

What's *Grand* about Grand Island? Educational Choice and Opportunity

- Grand Island boasts several public and private school choices. [Grand Island Public Schools](#), [Northwest Public Schools](#), [Heartland Lutheran High School](#), and [Grand Island Central Catholic](#) offer quality educational experiences for students Pre-K-12.
- [Career Pathways Institute](#) is an innovative educational opportunity for high school students. The institute offers sophisticated technical skills training integrated with academics.
- Grand Island offers several post-secondary educational opportunities. [College Park](#) is the shopping mall of higher education. Participating institutions of education and learning are [Doane College](#), [Central Community College](#), UNL Hall County Extension, CN-AHEC, and [Grand Island Little Theatre](#).

Tradition

- For **73 years** Grand Island has played host to the annual **Harvest of Harmony Parade** and band competition. The largest parade in Nebraska takes place the first Saturday in October.
- Grand Island has been home for 35 years to [Husker Harvest Days](#), the world's largest totally irrigated working farm show. Husker Harvest Days features planted fields for demonstrations showcasing the newest equipment for today's farmer plus hundreds of other exhibits.
- A more recent tradition in Grand Island is the [Nebraska State Fair](#). The fair is 10 fun-filled days of entertainment for the entire family ending on Labor Day.

Diversity

- Grand Island embraces its diverse population. It doesn't take long to discover many ethnic shops, businesses and restaurants featuring the many parts of the world represented in our city.

Entertainment and Points of Interest

- The Heartland Event Center comes alive from March to July each year as the [Nebraska Danger](#) indoor football team takes the field.
- The Grand Theater, a building of historical interest, continues to be run by volunteers. A small group of dedicated business owners banded together to form "The Grand Foundation, Inc." to save the last surviving movie palace in Grand Island.
- [Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer](#) offers a hands-on living history experience that tells the story of early town building in Nebraska. Stuhr Museum is a world-class, nationally recognized educational and cultural institution, and an outdoor living history museum.
- Each spring south central Nebraska is the stop for over 500,000 migrating [Sandhill Cranes](#). This spectacle attracts crane watchers from all over the world.

- The **Junk Jaunt**, held annually, is a 300 mile long garage sale winding through the eastern end of the Nebraska Sandhills. Start in Grand Island and work your way west to find all sorts of treasures and beautiful scenery.

Recreation

- Check out the [Grand Island Parks and Recreation Department](#). A wide variety of activities are available including the Island Oasis Water Park, Jackrabbit Run Golf Course, Heartland Public Shooting Park, recreational leagues, and a complete summer activities program.
- [The Community Fieldhouse](#): is a 70,000 square foot facility that includes indoor batting cages, turf sports fields, basketball courts, volleyball courts, meeting rooms, and a children's playground. A wide range of activities are offered: youth sports, adult sports, birthday parties, and after school programs.