



## National Weather Service North Platte, Nebraska Office Information

### Office Location:

The North Platte weather office is located in Lincoln County, in west central Nebraska. The office is one mile east of North Platte at Lee Bird Field that is also the home to North Platte Regional Airport. North Platte is the county seat for Lincoln County and offers a wide range of activities and shopping experiences for visitors and community members alike.

### Office Activity:

The first weather station in North Platte was established in 1874 and moved into the new facility in 1995. The office [history](#) provides insight, where today the office serves 26 counties in western and north central Nebraska. We provide daily meteorological, hydrological and aviation support and can be heard on NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio that transmits on over seven transmitters positioned across the state. In addition, our services include surface observations, upper air soundings, doppler radar, climate and watches and warnings.

### Community Description:

North Platte is the largest community in western Nebraska. The population is estimated at 24,107 in 2009. The community is located on the Interstate 80 corridor that offers quick access to destinations such as Denver and Omaha. North Platte is home to the world's largest railyard, Bailey Yard. The Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center is an eight story tower people can go to that overlooks Bailey Yard. Lincoln County Historical Museum contains the display detailing the history of the North Platte World War II Canteen, which greeted 6.5 million service personnel from Christmas Day 1941 through April 1, 1946. It also contains a Prairie Village with local landmark homes and other buildings including a Pony Express Station and pioneer church among many others. Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park is located near North Platte, a Nebraska living history park about Buffalo Bill Cody. The park includes his actual house known as Scout's Rest Ranch. The park is two miles west of U.S. Highway 83 along U.S. Highway 30. During the 1930s, high crime rates and corruption caused North Platte to be infamously known as "Little Chicago," as depicted in the novel *Evil Obsession* written by award-winning author Nellie Snyder Yost.



### Transient and Permanent Living Accommodations:

North Platte has over 23,000 households, a number of apartments and townhomes available. There are 15 established hotels and motels in the North Platte area. Reservations are a must, as there are a large number of tourist and business travelers in the area. Permanent housing prices average near \$120,000, while newer subdivision homes range from \$120,000 to \$1,000,000. Most homes in the city do not have basements due to the high water table.

### Local Transportation:

There is no municipal ground transportation available, however a cab company does operate in the North Platte area. The weather is good enough to allow biking for at least 8 months of the year and provides an alternative method in transportation. The North Platte Regional Airport offers daily flights to Denver with connections available there to anywhere.

### Healthcare:

North Platte is home to the Great Plains Regional Medical Center and the Callahan Cancer Center. There are also over 22 medical groups and clinics.

**Eating Facilities:**

There are over 42 restaurants within North Platte where the local [Chamber of Commerce](#) offers additional details on other local businesses. The community is growing with more businesses opening regularly. Prices for meals vary greatly depending on cuisine; however, most are very reasonable. The city of Paxton, just west of North Platte, offers Ole's Big Game Steakhouse that offers exotic meats such as buffalo, ostrich and emu and sporting over 200 big game trophies.

**Taxes:**

Taxes in Lincoln County are among the highest in the state, while the cost of living is fairly low.

**Education:**

The Primary and Secondary schools in Lincoln county are very good and rank well above the state average on standardized tests. The North Platte Public School District is comprised of ten elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school. All elementary schools offer all-day kindergarten, and several operate after-school programs. North Platte also has private schooling options for pre-K through 12th grade. The city's 270,000-square foot high school was completed in 2003. With an enrollment just over 1,200, the high school is rightfully proud of its graduates. Student enrollment for the 2008 school year was over 5000 students. Mid Plains Community College offers both a vocational technical campus and the academic campus. There are several two and four year degree programs offered at the Mid Plains Community College.

**Child Care Facilities:**

There are numerous day care and after school care facilities.

**Economy:**

The local economy in the North Platte is growing. The main industry in Lincoln County is the railroad, followed by construction, ranching, repair and maintenance, transportation, administration, education services and other occupations. The North Platte Chamber of Commerce is very aggressive in attracting industry to the area.

**Climate:**

To see climate information, please go to our webpage at [www.weather.gov/northplatte](http://www.weather.gov/northplatte)



**Recreation and Tourism:**

North Platte offers a host of outdoor opportunities for the fisherman, hunter and sports. There are several areal lakes to include Lake Maloney just south of town, and Lake McConaughy which is located about 50 miles to the west that is the largest lake in the state.

North Platte is well known as the home of Col. William F. Buffalo Bill Cody. Cody made his home in North Platte during the heyday of the Wild West Show. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has preserved 25 acres of the 4,000 acre ranch Cody had here, complete with his Victorian mansion and large horse barn. You will find the rich history of the early days of Lincoln County at the North Platte Historical Museum, including a large display of Native American artifacts, and a western heritage village. Also at the Museum is the exhibit of the North Platte Canteen, a heartwarming story of generosity and sacrifice on the home front of World War II.

Additional tourism is created through other attractions such as the America's 20th Century Veterans Memorial, the Stones and Bones Emporium and Gallery, the Cody Park Railroad Museum, Cody Go-Karts and the Dancing Leaf Cultural Learning Center, and more recently the Golden Spike that provides an areal view of Bailey Yards.

