

Welcome to Hall County!

FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN WOOD RIVER!

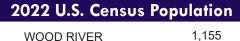
- Electrical rates lower than the U.S. average
- Short highway drive toNebraska's 3rd largest city
- Over 50 businesses and community organizations

Visit WOODRIVERNE.COM



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HALL COUNTY 62,097



The following pages contain basic information about Wood River, Nebraska.

This information was compiled by the City of Wood River, Wood River Vision 2020 Inc.,

Wood River Area Economic and Housing Development Corporation and

Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development and quality of life.

CONTACTS & WEBSITES

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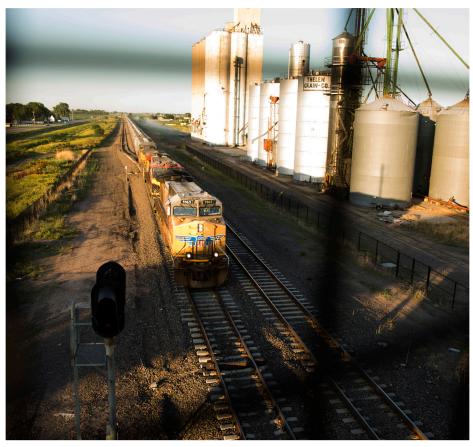
Website: woodriver.ne.com

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woodriverne.com





Transportation

Location / Highways

Wood River is located in southwest Hall County, approximately 15 miles west of Grand Island, the county seat of Hall County. Nebraska Highway 11 runs north to south on the west edge of town and Nebraska Highway 30 runs east to west through town. Interstate 80 is located 4 miles south. Nearest cities include; Kearney, 27 miles west, Lincoln, 106 miles east, and North Platte, 127 miles west.

Air

The Central Nebraska Regional Airport (GRI), located 15 miles east of Grand Island, has a 7,002 foot and a 6,608 paved and lighted runway. The Kearney Regional Airport (EAR), located 24 miles west of Kearney, has a 4,498 foot and 7,094 paved and lighted runway. Private jets are welcomed in Grand Island and serviced by Trejo-Dugan Aviation.

Nearest Commercial Air Service:

- Lincoln Airport, Lincoln 106 miles, 91 minutes
- · Eppley Airfield, Omaha 165 miles, 146 minutes

Trucklines

More than 13,500 licensed motor carriers with worldwide connections are based in Nebraska and serve businesses throughout North America. The trucking map to the left is based on Kearney, Nebraska.

Rail

Union Pacific Railraod runs through the community.

Dual rail access to BNSF is available via a spur owned by Cathcart Rail.

Economic Development

Wood River is a progressive community conveniently located within the Tri-Cities area of central Nebraska. The community is growing, diverse, vibrant, and welcoming to new businesses and residents! Families are flocking to Wood River for a wonderful quality of life, great schools, the fantastic water park, and our new child care center providing reliable quality early childhood education. Lots are available in the new subdivision on the northern edge of town where you'll have easy access to everything you need. Community organizations continually strive to address emerging needs to ensure all residents can thrive and grow in Wood River.



Newly renovated Masonic Building



The Other Side of Nowhere LLC

Our proximity to Grand Island (15 miles east), Kearney (27 miles west), and Hastings (31 miles southeast) makes an easy commute for workers coming into Wood River or traveling out for employment. The region has a highly skilled, diverse workforce that is actively supported by area higher educational institutions. If your business is looking for labor in a supportive community, let's talk! Our 15 acre Industrial Park and newly revitalized downtown business district have availability.

Wood River reported 2022 net taxable retail sales of \$8,626,311, while Hall County reported retail sales of \$1,343,292,209.

Working from home or remotely and looking for a great place to live? Look no further than Wood River. With high speed internet (fiber already installed) affordable office space, quality of life amenities and easy access to larger cities we've truly got the best of all worlds waiting for you!

Visit **woodriverne.com** to learn more and reach out to the contacts shown in this guide.



Wood River is a Nebraska Leadership Certified Community. A community must meet the following requirements to become certified:

- Demonstrated collaboration between community leaders and organizations
- 2. A strategic plan is supported by a community needs assessment.
- 3. Demostratrated use of community planning and zoning.
- 4. A business expansion and retention strategy.
- 5. Utilization of technology with web presense.
- 6. An implementation plan and a strong understanding of state and local resources.

Ask us about the City's low-interest Revolving Loan Funds for economic development and new workforce housing!

DESIGN ASSOCIATES

Example shown below - 15 Acre Industrial Park can be configured to meet your needs.



Wood River Industrial Park

Selected Demographics & Employment Data

For areas within 60 miles radius of Wood River, Nebraska

DEMOGRAPHICS	60 MINUTE RADIUS
Population (2023)	199,118
Projected Population (2028)	203,105
Projected Population Change % (2023-2028)	2%
Jobs (2023)	111,791
Current Average Earnings	\$60,160
INDUSTRY DATA: MANUFACTURING	60 MINUTE RADIUS
Jobs (2023)	16,803
Earnings	\$77,186
Wages, Salaries, & Proprietor Earnings (2023)	\$63,048
Employment Concentration (2023)	1.94

Availability

Wood River is uniquely well-situated in the middle of three major cities as shown on the cover page map. This means any business can realistically draw sustainable workforce from throughout the entire Tri-Cities area, in addition to locally.

According to U.S. Department of Labor data, the Hall County, Nebraska labor force participation rate is 83.4%, which reflects a strong work ethic in the region. It is not uncommon for workers to drive up to 60 miles one-way for work in the region.

	Top Executives	Operations Specialties Manager	Business Operations Specialists	Information and Record Clerks	Secretaries and Administratives Assistants
Jobs (2023)	2,564	1,097	2,322	2,640	2,669
2023 Employment Concentration	0.99	0.67	0.47	0.69	1.18
Projected Jobs (2028)	2,659	1,174	2,452	2,651	2,604
Projected Job Change % (2023 - 2028)	4%	7%	6%	0%	(2%)
Average Annual Earnings	\$94,573	\$115,636	\$65,846	\$36,066	\$40,116

	Other Office and Administrative SupportWorkers	Plant and System Operator	Supervisors of Production Workers	Other Production Occupations
Jobs (2023)	1,900	215	807	2,980
2023 Employment Concentration	0.81	1.09	1.79	1.69
Projected Jobs (2028)	1,888	1905	852	3,095
Projected Job Change % (2023 - 2028)	(1%)	(12%)	6%	4%
Average Annual Earnings	\$34,541	\$81,917	\$62,448	\$42,570







Wood River Named Showcase Community 2023

Nebraska's Showcase Community Award recognizes communities that demostrate an outstanding ability to identify community development goals and strategies; combine local, state, and federal resources to achieve those goals; and accomplish major projects with positive impacts in the community.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 2022			
PERCENT			
HALL COUNTY	2.4%		
NEBRASKA	2.3%		
UNITED STATES 3.6%			

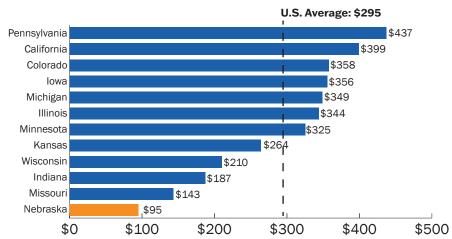






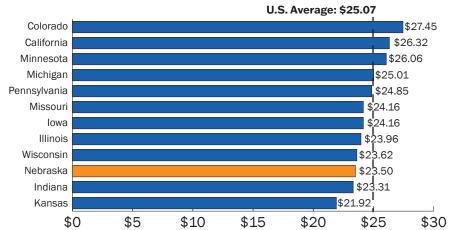
Average Annual Unemployment Insurance Contribution per Employee, 2021

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022



Average Hourly Earnings for Production Workers, 2022

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023



ANNUAL AVERAGE 2022 LABOR SUPPLY				
Contiguous Nebraska counties include Adams, Buffalo, Clay, Hamilton, Howard, Kearney and Merrick.	HALL COUNTY & CONTIGUOUS	HALL COUNTY		
NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY WORKERS	88,851	34,766		
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	96,198	32,993		
LABOR FORCE POPULATION	98,362	32,903		
ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY				
COMMUTING OUT OF COUNTY (2021)		8,416		
UNEMPLOYED		805		
TOTAL		9,221		

NOTE: Does not include estimated number of homemakers, seasonal and part-time workers, and workers who would shift from low-paying jobs who could be expected to work for industry.

WAGE SAMPLING			
Hourly wages rates for various occupations, Grand Island MSA Region, Nebraska	ENTRY		
JOB TITLE	LEVEL	MEDIAN	EXPERIENCED
ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS	\$22.58	\$31.82	\$41.94
COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS	\$46.06	\$62.59	\$71.17
RETAIL SALESPERSONS	\$11.69	\$14.54	\$19.33
CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES	\$14.21	\$17.64	\$20.35
SECRETARIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS except legal, medical	\$14.95	\$19.28	\$22.26
OFFICE CLERKS, GENERAL	\$12.26	\$16.67	\$19.26
ELECTRICIANS	\$18.20	\$23.45	\$28.63
MISCELLANEOUS ASSEMBLERS AND FABRICATORS	\$14.66	\$18.51	\$21.43
MACHINISTS	\$19.68	\$24.08	\$26.74
TOOL AND DIE MAKERS	\$22.14	\$28.79	\$31.70
WELDERS, CUTTERS, SOLDERERS AND BRAZERS	\$19.28	\$24.17	\$25.57
HEAVY AND TRACTOR-TRAILOR TRUCK DRIVERS	\$20.23	\$25.69	\$30.19
LABORERS AND FREIGHT, STOCK AND MATERIAL MOVERS	\$14.65	\$18.62	\$20.47

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment, Program, Second Quarter 2023

Communications

Telecommunications

Century Link centurylink.com

Hughes Net (VoIP) **hughesnet.com**

Basic Talk basictalk.com

Verizon.com

Internet Providers

Century Link centurylink.com

Charter-Spectrum **spectrum.com**

KDSI kdsi.net

Great Plains Communications **gpcom.com**

Post Office & Package Delivery Service

The U.S. Postal Service in Wood River has one mail receipt and one dispatch daily.

Federal Express, United Parcel Service, and U.S. Postal Service provide package delivery services in the Wood River area.



Close enough to everything you need!

Local Government

Wood River is governed by a mayorcouncil form of government and the city clerk.

Hall County has three precincts and 14 townships. The county is governed by seven Hall County Board of Commissioners.

Streets

The city has 19.13 miles of streets; 99 percent of the streets are hard-surfaced: 80 percent of the streets are concrete and have curbs; 15 percent are asphalt; five percent are gravel and five percent have sidewalks.

Visit woodriverne.com for more information on local government.

Fire Protection

Fire protection is provided to the city by a 31-member volunteer fire department. The Wood River Rural Fire Department has one fire station and 96 fire hydrants.

Law Enforcement

The Hall County Sheriff's Department has 32 full-time sworn officers and 10 full-time and two part-time support personnel. Regular patrol by the sheriff's department provides law enforcement protection in the city.





Wood River's volunteer fire department with over thirty members, serves the community and area.

Utilities

Nebraska Highlights

Energy costs are often a considerable part of any business' operational budget. These costs can vary greatly between states, but in Nebraska (the only state in the nation where all electric utilities are publicly owned) electric costs are passed to consumers at low, cost-of-service rates. As a result, the state offers industrial rates well below the national average. Nebraska electric utilities achieve low rates, in part, because they draw from a balanced and efficient "mix" of generation resources.

Electricity

Wood River is supplied by the City of Wood River in conjunction with wholesale electric service from Southern Public Power District (SPPD). The 69 kV electric subtransmission facilities serving Wood River are owned and operated by SPPD, a wholesale power customer of NPPD. The primary subtransmission service is from the Alda 115/69 kV substation. Alternative subtransmission facilities provide contingency service from the Prosser, Doniphan and Ravenna 115/69 kV Substations to allow redundant service. SPPD provides power to Wood River from a 12.47 kV distribution system which is connected to the SPPD subtransmission system at 69

kV from the 76-85 Wood River Ethanol substation. The total subtransmission transformer capacity at 69 kV at the 76-85 Wood River Ethanol Substation is 56.000 kVA. The system is connected to the NPPD statewide 115 kV transmission electric grid.

Prospective customers should contact President/CEO, Chad Waldow SPPD, Grand Island, Nebraska, 308-384-2350, cwaldow@southernpd.net, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

Natural Gas

Black Hills Energy is a retail supplier of natural gas in Wood River. Visit blackhillsenergy.com for more information.

Tax Structure

Nebraska Tax Incentives

Nebraska's performance-based tax incentive programs demonstrate the state's commitment to creating a favorable business environment for your business expansion or location. Known collectively as "ImagiNE Nebraska,"

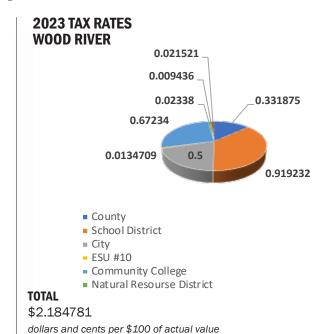
this multi tiered program provides investment credits, wage credits, sales tax refunds based on investment and job creation in Nebraska.

Qualified companies, large and small can take advantage of these benefits. Contact the Nebraska Department of Economic Development - 800-426 6505 or visit opportunity.nebraska.gov for more information on the qualifications and potential benefits available to your company.

2023 ACTUAL TAX VALUATION WOOD RIVER



TOTAL \$69,981,983.00



Clean Energy

Southern Public Power District wholesale mix is approximately 65% non-carbon, and they self-generate about 1.3.% of their needs with locally-owned wind generation. NPPD's two years' rolling average was more than 56% carbon free.

Water & Sewerage

The municipal water system in Wood River is supplied by four wells, which have an average depth of 200 feet. The system, serving the entire city, has a combined pumping capacity of 1,260 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 300,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of

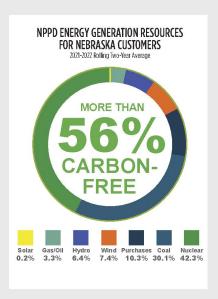
1,814,400 gallons per day.

The city has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a partial storm sewer system. The rotating disc system treatment plant has a daily capacity of 200,000 gallons.

Visit woodriverne.com for more information regarding water and sewerage.

Waste Removal & Recycling

Recyclables and waste removal is collected by Heartland Disposal and Central Waste. Grand Island Area Habitat for Humanity has an aluminum can collection site in Wood River.



Education



Wood River Rural High School students have a chance to grow and succeed in a variety of activites such as music, sports, FFA, FBLA, and Multicultural Club.

2023 ACT SCORES		
	COMPOSITE	
WOOD RIVER HIGH SCHOOL	17.6	
NEBRASKA	18.6	
NATIONAL	19.8	
Source: Nebraska Department of Education		





Home of the Eagles!



Wood River School District

The Wood River Rural School District covers approximately 181 square miles and had a 2020 actual valuation of \$839,821,687 with an actual valuation per student of \$1,798,167. Bus services are provided.

This Class C-1/C-2 school is accredited by the Nebraska State Department of Education and Cognia global accreditation. For more information, visit woodrivereagles.org.

Wood River Elementary School is located in Wood River and it covers grades preschool (age 4) through grade 5.

Wood River Jr./ Sr. High School is located in Wood River and covers grades 6-12.

Educational Service Unit

Educational Service Unit 10 (ESU), headquartered in Kearney, serves 11 counties including Hall County. For more information regarding services, visit esu10.org.

Higher Education

Three colleges exist with 30 minutes of Wood River: University of Nebraska-Kearney, Hasting College, and Central Community College. Collectively, their annual enrollment is roughly 9,900 students, with 1,700 graduates per year. These well-respected institutions provide a continual source of educated workforce for future businesses entering our community.

Skilled Training Resources

Central Community College has campuses in Grand Island, Hastings and Kearney. They welcome collaborations with area industry and would be willing to provide specialized skills training to workforce upon request. Sara Arnett will gladly arrange introductions to area CCC leadership and facilitate discussions surrounding training requirements. CCC has state-of-the-art facilities and instructors who have come from industry themselves.

WOOD RIVER RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT				
TEACHER/PUPIL COMPUTER/ STUDENTS RATIO PUPIL RATIO				
ELEMENTARY (PRE-K-5)	230	10.6:1	1:1	
JR./SR HIGH SCHOOL (6-12)	280	9.07:1	1:1	



Quality of Life

Hospital

CHI St. Francis and Grand Island Regional Medical Center are located in Grand Island, 15 miles northeast of Wood River. Both are large, regional medical centers offering emergency care, in-patient and out-patient care and many specialty services. For more information, visit chihealth.com/ st-francis and giregional.org.

Rescue Squad

The Wood River Rescue Squad has 26 members 12 EMT's, two RN"s, three paramedics and one Physician Assistant. It has two ambulances.

Low Cost / Retirement Housing

- Wood River Housing Authority
- · Countryside Villas

Churches (Denomination)

- Catholic
- Lutheran
- Mennonite
- Methodist
- Presbyterian

Childcare

Stick Creek Kids (SCK) Child Development Center opened May of 2021. SCK lifts up the entire community, not just families who need child care today. Solving the critical childcare shortage also benefits employers who

need to attract and retain employees, keeping them on the job. For more information, visit stickcreekkids.org

Legacy Station

Wood River's Legacy Station, the first of its kind multi-generational community center in Nebraska, builds upon successfull community redevelopment efforts launched in 2020 through the continued renovation of a vacated skilled nursing facility. Upon completion of this project the Maltman Memorial Library, Wood River Food Pantry, and Wood River Senior Center will be moved into renovated spaces, adjacent to the Stick Creek Kids Child Development Center. Having all four entities loacted under one roof will allow area residents of all ages and backgrounds to have greater access to the services and supports of each entity. Visit woodriverne.com/town/legacy-station for more information







Stick Creek Kids Child Development Center



Wood River Elementary School

Recreation

The Library Park, Water Tower Park and the ball fields/park are all equipped with playground equipment for all ages. Tennis courts and ball fields are located in the northwest area of Wood River.

A free community fitness center is located inside the Wood River High School with state-of-the art fitness equipment available and an indoor walking track available to residents of the school district.

The Wood River Aquatic Center, a water park that opened in 2018, is wildly popular all summer long with its water slides, lazy river, swimming, two diving boards, zero entry, and splash pad.

Financial Institutions

Heritage Bank is located in Wood River. Visit **bankonheritage.com**.

Housing

Ten new homes were constructed in the past three years, and it is estimated 11 will be built in the next couple of years. The cost of new home construction averages \$220 per square foot.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wood River Easter Egg Hunt • April

Wood River Fun Fest • June

Annual event - Starts with a parade through downtown, followed by activities for kids such as face painting and bounce houses. Other activities include yard games, co-ed softball, cornhole and volleyball tournament.

Wood River Citywide Garage sale • August

Wood River Halloween Contest • October

For more information about upcoming events and dates, visit

woodriverne.com/town/calendar



Wood River Water Park pool



Wood River Water Park splash pad



All community members have free access to the workout facility at the high school.



New custom home construction



New townhome construction



Wood River Water Park



Wildflower Art Gallery

Nebraska's Rank **Among States**

1ST Commercial Cattle Slaughter, 2023

Great Northern Bean Production, 2023

Cash receipts per captia, 2022

Harvested cropland arces, irrigated, 2022

Beef and Veal exports, 2023

2ND All cattle on feed, Jan. 1, 2024

All cattle and calves, Jan. 1, 2024

Commercial red meat production, 2021

Popcorn production - 2022

Ethanol production - 2023

Commercial red meat production - 2023

No-till cropland acres - 2022

Pinto bean production, 2023

Proso millet production, 2023

Bison, 2022

3RD Corn Exports, 2022

Cash Receipts from

All Farm Commodities, 2022

Corn for grain production - 2023

4TH Beef Cows, Jan. 1, 2024

Cash receipts from all livestock and

products - 2022

Cash receipts from all crops, 2022

Total animal products exports, 2022

All dry edibile bean production - 2022

Light red kidney bean production - 2023 All hay production - 2023

Cover crop acres - 2022

Dry edible pea production, 2023

Land in Farms and Ranches, 2023

Soybean Exports, 2022

Agricultural exports, 2022

Sunflower production, 2023

Alfalfa hav production - 2023

Sugarbeet production - 2023

Harvested Acres of Principal Crops, 2021

Grain sorghum production, 2023

Commercial hog slaughter, 2023

All hogs and pigs on farms, Dec. 1, 2023

Soybean production, 2023

Harvest cropland acres - 2022

Sugar beet production, 2022

Source: Nebraska Department of Agriculture - USDA.NASS, NFO, and NBA

WYOMING **SOUTH DAKOTA NEBRASKA COLORADO**



Agriculture

In 2021, Nebraska ranked first among the states in commercial cattle slaughter and popcorn production; second in beef and veal exports and commercial red meat production; third in corn exports and cash receipts from all farm commodities.

Nebraska ranks fifth among all states for total agricultural exports, with more than \$9 billion in exports.

Nebraska's farms and ranches utilized 44.8 million acres or 92 percent of the state's total land area. Cash receipts from farm markets in 2021 contributed more than \$26.0 billion to the state's economy and 6.1 percent of the U.S. total. Food processing is the state's largest manufacturing sector and foreign markets are important for many of the state's manufacturers.

Groundwater

One of Nebraska's most vital natural resources is its massive supply of groundwater. The High Plains Aquifer, also commonly referred to as the Ogallala Aquifer, stretches through parts of eight states, but its most abundant water resource is located in nearly two-thirds of Nebraska. This groundwater availability has been essential to the success of agriculture in the state.

Center pivot irrigation is the most common method of providing water to row crops in the state, and as a result, four of the largest manufacturers of center pivot systems in the world are located in Nebraska, Nebraska has more than 100,000 registered irrigation wells.



With the implementation of more efficient irrigation systems and other water management measures, the Ogallala Aquifer will remain a valuable resource in Nebraska.

An accessible water supply also is vital to Nebraska's livestock and dairy production.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources maintains responsibility for administration of surface water rights. In locations where groundwater and surface water are connected, the responsibility is shared among the NRDs and the state for achieving a sustainable balance between water supplies and water use.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hall County by the Numbers

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS				
	HALL COUNTY	NEBRASKA		
NUMBER OF FARMS	552	44,479		
LAND IN FARMS acres	273,973	43,975,693		
AVERAGE SIZE OF FARMS acres	496	989		
MARKET VALUE per farm	\$2,938,994	3,397,806		
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD \$395,913,000 \$29,413,398				
TOTAL ACRES IRRIGATED	191,002	7,965,938		
PERCENT OF FARMLAND IRRIGATED	69.7%	18.1%		

Source: 2022 Census of Agriculture

PRODUCTION OF LEADING CROPS 5 year average - 2019-2023				
HALL COUNTY NEBRASKA				
CORN FOR GRAIN bushels	34,862,000	1,719,112,000		
SOYBEANS bushels 2,780,250 295,390,000				

Source: 2022 Census of Agriculture

AVERAGE LIVESTOCK POPULATION 5 year average - 2018-2022				
	HALL COUNTY NEBRASKA			
ALL CATTLE	68,80	00	5,707,358,000	

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service

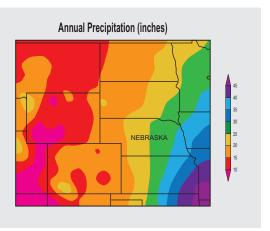
Climate

Nebraska has a continental climate. with hot summers and cold winters. Temperatures are highly variable from season to season and year to year.

Precipitation is also variable and ranges from an annual average of 15-20 inches in the west to 30-35 inches in southeast Nebraska.

The growing season in Nebraska fluctuates in length, but on average it ranges from 120 days in the extreme northwest to 170 days in the southeast.

Visit High Plains Climate Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln at hprcc. unl.edu for more information regarding Nebraska's climate.



Choose Wood River



Wood River is a thriving, progressive community with a small-town atmosphere.

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), Nebraska's largest electric utility, assists in economic development for the areas it serves. For more information on NPPD's economic development assistance, contact Economic Development Department, 1414 15th Street, PO Box 499, Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499, (877) 275-6773, Ext. 5534, email: econdev@nppd.com, or visit our website at **sites.nppd.com**.

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