

Wyandotte County, Kansas

Geographic Fact Sheet

Abbreviation: WY
Name Origin: After *Wyandot* Indians
Founded: 1859, in Kansas Territory
County Seat: Kansas City
Population: 159,129¹
Time Zone: Central Time Zone
Government: Consolidated City-County

Kansas 105 Counties Ranking

Population: 4th Largest
Size: Smallest



Area

Total: 155.7 sq mi (99,648 acres)
Land: 151.4 sq mi (96,896 acres)
Water: 4.3 sq mi

Dimensions²

East-West: 17.13 mi
North-South: 14.7 mi

Elevation

Highest: 1,063 ft above sea level
Lowest: 727 ft above sea level

Coordinates

Longitude : 94° 45' 51" W
Latitude : 39° 6' 52" N

History

Kansa Indians inhabited this area when the earliest white explorers and settlers arrived, and were followed by the Shawnee and Delaware tribes. Explorers Lewis and Clark camped here in 1804 near the confluence of Kansas and Missouri rivers.

The Wyandot tribe was relocated here and founded the village of Wyandot, which eventually became present-day Kansas City, KS.

County was founded in 1859 in what was then Kansas Territory (statehood in 1861). In 1856 Moses Grinter, first white settler, operated the first ferry crossing of Kansas River. Kansas City (KS) Town Company was formed in 1868, and in 1886 Kansas City, KS was incorporated. In 1800's-early 1900's stockyards, railroads, and meat packing plant industries flourished in young town of KC, KS.

In 1997 the governments of Wyandotte County, KS and Kansas City, KS were consolidated into one jurisdiction—The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS.

Topography

Wyandotte County is part of the glaciated physiographic region of NE Kansas, and is situated between the Missouri and Kansas Rivers at their confluence. Expansive floodplains are found along the rivers, while central uplands between the rivers form a 'backbone' of rolling hills dissected by streams draining to the rivers. Loess bluffs are found along Missouri River.

Economy

Wyandotte County is a transportation, medical, and manufacturing center. Primary industrial activities include auto manufacturing, railroads, meat processing, and bakery products.

Water Features³

Major Watercourses (Creeks in Alphabetical Order)

Kansas (Kaw) River	Missouri River	Betts Creek	Conner Creek
Honey Creek	Island Creek	Jersey Creek	Little Turkey Creek
Marshall Creek	Mill Creek	Mission Creek	Turkey Creek
Wolf Creek			

Major Lakes (By Size in Acres)

Wyandotte Co. - 345.4 acres	Piper - 46.7 acres	Lake Quivira - 31.8 acres
Lake of Forest - 31.4 acres	Pierson - 12.7 acres	Bennett
Big 11	Welborn	

Climate

Humid Continental climate. Summers are hot and humid with mild nights; falls are mild with cool nights; winters are cold. Spring can bring frequent weather changes with severe storms possible.

Average Temperatures:⁴

January Low 16.7°F; July High 88.7°F; annual average high 54.6°F; average annual low 42.5°F

Average Annual Precipitation:

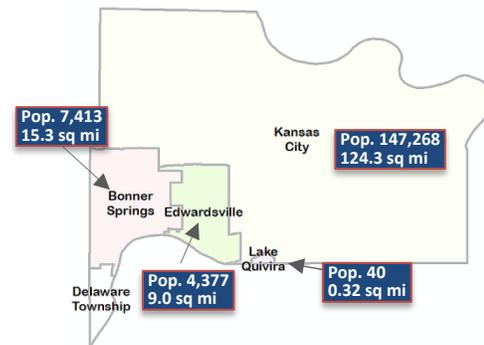
Rainfall 34.14 inches; Snow 20 inches

Transportation

Wyandotte County is served by five Interstate highways: I-70, I-35, I-670, I-635, and I-435; and five designated US federal highway routes: 24, 40, 69, 73, and 169. Three Kansas State highway routes traverse the county: K-5, K-7, and K-32. There is a total of over 1,300 miles of federal, state, and local roads in the county⁵.

Three major railroads – Burlington Northern-Santa Fe, Union Pacific, and Southern Pacific— operate on a total of about 285 miles of tracks (including all rail yards and main lines).⁶

Cities⁷



Population Source: US Census, 2012 Estimate

Well-Known Place Names

Armourdale *	Armstrong *	Argentine *
Bethel	Brenner Heights	Camp Naish
Central Industrial Dist.	Coronado	Conner City
Delaware	Fairfax	Grinter Heights
Grove Center	Huron Cem.	Kaw Point
Kensington	Lake of Forest	Loring
Maple Hill	Maywood	Morris *
Muncie	Nearman	Piper
Pomeroy	Prescott	Quindaro
Quivira	Riverview	Rosedale *
St Peters	Santa Fe	Shawnee Heights
Stony Point	Strawberry Hill	Tiblow
Turner	Vance	Victory Hills
Victory Junction	Village West	Wallula
Welborn	Westheight	White Church
Whitefeather Spring	Wolcott	Woodlands

* Denotes former incorporated town absorbed by Kansas City, KS



GeoSpatial Services, Division of Technology

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¹ Source: GSS

² Source: U.S. Climate Data

³ Source: GSS. Divided roads separated by a median count as roadways in both travel directions. All private roads/drives are excluded.

⁴ Source: GSS

⁷ Population totals are for Wyandotte County-only portions of Bonner Springs and Lake Quivira

¹ 2012 Estimated

² At widest extent