Welcome to Urbandale!

The City originated primarily as a “street car suburb”, with a scattering of coal mines also providing employment to some early residents while other miners used the streetcar line to reach the mines. All of the coal mines were shaft mines reported to be 180 feet to 360 feet deep, with entry shafts to individual mines located in the vicinity of what today is Karen Acres Elementary School and in other scattered sites in the city. Most of the mines were closed in the 1930s. The last operating mine was the Beck Mine on Merle Hay Road, which was one of the last operating mines in Polk County when it closed in 1947.

The streetcar system fueled Urbandale’s early growth. Originally intended to be a railroad line continuing northwest to Grimes and beyond to Woodward when it was constructed in 1905, the line was terminated in a turnaround at 70th and Roseland (which is commemorated today by the Trolley Park) when the railroad owners encountered difficulties with right-of-way acquisition. The railroad was then converted to a street car line that served commuters traveling to work in Des Moines and provided access to medical services, delivered freight and supplies to Urbandale residents, and afforded general transportation before automobiles became commonplace. At the height of service, cars ran every 7.5 minutes during rush hour and at 15 minute intervals at other times, from 5:00am until midnight. The line was replaced by buses in 1950.
Can our **nurse** be your neighbor?

She takes care of you when you’re sick. She is always around to answer questions about your health. But she may not be able to afford to live near her work and be a part of your community.

Affordable housing makes it possible for hard-working people like our nurse to enjoy safe and stable housing. And she helps keep you in good health, contributing to the high quality of life you enjoy.

Everyone benefits from affordable housing!

The average annual salary of a nurse in Des Moines is: **$39,751**

If a single nurse paid 30% of her income on rent monthly, she could pay: **$994**

In Urbandale, our nurse could afford this number of rental homes: **2,328**

Meet the rest of our neighbors at: [canibeyourneighbor.com](http://canibeyourneighbor.com)

Who are your neighbors?

**In Urbandale...**

1,327 households make less than **$25,000** per year, or...

9% of the city.

3,222 rental homes

12,771 owner-occupied

627 renter households pay **30 to 50%** of their income each month on rent.

517 renter households pay **over 50%** of their income each month on rent.
Welcome to Downtown Des Moines!

The history of Des Moines can be traced to 1834, when John Dougherty, an Indian Agent at Fort Leavenworth, recommended that a military post be established at the point where the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers merge. Nine years later, May 1843, Captain James Allen and a company of dragoons from Fort Sanford arrived on the site. Captain Allen proposed to name the garrison Fort Raccoon but was directed by the War Department to use the name Fort Des Moines.

The origin of the name is uncertain, but most historians agree that the name probably initially referred to the river. Some people feel that ‘Des Moines’ is derived from the Indian word ‘moingona’ meaning river of the mounds which referred to the burial mounds that were located near the banks of the river. Others are of the opinion that name applies to the Trappist Monks (Moines de la Trappe) who lived in huts at the mouth of the Des Moines river.

Settlers began locating almost immediately near the fort, which is now the site of Principal Park. Streets were platted in 1847, and the Town of Fort Des Moines was officially founded in 1853. In 1857, Fort Des Moines was shortened to Des Moines and later that year the city was designated the capitol of the State of Iowa, replacing Iowa City.

Today more than 200,000 people live in Des Moines, and the City is recognized as a center for government, education, business, culture, and the arts. Des Moines also has gained national recognition as a major insurance center, the third largest in the world.
Can our teacher’s aide be your neighbor?

She helps your children learn. She spends her days at your neighborhood school to give her students one-on-one instruction. But she may not be able to afford to live near her work and be a part of your community.

Affordable housing makes it possible for hard-working people like our teacher’s aide to enjoy safe and stable housing. And she helps local kids do their best, contributing to the high quality of life you enjoy.

Everyone benefits from affordable housing!

The average annual salary of a teacher’s aide in Des Moines is: **$19,862**

If a single teacher’s aide paid 30% of her income on rent monthly, she could pay: **$497**

In Central Des Moines, our teacher’s aide could afford this number of rental homes: **821**

Meet the rest of our neighbors at: [canibeyourneighbor.com](http://canibeyourneighbor.com)

Who are your neighbors?

In Central Des Moines*...

1,776 households make less than $25,000 per year, or...

47% of the neighborhood.

2,912 rental homes

867 owner-occupied

496 renter households pay 30 to 50% of their income each month on rent.

762 renter households pay over 50% of their income each month on rent.

*Due to data availability, these figures for “Central Des Moines” include Downtown, the East Village, and Capitol East.