



SALEM, OREGON

About Our Community

Salem is the capital city of Oregon with a population over 165,000. Centrally located, Salem is 47 miles south of Portland and an hour from the Cascade Mountains and the ocean beaches.

Salem is in the midst of sustained, steady growth. Ongoing preservation of historic downtown buildings, along with a downtown core master plan for residential and commercial development, ensures managed growth. Salem is an exceptional community for living and working with new and well-established neighborhoods. Residents represent many cultural and ethnic groups resulting in a vibrant and diverse city. Salem was ranked by Livability.com as 2019's Top 100 Best Places to Live. Many who live in the Salem area do so because of its family-friendly ambiance and small town feel.

The State of Oregon is Salem's largest employer. Salem also has a wide range of industries and private employers. The City's largest private employer, Salem Hospital, offers top medical services and is currently undergoing a \$210M expansion. The addition of high-tech to the local economy has provided steady growth in manufacturing. Other industries include trade, transportation, utilities, agriculture, food and beverage processing, education, health services, and professional and business services. Employers include Kettle/Campbell Foods, Garmin, Yamasa, T-Mobile Call Center, Bookbyte, and Amazon.

Salem offers unique historical attractions and cultural arts such as theater, music (including Oregon Symphony), dance, literature, art associations, historical museums, and art galleries. Salem's Riverfront Park hosts a variety of events and is home to Salem's Riverfront Carousel and Gilbert House Children's Museum. Riverfront Park will also soon feature an outdoor amphitheater. Salem's downtown features unique boutiques, restaurants, breweries, cideries, and bakeries. Salem is home to 13 craft breweries and a designated brewery district in SE Salem.

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the Salem's more than 2,100 acres of parkland and outdoor activities including golfing, bicycling, fishing and boating, or enjoying picturesque settings and an abundance of wildlife. Salem earned bronze Bicycle Friendly Community and was ranked by Bicycle Magazine as one of the top 50 cities in the U.S. for biking. During summer months, visitors can rent paddle boards and kayaks to explore the Willamette River or participate in a local triathlon or race. Sports enthusiasts enjoy watching Willamette University sports, minor-league baseball at the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes Stadium, or catching Capital FC Women's Soccer (elite, adult, amateur team). Wallace Sports Complex hosts local, regional, and national softball and soccer competitions, bringing in over \$3.5 million to the local economy.

Salem has an excellent K-12 school system (including public, parochial, and private schools), educating over 41,000 students daily. In 2018, the community passed a \$617M bond for school improvements throughout Salem-Keizer. Grammy Award winning music programs and high-performing athletes make the district unique. Located within an hour of Salem are several universities, colleges, and vocational schools that provide undergraduate and graduate programs as well as workforce training, CTEC, a new and growing public/private educational partnership, links students with training in key emerging sectors. Salem area is home to Western Oregon University, Willamette University, Corban University, and Chemeketa Community College.