

WEST HARTFORD CONNECTICUT



ABOUT WEST HARTFORD

West Hartford is a strong suburban community that is home to 63,157 residents. Our town is well regarded for its overall attractiveness, safe neighborhoods, excellent schools, dynamic shopping and dining districts and the strength of its business and service community. West Hartford has an impressive network of award-winning recreational facilities and offers a year-round calendar of social and cultural events.

The town has emergency services 24-hours a day with its full-time police and fire departments and contracted paramedic and ambulance services.

West Hartford is proud of its two municipal golf courses, two indoor pools, four outdoor pools, an ice skating rink, six public parks, including an environmental demonstration farm, two senior centers and three public libraries.

The West Hartford Public School district has 11 elementary, three middle, and two high schools. In addition there are ten private and parochial schools, including elementary through high schools.

Our higher learning centers include the University of Hartford, the University of Saint Joseph, and the University of Connecticut's School of Social Work.

Geographically, West Hartford is located in central Connecticut, west of the City of Hartford, the state capital. Immediate neighboring towns are Bloomfield, Newington, Farmington and Avon. West Hartford is approximately 100 miles southwest of Boston and 100 miles northeast of New York City.

BEST PLACE TO LIVE

West Hartford has earned the no. 45 spot on *Time/Money Magazine's* ranking of the "Best Places to Live 2014" in the United States.

Movoto Real Estate Blog ranked West Hartford in the Top Ten Locales in New England

Both *Time* and Movoto praised West Hartford for its nightlife, concerts and entertainment, recreational and cultural opportunities for all ages, a high quality of life, low crime, low unemployment and low commute times.

Top 10 "Best Cities in the Nation for the Next Decade" (*Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine*). Kiplinger's focused on places that specialized in out-of-the-box thinking. It became clear that West Hartford had three elements of the 'innovation factor': smart people, great ideas and collaboration.

Top 10 "Great Cities for Raising Families" (*Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine*). West Hartford was selected because of its low crime, top-ranked schools (public and private), proximity to major cities, range of parks and historic sites, and vibrant downtown.

Money Magazine ranked West Hartford 76 out of 100 towns in the nation as the best place to live and was ranked as the 10th most educated town in the U.S. West Hartford was the only town in Connecticut that made the list and one of four in New England.

Family Circle magazine named West Hartford one of America's 10 Best Towns for Families .

Hartford Magazine ranked towns in the Greater Hartford region and West Hartford came out #1 Overall, #1 in the large town category, #1 Best for Families, #1 Best for Seniors, #1 Most Affluent, and #1 Most Educated.

BEST HOUSING VALUES

SmartAsset gave West Hartford the second highest ranking for the Healthiest Housing Market in Connecticut (January 2015).

SmartAsset's criteria for ranking included relatively low number

of days a home is on the market, the higher than average number of years residents live in their homes, stable home prices, affordability and the low number of homes sold at a loss.

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BEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS

West Hartford Public Schools have been ranked as the 16th best public school system in Connecticut, according to the 2015 rankings released by Niche, a national online educational and neighborhood ranking service. Additionally, Conard High School and Hall High School were ranked among the best high schools in the state. Conard was 11th and Hall came in at No. 20.

Niche's Best Public School Districts survey ranked 8,738 school districts based on dozens of key statistics and 4.6 million opinions from 280,000 students and parents. A high ranking indicates that the district contains great schools with exceptional teachers, sufficient resources, and a diverse set of high-achieving students.

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Washington Post's Top Challenging High Schools in the Nation: Conard & Hall High School; two of only three in all of Connecticut.

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U.S. News & World Report ranked both Conard and Hall High Schools in the top 10 public high schools in Connecticut, and bestowed the gold medal distinction for ranking in the top 500 of schools nationwide.

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Conard and Hall High Schools ranked tops in *Newsweek's* America's Best High Schools

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BEST LIFESTYLE

TravelandLeisure.com on-line magazine said West Hartford is "One of the Coolest Suburbs Worth a Visit." The West Hartford Reservoir was called "West Hartford's version of Central Park! The magazine also noted the town's vacation-worthy hot spots with cutting-edge restaurants, great shopping, and plenty of parking.

West Hartford was named a "Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community" by The League of American Bicyclists (May 2014). The Bronze award recognizes West Hartford's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through promotion, education, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies.

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Hartford Magazine's "2014 Best of Hartford" edition readers rated the West Hartford Public Library as #1 library in the Greater Hartford area.

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Movoto, an online real estate brokerage firm that is known for its unique approach to city-based research by major news organizations such as *Forbes* and *U.S. News*, published a ranking of the 10 best places to live in Connecticut with a population of over 10,000. West Hartford was noted for its lower than average commute time of just 22 minutes and for its overall excellent quality of life score.

The Top 10 towns were ranked on total amenities, quality of life, crime, and weather.

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HIGHLY EDUCATED

On-line PhD Programs created a list of the Top 101 cities with the most people having Doctorate degrees in American urban centers with populations of 50,000 or more. West Hartford ranked #46 in the nation!

The agency stated "the appeal of West Hartford for doctorate holders perhaps lies as much in the town's location and sense of community as it does in the area's academic opportunities."

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BEST PLACE TO RETIRE

Connecticut Magazine rated West Hartford among the 20 Great Places to Retire in Connecticut. The article states, "This exemplary inner-ring suburb has reinvented itself with a colorful array of shops, restaurants, amusements and even a new 20-acre multipurpose commercial/residential development called Blue Back Square."

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FISCALLY SOUND

Since 1974, Moody's Investor Services and Standard & Poors, the nation's largest bond rating agencies, assigned their highest ratings, Aaa and AAA, to the Town of West Hartford's general obligation bonds.

The triple A rating is the highest rating given by the agencies and is based on the town's strength of management and conservative financial practices.

West Hartford is one of only a few towns in the United States to hold the coveted Aaa/AAA ratings from both agencies. Even fewer have maintained such ratings for nearly 40 years.

