

Lee's Summit At A Glance

Facts and Demographics¹

Population: 86,357 (estimate)

Median Age: 36.4

Median Household Income: \$70,900

Median Family Income: \$72,283

Average Commute Time: 25.3 minutes

Lee's Summit is the 5th largest community in the state, with 65 square miles, of which only 50% is developed.²

Coldest Month: January normal low: 20.5F³
Hottest Month: July normal high: 88.9F⁴

Ranked as one of Money Magazine's Best Places to Live⁵

Lee's Summit Airport is the busiest, non-towered airport in Missouri⁶

The city issued 4,344 business licenses in 2006.⁷

Lee's Summit is the 19th safest city in the nation among cities with populations between 75,000 and 99,999.⁸

Lee's Summit has been assigned a rating of 'AAA' by Fitch. This rating reflects Lee's Summit's 'high residential wealth, a skilled workforce, and a consistently strong financial performance due to conservative financial policies and low debt burden.'⁹

Moody upgrades Lee's Summit rating to an Aa1. This rating reflects a health wealth level, small debt, strong debt management and a diversified local economy in comparison to other Midwest suburbs.¹⁰

¹ Source: Population, Median Age, Median Household/Family Income and average commute time; U.S. Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey

² City of Lee's Summit www.lees-summit.mo.us

³ City of Lee's Summit www.lees-summit.mo.us

⁴ City of Lee's Summit www.lees-summit.mo.us

⁵ CNN/Money Magazine 2006

⁶ City of Lee's Summit; City Administrator's Report 2007; www.lees-summit.mo.us

⁷ City of Lee's Summit Treasury Department

⁸ Morgan Quinto Safest Cities Report 2006

⁹ Fitch Ratings-Chicago-January 13, 2006

¹⁰ Moody's Investors Service, Inc, 2006

Housing

Total Housing Units: 33,406¹¹

Median Number of Rooms (per occupied unit): 6.3¹²

Median Home Value: \$170,800¹³

Number of Housing Units Built (1990-2005): 16,171¹⁴

Number of Single Family Sub-divisions: 500¹⁵

The Lee's Summit area has several sub-divisions on lakes:

- Lake Winnebago, a small town immediately adjacent to the city of Lee's Summit, is a 400 acre lakeside community providing boating, fishing, and water skiing.¹⁶
- Prairie Lee Lake is about 134 acres in size and is a predominately urban lake with several homes along it's shores.¹⁷
- Raintree Lake is a quiet upscale community of more than 1,600 homes with access to 7.5 miles of public shoreline.¹⁸
- Lakewood is an upscale community of about 2,000 acres with about 3,000 families and offers all the amenities of lakeside living.¹⁹

Other large sub-divisions include: Oak Ridge Meadows, Winterset, Longview Farms, Eagle Creek, Oak Tree Farm, Charleston Park and the Paddock²⁰

Education

Lee's Summit R-7²¹

Public School District Enrollment (2006): 16,698

Number of High Schools: 3 06-07 Enrollment: 5,309

Number of Middle Schools: 3 06-07 Enrollment: 2,691

Number of Elementary Schools: 16 06-07 Enrollment: 8,698

Elementary student/teacher ratio: 21.8

¹¹ Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey

¹² Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey

¹³ Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey

¹⁴ Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey

¹⁵ Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce Community Profile, 2007

¹⁶ Lake Winnebago website www.lakewinnebago.org

¹⁷ Lakes of Missouri website www.lmvp.org

¹⁸ Raintree Lake website www.raintreelake.com

¹⁹ Lakewood Property Owners Association www.lakewoodpoa.com

²⁰ Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce Community Profile, 2007

²¹ Lee's Summit R-7 School District www.leesummit.k12.mo.us

Awards and Distinctions (Lee’s Summit R-7 – continued)

Has earned the states Distinction in Performance Award six years in a row.

Designated a Gold Medal School District by Expansion Magazine (March 2006)

Received Playground Safety Award from the National Program for Playground Safety (July 2006)

Received What Parents Want Award from Schoolmatch

ACT scores are above state and national averages (August 2006)

Students consistently score above state average on Missouri Assessment Program (MAP Test)

Almost 80% of graduates attend college

In 2006, graduates earned \$10.8 million in scholarships.

77% of staff hold Master's Degrees or above

Kid's County, the before and after school program for the district, was awarded the Showcase of Quality Award twice (1999-00 and 2001-02)

Blue Springs R-4²²

Public School District Enrollment (2006): 13,339

Number of High Schools:	3	06-07 Enrollment:	4,213
Number of Middle Schools:	5	06-07 Enrollment:	2,073
Number of Elementary Schools:	13	06-07 Enrollment:	7,053

Elementary student/teacher ratio: 20.0

²² Blue Springs R-4 School District www.bluesprings-schools.net and Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education www.dese.mo.gov

Awards and Distinctions (Blue Springs R-4 – continued)

For the sixth year in a row the Blue Springs School District received a perfect score on the Annual Performance Report from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. They are one of only eight districts in the state to receive a perfect score for five years consecutively.

The district has received the Distinction in Performance award every year since 2000.

The Missouri Association of School Administrators named Blue Springs School District Superintendent, Dr. Paul Kinder, the Superintendent of the Year for 2007.

The Kansas City Business Journal named the Blue Springs School District the "Best Place to Work 2005" over all large companies in the metropolitan area.

The Blue Springs Board of Education was awarded the "Outstanding School Board of the Year" by the Missouri School Boards' Association for 2005-2006.

70% of staff hold Master's Degrees or higher.

Private/Parochial Schools²³

Number of Private/Parochial Schools: 2

Lee's Summit Community Christian School (PK-12)
Our Lady of Presentation (K-8)

Higher Education²⁴

Number of colleges/universities: 6

Longview Community College

2001 named "College of the Year" by Time Magazine/Princeton Review.
First Community College to receive this honor.

Baker University
University of Phoenix
University of Central Missouri-Lee's Summit Campus
Ottawa University
Park University

²³ Images of Lee's Summit Magazine, 2006

²⁴ Images of Lee's Summit Magazine, 2006

Shopping and Entertainment

Number of full-service restaurants: 42²⁵
Number of restaurants and drinking establishments: 110²⁶

Number of Retailers: 248²⁷

Summit Crossing is a 750,000 square foot power center of shopping with national chain and department stores and restaurants.²⁸

Summit Fair is a proposed 600,000 square foot upscale shopping center which will be located just east of Summit Crossing.²⁹

Historic Downtown

Historic Downtown Lee's Summit is the heart of Lee's Summit; a commercially vibrant, family destination.³⁰ It is an urban village with a mixture of uses, including specialty shops and restaurants, compatible residential development, and a City Hall that makes an important civic statement. It is, and will remain a place of experience – people walking, music playing, events happening . . . a public environment.

Voters approved a \$12.5 million dollar Downtown Streetscape Project in Spring 2002. The downtown development project includes street trees, new sidewalks, brick pavers and ornamental lighting. This is the most significant downtown development since 1865.³¹

Recreation and Leisure³²

Number of Public Lakes: 3
Lake Jacomo, Blue Springs Lake, and Longview Lake

Number of Public Golf Courses: 4
Number of Private Golf Courses: 1

Acres of Park Land: 1,200

Number of Public Parks: 25

Number of Tennis Courts: 15

Number of Baseball Fields: 7

²⁵ Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey

²⁶ Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey

²⁷ Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey

²⁸ Lee's Summit Economic Development Council www.leessummit.org

²⁹ Lee's Summit Economic Development Council www.leessummit.org

³⁰ Images of Lee's Summit Magazine, 2006

³¹ City of Lee's Summit www.lees-summit.mo.us

³² City of Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department

Government³³

Lee's Summit is a Charter city, organized under the Mayor-Council-Administrator system.

A \$19 million dollar City Hall and parking structure was constructed and completed in 2006.

Events and Attractions³⁴

Festival of the Arts
Farmer's Market
Music in the Park
Halloween and St. Patrick's Day Parades
Oktoberfest

Paradise Park

A multi-million dollar children's entertainment center with go-carts, video arcade, miniature golf, batting cages, hayrides, a giant sand box for hunting fossils, plus an indoor village.

Savanahland is an educational park, which is home to more than 200 exotic animals.

Missouri Town 1855, located at Lake Jacomo, has reconstructed buildings and landscapes depicting what life was like in the 1800's.

The Lee's Summit Symphony Orchestra, with more than 90 musicians, has been playing to sold out audiences for the past three years.

Powell Gardens, is a 915 acre botanical garden located just 20 miles east of Lee's Summit. Features 7,000 plants, with more than 300 varieties and has a 3.25 mile nature trail.

Christmas In The Park at Longview Lake is one of the largest holiday lighting displays in the nation.

³³ City of Lee's Summit www.lees-summit.mo.us

³⁴ Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce Community Profile, 2007

History

William B. Howard founded Lee's Summit as the Town of Strother on October 28, 1865. In 1868 the name was changed to the Town of Lee's Summit.³⁵

Lee's Summit was named in part because it was once the highest point (summit) along the railroad between Kansas City and St. Louis, but there are several theories as to where the "Lee" portion originated. One theory states that the town was named after General Robert E. Lee since the incorporation took place shortly after the Civil War. Another theory maintains the town was named after Dr. Pleasant Lea a prominent early settler.³⁶

The differences in the spelling of "Lea" are attributed to railroad sign painters.³⁷

In 1912, R.A. Long, the owner of a lumber company, began building his estate on the western edge of Lee's Summit and named it Longview Farm. This farm became internationally known as a showplace farm. Today, Longview Farm has been transformed into an award winning urbanism named New Longview and has shopping, single-family homes and apartments, and offices. The horse barn has been transformed into Longview Farm Elementary.³⁸

Notable People

Lee's Summit was home to Larry Stewart who was known as the metropolitan area "Secret Santa" who, for 26 years, gave away money to complete strangers. "Secret Santa" passed away in late 2006 but his generosity lives on in the hearts of the people he touched.³⁹

Lee's Summit was the birthplace of jazz artist Pat Matheny.⁴⁰

Thomas Coleman Younger was a famous Confederate outlaw during and after the Civil War. With his brothers, Jim, John, and Bob, he joined with Jesse and Frank James to lead the James-Younger gang of Missouri outlaws. Cole Younger's grave is located in the Lee's Summit Historical Cemetery.⁴¹

³⁵ City of Lee's Summit www.lees-summit.mo.us

³⁶ City of Lee's Summit www.lees-summit.mo.us

³⁷ City of Lee's Summit www.lees-summit.mo.us

³⁸ Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce Community Profile, 2007

³⁹ Lee's Summit Journal

⁴⁰ Wikipedia en.wikipedia.org

⁴¹ City of Lee's Summit www.lees-summit.mo.us