



Owatonna City Profile

The City of Owatonna is the county seat of Steele County and is located about 65 miles southwest of the Twin Cities (Minneapolis St. Paul) metropolitan area at the crossroads of Interstate 35 and U.S. Highways 14 and 218. The city encompasses about 15 square miles. According to 2020 U.S. Census data, Owatonna grew by 3.2 percent over the past decade to a population of 26,647 and nearly 100 percent of Steele County's growth was in Owatonna.

About Owatonnans

As of 2020, the median age of Owatonna's residents was 37.1 years and 28 percent earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The median household income was \$60,976. It is estimated the majority of residents commute an average of 16.7 minutes to work.

Owatonna's History

The City of Owatonna was organized as a municipality in 1854. The first City Charter was adopted in February 1865. City Hall was initially collocated with the Fire Hall. The City purchased the Minnesota State Public School campus in 1974 and established a Chambers for Council meetings, offices and other facilities.

Characteristics of Owatonna

Owatonna's scenic setting, healthy economy, quality lifestyle and proximity to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area are factors that have contributed to its substantial growth over the last ten years. The Straight River meanders through Owatonna which lies in the heart of Southern Minnesota surrounded by woodland areas, streams, lakes and other rivers. The City's strong commitment to protecting the environment is evident in its preservation of natural areas and its decisions regarding stormwater and waste management.

City Government

The City of Owatonna operates under a home-rule charter form of government. Policy-making and legislative authority are vested in a governing council consisting of a mayor and seven other members who are elected on a non-partisan basis. The City Council is responsible for establishing policy, passing ordinances and resolutions, adopting the budget and appointing committees, among other duties. The Mayor position is a non-voting position and serves as a titular head for the City. Council members serve four-year terms with three of them elected every two years in each General Election. The Mayor is elected to serve a four-year term. The Mayor and two council members are elected at-large. Remaining members of the Council are elected to serve one of the five wards. The City Administrator is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administrative affairs and operations of the government.

Services Provided

The City of Owatonna provides a full range of services including police and fire protection, a public library, community and economic development, construction and maintenance of 132 miles of streets, stormwater and sanitary sewer systems and other infrastructure plus 867 acres of parkland and 17-plus miles of trails. Other recreational amenities operated by the City include the River Springs Water Park and the Brooktree Golf Course. The City also supports the

Degner Regional Airport which serves as a gateway to Southern Minnesota. Water, gas and electric services are provided through the Owatonna Public Utilities which is part of City government.

Structure

The City of Owatonna is the financial reporting entity for all the funds of the primary municipal government as well as its component units. A component unit is a legally separate entity for which the primary government is financially accountable such as the Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority, the Economic Development Authority and the Owatonna Public Utilities.

Mission, Vision, Values

The Mission of Owatonna's City Council and Mayor is to represent the people of Owatonna by making decisions which ensure quality public services for all who live and work in the community. The City's vision, to enhance the quality of life, serves as the foundation for the City's four Key Focus Areas:

- Infrastructure
- Economic Vitality
- Quality of Life
- Efficient, Effective Government

Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau

www.mncompass.org

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

MN Dept of Employment & Economic Development

MN State Demographer