTechnologies is a producer of single @-@ walled carbon nanotubes . Bergey Windpower is a supplier of small wind turbines .

Other major employers in the city include Norman Regional Health System , Norman Public Schools , Johnson Controls , Griffin Memorial Hospital , Hitachi , Astellas Pharma Technologies ,

Albon Engineering , Xyant Technology , MSCI , Office Max National Sales Center , SITEL , the United States Postal Service National Center for Employee Development , Sysco Corporation , and AT & T.

University North Park , a lifestyle center with planned development on over 12 million square feet (1 @. @ 1 km2) of land , is on 24th Ave NW along the I @- @ 35 corridor between Robinson Street and Tecumseh Road . Begun in 2006 , the project will feature 2 miles (3 @. @ 2 km) of parks , offices , and high @- @ end retail once completed .

In 2008 , CNN 's Money Magazine ranked Norman as the sixth best small city within the United States to live in , the highest ranking of any city in Oklahoma .

= = = Fair trade = = =

In 2010 , Norman became the 17th city in the United States to adopt a council resolution giving it status as a Fair Trade Town . The resolution states that the city of Norman supports the purchasing of goods from the local community ; when goods cannot be purchased locally the city will support buying from producers abroad who meet Fair Trade standards . These standards include supporting quality of life in developing countries and planning for environmental sustainability .

= = Neighborhoods = =

Norman has a wide variety of neighborhoods . Downtown Norman is an area of approximately 2 square miles (5 km2) surrounded by University Blvd . , Symmes St. , Porter Ave . , and Daws St. ; primary streets include Main St. and Gray Ave . The area consists of restaurants , art galleries , and other businesses ; it is home to some of the oldest buildings in Oklahoma .

Hall Park is an area northeast of downtown Norman that was originally an independent township ; in 2005 it was annexed into Norman , becoming one of its neighborhoods . The area is home to many middle @- @ class suburban homes and is historically important in that it was advertised as the United States ' first " all @- @ electric town . " President Ronald Reagan , then an executive with General Electric , attended Hall Park 's grand opening ceremonies in 1962 where he was named the town 's honorary first mayor .

The University of Oklahoma and the area surrounding it are home to many historically significant neighborhoods . The university itself has a unique Gothic @- @ inspired architecture known as " Cherokee Gothic , " so named by architect Frank Lloyd Wright . Churches and houses in the surrounding neighborhoods can be described as neo @- @ Gothic or Queen Anne in style . Norman has two city @- @ designated historic preservation districts in the area : the Miller Historic District , bounded by Symmes St. , Classen Ave . , and Miller Ave . ; and the Chautauqua Historic District , bounded by Symmes St. , Brooks St. , Chautauqua Ave . , and Lahoma Ave . Both of these residential neighborhoods contain houses designed from a mixture of architectural styles dating from 1903 to 1935 , with the majority of the Miller neighborhood being of the Bungalow or American Craftsman style homes . Any external changes or repairs to homes in these areas must be approved by the Norman Historic Preservation Commission .

The area immediately north of the university is known as Campus Corner and contains a mixture of businesses , bars , and restaurants . The neighborhoods to the east of the campus are home to many students , both in residential housing and high @- @ rise condos / apartments .

Norman enjoys many tree @- @ lined landscapes , participating in the ReLeaf Norman and Tree City USA programs .

= = Education = =

= = = Higher education = = =

===== Colleges and universities =====

The University of Oklahoma is the largest university in the state of Oklahoma , with approximately 30 @, @ 000 students enrolled . The university was founded in 1890 , prior to Oklahoma statehood . The university includes both Norman and Oklahoma City campuses with the main campus located in Norman . In 2007 , The Princeton Review named the University of Oklahoma one of its " Best Value " colleges . The school is ranked first per capita among public universities in enrollment of National Merit Scholars and has seen 28 Rhodes Scholars graduate since the program 's inception in 1902 . PC Magazine and the Princeton Review rated it one of the " 20 Most Wired Colleges " in both 2006 and 2008 , while the Carnegie Foundation classifies it as a research university with " high research activity . "

The school is well known for its athletic programs , having won many awards including seven NCAA Division I National Football Championships .

===== CareerTech =====

The city of Norman is served by the Moore Norman Technology Center . The school was established in 1972 and has been awarded the Oklahoma Association of Technology Center 's Gold Star School Award on multiple occasions . The Franklin Road Campus consists of six buildings totaling 323 @, @ 500 square feet (30 @, @ 100 m2) of classroom , meeting , and office space . The school has a full @-@ time staff of 207 .

===== Primary and secondary schools =====

===== Public schools =====

Public school districts in Oklahoma are independent of other local governments . Several districts overlap the municipal boundaries of the City of Norman .

Norman Public Schools is the largest district serving Norman ; there are 15 elementary schools , four middle schools , and two high schools in the district . More than 17 @, @ 000 students are enrolled in the district , making it one of the largest in the state .

Noble Public Schools is a school district that serves southeastern portions of Norman , the adjoining cities of Noble and Slaughterville , and parts of Cleveland County . It consists of two elementary schools , an intermediate school , a middle school , and a high school .

Little Axe Public Schools serves the eastern area of Norman . It consists of an elementary , junior , and high school .

Other school districts with territory within the city are the Robin Hill Public School District and the Moore Public School District .

===== Private schools =====

Several private schools also serve the area :

All Saints Catholic School ? pre @-@ kindergarten through 8th grade

Blue Eagle Christian Academy ? kindergarten through 10th grade

Community Christian School ? kindergarten through 12th grade

Norman Christian Academy ? pre @-@ kindergarten through 7th grade

Robinson Street Academy ? kindergarten through 12th grade

Rose Rock School ? pre @-@ kindergarten through kindergarten

Terra Verde Discovery School ? kindergarten through 2nd grade

Trinity Lutheran School ? pre @-@ kindergarten through 6th grade

Veritas Classical Christian Academy ? pre @-@ kindergarten through 12th grade

== Libraries ==

Norman is served by the Norman Public Library , which is part of the Pioneer Library System spanning many of the southern suburbs of Oklahoma City . The library has an inter @-@ library agreement with the Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma City . This allows patrons of the Norman Public Library to check out books from any library in the Pioneer Library System or in the Metropolitan Library System . Books can be reserved and shipped to a local library free of charge . In addition to books , the library maintains a collection of periodicals , videos , audio books , and research materials .

The Bizzell Memorial Library at the University of Oklahoma is the largest library in the state of Oklahoma , containing more than five million volumes . In addition to books , the library maintains over 17 @, @ 000 feet (5 @, @ 200 m) in length of manuscripts and archives , 1 @. @ 6 million photographs , and more than 1 @. @ 5 million maps . The library also houses more than 50 books printed before the year 1500 .

== Culture ==

== Museums and theater ==

Norman enjoys many cultural attractions that are funded by the university . The Fred Jones Jr . Museum of Art made national and international news in 2000 when it was given the Weitzenhoffer Collection , the largest collection of French Impressionist art ever given to an American university . The collection includes works by Mary Cassatt , Claude Monet , Vincent van Gogh , Paul Gauguin , Pierre @-@ Auguste Renoir , and Camille Pissarro .

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History is a museum containing over 50 @, @ 000 square feet (5 @, @ 000 m2) of exhibits ranging from archaeology , paleontology , ethnology , herpetology , ornithology , and Native American studies . Its exhibits are intended to immerse visitors in the state 's long history . The museum features many complete collections of dinosaur fossils and is also noted for its Paleozoic collection , considered to be one of the largest and most important in existence .

The Moore @-@ Lindsay House is a Queen Anne @-@ style home built prior to 1900 by prominent Norman home builder William Moore ; it was purchased by the city of Norman in 1973 and today serves as the city and Cleveland County 's historical museum . Located at 508 N. Peters , the Moore @-@ Lindsay House 's architecture is representative of Norman during the Victorian era . The Cleveland County Historical Society maintains a collection of over 5 @, @ 000 rare books , documents , and other artifacts in its archives located inside the house .

Catlett Music Center at the University of Oklahoma features many orchestral and jazz performances and the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts ' Schools of Dance , Drama , and Musical Theatre offer many student programs throughout the year .

The city is also home to many privately funded galleries and performance sites .

== Parks and recreation ==

Norman 's Parks and Recreation Department facilitates 55 neighborhood and community parks , three recreation centers , a golf course and driving range , three disc golf courses , a complete swim complex with waterslides , a wading pool , 32 tennis courts , and three special services centers (that offer cultural arts and senior citizen activities) . Griffin Community Park Sports Complex includes 16 soccer fields , 14 baseball / softball fields , and four football fields .

== Media ==

The Norman Transcript is the most widely circulated Norman @-@ based newspaper in the city . It

is a daily newspaper covering events in Cleveland and McClain counties . It is the oldest continuous business in Norman and was founded shortly after the Land Run of April 1889 on July 13 , 1889 .

The Oklahoma Daily is a student @-@ run newspaper at the University of Oklahoma . It was first published in 1897 , several years after the university 's founding . The paper has received numerous awards for journalism excellence including the Associated Collegiate Press ' Pacemaker Award .

KGOU is a full @-@ service public radio station licensed to the University of Oklahoma . The station serves Norman and the greater Oklahoma City metropolitan area with a news / talk / jazz format , using programs from National Public Radio , Public Radio International , and others .

Norman TV is a government @-@ access television station airing on Cox Communications cable television channel 20 . It broadcasts programming provided by the City of Norman , including video from city council meetings .

== = Sports == =

The University of Oklahoma sponsors many collegiate sporting events in Norman . The school is well known for its football program , having won seven NCAA Division I National Football Championships . In addition , it has the best winning percentage of any Division I FBS team since the introduction of the AP Poll in 1936 and has played in four BCS National Championship Games since 1998 .

During football season , the Oklahoma Sooners football program contributes significantly to Norman 's economy . During game day weekends , Norman sees an influx out of town traffic from all over the country with over 80 @,@ 000 people routinely attending football games . Norman 's local businesses , especially areas around campus and Campus Corner , benefit greatly from the game day traffic alone . The program ranks in the top 10 of ESPN 's top college football money @-@ makers with home games generating revenues at approximately \$ 59 million and game day operating expenses at about \$ 6 @.@ 1 million .

In 1951 and 1994 its baseball team won the NCAA national championship , and the women 's softball team won the national championship in 2000 . The gymnastics teams have won four national championships since 2001 .

Other university men 's sports include : basketball , cross country , golf , gymnastics , football , Ultimate Frisbee , tennis , track and field , and wrestling . Women 's sports include : basketball , cross country , golf , gymnastics , football , Ultimate Frisbee , rowing , soccer , softball , tennis , track and field , and volleyball .

The Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) , a non @-@ profit professional association of men 's collegiate golf coaches , is located in Norman .

== = Community events == =

Norman hosts many free festivals and community events that occur throughout the year .

The Norman Medieval Fair is a celebration of medieval @-@ themed games , art , and culture , with highlights of jousting , human chessmatch combats & other combat shows , and several musical & dance acts . The event is typically held during the last weekend of March or first weekend of April in Reaves Park , near the University . It has been held annually in Norman since 1976 and was originally a forum for the English Department at the University of Oklahoma . It is the largest weekend event held in the state of Oklahoma , with over 325 @,@ 000 people in attendance in 2006 and growing yearly . Events Media Network has named Medieval Fair one of the top 100 events in the United States .

Norman Music Festival is an annual weekend music festival held in April in downtown Norman . Established in 2008 , the event had over 26 @,@ 000 people in attendance during the 2009 festival . Originally a one @-@ day event , the festival has quickly grown so large that it is now an all @-@ weekend concert series . The festival highlights both local musicians and internationally acclaimed artists and features many forms and styles of music .

Groovefest is a music festival hosted annually at Andrews Park . On the last Sunday in September ,

the music festival is held to help raise awareness about human rights . The event was established in 1986 by the University of Oklahoma chapter of Amnesty International .

The Chocolate Festival , the only fundraiser of the year for the city 's Firehouse Arts Center , was ranked # 3 for food festivals across America by the Food Network . This festival offers various chocolate tasting sessions , chocolate art competitions and exhibits , chocolate dessert competitions and more . It has been an annual tradition since 1983 .

Jazz in June is a music festival held the last full weekend in June at various venues across Norman . The festival features both jazz and blues musical performances as well as jazz educational clinics taught by professional musicians appearing in the festival and post @-@ concert jam sessions at local venues which bring headliners and local artists together . Jazz in June , one of the major cultural events in the state as well as the City of Norman , attracts a combined concert audience of 50 @,@ 000 drawn from throughout the state , region and nation . Another 100 @,@ 000 or more enjoy these same performances through post @-@ festival broadcasts on KGOU Public Radio as well as other public radio stations throughout the state , region and nation .

May Fair is an arts festival held every year during the first weekend in May at Andrews Park . It features top area performers , fine art , crafts , and food .

Summer Breeze Concert Series is a series of concerts held from Spring to Fall at various park venues across Norman . The series is sponsored by the Performing Arts Studio .

Midsummer Nights ' Fair is a nighttime arts festival held during two evenings in June . The fair features art , music , and food and is held outside the Firehouse Art Center located in Lions Park .

The Norman Mardi Gras parade is a celebration of Mardi Gras occurring on the Saturday closest to Fat Tuesday . The parade is held in downtown Norman and features themed costumes and floats .

The Main Street Christmas Holiday Parade is a celebration of Christmas and the holiday season held every December in downtown Norman . The parade features holiday @-@ themed costumes and floats .

= = Infrastructure = =

= = = Health systems = = =

Norman Regional Health System is a multi @-@ campus system that provides medical services in Norman and throughout south central Oklahoma . Its Porter Avenue campus , located north of downtown Norman , is a 337 @-@ bed general hospital providing a wide range of services including acute care . In October 2009 , the Norman Regional HealthPlex campus opened in west Norman . It provides a 152 @-@ bed state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art facility specializing in cardiology , cardiovascular services , as well as women 's and children 's services .

= = = Transportation = = =

= = = = Airports = = = =

Scheduled air transport , major commercial air transportation is available at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City , located approximately 20 miles (30 km) northwest of Norman . The airport serves more than 3 @.@ 78 million passengers per year .

Norman is served locally by Max Westheimer Airport , a general aviation airport run by the University of Oklahoma . The airport is one of only two airports in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area designated as a reliever airport to Will Rogers World Airport . Max Westheimer Airport is capable of handling aircraft up through and including executive class jet aircraft .

= = = = Buses = = = =

The Cleveland Area Rapid Transit , operated by the University of Oklahoma , provides bus service throughout the 191 @-@ square @-@ mile (490 km2) Norman area . CART also provides service to the Social Security Administration offices in Moore , OK , as well as to Oklahoma City 's Metro Transit hub in downtown Oklahoma City . Metro Transit maintains a fleet of buses and trolleys serving the greater Oklahoma City area , including Will Rogers World Airport .

In 2008 , CART became the 39th public transportation system in the United States to be featured on Google Transit , a website that allows transportation users to electronically plan their travel routes . In 2010 , CART buses were modified to include a GPS tracking system that allows riders to see the location of buses and their predicted arrival times via the CART and Google websites . CART buses transport more than 1 @. @ 3 million travelers annually .

= = = = Rail = = = =

Inter @-@ city passenger train service is available via Amtrak at Norman Depot . Amtrak 's Heartland Flyer provides daily round trip service to downtown Oklahoma City and Fort Worth , Texas .

Although Norman currently has no light rail or commuter rail service , there is growing interest in incorporating such services into the city 's future transportation plans as part of the Oklahoma City metro area 's regional transit system .

= = = = Roads and highways = = = =

The predominant form of transportation in Norman is roads and highways with 80 @. @ 0 % of all residents driving alone to work , 9 @. @ 0 % carpooling , and just 1 @. @ 3 % taking public transportation . As of 2007 , Interstate 35 alone was handling over 99 @, @ 000 vehicles per day . Other major highways include State Highway 9 , a portion of which serves 28 @, @ 000 vehicles per day , and U.S. Highway 77 , which serves more than 25 @, @ 000 vehicles per day . The busiest roads in Norman are Berry Road (29 @, @ 700 vehicles per day) , 12th Avenue Northwest (28 @, @ 000 vehicles per day) , and Alameda Street (26 @, @ 400 vehicles per day) .

Norman is served by two major federal highways :

Interstate 35

U.S. Highway 77

Norman is served by two major Oklahoma state highways :

State Highway 9

State Highway 77H

= = = Utilities = = =

Electric utility companies servicing Norman include Oklahoma Gas & Electric , which is headquartered in Oklahoma City , and Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (a utility cooperative) . Natural gas is provided by Oklahoma Natural Gas . The city 's Utility Department offers water , wastewater , and recycling services to parts of the city as well as solid waste pickup citywide .

Telephone networks , broadband internet , and cable television service are available from several companies including Cox Communications and AT & T.

= = = = Drinking water controversy = = = =

In a study published in 2007 , the National Institutes of Health deemed hexavalent chromium VI (chromium @-@ 6) to be a likely carcinogen in lab animals when consumed in large quantities in drinking water . Prior to the NIH study , a World Health Organization study found that chromium @-@ 6 was a likely cause of lung cancer when inhaled by humans . In 2010 , test results released from a California non @-@ profit group known as the Environmental Working Group showed that Norman 's tap water has a chromium @-@ 6 concentration level of 12 @. @ 90 parts per billion (

ppb) , which was the highest level detected among 35 U.S. cities sampled in the study . The group is studying chromium @-@ 6 levels in water supplies in an attempt to prove a causal link between the element 's ingestion and cancer in humans , and as a result improve the country 's water standards .

The United States Environmental Protection Agency does not currently require testing for or set limits on chromium @-@ 6 levels in American cities ' water supplies (but it does require total chromium @-@ 3 and chromium @-@ 6 levels not exceed 100 ppb) . The EPA has recently completed studies of the element on lab animals and was expected to make a determination on chromium @-@ 6 maximum allowed levels in June 2012 ; however , the current status of assessment milestones and completion dates is now listed as " TBD " on the EPA website . The official total chromium @-@ 3 / chromium @-@ 6 level present in Norman 's drinking water has ranged from 20 to 80 ppb . It has been proposed that the source of the chromium @-@ 6 is the Garber @-@ Wellington Aquifer , which is known to have elevated levels of heavy metals .

The issue of chromium @-@ 6 levels gained national attention with the 2000 film release of Erin Brockovich , which detailed a California woman 's legal fight against Pacific Gas and Electric Company for allegedly contaminating her hometown with excessive levels of the element .

In the past the Norman water supply has also been criticized for the presence of excessive levels of arsenic . The city is attempting to combat this problem by building new wells and removing older ones .

= = Notable people = =