

Joplin Community Summary

Jasper County

Joplin, MO

Straddling the border of Jasper and Newton Counties, Joplin is a commercial, medical, and cultural hub. The city offers quality of life amenities rare in a city of over 52,000, providing services for a daytime population estimated at 250,000. Located just a short distance from the Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas borders, Joplin draws in thousands of individuals from neighboring communities who shop and work here, as well as enjoy all that Joplin has to offer. The industry in this rapidly growing region is supported by a diverse economy. As a regional provider of medical services, Joplin employs more than 5,000 people in healthcare. Joplin is also considered the “Crossroads of America” due to the trucking industry being another major employer.¹ Joplin is home to two 4-year colleges, Missouri Southern State University and Ozark Christian College. In 2017, the Kansas City University School of Medicine opened its doors to the first class of medical students. Points of interest in Joplin include the Spiva Center for the Arts, Route 66 attractions, Joplin Museum Complex, and the Schifferdecker Aquatic Park.

Carthage, MO

The seat of Jasper County, also known as America’s Maple Leaf City, Carthage, Missouri provides inspiration through its history, art, and architecture. Founded in 1842, the town has a rich history as a result of its role in the Civil War. In 1861, Carthage was burned to the ground in the Battle of Carthage, the first full-scale land battle of the American Civil War.² The town was later reconstructed during the Victorian era, giving the town a charming atmosphere as one views its architectural wonders. A diverse and booming economic profile was created with the tri-state mining boom of the late 1800s and early 20th century. To pay tribute to their heritage, Carthaginians celebrate through events such as Independence Day, Marian Days, Maple Leaf Festival, various Christmas events, and through visits to historic districts, Precious Moments, Route 66, and Civil War sites.³

¹ <http://www.joplincc.com/community/>

² <http://www.americancivilwarstory.com/battle-of-carthage.html>

³ <http://visit-carthage.com/>

Newton County

Neosho, MO

Neosho, whose name comes from the Native American meaning “clear, cold water,” is the largest city in Newton County and serves as the county seat. The city is known for its natural freshwater springs that were ideal for its original settlers, giving it the nickname “City of Springs.” Neosho has served as an agricultural hub since 1888 and houses the oldest operating fish hatchery: the Neosho National Fish Hatchery. Neosho is also the home of inventor and botanist George Washington Carver, artist Thomas Hart Benton, and ragtime pianist James Scott.^{4,5} The city continues to grow and revitalize to improve the quality of life in the area.

Barton County

Lamar, MO

Lamar, the seat of Barton County, prides itself as being “an industrious Midwestern city poised on the verge of tremendous growth yet with a small-town heart and atmosphere.” At the center of the best agricultural county in Missouri, you will find farms, parks, and prairies. Lamar is also the first town where Wyatt Earp worked as a constable and the birthplace of President Harry S. Truman. Attractions include one of the last drive-in movie theaters, the Lamar Free Fair, Truman Birthplace and Truman Day Celebration, and Wyatt Earp’s Fallfest.⁶

Vernon County

Nevada, MO

Nevada, originally known as Nevada City until 1869 when the city was rebuilt after the Civil War, is the seat of Vernon County. Greatly touched by the Civil War, Nevada City was known as the capital for “Bushwhackers” and later the site of a hideout to Frank and Jesse James. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Nevada’s economy began to boom with the installment of the Katy and Missouri Pacific Railroads. State Mental Hospital No. 3 and Cottey College also contributed to the city’s growth.⁷ Nevada was chosen by 417 Magazine as a “Top Ten Best Community to Live” based on its green space amenities.⁸

⁴ <http://www.countryhomesofmissouri.com/city/detail/?id=18510>

⁵ <http://neoshocc.com/community/history/>

⁶ http://www.cityoflamar.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=145

⁷ http://www.nevada-mo.com/page/10354_2

⁸ http://www.nevada-mo.com/page/10339_2

Ottawa County

Miami, OK

The county seat of Ottawa County, Miami joined the Joplin Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in April 2013. The city's population of 13,570 includes representation of several Native American tribes: Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Peoria Tribe of Indians, and Shawnee Tribe.

Crawford County

Pittsburg, KS

Established in 1876, Pittsburg, Kansas is the largest city in Southeast Kansas. A history in coal mining, railroad, and manufacturing has contributed to the economic growth of the city.⁹ Pittsburg is home to Pittsburg State University, a 223-acre campus with the state-of-the-art Kansas Technology Center. Points of interest include: Crawford County Historical Museum, Miners' Memorial & Immigrant Park, and Pittsburg Aquatic Center.¹⁰

Cherokee County

Columbus, KS

Columbus, Kansas serves as the county seat of Cherokee County. Columbus was first settled in 1868 and became the intersection of the Saint Louis and San Francisco railroad and the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas railroads. Mining of coal, lead, and zinc as well as trade in agricultural products has supplied the area with business and work even to this day.¹¹ Two schools are found in Columbus: the Unified School District 493 and Coffeyville Community College's Columbus Technical Campus.

Labette County

Oswego, KS

Oswego, Kansas, the county seat of Labette County, has a unique and rich history that reaches far into the past. Oswego prides itself on their "hidden gem", Historical Riverside Park, over 80 acres on a bluff overlooking the Neosho River Valley. Opportunities for events and recreational outings can be found by

⁹ <http://www.pittsburgareachamber.com/Community/CommunityProfiles.aspx>

¹⁰ <http://www.pittks.org/index.aspx?nid=396>

¹¹ <http://www.columbuscityhall.com/category/index.php?categoryid=9>

visiting Oswego’s Municipal Airport, Golf Course, Claythorne Lodge, community center, and Labette County Fairgrounds.¹²

McDonald County

Anderson

Anderson, Missouri dates back to 1886 when Robert Anderson started a general store and post office which he named Anderson. The town of Anderson began to grow after the railroad was extended from Goodman through Anderson to Noel. The town of Anderson was incorporated into a City in 1909. Anderson used to be known as the “Strawberry Capitol of the world” .¹³

¹² http://www.oswegokansas.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1:oswego-home-page&catid=3:information

¹³ <http://www.andersonmo.us/history.html>