



Incorporated: 1653

Hampshire County

Northampton is a lively, diverse community located in the heart of the Five College Area of the Pioneer Valley. Home to Smith College, Northampton also serves as the county seat of Hampshire County. It is located at the intersection of a major east-west highway which links Amherst and the University of Massachusetts with the hilltowns to the west, and the north-south corridor of Route 91. Calvin Coolidge once served as mayor, while the city's first woman mayor, the Honorable Mary Ford, was elected in 1991 and served until 2000. Residents see Northampton as both traditional and innovative. Several village centers provide focal points for outlying residential areas while the downtown is alive days and evenings with a wide selection of restaurants, coffee and ice-cream shops, theaters including the only municipally owned theater in the state, clubs featuring an array of music, street musicians and a Center for the Arts. The city also offers strong municipal programs in education, recreation, public safety and public works. It is known for its energy conservation program and its initiative to improve handicap access to downtown establishments. The community has a strong and diverse economic base consisting of a resilient retail and commercial sector, a manufacturing sector which shows a mixture of traditional operations (wire protrusion, plastic molding) and innovative ones (production of heat sensing devices) and a large institutional base which includes county services, a hospital and Smith College. The vibrant small city atmosphere is enhanced by rich natural resources: the Connecticut River, agricultural and conservation lands and the Acadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Residents believe Northampton has a rich history and are confident that its future will be built on its diverse population base, solid economic base and abundant resources.

(narrative supplied by community)

Population: 28,978 (2000 census)

Total Area: 35.60 sq/miles

Government: Elected mayor and City Council

Tax Rate: \$11.20 (2008)

School Superintendent: 586-1331

Colleges and Universities: Smith College

Public Schools: 5 Elementary Schools; 1 Junior High; 1 High School; 1 Vocational School

Private Schools: Smith College Campus School

Welcome to Paradise: "This small city offers more Restaurants and shops, certainly more galleries, theatres and performance venues than most urban centers dozens of times its size. Add two rivers, mountain views, landscaped parks and meadow walks, and you begin to see why people call it paradise." --Boston Globe

Libraries: Forbes Library
20 West Street, Northampton, MA
Lilly Library
19 Meadow Street , Florence, MA

Recreational Facilities: Look Park; Fitzgerald Lake, Northampton Country Club; Pine Grove Golf Club; Elwell's Island; Pynchon Meadow; State Hospital Agricultural Land; Norwottuck Rail Trail

Utilities: Cable: AT&T Broadband 1-888-633-4266
Electric: Massachusetts Electric 413-582-7200
Gas: Bay State Gas 800-677-5052
Telephone: Verizon 800-870-9999

Child Care Providers: 413-582-4218

Child Care Focus

56 Vernon Street, Northampton, MA 01060

--provides a list of licensed childcare facilities

For More Information:

City Hall: 586-6950

www.noho.com

WWW.jonesgrouponline.com



