

Location Overview

Gahanna, Ohio

The city is conveniently located in northeast Franklin County approximately eight miles from downtown Columbus. Situated next to Port Columbus International Airport, Gahanna also provides easy access to many major highways including Interstate 270, Interstate 70 and Interstate 670.

With more than 33,000 residents, the City of Gahanna represents one of the fastest-growing communities in the region. Rich in heritage and diversity, Gahanna offers a friendly environment, high-quality restaurants, eclectic shopping destinations, and a quaint downtown and expansive green space.

The City of Gahanna offers more than 20 parks encompassing 700 acres of parkland and reserves. Creekside Park, the centerpiece of a major urban redevelopment effort by the community, is a five acre park with a unique "river walk" that runs along Big Walnut Creek. With a strong emphasis on community, family and fun, the park is also the site of the annual Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival and the Summer in the Park entertainment series, which includes live music and performances every Friday night.

Gahanna also boasts a Senior Center offering a wide variety of programs and services, three golf courses, three community pools (membership required), a skate park, numerous youth and adult sports leagues, and a branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. In addition, the city is only minutes from Easton Town Center – a unique combination of retail, entertainment and restaurant venues centered around pedestrian walkways, driving streets and green space.

Economic Development

Gahanna continues to experience significant growth through industrial and corporate additions to their community. The Gahanna Department of Planning & Development encourages and strengthens this growth with important programs like the Tech Industry Driven Expansion initiative, tax incentives, and the Industrial Round Table.

State of the Region by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

The central Ohio region is growing and adding jobs. Delaware, Fairfield, Union and Pickaway counties were reported among the fastest growing counties in the state in 2006. According to the US Census, the central Ohio region was the only growing region in the state of Ohio, and projections by the Ohio Department of Development predict an additional 440,000 people for the region by 2030.

Central Ohio is being recognized on a national scale as a budding star for technology, logistics and research. Major employers are distributed throughout the region. Honda is in Marysville, aeronautical turbine industries are in Knox County, State Farm Insurance is in Licking, intermodal yards are in Pickaway and Marion, and ethanol plants are being developed in Marion and Fayette. Downtown Columbus is experiencing a renaissance with new housing, a potential streetcar, and a new courthouse and baseball park. Expansion of US 33 is creating regional connections to Marysville and Lancaster, and expanding SR 161 is connecting Newark to New Albany.

The central Ohio location is perfect for reaching much of the national market in less than a day, and, with 24 universities and 117,000 university students, a skilled workforce is close at hand. A stable economy well diversified among financial, government, healthcare, logistic, and insurance sectors combined with affordable costs of living and recreational opportunities make central Ohio competitive. The agricultural base is finding diversity by addressing energy production as well as food production.



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Location Overview (Continued)

Franklin County, Ohio

Franklin County, at the heart of the Columbus region, is home to more than one million of the region's 1.7 million residents. Most of the area's largest cities, including Columbus, are located in Franklin County. Franklin County offers a metropolitan lifestyle with many of the area's major educational, shopping, dining, and cultural attractions. Columbus, a thriving city of more than 728,000, is the capital of the State of Ohio, the largest city in the state in both population and area, and the 15th largest in the nation. As the state capital, Columbus serves the needs of the state's 11.5 million residents. In addition to government, other major industries in the county (in terms of employment and payroll) include business services, retail trade, financial services, and healthcare.

Research is a major focus in Franklin County. The county is home to the main campus of The Ohio State University, a world-renowned center for primary research and a major employment center. Also headquartered in Columbus are Battelle, the world's largest private contract research and development organization; Chemical Abstracts Service, the world's foremost clearinghouse for chemical research; and Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a nonprofit library computer service and research organization furthering access to the world's information and reducing information costs. The Ohio State University Hospitals and Children's Hospital are both centers for primary medical research and clinical trials.

Major Highways:

- I-70 (east-west through Columbus to Indianapolis and Pittsburgh)
- I-71 (north-south through Columbus to Cleveland and Cincinnati)
- I-270 (outer belt encircling Columbus)
- I-670 (freeway connecting the airport and downtown)
- U.S. 23 (north-south through Columbus to Detroit and southern Ohio)

Air:

- Port Columbus International Airport, passenger service
- Rickenbacker International Airport, cargo service
- General aviation services available at Port Columbus and Rickenbacker
- Two other general aviation airports: Bolton Field and The Ohio State University Airport

Rail:

- CSX
- Norfolk Southern
- Chesapeake and Ohio
- Two intermodal yards



Gahanna News

News Release – For Immediate Release

MONEY Magazine Names Gahanna One of America's Best Places to Live

GAHANNA, Ohio (July 16, 2007) – The City of Gahanna was named as one of the “Best Places to Live” by MONEY magazine today as part of the nation’s largest personal finance magazine’s annual listing. The complete listing will appear in the August issue of MONEY, which hits newsstands on July 23 and has a readership of 7.4 million.

[Gahanna was rated number 96](#) on a list of 100 communities with a population between 7,500 and 50,000. According to a [news release issued by MONEY](#), the process started with an initial list of 2,876 cities. Data provider OnBoard of New York City and consultant Bert Sperling of Bestplaces.net, helped MONEY’s editors narrow the list to a select group of promising towns.

“There’s a big difference between a gated McMansion subdivision and a town where you can put down roots and participate in a community that has a broader list of concerns than the height of the hedges,” said Craig Matters, MONEY executive editor, in a news release. “The latter are the kinds of places MONEY looks for in naming America’s Best Places to Live.”

Rankings were based on economic vitality, job availability, safety, resident’s health, ethnic and racial diversity, cultural amenities, green space and other economic and quality-of-life measures. Acknowledging what’s on readers’ minds right now, this year’s rankings gave extra consideration to home pricing and property taxes. Once it was clear which towns looked best on paper, MONEY reporters personally visited each, interviewing residents and community leaders to assess the town’s pride of place and sense of community.

Gahanna Mayor Becky Stinchcomb said, “All Gahanna citizens can be proud of our vibrant and diverse community that truly is one of the best places to live in America. We’ve been able to create an environment that facilitates innovative new projects and ideas while preserving the services and quality of life that our residents and business community value. It’s an honor for Gahanna to be recognized by MONEY magazine and to be in the company of such great cities in America.”

MONEY magazine cited Gahanna as a “diverse town with affordable homes” and that “this Columbus suburb is revitalizing its main street with the Creekside redevelopment project.” Creekside Gahanna, which is the highly anticipated mixed-use community development that is expected to open this fall, features 100,000 square feet of retail and office space along with 140,000 square feet of residential lofts and condominiums, and a park, plaza and streetscape.

Gahanna also won national acclaim earlier this year when it earned the National Showcase Award from the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA). The award recognizes the nation’s finest and most successful tax-increment financing (TIF) project, which in this instance was Creekside Gahanna.

Last month, the city was selected to host of the 2008 Parade of Homes next summer.

Gahanna was one of six cities from Ohio (Westerville (46), Highland Heights (75), Mason (81), Beavercreek (84) and Twinsburg (93)) on the list. Middleton, Wisc., was ranked number one.

For more information the MONEY “Best Places to Live 2007,” visit <http://money.cnn.com/bestplaces>. For more information on the City of Gahanna, please contact www.gahanna.gov.

