

City Guide



Burlingame

The city of Burlingame, with a population of about 1,000, is the oldest surviving city in Osage County. It is located at the junction of U.S. Highway 56 and state Highway 31, where the old Santa Fe Trail crosses the Santa Fe Railroad.

Burlingame is full of educational opportunities. It is not only home to its own grade school, serving kindergarten through sixth grades, and a junior and senior high for grades seven through 12, but also a branch of Allen Community College (ACC). ACC is a two-year college that also offers dual credit classes for local high school juniors and seniors.

Burlingame plays host to many local events including Rodeo Days hosted by the Burlingame Saddle Club. Rodeo Days takes place every year on the second weekend of June and includes numerous community activities.



Carbondale

The city of Carbondale, in the northern section of Osage County, has a variety of amenities to offer area residents.

Carbondale is 12 miles south of Topeka on U.S. Highway 75, and has the second-largest population in Osage County.

The local elementary and junior high school, Carbondale Attendance Center, has students from kindergarten through eighth grade. As part of the Santa Fe Trail school district, students attend Santa Fe Trail High School, near Overbrook.

The Carbondale recreation program offers summer baseball teams, flag football, recreation basketball teams and a swimming pool. The nearby city lake requires no city fishing permit, though a state fishing license is required.

A new community building was completed in 2005 with volunteer help from the city's ELM Foundation.



Lyndon

Lyndon has a population of approximately 1,050 and is the county seat of Osage County. Lyndon is located on U.S. Highway 75 about 27 miles south of Topeka.

It is situated between the two federal reservoirs, Pomona Lake and Melvern Lake.

The city of Lyndon maintains two parks, with shelter houses and playground equipment available at both. One park is also home to a 140-year-old log house.

There are ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts and a new swimming pool, as well as a summer recreation program. Three golf courses are only minutes away.

Lyndon Unified School District 421 has completed a new distance learning and computer center, which is available for student and community use.

The Lyndon Carnegie Library is the smallest of the Carnegie libraries still being used today.

Several church denominations are located in Lyndon, including Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Assembly of God and Jehovah's Witnesses. Catholic and Lutheran services are available within a few minutes' drive.



Melvorn

Melvorn is located on state Highway 31 a few miles north of I-35 at exit 160, and just off U.S. Highway 75. To the north, it's bounded by the Marais des Cygnes River, and on the south and east by Long Creek.

A short drive from Melvern is Melvern Lake, a federal reservoir for swimming, water skiing, fishing, boating, and bird watching.

Melvorn Reservoir is operated by the Army Corps of Engineers. There are numerous campsites, some offered by the Corps and others at Eisenhower State Park.

USD 456 Marais des Cygnes Valley Schools have attendance centers in Melvern and Quenemo. The school district is a Class IA school in student population.

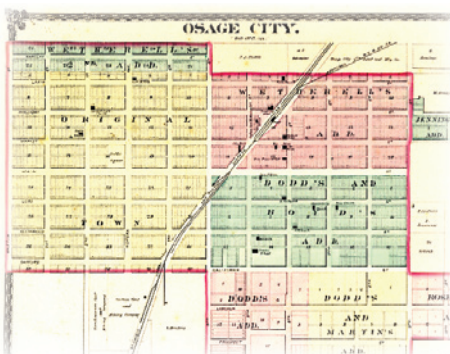
The Melvern PRIDE committee is one of the active organizations in the city. Area 4-H clubs also help with youth activities. The Sunflower Days 4-H Fair is an annual June event.



Olivet

Olivet provides an impressive view of Melvern Lake, west of Arrow Rock overlook, and up the Marais des Cygnes River valley. The area was explored in the early 1820's by Isaac McCoy as a possible home for eastern Indian tribes.

Olivet was founded in 1869 by Rev. A.J. Bartels, J.R. Elder and C.P. Loricke and later that year it was incorporated as a city of the third class. The town is now inhabited by about 70 people.



Osage City

Osage City is the largest city in Osage County, with a population of almost 3,000. Located within 35 miles of Topeka, Emporia and Ottawa, Osage City has the perfect blend of small town charm and big city potential.

Osage City has a K-5 elementary, 6-8 middle school and 9-12 high school. The high school has been renovated and has a 750-seat auditorium.

Osage City has many recreation facilities around town, including the Osage City Municipal Golf Course, a nine-hole grass fairway golf course. Jones Park, the center of local recreational activity, includes new baseball and softball diamonds, an aquatic center, and all of the USD 420 athletic facilities.

An historic train depot in Osage City serves as a public meeting room and museum.

Osage City Public Library has automated checkout services and an electronic card catalog in a well-designed downtown structure.

Plentiful city activities throughout the year include the "Smoke in the Spring" BBQ contest, which brings participants from throughout the Midwest. The April event includes BBQ judging, grandstand entertainment, citywide garage sales and a car show.

In July, the Osage County Fair brings in 4-H projects, carnival rides and a parade. In November, there is the Christmas Opener parade and large craft show.



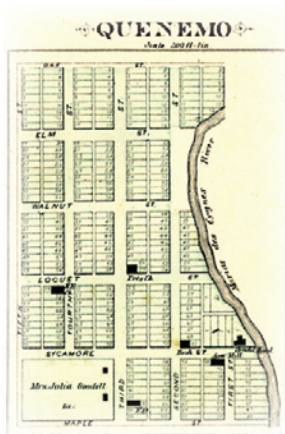
Overbrook

Overbrook is located in northern Osage County, on U.S. Highway 56 about six miles east of U.S. Highway 75.

The city is near three federal reservoirs: Clinton (in Douglas County), Pomona and Melvern (in Osage County). Osage County State Lake, west of town, is a fishing lake with picnic areas and primitive camping areas.

In addition to the reservoir and state lake availability, recreation includes the Hidden Springs Golf Course, a nine-hole grass greens course located southwest of the city; Jones Park, a softball, baseball, tennis and park area located on Santa Fe Trail Street; the Overbrook Public Library, in the downtown area, and the Nina Schlink Memorial Swimming Pool, at the north end of Maple Street.

The biggest public event each year is the Overbrook-Osage County Fair, conducted in August. The Overbrook Fair Association owns the fairgrounds located on the east side of the city.



Quenemo

Quenemo is located on the east edge of Osage County on state Highway 68. The 2000 Census population of the city was 468.

USD 456 Marais des Cygnes Valley Middle School for grades 5-8 is located in the city.

City Hall is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.



Scranton

Located on U.S. Highway 56 in the northern part of Osage County, the town of Scranton boasts a population of approximately 724 residents, according to the 2000 Census. An attendance center for grades K-8 of Santa Fe Trail USD 434 is located on the east edge of town. Summer recreation programs and an after school program are available for the community's children. The town has a recreational facility near downtown. The town has built a storm shelter for community residents to use during inclement weather.

One of the active community groups in Scranton is the Lions Club, which raises money for many community activities and club service projects through periodic fundraising meals.



Vassar

The town of Vassar is a small town with a lot to offer. It is within walking distance of beautiful Pomona State Park.

Vassar is home to Lamont Hill Golf Course with a 2,970-yard men's or 2,634-yard women's championship course. Lamont Hill Resort, adjacent to the lake, offers a restaurant, RV park and a 10-unit motel.

City maps came from Illustrated Historical Atlas of Osage County Kansas, 1879

Herald-Chronicle

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The Osage County Herald-Chronicle is published every Thursday by the same publisher as the Herald.



Rosie Blacketer, Jason Croucher, P.S. Eggen,
Catherine Faimon, Chris Faimon, Jeremy Gaston,
Andrew Gantenbein, Carol Shepard, Jan Ogleby,
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