

Buffalo, New York

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Buffalo /ˈbʌfəloʊ/ is a city in the U.S. state of New York and the seat of Erie County.^[3] Located in Western New York on the eastern shores of Lake Erie and at the head of the Niagara River across from Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, Buffalo is the principal city of the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metropolitan area, the largest in Upstate New York and 45th largest in the United States.^[4] As of the 2010 U.S Census, the city proper had a population of 261,310, making the city the 69th largest city in the United States and the second most populous in the state after New York City.^[5] The Buffalo–Niagara–Cattaraugus Combined Statistical Area is home to 1,215,826 residents.^[6]

Originating around 1789 as a small trading community near the eponymous Buffalo Creek,^[1] Buffalo grew quickly after the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, with the city as its western terminus. By 1900, Buffalo was the 8th largest city in the United States,^[7] and went on to become a major railroad hub,^[8] and the largest grain-milling center in the country.^[9] The latter part of the 20th century saw a reversal of fortunes: Great Lakes shipping was rerouted by the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, and steel mills and other heavy industry relocated to places such as China.^[10] With the start of Amtrak in the 1970s, Buffalo Central Terminal was also abandoned, and trains were rerouted to nearby Depew, New York (Buffalo-Depew) and Exchange Street Station. By 1990, the city had fallen back below its 1960 population levels.^[11]

Today, the region's largest economic sectors are financial services, technology,^[12] health care and education,^[13] and these continue to grow despite the lagging national and worldwide economies.^[14] In recent years, expansions of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus^[15] and the The State University of New York have led to private and public investment throughout the city and region.^[16] A recent study found Buffalo's April 2014 unemployment rate to be 5.8%.^[17] In 2010, Forbes rated Buffalo the 10th best place to raise a family in the United States.^[18]

Residents of Buffalo are most commonly called "Buffalonians." Nicknames for the city of Buffalo include "The Queen City", Buffalo's most common moniker; "The Nickel City," due to the appearance of a bison on the back of Indian Head nickel in the early part of the 20th century, "The City of Good Neighbors,"^[19] and less commonly, the "City of Light."^[20]

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Buffalo, New York

City

City of Buffalo



Clockwise from top: Downtown Buffalo, Buffalo skyline at dusk, Peace Bridge, Buffalo Savings Bank, County and City Hall, Niagara Square, and the Buffalo City Hall.

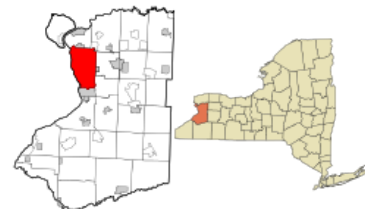


Flag



Seal

Nickname(s): The City of Good Neighbors, The Queen City, The City of No Illusions, The Nickel City, Queen City of the Lakes, City of Light



Location in Erie County and the state of New York.



Location in the United States of America

Coordinates: 42°54'17"N 78°50'58"W

Country	United States
State	New York
County	Erie
First settled (village)	1789
Founded	1801

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History

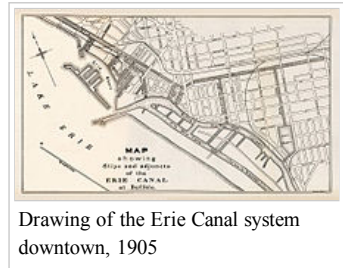
Prior to the Iroquois occupation of the region, the region was settled by the Neutral Nation. Later, the Senecas of the Iroquois Confederacy conquered the Neutrals and their territory, c. 1651.^[21]

The city of Buffalo received its name from a nearby creek called Buffalo Creek. John Montresor references 'Buffalo Creek' in his journal of 1764.^[22] There are several theories regarding how Buffalo Creek received its name.^{[23][24][25]} While it is possible that the area was called "Buffalo" as a result of French fur traders and American Indians having called the creek "Beau Fleuve," or "Beautiful River," in French,^{[23][24]} it is also possible that "Buffalo" was named for the bison as they did once roam Western New York.^{[25][26]}

In 1804, Joseph Ellicott, a principal agent of the Holland Land Company, designed a radial street and grid system that branches out from downtown like bicycle spokes.^[27]

During the War of 1812, on December 30, 1813,^{[28][29]} Buffalo was burned by British forces.^[30] On October 26, 1825,^[31] the Erie Canal was completed with Buffalo a port-of-call for settlers heading westward.^[32] At the time, the population was about 2,400.^[33] The Erie Canal brought a surge in population and commerce which led Buffalo to incorporate as a city in 1832.^[34]

Buffalo has long been home to African-Americans; an example is the 1828 village directory which



listed 59 "names of coloured" heads of families.^[35] In 1845, construction began on the Macedonia Baptist Church, commonly known as the Michigan Street Baptist Church.^[36] This African-American church was an important meeting place for the abolitionist movement. On February 12, 1974, the church was added to the National Register of Historic Places.^[35] Abolitionist leaders such as William Wells Brown made their home in Buffalo.^[37] Buffalo was also a terminus point of the Underground Railroad^[38] with many fugitives crossing the Niagara River from Buffalo to Fort Erie, Ontario in search of freedom.

During the 1840s, Buffalo's port continued to develop. Both passenger and commercial traffic expanded with some 93,000 passengers heading west from the port of Buffalo.^[39] Grain and commercial goods shipments led to repeated expansion of the harbor. In 1843, the world's first steam-powered grain elevator was constructed by local merchant Joseph Dart and engineer Robert Dunbar.^[40] The "Dart Elevator" enabled faster unloading of lake freighters

along with the transshipment of grain in bulk from lakere to canal boats and, later on, rail cars.^[39] By 1850, the population was 81,000.^[34]

Abraham Lincoln visited Buffalo on February 16, 1861,^[41] on his trip to accept the presidency of the United States. During his visit, he stayed at the American Hotel on Main Street between Eagle Street and Court Street.^[42] In addition to sending many soldiers to the Union effort, Buffalo manufacturers supplied important war material. For example, the Niagara Steam Forge Works manufactured turret parts for the ironclad ship USS *Monitor*.^[42] Between 1868 and 1896, building on Joseph Ellicott's spoke-and-hub urban blueprint and inspired by the parks and boulevards of Paris, France, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux laid out Buffalo's public parks and parkways system, one of his largest works.^{[43][44]}

Grover Cleveland served as Sheriff of Erie County (1871–1873),^[45] and was Mayor of Buffalo in 1882. He was later Governor of New York (1883–1885), 22nd President of the United States (1885–1889) and 24th President (1893–1897).^[46]

In May 1896, the Ellicott Square Building opened. For the next 16 years, it was the largest office building in the world. It was named after the surveyor Joseph Ellicott.^{[47][48]}

At the dawn of the 20th century, local mills were among the first to benefit from hydroelectric power generated via the Niagara River. The city got the nickname *City of Light* at this time due to the widespread electric lighting.^[20] It was also part of the automobile revolution, hosting the brass era car builders Pierce Arrow and the Seven Little Buffaloes early in the century.^[49] *City of Light* (1999) was the title of Buffalo native Lauren Belfer's historical novel set in 1901.^[50]

Incorporated (city)	1832
Government Mayor Common Council	Byron Brown (D) City council
Area City Land Water	52.5 sq mi (136.0 km ²) 40.6 sq mi (105.2 km²) 11.9 sq mi (30.8 km²)
Elevation	600 ft (183 m)
Population (2013) City Density Urban Metro CSA	258,959 (US: 73rd) 6,436.2/sq mi (2,568.8/km²) 935,906 (US: 46th) 1,134,210 (US: 49th) 1,213,668 (US: 44th)
Demonym	Buffalonian
Time zone Summer (DST)	EST (UTC−5) EDT (UTC−4)
ZIP code Area code(s)	14200 716
FIPS code GNIS feature ID	36-11000 0973345
Website	www.city-buffalo.com (http://www.city-buffalo.com/)
[1][2]	





Niagara Square c. 1912

President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo on September 6, 1901.^[51] He died in the city eight days later^[52] and Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in at the Wilcox Mansion as the 26th President of the United States.^[52]

An international bridge, known as the Peace Bridge, linking Buffalo to Fort Erie, Ontario, was opened on August 7, 1927.^[53] The Buffalo Central Terminal, a 17-story Art Deco style station designed by architects Fellheimer & Wagner for the New York Central Railroad, opened in 1929.^[54]

During World War II, Buffalo saw a period of prosperity and low unemployment due to its position as a manufacturing center.^{[55][56]} The American Car and Foundry company, which manufactured railcars, reopened their Buffalo plant in 1940 to manufacture munitions during the war years.^[57]

With the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1957, which cut the city off from valuable trade routes; deindustrialization; and the nationwide trend of suburbanization; the city's economy began to deteriorate.^{[58][59]} Like much of the Rust Belt, Buffalo, home to more than half a million people in the 1950s, has seen its population decline as heavy industries shut down and people left for the suburbs or other cities.^{[58][59][60]}

Like other rust belt cities such as Pittsburgh, Buffalo has attempted to revitalize its beleaguered economy and crumbling infrastructure. In the first decade of the 21st century, a massive increase in economic development spending has attempted to reverse its dwindling prosperity. \$4 billion was spent in 2007 compared to a \$50 million average for the previous ten years.^[61] As of 2012, the population has continued to decrease, despite the efforts of city officials.^[62]

In the early 2010s, new project proposals and renovations to historic buildings started to emerge, especially in the downtown core. Entrepreneurs, such as Buffalo Sabres owner Terrence Pegula, have helped with larger scale projects such as HarborCenter, a mixed-used complex near the Erie Canal Harbor. Other Buffalo-area developers have helped revitalize and repurpose abandoned buildings within the city, such as the Larkin Square project, and projects similar to this continue.^[63]



Pan-American Exposition – Ethnology Building at Night

Geography and climate

Buffalo is located on the eastern end of Lake Erie, opposite Fort Erie, Ontario, and at the beginning of the Niagara River, which flows northward over Niagara Falls and into Lake Ontario. The city is 50 miles (80 km) south-southeast from Toronto. Buffalo's position on Lake Erie, facing westward, makes it one of the only major cities on the East Coast to have sunsets over a body of water.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 52.5 square miles (136 km²), of which 40.6 square miles (105 km²) is land and 11.9 square miles (31 km²) is water. The total area is 22.66% water.

Cityscape

Architecture

The New York Times has declared that Buffalo is a city containing great American architecture from the 19th and 20th centuries.^[64] Approximately 80 sites are included on the National Register of Historic Places. Most structures and works are still standing, such as the country's largest intact parks system designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.^[65] Buffalo was the first city for which Olmsted designed an interconnected park and parkway system rather than stand-alone parks.^[66]

The Guaranty Building, a National Historic Landmark by Louis Sullivan, was one of the first steel-supported, curtain-walled buildings in the world. When the building was constructed, its 13 stories made it the tallest building in Buffalo and one of the world's first true skyscrapers.^[67] The Hotel Buffalo, originally the Statler Hotel, by August Esenwein and James A. Johnson was the first hotel in the world to feature a private bath in each room. The Richardson Olmsted Complex, originally the New York State Asylum for the Insane, is Richardsonian Romanesque in style and was designed by prominent architect Henry Hobson Richardson, while the grounds of the hospital were designed by Olmsted. Though the complex is currently in a state of disrepair, New York State has allocated funds to restore the complex.^[68]

There are several buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright, including the Darwin D. Martin House, George Barton House, William R. Heath House, Walter V. Davidson House, The Graycliff Estate, as well as the now demolished Larkin Administration Building.^{[69][70]} Constructed in 2007 on Buffalo's Black Rock Canal is a Wright-designed boathouse originally intended, but never built, for the University of Wisconsin–Madison rowing team.^[71] Along as a tourist destination, it functionally serves many Buffalo-area rowing teams belonging to the West Side Rowing Club. The Buffalo City Hall building by George Dietel and John J. Wade is a large Art deco skyscraper listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other notable buildings include Buffalo Central Terminal, a massive Art Deco railroad station designed by Alfred T. Fellheimer and Steward Wagner, Lafayette High School, a stone, brick and terra-cotta structure in the French Renaissance Revival style by architects August Eisenwein and James A. Johnson, is the oldest public school in Buffalo that remains in its original building, and is on the National Register of Historic Places, St. Adalbert's Basilica, St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr Church, Corpus Christi, St. Paul's Episcopal, Kleinhans Music Hall, Temple Beth Zion,^[72] and *Lions* for the McKinley Monument. Grain elevators were invented along the Buffalo River in 1842, and the city maintains one of the largest standing collection in the world.



2001 image of the Niagara Peninsula, Niagara Falls and Buffalo from NASA's Terra satellite.



McKinley Monument and Buffalo City Hall



Erie County Hall



Partial skyline view of downtown Buffalo with Lake Erie in the background.

Neighborhoods

Buffalo consists of 32 different neighborhoods, including Allentown, Black Rock, Broadway-Fillmore, Central Park, Cold Springs, Delaware District, Downtown, East Side, Elmwood Village, Fillmore-Leroy, First Ward, Fruit Belt, Hamlin Park, Hospital Hill, Humboldt Park, Kaisertown, Kensington, Kensington Heights, Lovejoy, Lower West Side, Masten Park, North Buffalo, North Park, Park Meadow, Parkside, Riverside, Schiller Park, South Buffalo, University District, University Heights, Vernon Triangle, Upper West Side, and Willert Park.^[73]

The American Planning Association named the Elmwood Village neighborhood in Buffalo one of ten Great Neighborhoods in 2007.^[74] Elmwood Village^[75] is a pedestrian-oriented, mixed use neighborhood with hundreds of small, locally owned boutiques, shops, restaurants, and cafes. The neighborhood is located to the south of Buffalo State College.

The Seneca Babcock neighborhood, which was split by the construction of Interstate 190 during the 1950s, is troubled by the presence of a concrete crushing facility which is grandfathered in as a pre-existing use, while dust and truck traffic from the facility strongly impact residences in the neighborhood.^[76]

There are currently nine common council districts within Buffalo, including the Delaware, Ellicott, Fillmore, Lovejoy, Masten, Niagara, North, South, and University districts.^[77]

Climate

The Buffalo area experiences a fairly humid, continental-type climate, but with a definite maritime flavor due to strong modification from the Great Lakes (Köppen climate classification "Dfb" – uniform precipitation distribution). The transitional seasons are very brief in Buffalo and Western New York.

Buffalo has a reputation for snowy winters, but it is rarely the snowiest city in New York State.^{[78][79]} Winters in Western New York are very cold and snowy, and are changeable and include infrequent thaws and rain as well. Snow covers the ground more often than not from late December into early March, but periods of bare ground are not uncommon. Over half of the annual snowfall comes from the lake effect process and is very localized. Lake effect snow occurs when cold air crosses the relatively warm lake waters and becomes saturated, creating clouds and precipitation downwind. Due to the prevailing winds, areas south of Buffalo receive much more lake effect snow than locations to the north. The lake's "snow machine" starts as early as mid-November, peaks in December, then virtually shuts down after Lake Erie freezes in mid-to-late January. The most well-known snowstorm in Buffalo's history, the Blizzard of 1977, was not a lake effect snowstorm in Buffalo in the normal sense of that term (Lake Erie was frozen over at the time), but instead resulted



Albright-Knox Art Gallery from Elmwood Avenue

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from a combination of high winds and snow previously accumulated both on land and on frozen Lake Erie. Snow does not typically impair the city's operation, but can cause significant damage during the autumn as with the October 2006 storm, colloquially known as the "October Surprise."^{[80][81]} In November 2014 the region experienced a record-breaking storm with thundersnow which killed at least eight people, flattened roofs and dumped over 6 feet (1.8 m) of snow in some locations—stranding motorists, triggering a driving ban and forcing a change in venue for a scheduled football game between the Buffalo Bills and the New York Jets.^{[82][83]} By November 21, the estimated death toll had increased to 12 and flooding was reported as a major concern with reports of an impending warm-up. If forecast totals hold, the storm will have produced more snow in three days the area typically experiences in a single year.^[84]



Buffalo has the sunniest and driest summers of any major city in the Northeast, but still has enough rain to keep vegetation green and lush.^[85] Summers are marked by plentiful sunshine and moderate humidity and temperature. It receives, on average, over 65% of possible sunshine in June, July and August. Obscured by the notoriety of Buffalo's winter snow is the fact that Buffalo benefits from other lake effects such as the cooling southwest breezes off Lake Erie in summer that gently temper the warmest days. As a result, the Buffalo station of the National Weather Service has never recorded an official temperature of 100 °F (37.8 °C) or more.^[86] Rainfall is moderate but typically occurs at night. The stabilizing effect of Lake Erie continues to inhibit thunderstorms and enhance sunshine in the immediate Buffalo area through most of July. August usually has more showers and is hotter and more humid as the warmer lake loses its temperature-stabilizing influence.



The highest recorded temperature in Buffalo was 99 °F (37 °C) on August 27, 1948,^[87] and the lowest recorded temperature was −20 °F (−29 °C) on February 9, 1934 and February 2, 1961.^[88]

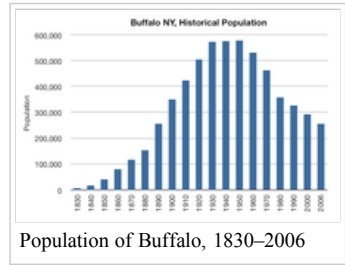
Climate data for Buffalo, New York (Buffalo Niagara Int'l), 1981–2010 normals, extremes 1871–present ^[a]													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	72 (22)	71 (22)	82 (28)	94 (34)	94 (34)	97 (36)	97 (36)	99 (37)	98 (37)	92 (33)	80 (27)	74 (23)	99 (37)
Average high °F (°C)	31.2 (−0.4)	33.3 (0.7)	42.0 (5.6)	55.0 (12.8)	66.5 (19.2)	75.3 (24.1)	79.9 (26.6)	78.4 (25.8)	71.1 (21.7)	59.0 (15)	47.6 (8.7)	36.1 (2.3)	56.3 (13.5)
Average low °F (°C)	18.5 (−7.5)	19.2 (−7.1)	26.0 (−3.3)	36.8 (2.7)	47.4 (8.6)	57.3 (14.1)	62.3 (16.8)	60.8 (16)	53.4 (11.9)	42.7 (5.9)	33.9 (1.1)	24.1 (−4.4)	40.2 (4.6)
Record low °F (°C)	−16 (−27)	−20 (−29)	−7 (−22)	5 (−15)	25 (−4)	35 (2)	43 (6)	38 (3)	32 (0)	20 (−7)	2 (−17)	−10 (−23)	−20 (−29)
Average precipitation inches (mm)	3.18 (80.8)	2.49 (63.2)	2.87 (72.9)	3.01 (76.5)	3.46 (87.9)	3.66 (93)	3.23 (82)	3.26 (82.8)	3.90 (99.1)	3.52 (89.4)	4.01 (101.9)	3.89 (98.8)	40.48 (1,028.2)
Average snowfall inches (cm)	25.3 (64.3)	17.3 (43.9)	12.9 (32.8)	2.7 (6.9)	0.3 (0.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.9 (2.3)	7.9 (20.1)	27.4 (69.6)	94.7 (240.5)
Avg. precipitation days (≥ 0.01 in)	19.2	16.0	15.1	13.1	12.7	12.1	10.6	10.1	11.4	12.9	15.0	18.3	166.5
Avg. snowy days (≥ 0.1 in)	16.3	13.1	9.2	3.1	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	4.9	14.0	61.0
Avg. relative humidity (%)	76.0	75.9	73.3	67.8	67.2	68.6	68.1	72.1	74.0	72.9	75.8	77.6	72.4
Mean monthly sunshine hours	91.3	108.0	163.7	204.7	258.3	287.1	306.7	266.4	207.6	159.4	84.4	69.0	2,206.6
Percent possible sunshine	31	37	44	51	57	63	66	62	55	47	29	25	49
Source: NOAA (relative humidity and sun 1961–1990) ^{[89][90][91]} , Weather Channel ^[92]													

Demographics

Racial composition	2010 ^[96]	1990 ^[97]	1970 ^[97]	1940 ^[97]
White	50.4%	64.7%	78.7%	96.8%
—Non-Hispanic	45.8%	63.1%	77.4% ^[98]	96.8%
Black or African American	38.6%	30.7%	20.4%	3.1%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	10.5%	4.9%	1.6% ^[98]	(X)
Asian	3.2%	1.0%	0.2%	—

Like most formerly industrial cities of the Great Lakes region in the United States, Buffalo is recovering from an economic depression brought about by suburbanization and the loss of its industrial base. The city's population peaked in 1950, when it was the 15th largest city in the United States, and its population has been spreading out to the suburbs every census since then. The demographic change and the impact of such change on the industrial cities of the region, including Buffalo, was significant; based on the 2006 US Census estimate, Buffalo's current population was equivalent to its population in the year 1890, reversing 120 years of demographic change. On the other hand, the populations of surrounding suburbs such as Amherst, Clarence, Orchard Park, Cheektowaga, etc. have increased proportionally as automobile-centric lifestyles developed.

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1810	1,508	—
1820	2,095	38.9%
1830	8,668	313.7%
1840	18,213	110.1%
1850	42,261	132.0%
1860	81,129	92.0%
1870	117,714	45.1%
1880	155,134	31.8%
1890	255,664	64.8%
1900	352,387	37.8%
1910	423,715	20.2%
1920	506,775	19.6%
1930	573,076	13.1%
1940	575,901	0.5%



Buffalo has very sizable populations of Irish, Italian, Polish, German, Jewish, Greek, Arab, African-American, Indian, Macedonian, and Puerto Rican descent. Major ethnic neighborhoods still exist but they changed significantly in the second half of the 20th century. In 1940, non-Hispanic Whites were 96.8% of the city's population.^[97] Traditionally, German- and Polish-Americans were the predominant occupants of the East Side, while Italian-Americans composed a close-knit neighborhood in the west side. The East Side is now a predominantly African-American neighborhood, while the West Side has become a melting pot of many ethnicities, with Latino culture being the strongest influence. Throughout the history of Buffalo, the neighborhoods collectively called the First Ward, as well as much of South Buffalo, have comprised almost entirely people of Irish descent. Recently, there has been an influx of inhabitants that are of Arab descent, mainly from Yemen, as the city's Muslim population has increased to approximately 3,000 according to an estimate.^[101] Since the 1950s and 1960s, the greater portion of the Jewish population has moved to the suburban areas outside of the city, or to the city's upper West Side.

In a 2008 United Nations report entitled *State of the World's Cities*, figures from the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metropolitan area were used to show economic and racial inequality throughout the world. The report stated that 40% of African-American, Hispanic and ethnically mixed homes earned less that \$15,999, when compared to 15% of White homes.^[102] The United States Census Department also released information placing the Buffalo-Niagara metro area as the eighth-most segregated area in the United States.^[103]

Economy

Historically, Buffalo's economy was fostered by its position at the eastern end of Lake Erie and as the western terminus on the Erie Canal. These factors contributed to later growth in the areas of grain and steel, which were major commodities for the city. Today, the economy of Buffalo consists of a mix of industrial, light manufacturing, high technology and service-oriented private sector companies. Instead of relying on a single industry or sector for its economic future, the region has taken a diversified approach that have the potential to create opportunities for growth and expansion in the 21st century.^[104]

The State of New York, with over 15,000 employees, is the city's largest employer.^[105] Other major employers within the city include the United States government, Kaleida Health, M&T Bank, the University at Buffalo, General Motors, and Tops Friendly Markets.

Overall, employment in Buffalo has shifted as its population has declined and manufacturing has left. Buffalo's 2005 unemployment rate was 6.6%, contrasted with New York State's 5.0% rate.^[106] From the fourth quarter of 2005 to the fourth quarter of 2006, Erie County had no net job growth, ranking it 271st among the 326 largest counties in the country.^[107] However, the area has recently seen an upswing in job growth as unemployment has dropped to only 4.9% in July 2007 from 5.2% in 2006 and 6.6% in 2005.^[108] The area's manufacturing jobs have continued to show the largest losses in jobs with over 17,000 fewer than at the start of 2006. Yet other sectors of the economy have outdistanced manufacturing and are seeing large increases. Educational and health services added over 30,400 jobs in 2006 and over 20,500 jobs have been added in the professional and business (mostly finance) arena.^[109]

In banking, Buffalo is the headquarters of M&T Bank and First Niagara Bank. HSBC Bank USA, which had a major presence in the Buffalo area and was formerly headquartered in One Seneca Center has reduced its local operations in Buffalo and upstate New York as it closed its retail banking centers. Other banks, such as Bank of America and KeyBank have corporate operations in Buffalo. Citigroup also has regional offices in Amherst, Buffalo's largest suburb. The city has also become a hub of the debt collection industry.^[110]



"Elevator Alley", the stretch of the Buffalo River immediately adjacent to the harbor that is lined with historic grain elevators

Buffalo is also home to Rich Products, Canadian brewer Labatt, cheese company Sorrento Lactalis, Delaware North Companies^[111] and New Era Cap Company. A Del Monte Foods Milk Bone manufacturing center is on Buffalo's East Side.^[112]

The loss of traditional jobs in manufacturing, rapid suburbanization and high costs of labor have led to economic decline, making Buffalo one of the poorest among major U.S. cities with populations of more than 250,000 people. An estimated 28.7–29.9% of Buffalo residents live below the poverty line, behind either only Detroit,^[113] or only Detroit and Cleveland.^[114] Buffalo's median household income of \$27,850 is third-lowest among large cities, behind only



Buffalo Savings Bank Building

Miami and Cleveland; however the median household income for the metropolitan area is \$57,000.^[115] This, in part, has led to the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metropolitan area having the most affordable housing market in the U.S. today. The quarterly NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index (HOI) noted that nearly 90% of the new and existing homes sold in the metropolitan area during the second quarter were affordable to families making the area's median income of \$57,000. As of 2014, the median home price in the city was \$95,000.^[116]

Between 2000 and 2007, the city demolished 2,000 vacant homes, but as many as 10,000 still remained. In 2007, Mayor Byron W. Brown unveiled a \$100 million, five-year plan to demolish 5,000 additional vacant houses.^[117]



The Larkin Terminal Warehouse, headquarters of First Niagara Bank

In July 2005, *Reader's Digest* ranked Buffalo as the third cleanest large city in the nation.^[118]

Buffalo's economy has begun to see significant improvements since the early 2010s.^[119] Money from New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo through a program known locally as "Buffalo Billion" has allowed plans for different construction programs to proceed, an increase in economic development, and hundreds of new jobs bringing strong economic change to the area.^[120] As of March 2015, the unemployment rate for Buffalo was 5.9%,^[121] slightly above the national average of 5.5%.^[122]

Culture

Cuisine

As a melting pot of cultures, cuisine in the Buffalo area reflects a variety of influences. These include Italian, Irish, Jewish, German, Polish, African-American, Greek, Indian and American influences.

As a result of the recent cultural rebirth, over 50 new locally owned restaurants have opened in downtown Buffalo over the past 2 years, including the Lodge, Tappo, 716 Food and Sport, Liberty Hound, Pan American Grill, Bourbon and Butter, Oshun, Bada Bing, Dinosaur BBQ, Buffalo Proper, Cantina Loco, Allentown Burger Venture (ABV), and Handlebar. Chain-style fast food with a notable local presence include Ted's Hot Dogs, SPoT Coffee, Tim Hortons, and Mighty Taco. More traditional, old-Buffalo style, local restaurants include Louie's Hot Dogs, La Nova Pizzeria, Anderson's Frozen Custard, John and Mary's Submarines, Duff's Famous Wings, Jim's Steakout, and Just Pizza.

Buffalo's local pizzerias differs from that of the thin-crust New York-style pizzerias and deep-dish Chicago-style pizzerias, and is locally known for being a midpoint between the two.^[123]



Bowl of Buffalo wings

The city is home to the Pearl Street Brewery and Flying Bison Brewing Company, who continue the city's brewing traditions.

Buffalo has several specialty import/grocery stores in old ethnic neighborhoods, and is home to an eclectic collection of cafes and restaurants that serve adventurous, cosmopolitan fare. Locally owned restaurants offer Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Mexican, Italian, Arab, Indian, Caribbean, soul food, and French.^{[124][125]}

Several well-known food companies are based in Buffalo. Non-dairy whipped topping was invented in Buffalo in 1945 by Robert E. Rich, Sr.^[126] His company, Rich Products, is one of the city's largest private employers.^[127] General Mills was organized in Buffalo, and Gold Medal brand flour, Wheaties, Cheerios and other General Mills brand cereals are manufactured here. Archer Daniels Midland operates its largest flour mill in the city.^[128] Buffalo is home to one of the largest privately held food companies in the world, Delaware North Companies, which operates concessions in sports arenas, stadiums, resorts, and many state & federal parks.^[129] Beef on weck sandwich, Wardynski's kielbasa, sponge candy, pastry hearts, pierogi, and haddock fish fries are among the local favorites, as is a loganberry-flavored beverage that remains relatively obscure outside of the Western New York and Southern Ontario area.^[130]

Another uniquely Buffalonian food is Sahlen's "charcoal-broiled" hot dogs, which are prepared over live charcoal fires. The typical boiled or steamed "franks" of other cities are considered inferior by native Buffalonians.

Teressa Bellissimo first prepared the now widespread Buffalo wing at the Anchor Bar on October 3, 1964.^[131]

Fine and performing arts

Buffalo is home to over 50 private and public art galleries,^[132] most notably the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, home to a world-class collection of modern and contemporary art. The local art scene is also enhanced by the Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, CEPA Gallery, and many small galleries and studios.^{[133][134]} In 2012, *AmericanStyle* ranked Buffalo twenty-fifth in its list of top mid-sized cities for art.^[135]

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, which performs at Kleinhans Music Hall, is one of the city's most prominent performing arts institutions. During the 1960s and 1970s, under the musical leadership of Lukas Foss and Michael Tilson Thomas, the Philharmonic collaborated with Grateful Dead and toured with the Boston Pops Orchestra.^[136] The largest theatre in the Buffalo area is Shea's Performing Arts Center, designed for 4,000 people by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Long known as "Shea's Buffalo" and constructed in 1926, the theatre continues to show productions and concerts.

The theatre community in the Buffalo Theater District includes over 20 professional companies.^{[137][138][139]} Major theatres groups include The Alt at the Warehouse, American Repertory Theater of Western New York, The Irish Classical Theatre, The Kavinoky Theatre, Lancaster Opera House, The New Phoenix Theatre, Road Less Traveled Productions, The Subversive Theatre, The Theatre of Youth, and Torn Space Theatre. These companies present a variety of theatre styles and many present original productions by Buffalo playwrights.



Beef on weck sandwich

Buffalo is also home one of the largest free outdoor Shakespeare festival in the United States, Shakespeare in Delaware Park. Filmmaker, writer, painter and musician Vincent Gallo was born in Buffalo in 1962 and lived there until 1978 when he moved out on his own to New York City.

Music

Buffalo has the roots of many jazz and classical musicians, and it is also the founding city for several mainstream bands and musicians, including Rick James, Billy Sheehan, The Quakes and The Goo Goo Dolls. Vincent Gallo, a Buffalo-born filmmaker and musician, played in several local bands. Jazz fusion band Spyro Gyra also got its start in Buffalo.^[140] The great American classical Pianist and composer Leonard Pennario was born in Buffalo in 1924 and made his debut concert at Carnegie Hall in 1943. Among notable Buffalo-born jazz musicians are saxophonists Grover Washington Jr, Don Menza, Larry Covelli, Bobby Militello, trumpeter Sam Noto, and guitarist Jim Hall. Buffalo also became the adopted home other jazz musicians such as clarinetist Hank D'Amico, saxophonist Elvin Shepard and pianist Al Tinney.

Buffalo's "Colored Musicians Club", an extension of what was long-ago a separate musicians' union local, is thriving today, and maintains a significant jazz history within its walls. Well-known indie artist Ani DiFranco hails from Buffalo, and it is the home of her "Righteous Babe" record label.

10,000 Maniacs are from nearby Jamestown, but got their start in Buffalo, which led to lead singer Natalie Merchant launching a successful solo career.

Death Metal band Cannibal Corpse reached national fame in 1994 when they appeared in the movie *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, at the request of lead actor Jim Carrey.^[141] The director agreed and decided to actually have Jim jump on stage with the band and perform "Hammer Smashed Face" in the film to escape two pursuing goons.^[141]

Festivals

Like many large cities, numerous festivals have become part of the city's culture and tradition. Though most of the festivals occur during the summer months, the city has recently pushed efforts to have winter festivals as well in an effort to capitalize on the region's snowy reputation. Popular summer festivals include the Allentown Art Festival, Taste of Buffalo, National Buffalo Wing Festival, Thursday at the Square, and the Juneteenth Festival. Winter festivals include the Buffalo Ball Drop,^[142] Buffalo Powder Keg Festival,^[143] and Labatt Blue Pond Hockey.^[144]

Tourism

Points of interest in the city of Buffalo include the Edward M. Cotter fireboat, considered to be the world's oldest active fireboat^[145] and is a United States National Historic Landmark, Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society,^[146] Buffalo Museum of Science,^[147] the Buffalo Zoo, the third oldest zoo in the United States,^[148] Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, the Anchor Bar, and Lafayette Square.

Sports

Buffalo and the surrounding region is home to two major league professional sports teams. The Buffalo Sabres of the NHL play in the City of Buffalo, and the Buffalo Bills, charter members of the American Football League, (now in the NFL) play in the suburb of Orchard Park, New York. Buffalo is also home to several minor sports teams including the Buffalo Bisons (baseball), Buffalo Bandits (indoor lacrosse) and FC Buffalo (soccer). The Buffalo Bulls are a Division I college team representing the State University of New York at Buffalo, and several other Buffalo-area colleges and universities are also active in college athletics.

The Buffalo Bills, established in 1959, played in War Memorial Stadium until 1973, when Ralph Wilson Stadium was constructed. The team competes in the AFC East division. Since the AFL–NFL merger in 1970, the Bills have won the division title seven times (1980, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1995), and the AFC conference championship four consecutive times (1990, 1991, 1992, 1993), resulting in four lost Super Bowls.



Albright-Knox Art Gallery (left) and Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society (right) from Delaware Park



Shea's Performing Arts Center



Ralph Wilson Stadium

The Buffalo Sabres, established in 1970, played in Buffalo Memorial Auditorium until 1996, when Marine Midland Arena, now First Niagara Center, opened. The team is within the Atlantic Division of the NHL. The team has won six division titles, one Presidents' Trophy (2006–07) and three conference championships (1974–75, 1979–80, 1998–99). However, like the Buffalo Bills, the team does not have a league championship.

The Buffalo Bandits, established in 1992, played home games in Buffalo Memorial Auditorium until their move to Marine Midland Arena. They have won eight division championships and four league championships (1992, 1993, 1996, 2008).

Sport	League	Club	Founded	Venue	Titles	Championship years
Football	NFL	Buffalo Bills	1960	Ralph Wilson Stadium	2*	1964, 1965*
Hockey	NHL	Buffalo Sabres	1970	First Niagara Center	0	
Baseball	IL	Buffalo Bisons	1979†	Coca-Cola Field	3	1997, 1998, 2004
Lacrosse	NLL	Buffalo Bandits	1992	First Niagara Center	4	1992, 1993, 1996, 2008
Soccer	NPSL	FC Buffalo	2009	Demske Sports Complex	0	
Basketball	PBL	Buffalo 716ers	2012	Tapestry Charter School	0	

* American Football League (AFL) championships were earned prior to the NFL merging with the AFL.
† Date refers to current incarnation; Buffalo Bisons previously operated from the 1870s until 1970 and the current Bisons count this team as part of their history.

Parks and recreation

The Buffalo parks system contains over 20 parks with multiple parks accessible from any part of the city. The Olmsted Park and Parkway System is the hallmark of Buffalo's many green spaces. Three-fourths of city park land is part of the system, which comprises six major parks, eight connecting parkways, nine circles and seven smaller spaces. Constructed in 1868 by Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner Calvert Vaux, the system was integrated into the city and marks the first attempt in America to lay out a coordinated system of public parks and parkways. The Olmsted designed portions of the Buffalo park system are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are maintained by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.



Situated at the confluence of Lake Erie and the Buffalo River and Niagara Rivers, Buffalo is a waterfront city. The city's rise to economic power came through its waterways in the form of transshipment, manufacturing, and an endless source of energy. Buffalo's waterfront remains, though to a lesser degree, a hub of commerce, trade, and industry.

As of 2009, a significant portion of Buffalo's waterfront is being transformed into a focal point for social and recreational activity. To this end, Buffalo Harbor State Park was opened on Buffalo's outer harbor in 2014.^[149] Buffalo's intent is to stress its architectural and historical heritage, creating a tourism destination.



An ongoing project within downtown Buffalo is the development of "Canalside," intended to revitalize the original Erie Canal Harbor with shops, eateries, and tourist attractions. An early phase of the project was the excavation and filling of Erie Canal Commercial Slip, which is the original western terminus of the Erie Canal System. Currently, work is underway to restore the canal system which was displaced by the construction of the Buffalo Memorial Auditorium.

Government

At the municipal level, the City of Buffalo has a mayor and a council consisting of nine councilmembers. Buffalo also serves as the seat of Erie County with some of the 11 members of county legislature representing at least a portion of Buffalo. At the state level, there are three state assemblymembers and two state senators representing parts of the city proper. At the federal level, Buffalo is represented by three members of the House of Representatives.

In a trend common to Northern "Rust Belt" regions, political life in Buffalo has been dominated by the Democratic Party for the last half-century, and has been roiled by racial division and social issues. The last time anyone other than a Democrat held the position of Mayor in Buffalo was Chester A. Kowal in 1965. In 1977, Democratic Mayor James D. Griffin was first elected as the nominee of two minor parties, the Conservative Party and the Right to Life Party, after he lost the Democratic primary for Mayor to then Deputy State Assembly Speaker Arthur Eve. Griffin switched political allegiance several times during his 16 years as Mayor, generally hewing to socially conservative platforms. His successor, Democrat Anthony M. Masiello (elected in 1993) continued to campaign on social conservatism, often crossing party lines in his endorsements and alliances. In 2005, however, Democrat Byron Brown was elected the city's first African-American mayor in a landslide (64%–27%) over Republican Kevin Helfer, who ran on a conservative platform. In 2013, Brown would be endorsed by the Conservative Party because of his pledge to cut taxes.



This change in local politics was preceded by a fiscal crisis in 2003 when years of economic decline, a diminishing tax-base, and civic mismanagement left the city deep in debt and teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. At the urging of New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi, the state took over the management of Buffalo's finances, appointing the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority. Conversations about merging the city with the larger Erie County government were

initiated the following year by Mayor Tony Masiello, but came to naught.

The offices of the Buffalo District, US Army Corps of Engineers are located adjacent to the Black Rock Lock in the Black Rock channel of the Erie Canal. In addition to maintaining and operating the lock, the District is responsible for planning, design, construction and maintenance of water resources projects in an area extending from Toledo, Ohio to Massena, New York. These include the flood-control dam at Mount Morris, New York, oversight of the lower Great Lakes (Lake Erie and Lake Ontario), review and permitting of wetlands construction, and remedial action for hazardous waste sites.

Buffalo is also the home of a major office of the National Weather Service (NOAA), which serves all of western and much of central New York State.

Buffalo is home to one of the 56 national FBI field offices. The field office covers all of Western New York and parts of the Southern Tier and Central New York. The field office operates several task forces in conjunction with local agencies to help combat issues such as gang violence, terrorism threats and health care fraud.^[150]

Buffalo is also the location of the chief judge, United States Attorney, and administrative offices for the United States District Court for the Western District of New York.



Buffalo's Art Deco city hall

Education



Lafayette High School

Buffalo Public Schools serve most of the city of Buffalo. Currently, there are 78 public schools in the city including a growing number of charter schools. As of 2006, the total enrollment was 41,089 students with a student-teacher ratio of 13.5 to 1. The graduation rate is up to 52% in 2008, up from 45% in 2007, and 50% in 2006.^[151] More than 27% of teachers have a master's degree or higher and the median amount of experience in the field is 15 years. When considering the entire metropolitan area, there are a total of 292 schools educating 172,854 students.^[152] Buffalo has a magnet school system, featuring schools that attract students with special interests, such as science, bilingual studies, and Native American studies. Specialized facilities include the Buffalo Elementary School of Technology; the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Multicultural Institute; the International School; the Dr. Charles R. Drew Science Magnet; BUILD Academy; Leonardo da Vinci High School; PS 32 Bennett Park Montessori; the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, BAVPA; the Riverside Institute of Technology; Lafayette High School/Buffalo Academy of Finance; Hutchinson Central Technical High School; Burgard Vocational High School; South Park High School; and the Emerson School of Hospitality.



Rockwell Hall, Buffalo State College

The city is home to 47 private schools while the metropolitan region has 150 institutions. Most private schools have a Roman Catholic affiliation. There are schools affiliated with other religions such as Islam. There are also nonsectarian options including The Buffalo Seminary (the only private, nonsectarian, all-girls school in Western New York state),^[153] and Nichols School.

Complementing its standard function, the Buffalo Public Schools Adult and Continuing Education Division provides education and services to adults throughout the community.^[154] In addition, the Career and Technical Education Department offers more than 20 academic programs, and is attended by about 6,000 students each year.^[155] The city is also served by four Catholic schools including Bishop Timon - St. Jude High School, Canisius High School, Mount Mercy Academy, and Nardin Academy. In addition, there are two Islamic schools including Darul Uloom Al-Madania and Universal School of Buffalo.

Buffalo is home to three State University of New York (SUNY) institutions. The University at Buffalo and Buffalo State College are the largest institutions of their type in the system. The total enrollment of these 3 SUNY institutions combined is approximately 54,000 students in the area. In addition, the region is served by Erie Community College.

The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library maintains multiple branches across the city of Buffalo and Erie County, as well as maintaining the main building.

Infrastructure

Healthcare

Buffalo has increasingly become a center for bioinformatics and human genome research, including work by researchers at the University at Buffalo and the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, through a consortium known as the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Transportation

Airports

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) operates Buffalo Niagara International Airport and Niagara Falls International Airport, however Buffalo is primarily served by the Buffalo Niagara International Airport, located in the nearby suburb of Cheektowaga. The airport, reconstructed in 1997, serves over 5 million passengers per year and growing. Buffalo Niagara International Airport ranks among the five cheapest airports from which to fly in the country, according to the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics. The average round trip flight cost is \$295.58.^[156] In the last few years there has been a surge in Canadians flying out of Buffalo, mainly due to much cheaper tax and airline surcharges, as compared with Canadian airports and the ability to fly on



Overlooking the University at Buffalo's South Campus from Abbott Hall

some US based discount carriers not available in Canada (for example, JetBlue Airways and Southwest Airlines). As of 2006, plans are in the works by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer to make the under-used Niagara Falls International Airport into an international cargo hub for New York and Toronto, as well as Canada as a whole.^[157]

Public transit

The Buffalo Metro Rail, also operated by the NFTA, is a 6.4 miles (10.3 km) long, single line light rail system that extends from Erie Canal Harbor in downtown Buffalo to the University Heights district (specifically, the South Campus of University at Buffalo) in the northeastern part of the city. The downtown section of the line runs above ground and is free of charge to passengers. North of Theater Station, at the northern end of downtown, the line moves underground, remaining underground until it reaches the northern terminus of the line at University Heights. Passengers pay a fare to ride this section of the rail.

A NFTA project underway, "Cars Sharing Main Street" will substantially revise the downtown portion of the Metro Rail. It will allow vehicular traffic and Metro Rail cars to share Main St. in a manner similar to that of the trolleys of San Francisco. The design includes new stations and pedestrian-friendly improvements. The first phase of the project, restoring two way traffic on Main Street between Edward and West Tupper, was completed in 2009.

The NFTA operates bus lines throughout the city, region and suburbs.

Railroads

Two train stations, Buffalo-Depew and Buffalo-Exchange Street serve the city and are operated by Amtrak. Historically the city was a major stop on through routes between Chicago and New York City through the lower Ontario peninsula.^[158] Additionally, the Pennsylvania Railroad ran trains between Buffalo and Washington, D.C. on the Buffalo Line through central Pennsylvania.^[159]

Historically, New York Central trains went through the Buffalo Central Terminal, Lackawanna trains went through its terminal on Main Street until the mid-1950s and the Lehigh Valley Railroad's trains went through its terminal until 1952. From 1935 the Erie Railroad used the Lehigh Valley facility.^{[160][161]}

Freight service for Buffalo is served by CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern (NS), as well as Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific (CP) railroads from across the Border. The area has 4 large rail yards: Frontier (CSX), Bison (NS), SK (NS / CP) and Buffalo Creek (NS / CSX). A large amount of hazardous cargo also crosses through the Buffalo area, such as liquid propane and anhydrous ammonia.

Waterways

Buffalo is at the eastern end of one of the Great Lakes, Lake Erie, which boasts the greatest variety of freshwater sportfish in the country. The Lake serves as a playground for numerous personal yachts, sailboats, power boats and watercraft. The city has an extensive breakwall system protecting its inner and outer Lake Erie harbors, which are maintained at commercial navigation depths for Great Lakes freighters.

A Lake Erie tributary that flows through south Buffalo is the Buffalo River and Buffalo Creek.

The Erie Canal

Buffalo is historically linked to the fabled Erie Canal, which ended where the Black Rock Channel enters Lake Erie, at Buffalo Creek. When the Erie Canal was dedicated in 1825, its conceiver, New York State governor DeWitt Clinton carried waters from Lake Erie at Buffalo's western terminus of the canal (now the Commercial Slip), and poured it into the Atlantic Ocean in New York City. He sailed to New York on the canal packet *Seneca Chief*.^[162] A return trip of the *Seneca Chief* carried Atlantic Ocean seawater. The seawater was poured into the Lake by Judge and future Buffalo Mayor Samuel Wilkeson. Once a major route for passengers and cargo, the Erie Canal played a primary role in opening up the American West to settlers from the east. The canal is now used primarily for pleasure craft and some light local freight, and in Buffalo it bypasses the swift upper reach of the Niagara River.

A tributary of the Niagara River is Scajaquada Creek, which flows though Buffalo, via the Olmsted-designed Delaware Lake and Park.

Streets and highways

Eight New York State highways, one three-digit Interstate Highway and one U.S. Highway traverse the city of Buffalo. New York State Route 5, commonly referred to as Main Street within the city, enters through Lackawanna as a limited-access highway and intersects with Interstate 190, a north-south highway connecting Interstate 90 in the southeastern suburb of Cheektowaga with Niagara Falls. NY 354 (Clinton Street) and NY 130 (Broadway) are east to west highways connecting south and downtown Buffalo to the eastern suburbs of West Seneca and Depew. NY 265 (Delaware Avenue) and NY 266 (Niagara Street and Military Road) both originate in downtown Buffalo and terminate in the city of Tonawanda.

One of three U.S. highways in Erie County, the others being U.S. 20 and U.S. 219, U.S. 62 (Bailey Avenue) is a north to south trunk road that enters the city through Lackawanna and exits at the Amherst town border at a junction with NY 5. Within the city, the route passes by light industrial developments and high density areas of the city. Bailey Avenue has major intersections with Interstate 190 and the Kensington Expressway.



Buffalo Niagara International Airport



A Buffalo Metro Rail train passes through Lafayette Square.



The Buffalo Outer Harbor in 1992. Northeast of the city is the Niagara River.

Three major expressways serve the city of Buffalo. The Scajaquada Expressway (NY 198) is primarily a limited access highway connecting Interstate 190 near Unity Island to New York State Route 33. The Kensington Expressway (NY 33) begins at the edge of downtown and the city's East Side, continues through heavily populated areas of the city, intersects with Interstate 90 in Cheektowaga and ends shortly at the airport.

The Peace Bridge is a major international crossing located near the Black Rock district of the city. The bridge connects Fort Erie, Ontario with the city.

Utilities

Buffalo's water system was begun in 1827 with the founding of the Buffalo & Black Rock Jubilee Water Works. This was followed in 1852 by the founding of the Buffalo Water Works Co. In 1868, the City of Buffalo bought both companies.^[163] The remains of the first water crib built by the city are still visible in the Niagara River just downstream of the Peace Bridge. This was replaced by a new water intake in 1907. The current water intake is in Emerald Channel, approximately halfway between the Buffalo Main Light and the ruins of the pier at Erie Beach in Fort Erie. From the water intake, the water goes to the Colonel Ward Pumping Station.^[164] Currently, Buffalo's water system is operated by Veolia Water.^[165]

In order to reduce large-scale ice blockage blockage in the Niagara River, with resultant flooding, ice damage to docks and other waterfront structures, and blockage of the water intakes for the hydro-electric power plants at Niagara Falls, the New York Power Authority and Ontario Power Generation have jointly operated the Lake Erie-Niagara River Ice Boom since 1964. The boom is installed on December 16, or when the water temperature reaches 4 °C (39 °F), whichever happens first. The boom is opened on April 1 unless there is more than 650 square kilometres (250 sq mi) of ice remaining in Eastern Lake Erie. When in place, the boom stretches 2,680 metres (8,790 ft) from the outer breakwall at Buffalo Harbor almost to the Canadian shore near the ruins of the pier at Erie Beach in Fort Erie. Originally, the boom was made of wooden timbers, but these have been replaced by steel pontoons.^[166]

Media

Buffalo's major newspaper is *The Buffalo News*. Established in 1880, the newspaper has 181,540 in daily circulation and 266,123 on Sundays. Other newspapers in the Buffalo area include *Artvoice*, *The Beast*, *Buffalo Business First*, the *Spectrum*, University at Buffalo's student-run newspaper, and the *Record*, Buffalo State College's student-run newspaper. Online news magazines include *Artvoice Daily Online* and *Buffalo Rising*, formerly a print magazine.

The Buffalo area is home to 14 AM stations and 21 FM stations. Major station operators include Entercom, Townsquare Media and Cumulus Media. In addition, National Public Radio operates a publicly funded station, WBFO 88.7.

According to Nielsen Media Research, the Buffalo television market is ranked as the 52nd largest in the United States as of 2013.^[167] Although no major cable outlets have offices or bureaus in the Buffalo area, major networks have an established presence in the area, including WGRZ (NBC), WIVB-TV (CBS), WUTV (FOX), WKBW-TV (ABC). Other networks with Buffalo stations include publicly funded WNED-TV (PBS), WNLO (The CW), WNYO-TV (MyNetworkTV), and WBBZ-TV (MeTV/independent). The area's major cable provider is Time Warner Cable, which operates the system-exclusive Time Warner Cable News Buffalo, part of the statewide Time Warner Cable News network. The Buffalo market also has access to multiple Canadian broadcast stations over-the-air from the Hamilton and Toronto areas, though only CBLT (CBC) and CFTO (CTV) are carried on Time Warner Cable.



A WIVB-TV truck during St. Patrick's Day

Movies shot with significant footage of Buffalo include *Bruce Almighty* (2003),^[168] *Buffalo '66* (1998),^[169] *Henry's Crime* (2010),^[170] *Hide in Plain Sight* (1980),^[171] *Proud* (2004),^[172] *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2* (2016), and *The Natural* (1984).^[173]

Notable people

International relations

Buffalo has a number of sister cities as designated by Sister Cities International (SCI):^{[174][175]}

- Siena, Italy (1961)^{[174][176]}
- Kanazawa, Japan (1962)^{[174][177]}
- Dortmund, Germany (1972)^{[174][178]}
- Rzeszów, Poland (1975)^{[174][179][180]}
- Cape Coast, Ghana (1976)^[174]
- Aboadze, Ghana^[174]
- Kiryat Gat, Israel (1977)^[174]
- Tver, Russia (1989)^{[174][181]}
- Drohobych, Ukraine (2000)^{[174][182]}
- Lille, France (2000)^{[174][183]}
- Torremaggiore, Italy (2004)^{[174][184]}
- Abuja, Nigeria (2004)^[174]
- Saint Ann's Bay, Jamaica (2007)^{[174][185]}
- Horlivka, Ukraine (2007)^{[174][186]}
- Bursa, Turkey (2010)^[174]
- Baní, Dominican Republic (2011)^[174]

- Muhanga District, Rwanda (2011)^[174]
- Yeongcheon, South Korea (2011)^[174]
- Changzhou, China^[174]

While there is no formal relationship, Buffalo and Toronto enjoy a close link and friendly rivalry.

Consulates in Buffalo

Honorary Consulates:

- Austria
- Czech Republic
- France
- Germany
- Italy (Vice Consulate)
- Japan
- Switzerland

See also

- Buffalo Airfield
- Buffalo Central Terminal
- Buffalo City Hall
- Buffalo Fire Department
- South Buffalo, Buffalo, New York
- Buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo

Notes

- ↑ Official records for Buffalo kept January 1871 to June 1943 at downtown and at Buffalo Niagara Int'l since July 1943. For more information, see Threadex (<http://threadex.rcc-acis.org>)

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External links

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- Photo Essay – "Once Upon a Time in Buffalo," by Karl Josker (accessed 8/07/10) (http://www.pbase.com/kjosker/once_upon_a_time)
- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (<http://www.buffalolib.org/>)
- Buffalo Niagara Arts and Culture (<http://www.culturalniagara.com/>)
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- Visitor Information from Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau (<http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/>)
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- Buffalo Architecture Foundation Building Stories Collection (<http://digital.lib.buffalo.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/LIB-APL001>)
- The Best Planned City An online film about (<http://lalh.org/films/best-planned-city-film>) Frederick Law Olmsted and the Buffalo Park System

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