



(Photo courtesy Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development)

Explore the hunting and shooting lodges in the area. Take a day of discovery on a local farm tour, learning about the various farming techniques and machinery, old and new, see the farm animals that are raised in S.E. Kansas, and enjoy the sunsets and beautiful Ozark style terrain.

...Business adventure; **Girard** is rich in tradition and intimate hometown values. Girard Medical Center is a superior health care system that continues to expand and grow. The **Girard** School System is known for its long standing tradition of educational excellence. Our economic policies are aggressive and business diversity continues to grow. If you like what you see and experience here we welcome you to be our neighbor and become a part of what makes **Girard** "A Great Place to Call Home".

For more information please contact **Girard Area Chamber of Commerce** at (620) 724-4715,

mail: P.O. Box 41 – 118 N. Ozark, Girard, KS 66743; e-mail: girardchamber@ckt.net or visit our website at: <http://girardkansas.gov>

**GREAT BEND**

*The City with Hometown Charm*

**Great Bend** is all the city you need with the hometown charm that you want. If you're hassled with hustle and bustle but still want the convenience of city life, then you are ready to right-size your lifestyle. **Great Bend** is a progressive city in central Kansas with strong industry bases in manufacturing, agriculture, oil and other businesses.

**Great Bend** is a friendly place where the hectic pace slows to a stroll at your leisure and people gather together just because. There is downtown shopping, community picnics, barbeques, concerts and Main Street parades. **Great Bend** provides family living at its finest with top-notch schools, quality parks, a renowned wet-

lands on its outskirts, and a popular water park and zoo.

Optimal quality of life is what separates **Great Bend** from many other communities and why it was listed as a "Best Places" city by *U.S. News & World Report* in September 2007. The national magazine recognized **Great Bend** for its renowned Shafer Art Gallery at Barton County Community College; its diverse economy from oil to agriculture; and the natural existence of Cheyenne Bottoms near **Great Bend**, the largest marsh in the interior United States as pluses for our community.

**Great Bend** also has quality schools, quiet and scenic neighborhoods, a low crime rate, a low cost of living and opportunities for jobs in most industries. Away from work, recreational opportunities abound with **Great Bend** showcasing one of the largest zoos between Kansas City and Denver, a Raptor Rehabilitation Center, and a splashing-good-time water park. Community Theatre, Concert and Band performances provide cultural experiences throughout the year as well.

For more information contact **Great Bend Chamber of Commerce** and Economic Development at (620) 792-2401 or visit our web site at [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org)

**HAYS**

*"Small Town Charm – BIG Time Fun"*

Known as the "German Capital of Kansas", **Hays** has a proud reputation of being a friendly place to enjoy a great Oktoberfest, listen to a good polka band and enjoy some tasty beer and brats with the local Volga Germans. The Volga German Haus, the German Buffet, Liquid Bread Brewing Company and a tour of the impressive historic native stone German Churches all provide an enjoyable experience of the German Heritage of Ellis County.

Visitors are truly amazed when they enter the 100,000 square foot dome shaped Sternberg Museum of Natural History and see one of the most impressive displays of Cretaceous Period fossils, rocks and educational material. The centerpiece exhibit features a full-scale recreation of the sea and land environments from 70-80 million years ago. Full scale models of plants and animals, some with realistic motion, allow visitors to encounter the world of the Pteranodons and Tyrannosaurs.

**Hays** is famous for being a frontier town with a colorful history that features the legendary "Wild Bill" Hickok, "Buffalo Bill" Cody and General George Custer. **Hays City** was founded in the fall



(Photo courtesy Hays Convention & Visitors Bureau)

**Great Bend**  
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(Photo courtesy Hesston Area Chamber of Commerce )

of 1867 when the Union Pacific Railroad reached the military post of Fort Hays along the banks of Big Creek. Because many of the first citizens were railroad workers, saloon owners, soldiers and even desperados, the early days of **Hays City** were wild and dangerous. During several months in 1869, "Wild Bill" Hickok served as the acting sheriff after several incidents prompted the citizens to form a vigilante committee. Many of the outlaws were buried at the original boot hill cemetery, which was located on a hill just north of **Hays City**. Historic Fort Hays and the Ellis County Historical Museum feature many displays and provide tours for visitors to relive the exciting frontier history.

With attractions like the Stone Gallery, Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art, The Hays Arts Center and 711 Studio, **Hays** is the arts and entertainment mecca of western Kansas. The crown jewel of the Fort Hays State University entertainment scene is the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center. This historic, yet modern facility has a seating capacity of 1,100, and is used for both college and community events.

### HESSTON

Located on I-135, **Hesston** has plenty to offer visitors and residents. Its small town charm does not mean missing out on convenience. Many goods and services are available in **Hesston**. It is a place where families are top priority. A place where small town atmosphere converges with high-tech businesses an innovative education.

The peace and safety of life in **Hesston** leaves time to think about things like family, friends, church, recreation and the community. A community where the best security system is still a network of friends and neighbors.

**Hesston** offers a grand dining experience from Cadillac Hamburgers and old fashioned milkshakes to steak dinners, panini sandwiches, pizza and waterside dining. Something for every age, appetite, and time of day.

**Hesston** is located 30 minutes from Wichita, but every shopping convenience can be located right in **Hesston**. Anywhere from finding the right tool, carpet, gift, clothing, groceries and every gardening need it is right here in **Hesston**. Not only are the products avail-

able, but the customer service is a wonderful experience.

When it comes to recreation **Hesston** has so much to offer. Hesston Golf Park is nowhere near your typical, municipal, daily-fee golf club. From the par three's that average 200-yards, to the fantastic, all-weather practice facilities, to the intensive training programs available from the professional teaching staff, **Hesston** sets itself apart as among the best! The community also is the host to 7 parks, which includes playground equipment, indoor and outdoor picnic shelters, numerous baseball diamonds and a water spray park.

**Hesston** is also the home of regional attractions. Dyck Arboretum of the Plains and educational 12-acre nature facility, with a 1/2 mile paved walking path featuring 600 varieties of Kansas plants, grasses, flowers, trees and shrubs; bird watch area, and a peaceful lake with an island garden. The Visitor Center offers group meeting rooms, restrooms, library, gift shop and art gallery. It is a beautiful setting for a wedding. AGCO Corporation offers group tours for this international farm equipment manufacturer. Paul Friesen Studio, Friesen specializes ceramic, stone pottery and sculptures. Hesston College is home the Charles Hall nature collection and fossil shelter.

So much to offer in a beautiful small town in Kansas.

For more information please phone **Hesston Area Chamber of Commerce** at (620) 327-4102; e-mail: [chamber@hesstonks.org](mailto:chamber@hesstonks.org) or visit our website at: [www.hesstonks.org](http://www.hesstonks.org)

### HORTON

The **City of Horton**, Kansas, proudly located in agriculturally based Brown County in Northeast Kansas and on the original Pony Express route, is a town of approximately 2,000. We are a progressive and growing community, which recent census figures show as growing, both in terms of economics and population.

The **City of Horton**, rightfully dubbed as the Electric City. The

**City of Horton**, its residents, and its governing body stand firmly in alliance with our neighbors the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, located only five-miles west of **Horton** and the hosts to the **Golden Eagle Casino**, a full-scale gaming entertainment center.

Additionally, you will discover historical information and find **Horton** has much to offer in recreation, education and community services. See the regularly updated News and Events Calendar for the latest events and try to attend if you are in our community.

If you have any questions please call the **Horton City Hall** at (785) 486-2681 or e-mail: [cityofhorton@hortonkansas.net](mailto:cityofhorton@hortonkansas.net) and we will try to answer any questions you may have.

### HUTCHINSON

Packed with big city convenience in a metropolitan atmosphere, **Hutchinson/Reno County**, Kansas is the best of both worlds. There is the vibrancy of a city determined to thrive and progress, yet without the big city problems.

**Hutchinson** is visited by over 1.5 million visitors annually and offers a wide range of attractions and museums in addition to hosting a variety of special events. Visitors find the area warm and welcoming - the community knows how to host thousands of guests at a time! Two of our attractions include the Smithsonian-affiliated KS Cosmosphere & Space Center, and the new KS Underground Salt Museum.

We offer outstanding sporting facilities at Hutchinson Community College, Carey Park, and the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Or enjoy a game of ball at Hobart-Detter Field or Fun Valley Sports Complex.

Opportunities for recreation abound. From the water activities at Cheney State Park to the beauty of Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, from area parks to a walk in Sand Hill State Park - there is always something to get you on your feet.

There are also aquatic rec-

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