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## **Veterans Guide to Calling West Des Moines Home.**

Your guide to business, lifestyle, opportunities and veteran services in West Des Moines!

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## WELCOME

### **To Military Families living in West Des Moines or considering West Des Moines as their New Home:**

Welcome! The City of West Des Moines is a proud supporter of Home Base Iowa and is excited to enter a new partnership with the State of Iowa and the West Des Moines Business Leaders to become a Home Base Iowa Community. Considered a regional employment hub in the Des Moines-West Des Moines Metropolitan area, the City of West Des Moines looks forward to the opportunity to work with Veterans and bring their unique experiences and advanced training to our community.

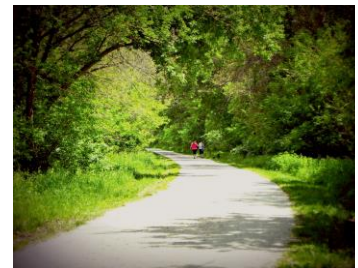
### **Choosing the City of West Des Moines**

The City of West Des Moines offers Service Members and their families a unique experience: a one-stop shop for educational, professional, and recreational opportunities to thrive and enjoy life.

The City of West Des Moines is a growing community with an estimated population of 63,000 and a daytime population of over 120,000. The choice of several excellent school systems, advanced educational opportunities, adult learning, and recreational opportunities are just a few examples of how West Des Moines is a great choice for your next home. Recognized as a Main Street Iowa Community, West Des Moines proudly promotes Historical Valley Junction as well as the regional retail centers, Jordan Creek Town Center, West Glen Town Center, and Valley West Mall. West Des Moines offers diverse living options that can meet your family's needs.

### **Veterans Welcome Package**

Contact McKinlee Ritter with the City of West Des Moines at (515) 222-3598 to receive your Veteran's Welcome Package. Current and new residents that have served in the Military are eligible for the welcome package. The Welcome Package contains Parks and Recreation Bucks, VIP Shopping Card for Historical Valley Junction, Professional Development Scholarship opportunities, information on Small Business Consultations, City Tours and more!



## QUALITY OF LIFE

### **Water Fun – Making a splash!**

Choose one of the premier WDM Aquatic Centers or Blue Heron Lake in Raccoon River Park. Blue Heron Lake offers swimming and other recreational activities with lake access for sail boats and paddle boats.

**Want to try a new class, purchase a family Aquatic Pass?** The City of West Des Moines will give each Service Member family a total of \$100 Parks and Recreation bucks to be spent on West Des Moines services, classes, and facility rentals per calendar year. Contact McKinlee Ritter at (515) 222-3598 for more information.

### **Enjoying the great outdoors**

West Des Moines has many trails to choose from, connectivity to over 50 miles of bike & walking trails throughout West Des Moines and access to an extensive trail system throughout the metropolitan area. To view a full parks and trails map visit

<http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/home/showdocument?id=5855>.

### **Parks & Recreation Guide**

Fun activities for the whole family! To view a full list of this seasons Parks & Recreation Program Guide visit [www.wdm.iowa.gov/parksandrec](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/parksandrec).

### **Shopping— New, used, vintage!**

There are plenty of shopping centers located in West Des Moines. This includes Jordan Creek Town Center, West Glen Town Center, Valley West Mall and Historic Valley Junction.

**In need of some VIP Retail?** Valley Junction will offer families their VIP Shopping Discount in the City Welcome package for the retailers and restaurants in the Historic Valley Junction District.

### **Movie Theaters**

Several theaters to choose from in the metro area with the WDM premier Jordan Creek Theaters offering the most recent releases.

### **Restaurants – What’s your flavor – we’ve got it!**

Visit <http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/home/showdocument?id=11307> to view a list of West Des Moines restaurant directory.

### **Local Churches**

There are over ten churches located within West Des Moines including Valley Church, Ashworth Road Baptist Church, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and Lutheran Church of Hope.

### **Local Grocery Stores**

Everything from La Michoacana, Trader Joes, and Whole Foods to Fareway and Hy-Vee are options in West Des Moines for all your grocery shopping needs. For more information visit [www.wdm.iowa.gov/HBIAttractions](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/HBIAttractions).



## PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**We have a job for you!** How does my skillset transfer to civilian jobs? Determine your SOC based on your current MOC.

<http://www.onetonline.org/crosswalk>

**Looking for local employers?** Research Home Base Iowa Businesses in West Des Moines at <http://wdm.iowa.gov/HBIBusiness>.

**Leadership Development Opportunity**--Interested in meeting professionals in the community and networking with employers? Apply for the next West Des Moines Leadership Academy class, today! Academy fees will be sponsored by the City of West Des Moines upon acceptance into the program. More information:

<https://www.wdmchamber.org/programs/wdm-leadership-academy/>

**Entrepreneurship Consultation**- Greater Dallas County Development Alliance, a West Des Moines partner, will offer a free consultation for Veterans interested in business opportunities to provide education and links to the top business resources in the Des Moines Metropolitan area. Contact [McKinlee.Ritter@wdm.iowa.gov](mailto:McKinlee.Ritter@wdm.iowa.gov) or (515) 222-3598 for more information. Visit GDCDA here: <http://www.dallascounty-ia.org/>.

## MILITARY SERVICES

**VA Central Iowa Health Care Systems** -

<http://www.centraliowa.va.gov/>

**Polk County Veterans Affairs** -

<https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/veteranaffairs/>

**Regional Benefits Office** -

<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=375>

**Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs** - <https://va.iowa.gov/>

**Iowa PVA Chapter** -

<http://www.pva.org/site/c.aJlRK9NJLcJ2E/b.6463509/k.BF57/iowa.htm>

**Camp Dodge** -

<http://www.iowanationalguard.com/Camp%20Dodge/Pages/Home.aspx>

**Iowa Property Tax Exemptions** - <https://tax.iowa.gov/military-tax-information>

For a map of military services go to [www.wdm.iowa.gov/MilitaryServices](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/MilitaryServices).

## INTERIM LODGING

**Camp Dodge** -

<http://www.iowanationalguard.com/Camp%20Dodge/Pages/Billeting.aspx>

**Hotels** - <http://des.moines.hotelguide.net/hl1wd.htm#>





## Purchasing a Home

**Looking for a new home?** The City of West Des Moines will offer a tour of our business districts and neighborhoods to help make your decision easier. Contact McKinlee Ritter at (515) 222-3598 to schedule your tour today.

### West Des Moines Banks

Wells Fargo  
West Bank Iowa  
Northwest Bank  
American Trust & Savings Bank  
Bank of the West  
US Bank

### West Des Moines Realtors

Keller Williams Realty: 515-334-4900 [www.kwds.com](http://www.kwds.com)  
Iowa Realty: 515-453-6222 [www.iowarealty.com](http://www.iowarealty.com)  
ReMax: 515 -987-4668 [www.remax.com](http://www.remax.com)

## GETTING CONNECTED

Utilize our New Residents Guide to help maneuver the ins-and-outs of moving! Visit <http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/residents/new-resident-guide> for more information.

## Education

### Primary and Secondary Education in West Des Moines

West Des Moines Community Schools- <http://www.wdmcs.org/district/our-schools/>  
Iowa Christian Academy- <http://www.icablazers.org/>  
Sacred Heart School- <http://www.sacredheartwdm.org/>  
St. Francis of Assisi School- <http://www.saintfrancischurch.org/>  
Waukee Community Schools- <http://www.waukeeschools.org/>  
Dowling High School- <http://www.dowlingcatholic.org/>

### Higher Education in West Des Moines

DMACC West- <https://www.dmac.edu/west/Pages/welcome.aspx>  
Simpson- <http://simpson.edu/ewg/>  
Upper Iowa- <http://www.uiu.edu/>  
Vatterott- <http://www.vatterott.edu/>

