

Grand Island, Nebraska  
**Sports Planner's Guide**





# Grand Island

## Nebraska

Grand Island is located right in the center of the United States. Major roadways connect the city to Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, Minneapolis-St Paul, Oklahoma City and St. Louis metros in a day's drive.

Grand Island's Central Nebraska Regional Airport (GRI) offers daily flights to Dallas-Fort Worth and bi-weekly flights to Las Vegas and Phoenix.

You can get anywhere in this city of 50,000 in less than 15 minutes.



RAILSIDE DISTRICT



**50,000**  
city residents

**60,000**  
county residents

**1,841**  
feet above sea level

### Climate

Summer	Avg high 87°, low 64°
Autumn	Avg high 64°, low 39°
Winter	Avg high 32°, low 12°
Spring	Avg high 62°, low 38°
Precip	Annual avg 24.9"



VETERAN'S ATHLETIC COMPLEX

**Grand Island has hosted scores** of regional and national competitions including equine, shooting, wrestling, basketball, archery, bowling, cheerleading, soccer, softball, and more. Events regularly return to the city, evidence that Grand Island knows how to help make sporting competitions and tournaments successful.

Grand Island offers a diverse array of top-notch venues including The Heartland Events Center that can seat up to 7,500, a state-of-the-art shooting park, and a new 10-field softball complex. We're equipped to handle competitions in virtually any sport.

## Sports & Event Planning Services

- Dignitary welcomes and ceremonial color guard
- Financial bid incentive opportunities
- Grand Island Sports Council support
- Press release to regional media outlets
- Arrange citywide hotel room blocks
- Registration services including name tags
- Site selection services
- Specialized city maps
- Transportation planning services (motorcoach)
- Volunteer recruitment
- Welcome bags with information and pens



Grand Island  
Tourism

**Grand Island Tourism**

201 W Third St  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
308-382-4400  
info@VisitGrandIsland.com  
VisitGrandIsland.com





FONNER PARK CAMPUS



STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



# Introduction to Fonner Park

**Fonner Park, a sixty-plus year institution** in Grand Island, continues to find new ways to use its 240 acre campus.

While its agricultural beginnings represent the core of its activities, new flexible space and attractions offer groups the ability to set up for almost any activity. More than 500,000 square feet of flat floor space is under roof. Of that, roughly 250,000 square feet are heated and 150,000 square feet are air conditioned.

Paved parking is abundant. A large campground is available for group use. Almost half of the city's 1,800 hotel rooms and fifty restaurants are within two miles of the Fonner Park campus, including the Railside district's locally-owned eateries and breweries.

# Heartland Events Center

The Heartland Events Center can do just about anything for your meeting. Yes, it is used as banquet space and a place to hold opening ceremonies. However, the events center can also feature hardwood for basketball tournaments, turf for indoor football, or truckloads of dirt for monster trucks and rodeo.

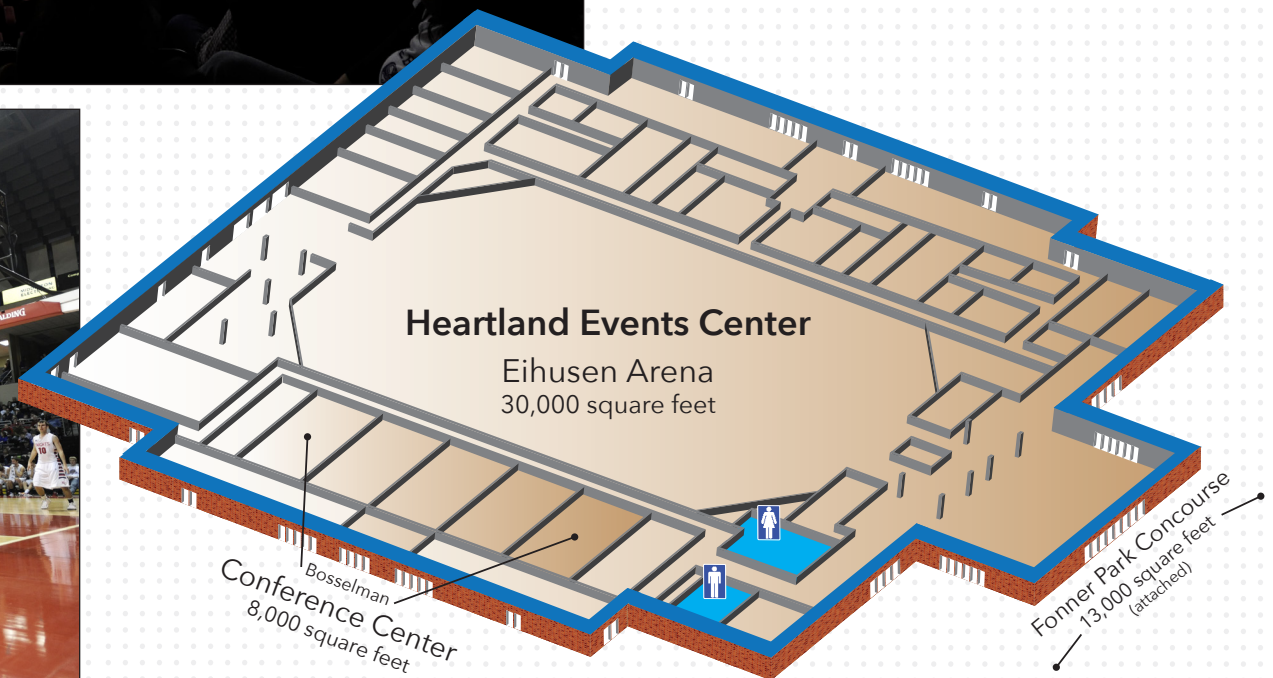
- 30,000 square feet of arena space
- 6,000 permanent seats, 1,500 portable seats
- Climate controlled
- PA system, Daktronics scoreboard
- Locker and meeting rooms, concession stands
- Wi-Fi
- Four corner digital screens



INDOOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE



HEARTLAND HOOPS CLASSIC





GRAND ISLAND FIELDHOUSE

# Expo Center and Fieldhouse

**The Grand Island Community Fieldhouse** is available October-April. The 70,000 square-foot facility hosts city leagues for a variety of sports from archery to flag football, and can also be used for tournaments that aren't a part of the local parks and recreation programs.

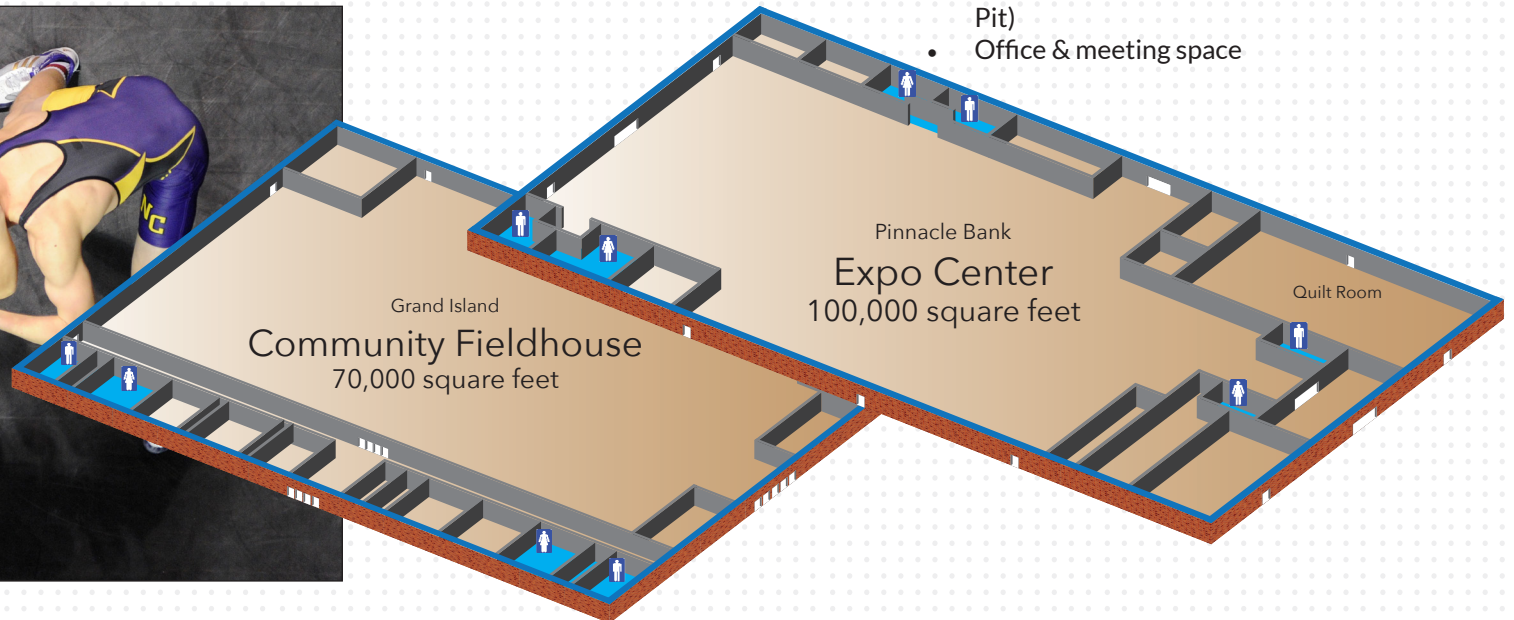
- Climate controlled
- Basketball, volleyball, batting cages, soccer fields
- 4 overhead doors (largest is 20' wide)
- Concession area, kitchen & dining area
- 3 meeting rooms

**The Pinnacle Bank Expo Center** offers 100,000 square feet of do-anything space. Sporting events, dog shows, and academic competitions have all made good use of the space.

- Climate controlled
- 4 overhead doors (largest is 30' x 20')
- Concession area, kitchen & dining area (Beef Pit)
- Office & meeting space



USA STATE WRESTLING





# Grand Island High School Memorial Stadium

Rebuilt in 2020, Memorial Stadium is the finest high school stadium in Nebraska. 5,400 seats allow for a first class sporting experience for both the athlete and the spectator. On the west side, it has three locker rooms, an officials' locker room, meeting room, restrooms, and concessions. On the east side is one locker room, concessions, and restrooms. The media can use the pressbox that provide exceptional views of the field.

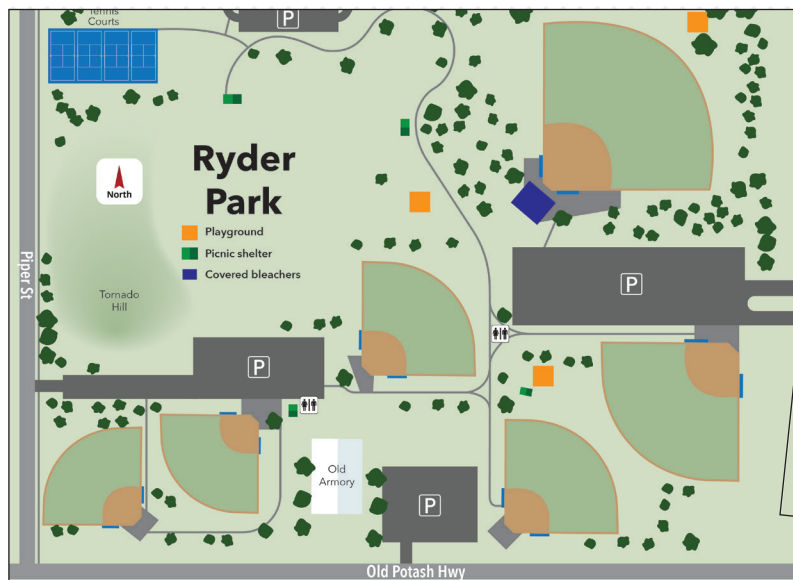


# Veterans Athletic Complex

The Veterans Athletic Complex is a newly developed collection of baseball, softball, and soccer fields on the north side of Grand Island.

The complex features 10 lighted softball fields, 6 at 220' and 4 at 300' (temporary fence available) alongside 12 acres of soccer fields. Other amenities include ample paved parking, shaded bleachers, concessions, a playground (2020) and a splash pad. Ryder park offers another six fields just three miles away.

The complex is adjacent to Eagle Scout Park, which offers an additional playground, walking trail, more restrooms, and handicap accessible fishing dock.







# Heartland Public Shooting Park

One of the finest shooting parks in the U.S., the 420-acre park hosts regional and national events each year. The Heartland Public Shooting park is the largest, most complete public shooting facility in the Midwest with many recreational and competitive activities including

- Virgil Eihusen Skeet Fields
- 10-Station Sporting Clays Range
- Trap Range, including bunker trap
- Five Stand Range
- Rifle Ranges out to 600 yards
- Handgun Ranges out To 50 yards
- Archery Range (practice and 3D ranges)
- RV Park with full power and water
- Retriever Training Area
- Catch-and-release fishing lake



You would need to drive almost 1,000 miles in any direction to find a shooting park with as many disciplines as the Heartland Public Shooting Park.

# Other Sports Venues

- Indianhead Golf Course
- Riverside Golf Club
- Jackrabbit Run Golf Course
- Centura Hills Golf Course
  
- Fonner Park Race Track
- Pickleball Courts, Veteran's Athletic Complex
- 2 full-service bowling alleys
- Skate Island (Roller Skating)
- Grand Island Tennis Club
- Third City Archers
- YMCA Aquatic Center
  
- 35+ indoor gymnasiums available

We are home to the Nebraska State Fair Marathon, the flattest marathon course in the United States.



INDIANHEAD GOLF COURSE



PICKLEBALL COURTS



# Grand Island

Nebraska

**ARRIVE RAILSIDE**

The streets in Railside were originally planned to parallel the railroad tracks. As the city grew, planners decided new roads would point true north. City lot parking is free.

**GRAND ISLAND I-80 EXIT 312**

3 miles

Map labels include: Cairo, Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway, Nebraska 2, Airport Rd, Six Park Rd, Capital Ave, Eagle Scout Park, Veterans Athletic Complex, Jackrabbit Run Golf, Grand Island H.S., Days Inn, Comfort Inn, Sleep Inn, Candlewood Fairfield Holiday Inn, Hampton, Central Catholic H.S., CHI St. Francis, Sorenson Fields, Ryder Park, Resident Suites, Conoco Motel, Suck's Lake, Island Oasis Water Park, Raising Nebraska, Heartland Events Center, Fanner Park, Island Inn, Ramada, Super 8, Best Western, GI Extended Stay, Mainstay, Rodeway, Boarders, L.E. Ray Park, Riverside Golf, Stalley Park, Stolley Park Rd, Adams St, Anna St, Bismark Rd, Finner View Golf, Motel 6, Days Inn, Suburban Inn, Quality Inn, Mormon Island USA Inns, Stuhr Museum, Grand Island Regional, Hall County Park, Hike/Bike Trail, Schimmer Dr, Hastings, Wood River, BNSF Railroad, Central City, Lincoln Highway Historic Byway, Unkai Picnic Balconio, Central Nebraska Regional Airport, Husker Hwy, Heartland Public Shooting Park, Husker Harvest Days site, Alda Rd, Nature & Visitor Center, Crane Trust, Platte River, Locust St, Schimmer Dr, Hastings.

**Grand Island Tourism**  
 201 W Third St  
 Grand Island, NE 68801  
 308-382-4400  
 info@VisitGrandIsland.com  
 VisitGrandIsland.com

# Hotel

Cost Rooms

<b>BW Plus</b> by Best Western 2707 S Locust St • 877-315-8273 BestWestern.com	\$\$\$\$	80
<b>Boarders Inn &amp; Suites</b> by Cobblestone 3333 Ramada Rd • 308-384-5150 StayBoarders.com	\$\$\$	182
<b>Candlewood Suites</b> by IHG 859 Allen Dr • 308-381-7000 ihg.com/Candlewood	\$\$\$\$	88
<b>Comfort Inn</b> by Choice Hotels 3535 W State St • 308-381-7788 ComfortInn.com	\$\$\$	68
<b>Comfort Suites</b> by Choice Hotels 228 Lake St • 308-833-7100 ComfortInn.com	\$\$\$	79
<b>Days Inn</b> by Wyndham 2620 Diers Ave • 308-384-8624 WyndhamHotels.com/days-inn	\$\$\$	61
<b>Days Inn</b> by Wyndham 7838 S Hwy 281 • 866-384-5006 WyndhamHotels.com/days-inn	\$\$\$	47
<b>Fairfield Inn &amp; Suites</b> by Marriott 805 Allen Dr • 308-381-8980 Marriott.com	\$\$\$\$	109
<b>Grand Island Extended Stay</b> Independent hotel 3021 S Locust St • 308-379-4078	\$	104
<b>Hampton Inn</b> by Hilton 504 N Diers Ave • 800-426-7866 GrandIsland.HamptonInn.com	\$\$\$\$	68
<b>Holiday Inn Express &amp; Suites</b> by IHG 3404 W Faidley Ave • 308-675-1118 HIExpress.com	\$\$\$\$	80
<b>Island Inn</b> Independent hotel 2311 S Locust St • 800-646-6869 IslandInnGI.com	\$\$	44

<b>Mainstay Suites</b> by Choice Hotels 3051 S Locust St • 308-382-9280 MainstaySuites.com	\$\$\$	58
<b>Motel 6</b> by The Blackstone Group 7301 Bosselman Ave • 308-384-6666 Motel6.com	\$\$	51
<b>Quality Inn &amp; Conference Center</b> by Choice Hotels 7838 S Hwy 281 • 800-658-4092 ChoiceHotels.com/quality-inn	\$\$\$	100
<b>Ramada Midtown</b> by Wyndham 2503 S Locust St • 800-548-5542 WyndhamHotels.com/ramada	\$\$\$	197
<b>Relax Inn</b> Independent hotel 507 West 2nd St • 308-384-1000	\$	28
<b>Resident Suites</b> Independent hotel 2114 W 2nd St • 800-285-2240	\$	96
<b>Rodeway Inn</b> by Choice Hotels 3205 S Locust St • 800-766-1706 RodewayInn.com	\$\$	60
<b>Sleep Inn</b> by Choice Hotels 1716 Diers Ave • 308-381-8111 SleepInn.com	\$\$\$	63
<b>Suburban Extended Stay Hotel</b> by Choice Hotels 7838 S Hwy 281 • 800-658-4092 ChoiceHotels.com/suburban	\$\$	49
<b>Super 8</b> by Wyndham 2603 S Locust St • 308-384-4380 Super8.com	\$\$	79
<b>Travelodge</b> by Wyndham 1311 S Locust St • 877-779-5823 Travelodge.com	\$\$	40
<b>USA Inns of America</b> Independent hotel 7501 S Hwy 281 • 308-381-0111 USAInn.net	\$	61

