



Real. Good.

NORTHEAST NORTH DAKOTA



Find What is Real. Good. in Northeast North Dakota

Real Opportunities | Real Communities | Real Experiences | Real Beauty

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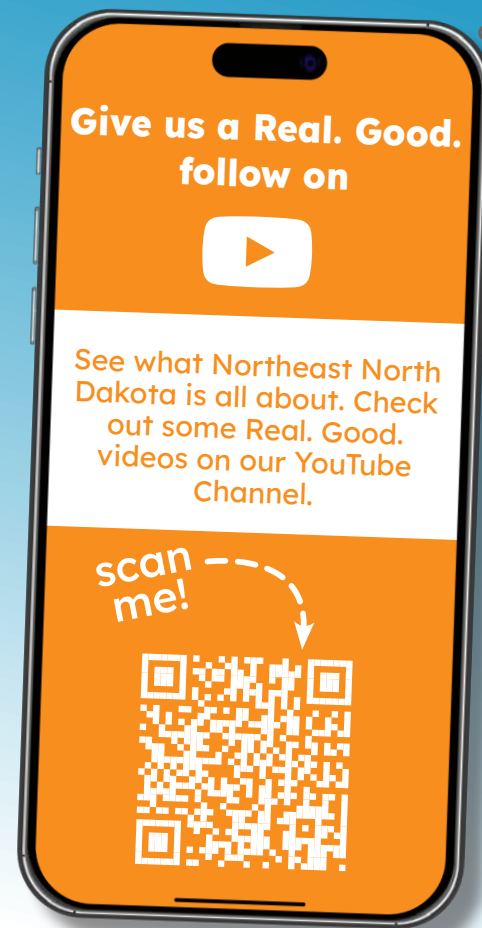
RealGoodND.com

This guide was developed by Real. Good. Northeast North Dakota along with AE2S; contributions and input were provided by numerous individuals and organizations.

Any errors or omissions are entirely unintentional.



Our website
offers a
wide range
of language
translations.



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Real.Good.NortheastND











Real Beauty. Good Vibes.

Life in Northeast North Dakota is Real. Good. This peaceful and scenic area, rich in history and culture, is dotted with small towns and rural gems offering true community connection... and we've got space for you!

Spanning from the Canadian border to the north, bordering Minnesota to the east, and conveniently tucked between Grand Forks, ND and Winnipeg, MB, Canada, Northeast North Dakota is home to a variety of industries – manufacturing, healthcare, education, technology, agriculture, business, tourism, and more. We have the community support, programs, and incentives to ignite your growth.

Along with an excellent quality of life, our vibrant communities offer amazing cooperative spirit, great neighborhoods, exciting opportunities, and space to expand and succeed. Come be part of our thriving future!

Real. Good. Northeast North Dakota Quick Facts

-  **Population:** 20,000+ in Nelson, Pembina, and Walsh Counties
-  **Average Household Size:** 2.9 | 8,687 households
-  **Average cost of living:** \$58,916
-  **Median Age:** 46
-  **Median household income:** \$60,632
-  **3,100+ students** enrolled in public schools



Real Experiences. Good Times.



FEELING OUTDOORSY?

Northeast North Dakota is an outdoor enthusiast's paradise with more than 25 campgrounds and RV parks! Enjoy breathtaking starry nights and maybe even catch the magical Northern Lights!



OUTDOORS

Northeast North Dakota – where adventure meets fun! With amazing state parks like Icelandic and Pembina Gorge, fishing treasures like Stump Lake, Frost Fire's ski slope and downhill bike park, along with many recreational trails and campgrounds, we've got endless ways to play and explore!

DINING

Northeast North Dakota is a foodie's paradise, offering everything from cozy diner classics and quick coffee shops, to mouthwatering, authentic ethnic restaurants and food trucks that'll make your taste buds dance!

SHOPPING

Shop local! Find amazing deals right in your neighborhood - from fresh farmers market produce, to cool, modern boutiques or vintage finds – and everything you need from home décor to hardware.

LODGING

Need a comfy spot for family and friends to stay? Northeast North Dakota offers everything from hotels, cozy vacation rentals, and charming bed and breakfasts, to welcoming mom-and-pop lodges that'll make your guests feel right at home.

Explore Local Favorites
Uncover hidden gems and
plan your adventure!





CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Unwind and recharge or jump into action! Whether you're a first-time visitor, thinking about a potential move, ready for a homecoming, or are a lifelong resident, you can truly "choose your own adventure" in Northeast North Dakota.

EXPLORE

INDOORS

- Sweep your way to fun at the Drayton or Grafton Curling Clubs
- Indulge in retail therapy at our boutiques, shops, and markets
- Lace up your skates for hockey or ice skating at the indoor ice rinks in Cavalier, Drayton, Grafton, or Park River
- Uncover the stories of yesterday at 13 different museums and historic sites

OUTDOORS

- Bike, hike, or ride along the scenic trails of the Pembina Gorge
- Camp, explore or jump in the water at Icelandic State Park
- Hit the slopes at Frost Fire Park
- Zoom through a winter wonderland on the state snowmobile trails
- Kayak the Pembina, Park, and Red Rivers
- Hunt for big game and waterfowl out your back door

RELAX

INDOORS

- Catch a movie at a historic theater in Cavalier, Park River, Grafton, or Walhalla
- Savor a slow brew at cozy coffee shops in Aneta, Cavalier, Grafton, or Walhalla
- Breathe easy with a massage, facial, sauna or yoga class at any of our health and wellness centers
- Enjoy local flair and fare at one of our dining hotspots or food trucks
- Tap into your creative side at one of our art studios or programs

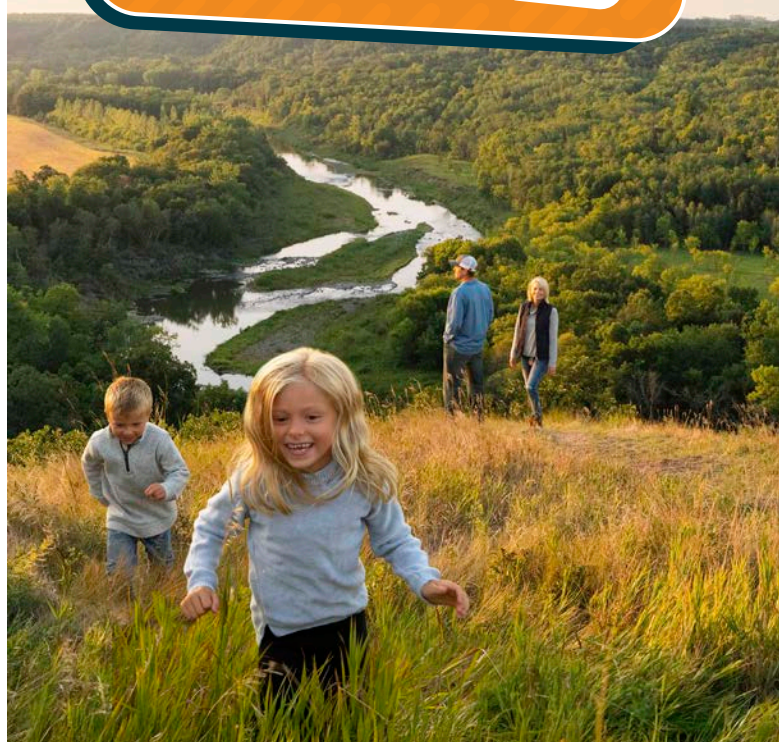
OUTDOORS

- Hit the links at our 11 popular golf courses
- Experience the magic of the Northern Lights
- Sit back and enjoy the show at Frost Fire Summer Theatre
- Connect with nature at any of our 26 campgrounds
- Drop a line in Stump Lake, the Red River, or any of the area's fishing hotspots
- Forget the highways and head for the scenic byways
- Indulge at local fairs, markets, festivals, and community events



Did you know?

North Dakota's stories come alive with Talking Trails, sharing the whole story of significant historical sites, museums, scenic byways, and public art of Real. Good. Northeast North Dakota.



Real. Good. Living.



EDUCATION



Real Education. Good Outcomes.

Whether your children are school-aged, or you want to gain a new skill, Northeast North Dakota is a place to learn and excel with small class sizes and opportunities for multiple sports and extracurricular activities.

- ✓ 10 high-ranking school districts
- ✓ Average class size is 25 students
- ✓ Opportunities for dual college credits
- ✓ Low student-to-staff ratios



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Real Opportunity. Good Training.

Located in Grafton & Cavalier, North Valley Career and Technology Center serves high school and adult learners with comprehensive hands-on programs in automotive technology, health sciences, welding, business, construction, agricultural education, automated manufacturing, commercial drivers license (CDL), and marketing. North Valley partners with more than 140 local businesses for job shadowing and internships.



CHILDCARE



Real Development. Good Foundation.

Finding quality childcare can be one of the most important decisions in choosing a place to call home. We all want to make sure our kids are safe, happy, and learning in a nurturing environment.



In Northeast North Dakota, we have options ranging from centers to group childcare facilities to in-home daycares. Some also offer preschool programs that help prepare your children for kindergarten.

Childcare spots fill fast, and many providers have waiting lists. We recommend contacting providers early to schedule a phone call or visit, or to be added to their waitlist.



HOUSING



Real Value. Good Living.

If there is one thing about living in Northeast North Dakota, it's our pride in where we live. Across our communities, there are many well-kept and quaint neighborhoods, farmsteads, and apartments. Whether it is an existing home or new construction, there are opportunities to love where you live. Some of our communities offer great incentives to new residents! You will find real value and good living in our communities.

\$153,953

Average Home Price

Nelson County: \$154,648

Pembina County: \$130,758

Walsh County: \$176,452

\$692

Median Apartment Rent

Nelson County: \$593

Pembina County: \$692

Walsh County: \$766

Sources: Median Sales Price – Grand Forks Board of Realtors 2024; Median Rent – US Census Bureau 2023



Top 5 Reasons to Move to a Rural Community

- 1) A Simpler Life
- 2) Safety and Security
- 3) More Affordable Housing
- 4) Outdoor Recreation
- 5) Quality Schools



HEALTHCARE



Real Quality. Good Care.

In Northeast North Dakota, healthcare is a personal commitment! Our small-town medical facilities offer state-of-the-art care with the warmth of familiar, compassionate providers. Comprehensive healthcare is provided with remarkably short wait times and a deep understanding of individual needs. Whether you need emergency services, specialty care, or routine check-ups, our healthcare professionals are dedicated to keeping you healthy and feeling great.



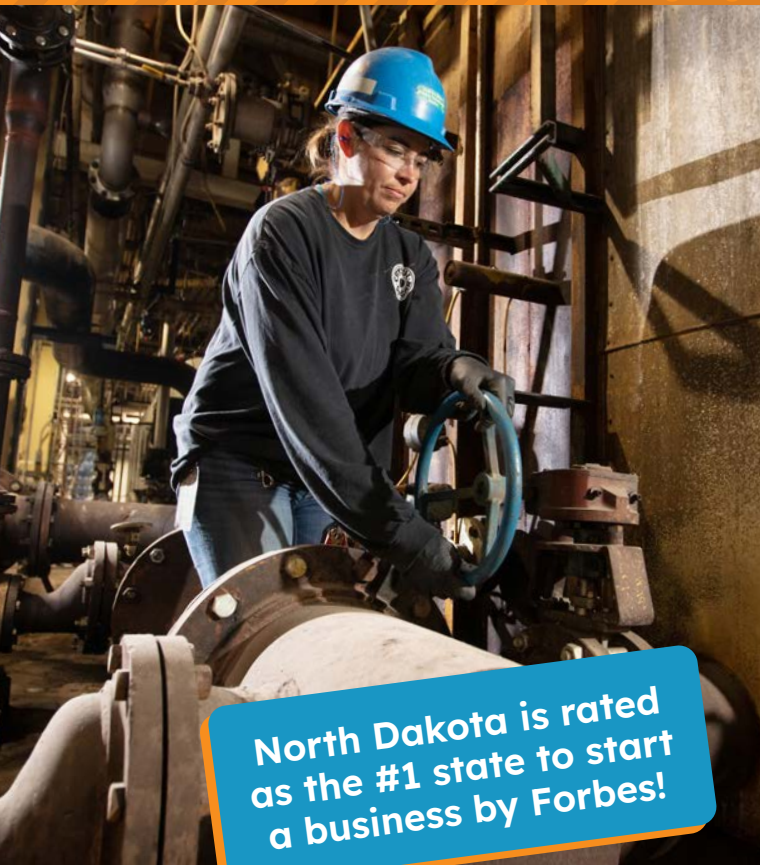
Resident Take



We chose to build our home and raise our family here for a multitude of reasons, including career opportunities and the safe environment to raise our children. You won't find a more welcoming or affordable location with more to give than Northeast North Dakota. We had a great experience building our home in this region with local contractors and businesses helping with everything from financing to construction. This little piece of heaven will always hold the most special place in our hearts, and we are so proud to call it home!

Dylan & Brooke Zimprich
Rural Lakota, ND

Real Opportunities. Good Careers.



North Dakota is rated as the #1 state to start a business by Forbes!

In Northeast North Dakota, career opportunities are available in manufacturing, healthcare, education, technology, agricultural-related industries, and so much more! This region is home to many cutting-edge companies that conduct business around the globe.

Experiencing remarkably low unemployment, the Real. Good. region has more jobs than available workforce. Employers value skills and experience, offering attractive compensation packages and benefits, prioritizing a healthy work-life balance, and ensuring you find a fulfilling and enjoyable career.



Dreaming of Starting Your Own Business?



Real Ambition. Good Support.

If you can dream it, you can do it in Northeast North Dakota, where Real. Good. ideas thrive!

With affordable spaces, a competitive tax rate, minimal competition, a supportive community and numerous resources, we can help you bring your business to life!

There is space for you – COME JOIN US!



Real Connectivity. Good Broadband.

If you're ready to take your morning meeting from your front porch, we are ready for that, too! We've got fiber! Your remote working experience can be hassle-free and reliable with the fastest and most dependable fiber networks in the entire country!

98% of North Dakotans have access to Gigabit connections!

Check out what our residents have to say!



My wife Britt and I both grew up in rural North Dakota. We moved back in 2009 to raise our family and bought a veterinary practice a few years later. In 2021, we built a new veterinary clinic in Park River. We have a dedicated team of veterinary professionals and now a facility that matches that professionalism. This is an investment in our business, as well as the future of this community and the surrounding area that we call home.

Nathan Kjelland
DVM, Golden Valley
Veterinary Clinic





Check out what our residents have to say!



Being from Minneapolis, MN, I have loved transitioning to small-town life. Rural living is safe, peaceful and everyone has your back when you really need them. You can see all of the stars in the wide-open night sky, and you can't beat the outdoor recreation. I love the beautiful fall colors in the Pembina Gorge and ice fishing in the wintertime!

Anna Halvorson
Tolna, ND



Real Seasons. Good Adventures.

Every Season Brings Something New

From sunshine to snowfall, we have it all. While our summers are gorgeous, our winters are right out of a heartwarming family movie – with snow-draped hills and shimmering iced-over lakes inviting you to enjoy the endless beauty of every season.

When the chill sets in, embrace winter adventures like skiing, snowshoeing, or gliding across the ice on skates. Hop on a snowmobile or try your hand at ice fishing for a true seasonal thrill.

As spring thaws the snow, trade your snow skis for jet skis or set sail on one of our scenic lakes. Cast your line into pristine waters or take the road less traveled on horseback or ATV, finishing the day with a breathtaking sunset.

Come autumn, immerse yourself in the vibrant colors of the season. Whether on a bike, hiking trail, or scenic drive, our stunning fall foliage is not to be missed.

No matter the season, there's always something new to discover here.



Real Communities. Good Neighbors.

Welcome Home!

Northeast North Dakota is home to some of the kindest people you'll meet. Our small-town lifestyle fosters a strong sense of connection, where neighbors look out for each other and take pride in their communities. From friendly greetings at the grocery store to waves on the road, our communities are built on relationships and mutual support.

Fordville

Small Town Heart, Big Outdoor Fun
POP. 216



Community spirit is alive in Fordville, where you can have small-town fun whenever you'd like. Head a few miles southwest to Fordville Dam for boating, camping, fishing, and more! If you enjoy friendly people and a pleasant atmosphere, Fordville is the place to grow!

Grafton

Active Community, Endless Opportunity
POP. 4,128



Grafton is a regional hub and bustling community with endless opportunities. With beautiful parks, pristine athletic facilities, a classic movie theater, world-class healthcare, and a wide variety of shops and restaurants, you can access all the amenities while enjoying the small-town comforts, conveniences, and community you love.

Minto

Plant Roots, Harvest Happiness
POP. 616



Minto is a tight-knit community where people come together to build a strong sense of community spirit. With an impressive community center that hosts a variety of fun events and a city park – featuring new sports courts and recreational amenities – Minto is a beautiful place where neighbors quickly become friends!

Park River

The Town With a Heart
POP. 1,556



Park River is a vibrant community with everything you'll need and more – including the nearby Homme Dam Recreation Area, a splash pad, new baseball fields, and a lush golf course. Park River is known for its exceptional community spirit and fun events, like its 4th of July celebration.

Cavalier

Four Seasons, Many Reasons
POP. 1,360



Cavalier is home to a vibrant downtown, several annual events, family-centered healthcare, and a wide array of recreational options including an ice arena, outdoor pool, and sport courts. A scenic bike path connects you to the golf course, county historical museum, and Icelandic State Park, placing these community gems just minutes from your doorstep.

Drayton

Catfish Capital of the North
POP. 818



Nestled between I-29 and the Red River, Drayton is an angler's dream and home to a variety of high-quality fish. With a community-owned grocery store, many food and drink options, a curling club, golf course, gorgeous park, and American Crystal Sugar, Drayton offers you the "sweet" small-town life!



Pembina

Crossroads of Culture and Commerce

POP. 583



Pembina offers a unique small-town experience with a vibrant history in the fur trading era. Today it is a bustling port of entry from Canada.

If you are seeking the best of both worlds – a peaceful lifestyle with ample outdoor recreation opportunities plus easy access to big city amenities – Pembina is an ideal setting with convenient access to I-29, halfway between Grand Forks and Winnipeg.

Walhalla

Gateway to the Pembina Gorge

POP. 910



Tucked in the Pembina Hills, Walhalla offers a rich blend of outdoor recreation, cultural heritage, and small-town charm. Being just minutes from the stunning Pembina Gorge State Park and Recreation Area, golf courses, Frost Fire Park, world-class wildlife, and outdoor activities such as kayaking, hiking, and snowmobiling, you'll love life immersed in nature's beauty.

Lakota

Prairie Roots Run Deep

POP. 655



Lakota is a community that thrives on lively events and strong community spirit, where residents take great pride in their town. Situated just off Highway 2, it offers easy access to outdoor adventures, including exceptional fishing, boating, hunting, and an updated and modern pool and splash pad.

McVille

Where Community Connects, Nature Inspires

POP. 341



Perfect for those seeking a slower pace of life, McVille a tight-knit community with access to essential services, like the Nelson County Health System. You can enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities like camping, fishing, and golfing in a picturesque countryside setting.

Michigan

Where Community Cultivates Opportunity

POP. 278



Michigan is a welcoming and charming town where you'll find beautiful scenery, wide-open spaces, and the friendliest of faces! Enjoy a cup of coffee with neighbors, catch amazing sunrises and sunsets, and enjoy great golfing on the hometown course!

Tolna

Escape to Serenity, 'Reel' in Your Dreams

POP. 139



With excellent fishing for walleye and pike just outside of town at Stump Lake, Tolna provides exceptional outdoor recreational opportunities and a friendly small-town vibe! If you seek safety, affordability, and a peaceful lifestyle away from the hustle, Tolna is the place to be!

New to the Area or Relocating?

Check out the **Real. Good. Resident Roadmap** to help you get settled quickly and get familiar with the resources and services you need to feel at home.



Resident Roadmap

Real Connections. Good Resources.

Need more information on visiting, moving to, or doing business in Northeast North Dakota?

Check out the Resident Roadmap!

- Banks & Financial Institutions
- Grocery Stores & Markets
- Healthcare & Insurance
- Telecommunication Providers

- Local News
- Mail and Shipping Services
- Public Assistance
- Public Safety Information
- Transportation

- Utilities
- Vehicle & Drivers Licensing
- Voter Registration
- And So Much More!

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