

# CHOOSE GREATER FORT WAYNE

COMMUNITY PROFILE & RELOCATION GUIDE



**GREATER  
FORT WAYNE INC.**

METRO CHAMBER ALLIANCE





# FORT WAYNE: A COMMUNITY ON THE RISE.

---

**#2**

Fastest growing big city  
in the Midwest  
U.S. Census Bureau, 2024

**TOP-5**

City with the lowest  
cost of living  
Niche.com, Aug. 2024

**#1**

Most affordable places  
to live in the U.S.  
U.S. News & World Report, Aug. 2024

*Cover Photo by Stephen J. Bailey*





**“Fort Wayne is becoming flat-out cool.** Still in the phase where a visitor to the city will have to know just where to look for the signs... It’s clear that there’s something afoot here, and that in an age where we’re skeptical about everything, let alone lists making the rounds on the internet, Fort Wayne really is a place to keep your eye on.”

**Food & Wine Magazine**

“We recruit young talent from throughout the United States and beyond, and we’re extremely successful because of the **low cost of living, great schools, affordable housing, and a long list of family-friendly amenities.**”

**Chuck Surack Founder, Sweetwater Sound**

*#1 online retailer for musical and pro audio gear*



**TOP-10**

Emerging housing market in the U.S.  
Realtor.com, Jan. 2024

**TOP-10**

City for new graduates to start a career  
Insurify.com, 2022

**TOP-10**

Best-run city in America  
WalletHub.com, 2024

# QUALITY OF LIFE

From big-city amenities without the hassle or expense, to historic neighborhoods and rural charm, Allen County has something for everyone. As a resident, you'll **enjoy a quality of life that's tough to beat**, thanks to a wide variety of amenities for you to explore.



## PARKS & TRAILS

Get active on more than 100 miles of trails in Allen County, including the Rivergreenway that follows our three rivers through downtown Fort Wayne and beyond. Allen County is also home to more than 90 public parks and nature preserves. Check out the award-winning Promenade Park, smell the roses at the Botanical Conservatory, and get back to nature on the wooded trails of Metea County Park.



## FOOD & BEVERAGE

Hoosier Hospitality starts in the kitchen. Our cozy cafés, local restaurants, farm-to-table concepts, and laid-back breweries have something for everyone—whether you're looking for tried-and-true comfort food or you're branching out to try something new. We're creating an up-and-coming restaurant scene with flavors for every appetite and options ranging from casual to fine dining.



## SHOPPING

People want to be here, and so do businesses. That means residents can enjoy a combination of trusted neighborhood shops, trendy local boutiques, and the national brands you know and love. And if eating local is your thing, we're home to a variety of farmers markets where you can buy the freshest meats, sweets, and produce from nearby growers.





## HEALTH CARE

When you need medical care, you can rest assured you're in capable hands. Allen County providers are nationally recognized for maternity care, pediatrics, burn treatment, cardiac and cancer services, orthopedics, geriatric emergency care, and more. Our community is home to major medical facilities and resources, and more than 1,300 physicians and surgeons. They have the resources to offer world-class care, while still treating you like family.



## SPORTS & RECREATION

Whatever your sport, we've got it. Parkview Field, home of the TinCaps, delivers one of the top ballpark experiences in professional sports, Komet hockey brings thrills to the Memorial Coliseum, our college teams are perennial winners, and we're proud to host a U.S. Paralympic training site at Turnstone. Want to get into the action yourself? Our community offers recreational options for a variety of activities including basketball, volleyball, hockey, pickleball, golf, rowing, and even curling.



## ARTS & CULTURE

In Allen County, inspiring artwork is seemingly everywhere. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is home to more than 6,000 pieces, including one of America's largest collections of contemporary glass sculptures. A walk around downtown Fort Wayne brings you face-to-face with more than 30 murals, sculptures, and statues. An eclectic mix of concert venues welcomes national acts year-round. And in the summer months, weekly festivals highlight our community's diverse offerings of arts and culture.

## RECREATIONAL & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne
- Fort Wayne Philharmonic
- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- Clyde Theatre
- Embassy Theatre
- Fort Wayne Museum of Art
- Science Central
- Middle Waves Music Festival
- Fort Wayne Civic Theatre
- TinCaps Baseball
- Fort Wayne Derby Girls
- Hobnobben Film Festival
- Arena Dinner Theatre
- Komet Hockey
- Fort Wayne United Soccer
- Unity Performing Arts Fdn.
- Fort Wayne Ballet
- The History Center
- Fort Wayne FC Soccer
- Fort Wayne Trails

# DEMOGRAPHICS

Fort Wayne is the second-largest city in Indiana, and is among the 100 largest nationally. And we're growing – faster than peer cities like Cincinnati, Omaha, and Louisville. Ranked as one of the **Top-20 places to live in the U.S.** (U.S. News & World Report), Fort Wayne-Allen County is a welcoming and inclusive community that embodies the very best of **Hoosier Hospitality**.

POPULATION	
Allen County	394,545
City of Fort Wayne	267,927
Within 60-mile radius	1.5 Million
Median age	36.1

ALLEN COUNTY INCOME	
Per-capita personal income	\$57,245
Average annual wage	\$55,623
Median household income	\$66,222



MEDIAN HOME PRICES, 2024		National Association of Realtors, Q2 2024	
Fort Wayne, IN	\$248,600	Indianapolis, IN	\$329,700
Omaha, NE	\$313,200	Grand Rapids, MI	\$347,200
Louisville, KY	\$283,100	Columbus, OH	\$339,600
Cincinnati, OH	\$309,200	Greenville, SC	\$338,800
Chattanooga, TN	\$320,900	Durham, NC	\$477,600





# EDUCATION

From pre-K to college and beyond, **Allen County students are in a position to achieve.** Our community is home to four public school districts and a variety of private and parochial schools, all home to dedicated, innovative educators.



**K-12 specialties include:**



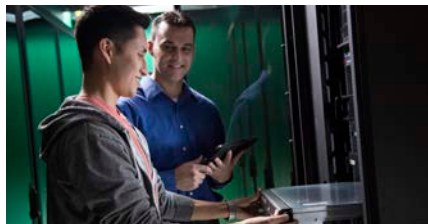
## COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Right here in Allen County, residents have access to **world-renowned degree programs** all the way up to the doctorate level. Plus, continuing education is readily available for professionals looking to sharpen their skills.



**65,000+**

Students enrolled in grades K-12 in Allen County



**41,000+**

Students enrolled at Allen County colleges and universities



**230,000+**

Annual graduates at top research universities within 200 miles



# MAJOR EMPLOYERS

**What do we do here?** A better question is, what don't we do here? Our diverse economy is bustling with successful companies from a wide range of industries.

## MAJOR PRIVATE EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEE COUNT

Updated Q3 2024

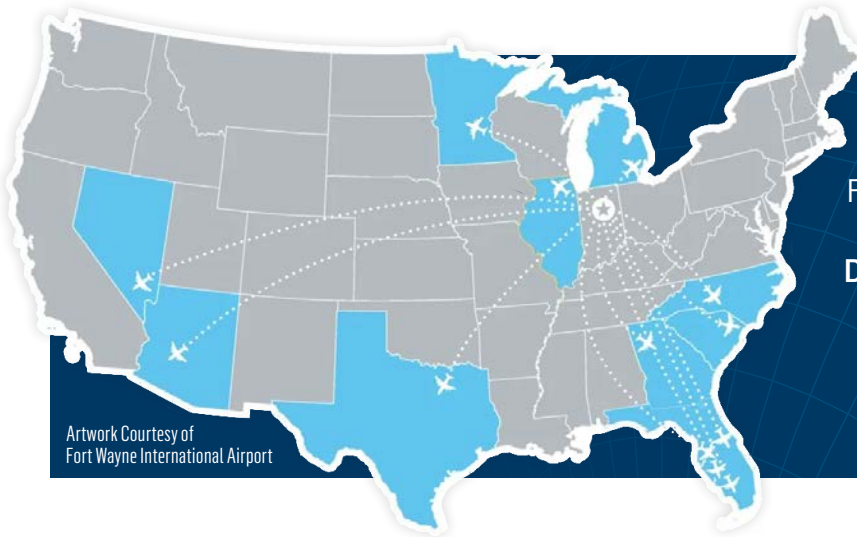
Parkview Health (HQ) .....	8,986	Kelley Automotive Group (HQ) .....	550
Amazon .....	4,650	MedPro Group (HQ) .....	550
General Motors .....	4,320	Trelleborg AB .....	506
Lutheran Health Network .....	4,075	Lutheran Life Villages.....	500
Sweetwater Sound (HQ) .....	2,400	Do It Best (HQ) .....	471
Lincoln Financial Group .....	1,700	Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream .....	434
BFGoodrich .....	1,500	Raytheon .....	430
Fort Wayne Metals (HQ) .....	1,500	Sabert .....	400
Shambaugh & Son (HQ) .....	1,500	SIRVA.....	399
Steel Dynamics Inc. (HQ) .....	1,200	Essex Furukawa.....	394
BAE Systems .....	1,139	Indiana Michigan Power.....	393
Dana Corp. ....	960	Brunswick Corporation .....	357
Master Spas (HQ) .....	910	3Rivers Federal Credit Union (HQ) .....	350
Frontier Communications .....	652	Ortho Northeast (HQ) .....	340
Easterseals Arc of NE Indiana (HQ) .....	650	Franklin Electric (HQ) .....	300
Vera Bradley (HQ) .....	611	Norfolk Southern Corp.....	300
L3Harris Technologies .....	600	K&K Insurance Group (HQ) .....	275
Brotherhood Mutual (HQ) .....	570	Bowen Health Clinic .....	240

List includes private sector employers only, listed by full-time equivalents in Allen County.  
Greater Fort Wayne Inc. staff collects information based on the latest available data.



# AIR SERVICE

Serving more than 700,000 passengers in a typical year, Fort Wayne International Airport (FWA) is not only the **“Friendliest Airport in the United States;”** it is also convenient and cost-competitive.



## NONSTOP FLIGHTS

FWA offers direct flights to major cities including **Orlando, Tampa, Atlanta, Dallas, Sarasota, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Myrtle Beach, Chicago, Minneapolis, Fort Myers, Detroit, and Charlotte.**

Learn more at [FWAIRPORT.COM](http://FWAIRPORT.COM)

## PROJECT GATEWAY

FWA continues to raise the bar. The \$120 million Project Gateway builds on a decade of growth, improving the travel experience with a major terminal expansion, upgrades to the rental car area, and more.



# BOLD PROJECTS

In Fort Wayne-Allen County, **we invest in ourselves and our people.** We are building a vibrant community, full of opportunities to help you achieve your potential. Take a look at the improvements that are reshaping our skyline and making Fort Wayne one of the fastest-growing communities in the Great Lakes region.



## Riverfront Fort Wayne Between Ewing & MLK Bridges

The transformation has begun, turning the confluence of the St. Marys, St. Joseph, and Maumee rivers into a vibrant regional landmark. With trails, boat excursions, kayaking, playgrounds, and more, Promenade Park (Riverfront Development Phase I) provides a variety of opportunities to explore. Phase II and III include mixed-use development around the Riverfront District.

▶ Promenade Park opened 2019



## The Landing Columbia Street

This investment brings boutique shopping and fine dining to Fort Wayne's original business district. Located just two blocks south of the Riverfront, the redevelopment of this charming street and its architecturally significant buildings includes 91 new downtown apartments.

▶ Opened 2019



## The Bradley West Main Street & South Harrison Street

A project led by Vera Bradley's co-founder, this five-story, 125-room boutique hotel with restaurants, retail, and rooftop entertainment space brings dynamic new amenities for visitors and residents alike. Located just one block south of The Landing and three blocks south of the Riverfront, guests are treated to the best of downtown.

▶ Opened 2021





## Electric Works

### Broadway & Swinney Avenue

One of the largest redevelopment projects in the country, Electric Works is the reinvention of the former General Electric campus, a historic hub of innovation and entrepreneurship. Phase I opened in 2022, featuring the Union Street Market food hall, the new world headquarters for Do it Best Corp., co-working space, an innovation-focused high school, and more. Phase II is well underway with an already-completed parking garage; construction continues on residential and retail space.

▶ *Phases I & II opened 2022*



## East Allen's Rural Revival

### Multiple Locations in East Allen County

The momentum is spreading. This package of quality-of-place improvements enhances parks, sidewalks, downtown streetscapes, housing, and more across seven communities in east Allen County.

▶ *Completed 2022*



## The Riverfront at Promenade Park

### West Superior Street & South Harrison Street

Just across Harrison Street from Promenade Park, this project brings apartments, retail, office space, and parking to the downtown riverfront. The six-story, mixed-use building includes more than 200 apartments, seven townhomes, a 900-space parking garage, and serves as the regional headquarters for Swiss Re, a world leader in the insurance industry.

▶ *Opened 2022*



## STAR Financial Bank at The Ashberry

### West Main Street & Maiden Lane

STAR Financial Bank established a new company headquarters in the downtown Ashberry project—a two-tower, mixed-use building that includes a 387-space public parking garage, just steps away from other downtown attractions like The Bradley, The Landing, The Pearl, and more.

▶ *Opened 2024*



## The Pearl & Pearl Street Arts Center

West Main Street & Maiden Lane

Nestled next door to The Bradley, this innovative downtown development features commercial and event space along with more than 70 residences. The project, led by the founder of Sweetwater Sound, adds to the buzz of activity in the nearby Harrison Street Corridor, The Landing, and the Riverfront District.

**Estimated Completion 2024**



## The Lofts at Headwaters Park

East Superior Street & South Clinton Street

Overlooking Headwaters Park and the St. Marys River, this six-story, mixed-use project is in the middle of the downtown scene. The building features more than 200 apartments, 15 townhomes, commercial space, and a 650-space parking garage—all with easy access to restaurants, festivals, and the Rivergreenway trail system.

**Estimated Completion 2025**



## Fields of Grace

New Haven

Located at Minnich Road and I-469, Fields of Grace is a partnership between the City of New Haven, Grace Gathering Church, and Card & Associates. The 150-acre youth sports park will feature a 140,000 sq. ft. multi-sport fieldhouse and eight outdoor diamonds for baseball and softball. Plans also include future residential and hospitality uses around the development.

**Planning Phase - Estimated Completion 2026**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
OUR BOLD PROJECTS  
AT [GFWGO.COM](https://www.gfwgo.com)**



# LOOKING AHEAD

**The momentum in our community is real**—and we're just getting started. Our Allen County Together economic development action plan sets the pace and tone for our next decade of growth.



*The plan focuses public-private efforts around three main pillars:*



## HIGH GROWTH

Accelerate the creation of high-quality spaces in Fort Wayne-Allen County's commercial, industrial, and mixed-use business districts to attract new jobs, investment, and strong positive in-migration of talent from outside Indiana.

## INNOVATIVE

Develop a robust network of entrepreneurial support organizations, access to capital, real estate space, research and development, and creative talent to fuel growth in technology-driven companies in emerging and legacy industries.

## INCLUSIVE

Align business, government, education, and nonprofit partners to ensure equitable access to economic, workforce, and educational opportunities for all people and communities in Allen County.

**SEE THE FULL ALLEN COUNTY TOGETHER PLAN AT [ACT.GFWINC.COM](https://act.gfwinc.com)**

# MAKE YOUR MOVE

What are you waiting for? Whether you're considering a move to Allen County or you're already in the process of relocating here, we'd love to welcome you to the community. These resources can help you **get connected, find opportunities, and stay in the know.**

## ONBOARD FORT WAYNE

Built just for newcomers, this program can help you and your crew live your best lives here in Allen County. Onboard Fort Wayne offers social events, local ambassadors to answer your questions, and online resources to help you find your new local favorites.

[ONBOARDFW.COM](http://ONBOARDFW.COM)

## ONBOARD FORT WAYNE

POWERED BY



## LEADERSHIP FORT WAYNE

More than 40 years strong, this nine-month program helps participants discover and grow their innate leadership skills, get involved in the community, and drive positive change.

[LEADERSHIPFW.COM](http://LEADERSHIPFW.COM)

## LEADERSHIP FORT WAYNE

POWERED BY



## GFW INC. WOMEN'S NETWORK

Get connected, inspired, and empowered. The network provides a group of supportive peers and a year-round series of compelling presentations, networking events, learning opportunities, and more.

[WOMEN.GFWINC.COM](http://WOMEN.GFWINC.COM)



## CURRENT FORT WAYNE

Have fun in the Fort! This community calendar highlights the events happening throughout Fort Wayne and Allen County.

[CURRENTFORTWAYNE.COM](http://CURRENTFORTWAYNE.COM)



# #1

Best City for Gen Z to achieve homeownership in the U.S.  
Point2homes.com, Jan 2024

# #2

Fastest growing metro in the Great Lakes Region  
U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-23

# TOP-10

Best Cities to Retire in the U.S.  
Insidermonkey.com, Feb 2024





## UNITED FRONT INITIATIVE

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are more than just words in this community. United Front takes action with a series of keynotes, group discussions, and other events focused on our shared humanity and increasing residents' cultural awareness.

[UNITEDFRONTINITIATIVE.COM](http://UNITEDFRONTINITIATIVE.COM)



## INDIANA DISABILITY RESOURCE FINDER

Find the accessibility resources you need with this searchable directory of services, programs, and helpful articles.

[INDIANADISABILITYRESOURCEFINDER.ORG](http://INDIANADISABILITYRESOURCEFINDER.ORG)



## DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Explore shops, restaurants, festivals, public art, and much more in the 99 vibrant blocks of downtown Fort Wayne.

[DOWNTOWNFORTWAYNE.COM](http://DOWNTOWNFORTWAYNE.COM)



**GREATER  
FORT WAYNE INC.**  
METRO CHAMBER ALLIANCE

Greater Fort Wayne Inc. is the chamber of commerce and economic development engine for Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana. We create the conditions that attract talent and capital.

[VISIT GFWINC.COM TO LEARN MORE.](http://VISIT GFWINC.COM TO LEARN MORE)



GET A CUSTOM WATER TREATMENT SOLUTION TODAY!

# AQUA SYSTEMS®

Easy • Convenient • Affordable

## Experience Water *Differently*

Transparent Pricing  
Best-In-Class Warranties  
Risk Free Guarantee



Solutions Starting  
at \$899



Water Softeners

Drinking Water Systems

Water Problem Solutions

Filtration Systems

# AQUA SYSTEMS®

Visit [aquasystems.com](https://aquasystems.com)  
or call 260-243-7544  
for a better water experience

