

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Two core shopping areas anchor commercial development in the community. The historic Park Square area is home primarily to restaurants, professional services and locally-owned boutiques. Baptiste Drive is lined with retailers including national and regional brands.

The community also has a thriving industrial and manufacturing base.

Taylor Forge Engineered Systems engineers and fabricates gas and oil, chemical, nuclear and aerospace products for customers around the world.



Photo courtesy Taylor Forge

Reliance Labels produces industrial labels for harsh environment applications. They provide clients product and application evaluation, inventory management and fulfillment services focusing on the lubricant, petroleum, chemical and distribution markets.

SplashTacular designs and manufactures some of the largest water attractions in the world. Their slides and aquatic play units can be found throughout United States and at many international resorts.

Doherty Steel is one of the Kansas City region's major steel fabrication and erection companies. Their work can be seen at Kansas City sports complexes and in major office buildings.

EMPLOYERS

Along with easy access to jobs in the Kansas City metro area, Paola residents have a variety of employment opportunities at home. Manufacturing, government and health care are three of the top regional industries. The following is only a sample of what the city has to offer and does not represent every employer present.

PAOLA EMPLOYERS	INDUSTRY
Briley's, Sonic	Retail
Crown Realty	Service
Doherty Steel, Inc.	Manufacturing
Lakemary Center	Education
Miami County Government	Government
Paola School District	Education
Taylor Forge Industries	Manufacturing
University of Kansas Medical System	Health Care
Walmart	Retail Sales

COUNTY EMPLOYERS	CITY	INDUSTRY
Paola School District	Paola	Education
Lakemary Center	Paola	Special Needs Education
Osawatomie State Hospital	Osawatomie	Mental Health Services
Osawatomie School District	Osawatomie	Education
Miami County Government	Paola	Government
Taylor Forge Industries	Paola	Machining & Steel Work
Louisburg School District	Louisburg	Education

TOURISM

Paola's gorgeous town square is a great place to begin or end a trip around the countryside. Set in the community's center, it features a park, gazebo and fountain with public WiFi available. A gift from the Native Americans who first settled the region, the square hosts numerous activities throughout the year. Nearby is the city's historic City Hall and the Paola Free Library.



The Roots Festival, a two-day music event, is one of the community's largest activities. The late August event is paired with a state-sanctioned BBQ championship contest. The Miami County Fair and Rodeo and Louisburg Cider Mill Festival are just a sampling of the region's other family activities. Each are a great way to meet the locals and enjoy a slower pace of life, just minutes from Kansas City.

Nearby attractions include local wineries and the Louisburg Cider Mill. Paola is also a popular draw for agritourism with nontraditional farms of all sizes where visitors can see alpacas, Hereford cows, goats and pigs. During harvest season, the Farmers Market on the historic downtown offers local produce. Spring and fall farm tours offer insight into farming operations and products from local farms.

Paola attracts foodies from all over for its wide variety of unique restaurants, which range from a barbecue restaurant where you can watch airplanes take off, to a former 1920s hotel where now you can sip coffee. And for visitors stopping by on a Friday, there's no better way to refuel than with a \$2 made-from-scratch piece of pie at the Paola Livestock Auction.

The community's history is steeped in local traditions. Those are displayed in the Miami County Historical Museum where the latest technology, iPads and QR codes, are used to walk visitors back into life during the Civil War.

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 Paola Chamber of Commerce 6 W. Peoria | Paola, KS 66071 | 913-294-4335 | www.paolachamber.org
 Miami County Economic Development 201 S. Pearl, Suite 202 | Paola, KS 66071
 913-294-4045 | www.thinkmiamicounty.com

Living in PAOLA



A proven past, a promising future.

(913) 259-3600 | 19 E. Peoria, Paola, KS 66071 | www.cityofpaola.com

Photo courtesy Brook Morris



Located just 30 minutes south of Kansas City, Paola is a progressive community steeped in more than 150 years of history and tradition.

Residents have a choice of older, historic homes in established neighborhoods or affordable starter homes in several smaller subdivisions. For persons wanting to build their dream home, lots are available in a wide range of developments.

Paola's shopping district includes national retailers along with several locally-owned shops and restaurants. Visitors are just minutes away from more than a dozen agritourism destinations and oftentimes make daytrips to enjoy music at the annual Roots Festival or the more than 400 vehicles displayed during the car show.

As the hub of Miami County government, Paola is home to all county offices. These operations attract a number of attorneys, accountants, doctors and similar professional services to the community.

As an example, Miami County Medical Center, a Level IV Trauma Center located in Paola, has received national recognition for outstanding care. The hospital has been named a top performer by the national accreditor, Joint Commission, and has been awarded Emergency Stroke Ready designation.



Drive Time from Paola

New Century AirCenter	31 min.	25 miles
Logistics Park Kansas City	30 min.	24 miles
Overland Park	43 min.	34 miles
Kansas City Metro Area	49 min.	43 miles

HOUSING



Photos courtesy Jim Bousman

The average single family home sale price includes new and existing single-family units. It includes homes sold by owner and those involving a real estate agent.

About 65% of the community's 2,200 housing units are owner occupied with only a minimal vacancy rate among owner-occupied homes.

Adding to the multi-family market, multiple senior townhome complexes have been constructed recently offering many maintenance-free conveniences.

NEW SINGLE FAMILY BUILDING PERMITS

	Permits Issued
2018	9
2019	6
2020	11
2021	10
2022	33
2023	28
2024	6

Source: City of Paola

AVERAGE SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALE PRICE

	Average Sales Price	Price Per Square Foot
2020	\$191,795	\$137
2021	\$215,562	\$148
2022	\$229,728	\$168
2023	\$249,489	\$171

Source: Miami County Appraiser's Office

PUBLIC SAFETY



Photo courtesy Marty Dashfield

The Paola Fire Department is responsible for fire suppression, rescue, inspections, prevention and education. The station and gym occupies more than 32,000 square feet with eight apparatus bays and a four-story hose and drill tower.

Paola invests strongly in public safety as evidenced by the city's Justice Center and Paola Fire Station.

A focus on community policing allows Paola to maintain crime rates generally comparable to the state and county. A partnership between the city and school district allows a School Resource Officer to interact with students throughout the day.

In addition, the police department conducts a multi-discipline active shooter response training annually, including utilizing a Fire Arms Training System. This advanced system provides a wide array of scenario-based, virtual training for officers. Paola officers are also qualified to provide FATS training to law enforcement officers from other departments in the region.

TOTAL CRIME INDEX

Year	County Average	Paola Police	State of Kansas
2013	20.7	37.8	31.4
2014	20.5	33.2	34.6
2015	17.4	24.9	29.9
2016	20.1	31.6	30.6
2017	18.1	30.0	31.4
2018	17.4	24.8	31.4
2019	14.3	21.7	29.3
2020	13.7	25.3	29.7
2021	10.7	22.5	25.7
2022	10.3	17.0	25.2
2023	14.6	28.3	27.0

Note: Includes violent crime and property crime per 1,000 residents
Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation

DEMOGRAPHICS

Miami County has a population of more than 34,000 persons. Paola is the county's largest city and serves as the county seat.

Paola's median age, 44.1 years, reflects the community's youth with 73% younger than 60 years.

POPULATION

Year	Population
2012	5,550
2013	5,630
2014	5,593
2015	5,527
2016	5,568
2017	5,580
2018	5,670
2019	5,719
2020	5,664
2021	5,786
2022	5,738
2023	5,780

Source: Kansas Budget Office

RESIDENT PROFILE

	Estimate
Male	45%
Female	55%
Under 9 years	9%
10 to 19 years	15%
20 to 29 years	13%
30 to 39 years	10%
40 to 49 years	13%
50 to 59 years	13%
60 to 69 years	13%
70 to 79 years	10%
80 years & over	5%
Median Age (years)	44.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022, 5-Year American Community Survey



Photo courtesy Jim Bousman



SCHOOLS

The Paola School District serves nearly 2,000 students attending classes at two elementary schools, a middle school, high school and alternative school. Paola High School offers 10 career and technical education pathways. This is supported by five off-campus dual college credit programs offered via Fort Scott Community College, Neosho County Community College, and Flint Hills Technical College.

One of the smaller school districts in the Kansas City metro area, Paola students can select from a wide array of academic and extracurricular activities. Teams have won state awards in art, music, forensics, dance and athletics.

Sunflower Elementary School was named a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

Students also have access to traditional and nontraditional learning tracks including construction design, web and digital content, audio and visual communications, business finance, agriculture science, welding, and family and community services.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
State Average	87.5	88.3	88.1	89.3	88.1
Paola USD 368	94.0	91.2	94.6	96.9	95.6

Source: Kansas Department of Education



PARKS

Walking trails, a network of community parks and Lake Miola provide great outdoor amenities in Paola.

Summer months at Lake Miola include fishing, camping, hiking, swimming, watersports and picnics. Dogs are welcome to run and play off-leash at the lake's dog park. The large, city-owned lake is home to annual events including charity runs and the traditional July 3 fireworks display.

Families enjoy the water slides and water features at the Paola Family Pool near Wallace Park's skateboard area, walking trails and ball fields. Other community parks include Whitaker Park, Wea Mission Site and Veterans Memorial Park.

In the center of the community, Park Square features a large gazebo, fountain and playground area. A focal point for most community events, the Square highlights the community's Native American history and is surrounded by retailers. During the summer months, it is home to Music and the Market featuring local musical acts performing while local vendors are available for shoppers.

Just a few miles to the north, Hillsdale Lake State Park is a draw throughout the year. A marina, public hunting grounds, a shooting range, trails and ample camping options draw almost 1 million visitors a year.

A full-calendar of fine arts and indoor entertainment is provided by programming offered at the Paola Community Center. This historic theater has been restored to provide a showcase for multicultural arts and educational programming. Community plays, music concerts, children's activities, cultural festivals, and movie nights all take place at the center.

