

Great Falls, Montana

Community Contact	City of Great Falls Gregory T. Doyon, City Manager 2 Park Drive S, Civic Center Great Falls, MT 59401
Telephone	(406) 455-8450
Fax	(406) 727-0005
E-mail	gdoyon@greatfallsmt.net
Web Site	https://greatfallsmt.net
Municipal Office Hours	Monday through Friday 8am – 5pm
County	Cascade
Incorporated	1888



Origin: The City of Great Falls is the county seat of Cascade County and is the third largest city in Montana. Situated on the Missouri River, the City is approximately 50 miles east of the Continental Divide, and 120 miles south of the Canadian border. The present Great Falls town site was first noted in the journals of Lewis and Clark in 1805 as they portaged around “the thundering Great Falls of the Missouri”. In 1885, Paris Gibson, a Minneapolis City planner and engineer, recognized the potential of the area’s abundant resources and central location. Gibson’s legacy was a carefully planned City that makes Great Falls unique today.

Population per the 1890 Census: 3,979
Population for 2020: 60,442

Population Trends: Population change for Great Falls totaled 939 over 47 years, from 60,091 in 1970 to 59,144 in 2017. The largest decennial percent changes were 4.3% between 2000 and 2010.

Population Density and Land Area, 2017: 2,707.2 persons per square mile of land area. Great Falls contains 21.79 miles of land area.



Type of Government	Commission - Manager
Mayor	Bob Kelly
Commissioners	Eric Hinebauch Susan Wolff Joe McKenney Rick Tryon
Departments:	Administration, Fire, Finance, Human Resources, Legal, Park and Recreation, Planning and Community Development, Police, Public Works
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 21-22	\$130,968,277
Budget: School Appropriations, 21-22	\$105,430,694
Capital Improvement Plan	Yes

MUNICIPAL SERVICES			
Boards, Commissions and Councils:			
Elected:	City Commission, Mayor and 4 Commissioners		
Appointed:	Adjustment/Appeals, Business Improvement District, City-County Health, Ethics, Golf Advisory, Housing Authority, Historic Preservation Advisory, Advisory Commission on International Relationships, Library, Mansfield Center, Parking, Park and Rec, Planning, Police, Airport, Tourism Business Improvement, Transit		
Neighborhood Councils:	9 Councils with 5 appointed members each.		
Municipal Court	1 Elected Judge, 1 Part time appointed		
Public Library	Great Falls Public Library – 301 2 nd Ave N		
Housing Authority	1500 Chowen Springs Loop		
Development	Great Falls Development Authority		
EMERGENCY SERVICES			
Police Department	Municipal – 88 Sworn Officers		
Fire Department	Municipal – 63 Uniformed		
Emergency Medical Service	Private-GF Emergency Services		
Nearest Hospital(s)	Distance	Staffed Beds	
Benefis Health Care	Local	240	
Great Falls Clinic Hospital	Local	19	
UTILITIES			
Electric Supplier	Northwestern Energy		
Natural Gas Supplier	Energy West		
Water Supplier	City of Great Falls		
Sanitation	City of Great Falls and Republic Services		
Recycling Program – Optional	Private Vendors		
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant	Veolia North America		
Telephone Company	Spectrum and Century Link		
Cellular Telephone Access	Yes		
Cable Television Access	Yes		
Public Access Television Station	City 190		
High Speed Internet Service:	Business	Up to 100 Mbps	
	Residential	Up to 100 Mbps	
Election Districts			
Governor	Greg Gianforte (R)		
US Congress	Representative Matt Rosendale (R)		
US Senate	Senator Jon Tester (D), Senator Steve Daines (R)		
State Senate	Districts: 10,11,12,13,14		
State Representative	Districts: 19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27		
Registered voters in Cascade County			41,447
Within Great Falls			37,112
PROPERTY TAXES (MT Dept. of Revenue Administration)			
2020 Tax Rate			1.06%
Taxable Market Value (Example)			\$100,000
Calculated Property tax			\$1,057.49
Where do your Property Taxes Go			
Public Schools	\$568	53.67%	
City of Great Falls	\$282	26.66%	
Cascade County	\$177	16.80%	
Transit District	\$30	2.87%	

POPULATION (1-YEAR ESTIMATES/DECENNIAL)		(data.Census.gov)	
Total Population		Community	County
2020	60,442		84,414
2018	58,990		81,654
2010	58,505		81,327
2000	56,690		80,356
1990	55,097		77,391
1980	56,884		80,696
1970	60,091		81,804
DEMOGRAPHICS		(data.Census.gov- ACS Survey Estimate)	
Population by Gender			
Male	29,176	Female	29,659
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5			3633
Age 5 to 19			10,657
Age 20 to 34			12,629
Age 35 to 54			13,429
Age 55 to 64			7,655
Age 65 and over			10,832
Median Age			38.6 years
Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over			
High school graduate or higher			91.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher			25.4%
INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$		(data.Census.gov)	
Per capita income			\$52,226
Median family income			\$64,019
Median household income			\$46,965
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers, 16 years and over			
Male			\$43,620
Female			\$36,242
Individuals below the poverty level			14.7%
Income Distribution by household			
Under \$10,000			6.8%
\$10,000 to \$24,999			18.2%
\$25,000 to \$49,999			27.6%
\$50,000 to \$99,999			29%
\$100,000 to \$149,999			11.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999			3.6%
Over \$200,000			3.6%
Employment Status – Over the age of 16			
Employed			58.6%
Not in Labor Force			41.4%
Federal, State or Local Gov’t workers			15.2%
Private company workers			62.8%
Private not-for-profit wage and Salary			12.7%
Self Employed own Incorporated Business			3.1%
Self-employed workers not incorporated			6.2%
AREA EMPLOYMENT		(data.Census.gov)	
Great Falls area employment by Occupation		2010	2019
Total employed population over 16		24,909	27,650
Management, business, science and arts		7,778	9,596
Service Occupations		4,660	5,567
Sales & Office occupations		7,596	6,761
Natural Resources, construction, Maintenance occupations		2,316	2,612
Production, Transportation, material moving		2,559	3,114

HOUSING (data.Census.gov)		
Total Housing Units		28,115
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached		18,886
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:		
Two or More Units in Structure		7,597
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units		1,591
Year Housing Units Built		
2014 or later		463
2010-2013		593
2000 to 2009		1471
1980 to 1999		4,009
1960 to 1979		9410
1940 to 1959		7,702
Built 1939 or earlier		4,467
Homeowner vacancy rate		1.0%
Rental vacancy rate		8.2%
Median Gross Rent		\$729
Median Home Value		\$176,500
Great Falls Housing Authority		
Affordable Housing Units		32
Public Housing Units		490
BUILDING PERMITS		
	2008	2018
Residential Permits Issued	303	261
Residential Permit Value	\$23,995,370	\$14,432,565
Commercial Permits Issued	109	189
Commercial Permit Value	\$43,959,047	\$99,886,513
CITY PLANNING		
Annexation Applications	16	7
Subdivision Applications	16	7
Zoning Applications	25	6
TRANSPORTATION		
Road Access	US Routes	I-15, US 87, US 89
	State Routes	MT200
Nearest Interstate, Exit		I-15 Exits 277, 278, 280
Railroad		Burlington Northern RR
Public Transportation		Great Falls Transit District GreyHound Bus Services
Public/Military use, General Aviation		
Great Falls International Airport	Runway	10502 ft Asphalt
Lighted?	Yes	Navigation Aids? Yes
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport		4
Parking Downtown		
Parking lots		6
Parking garages		2
Off street parking spaces		1,122
Metered parking spaces		1095
Driving distance to select cities:		
Helena, Montana		90 miles
Billings, Montana		219 miles
Lethbridge, Alberta		185 miles
Missoula, Montana		165 miles
Spokane, Washington		362 miles
Seattle, Washington		640 miles

COMMUTING TO WORK (data.Census.gov)			
Workers 16 years and over			
Drove alone, car/truck/van			81.8%
Carpooled, car/truck/van			10.1%
Public transportation			1%
Walked			2.1%
Other means			1.5%
Worked at home			3.5%
Mean Travel Time to Work			14.1 minutes
MILITARY IN THE COMMUNITY (malmstrom.af.mil)			
Malmstrom Air Force Base – 341 st Missile Wing, Operations, Mission Support, Maintenance, Security Forces, Medical Group, Staff Agencies. Tenant units: 40 th Helicopter Squadron, 561 st Network Operations, 819 th Red Horse Squadron and AFOSI Det. 806.			
Personnel	Military	Civilian	Total
	3335	672	4007
	Active Duty Dependents		2,482
Economic Impact			
Annual Payroll			\$234,669,280
Annual Expenditures			\$80,986,275
Direct Impact			\$315,655,555
Montana Air National Guard – 120 th Airlift Wing, and 219 th Red Horse Squadron			
Assigned Personnel			795
Economic Impact			
Total ANG Payroll			\$49,859,949
Subsistence & Lodging			\$269,789
Operations & Maintenance			\$12,798,826
Total ANG Impact			\$62,928,564
RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS			
River's Edge Trail:	60 miles of paved and single track trails along the Missouri River		
Golf Courses:	Anaconda Hills, Eagle Falls, Hickory Swings, Meadowlark Country Club		
Swimming: Outdoor	Electric City Water Park, Jaycee Pool and Splash Park, Water Tower Pool and Splash Park		
Tennis Courts:	24 courts at 8 locations		
Multi-Sports Complex:	8 softball fields		
Baseball:	Centene Stadium, Great Falls Voyagers Westside and Americans Little League		
Disc Golf Course:	Warden Park and West Bank Park		
Horseshoe Park:	Elks Riverside Park		
Skate Park:	Elks Riverside Park		
Boat Docks:	Broadwater Bay, Sun River, Oddfellows Park and West Bank Park		
Community Recreation Center:	Fitness Center, Classes, After School & Summer camps, Basketball, Steam Room & Sauna		
Performing Arts:	Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts at the Civic Center, Community Concerts, Great Falls Symphony		
Montana Expo Park:	State Fair, concerts, rodeos, horse races, trade shows		
Museums:	C.M. Russell, Children's Museum, Paris Gibson Square, The History Museum, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, MAFB, Ursuline Center		
Soccer:	Great Falls Soccer Foundation- Siebel Park		
Ice Skating/Hockey:	Great Falls Ice Plex		

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Educational Facilities

Great Falls Public Schools (www.gfps.k12.mt.us)

	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School
Number of Schools	15	2	3
Grade Levels	Pre-K-6	7-8	9-12
Total Enrollment	5470	1577	3014

Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

Private/Parochial Schools: Great Falls Central Catholic High School (78), Holy Spirit Catholic School (150), Our Lady of Lourdes School (170), Foothills Community Christian School (201), Treasure State Academy (58)

Nearest Colleges or Universities:

Great Falls College MSU	1071
University of Providence	1005
Apollos University	320
Park University – Malmstrom AFB	175 with 90% with military affiliation

Child Care

2018 MT Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS-Bureau of Child Care Licensing)

Total Facilities: 57 Total Capacity: 2,048

MAJOR EMPLOYERS	2020		2011	
	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	PERCENTAGE OF	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
		TOTAL EMPLOYMENT		EMPLOYMENT
Malmstrom Air Force Base	3,960	11%	4,740	16%
Benefis Health Care Center	3,203	9%	2,550	8%
Great Falls Public Schools	1,926	5%	1,550	5%
Montana Air National Guard	1,012	3%	1,062	3%
Great Falls Clinic	631	2%	583	2%
Walmart	600	2%	487	2%
City of Great Falls	589	2%	527	2%
Cascade County	523	1%	527	2%
Centene Corporation	319	1%		
Albertsons	285	1%	261	1%
			From City's Annual Budget	

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL TAX LEVY	TOTAL PROPERTY TAX LEVIES AND COLLECTIONS				
		COLLECTED WITHIN THE FISCAL YEAR OF LEVY	% LEVY COLLECTED	COLLECTIONS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS	TOTAL TAX COLLECTIONS	% TOTAL TAX COLLECTIONS TO TOTAL TAX LEVY
2012	14,722,663	13,104,833	89.01%	1,602,814	14,707,647	99.90%
2013	15,921,285	13,820,468	86.80%	2,085,898	15,906,366	99.91%
2014	15,877,678	14,442,695	90.96%	1,414,716	15,857,411	99.87%
2015	16,499,453	14,897,755	90.29%	1,460,132	16,357,887	99.14%
2016	17,481,060	15,536,927	88.88%	1,621,759	17,158,686	98.16%
2017	18,951,993	16,514,190	87.14%	2,202,068	18,716,257	98.76%
2018	20,555,516	17,914,888	87.15%	2,543,590	20,458,479	99.53%
2019	21,338,561	19,942,269	93.46%	749,764	20,692,033	96.97%
2020	23,254,940	22,916,657	98.55%	296,650	23,213,307	99.82%
2021	24,085,350	23,822,361	98.91%	-	23,822,361	98.91%
					From City's Annual Financial Report	