

# Cleveland County

## Hazard Mitigation Plan

2014 – 2019



**Developed by:**

Cleveland County Hazard  
Mitigation Planning Team



**Prepared by:**

*Hazard Mitigation Specialists, L.L.C.  
Eufaula, Oklahoma*

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The complete Hazard Mitigation Plan is available for review in the Office of the City Clerk.

# CHAPTER ONE

## Plan Strategy

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### Introduction

Preventing the disaster-rebuild-disaster cycle is a major initiative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Disasters cannot be controlled, but human activities can minimize damages. One of the goals of FEMA is to reduce or prevent potential damage from various natural disasters. FEMA has initiated programs to make investments in communities that will reduce the amount of money it takes for a community to recover from a disaster. This risk reduction is known as Hazard Mitigation and the process to achieve it is outlined in a Hazard Mitigation Plan.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan provides a systematic, objective review of a political jurisdiction and describes what steps can be taken to reduce a disaster's harmful effects. Among the benefits of maintaining a Hazard Mitigation Plan are:

- Ensures that hazard mitigation activities are coordinated with other community goals, preventing conflicts and reducing the costs of implementation.
- Ensures that all alternatives are evaluated so that problems are addressed by the most appropriate and effective solutions.
- Educates residents and other planning participants on existing hazard and protection measures.
- Justifies public and political support for projects.

The Plan is designed to fulfill the requirements of the following programs administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

- a. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM),
- b. Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA),
- c. Community Rating System Floodplain Management Planning (CRS)
- d. Post-disaster assistance through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).
- e. Severe Repetitive Loss Program (SRL)
- f. Repetitive Flood Claims Program (RFC)

In the past, the **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act** has provided funding for disaster relief, recovery, and some hazard mitigation planning. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) has been updated to meet the growing concern and



needs of natural hazard mitigation. Due to more occurrences of disasters in the United States in recent years, including Oklahoma, the challenge to eliminate or reduce the effects of natural disaster on jurisdictions and their citizens falls primarily to the local jurisdictions to resolve the problem.

The escalating cost of emergency relief aid has prompted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to focus its priorities toward mitigation. This is a dramatic shift from FEMA's traditional charter of responding to disasters and being prepared to respond.

Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5165, enacted under the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 (P.L. 106-390), provides new and revitalized approaches to mitigation planning. Section 322, in concert with other sections of the Act, provides:

- (b) Local and Tribal Plans - Each mitigation plan developed by a local or tribal government shall -
  - (1) Describe actions to mitigate hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities identified under the plan; and
  - (2) Establish a strategy to implement those actions. A major requirement of the law is the development of local hazard mitigation plans.

Local mitigation plans must be reviewed, updated and submitted to the State Hazard Mitigation Division, and re-approved by FEMA every five years to remain eligible. This Mitigation Plan has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Act and the regulations established by FEMA. The commencement of this plan update was to update the original Cleveland County Hazard Mitigation Plan which was approved by FEMA on October 18, 2006. The Cleveland County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team (CCHMPT) worked to review the goals, objectives, strategies and mitigation projects identified in the 2006 plan in order to identify any changes which have taken place since October, 2006, as well as to identify and update new criteria for the next five years. The plan was revised to reflect any changes in priorities if identified during the planning process. The primary priorities of the goals and objectives have not changed; however, the mitigation actions to accomplish those priorities may have changed and, as such, are identified in Chapter Four: Mitigation Actions.

## **Funding**

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Funding for the Cleveland County Hazard Mitigation Plan was provided by a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant from FEMA, through the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (ODEM). Under the terms of the grant, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pays seventy-five percent of the cost of the grant; the local share of twenty-five percent was provided by Cleveland County, although the plan includes **Cleveland County and the unincorporated communities, the incorporated Cities of Lexington, Moore, Noble, Norman, and the Towns of Etowah and Slaughterville. Added to the plan in 2011 are the Public School Districts of Lexington Public School District; Little Axe Public School District; Moore Public School District; Noble Public School District; Norman Public School District; Robin Hill Public School District. Additionally the Moore Norman Technology Center and the University of Oklahoma** have joined as participants in the Cleveland County Hazard Mitigation Plan. All are located in Cleveland County.

In 2011, Cleveland County received the commitment for the federal grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop this Hazard Mitigation Plan. Subsequently, the Board of Commissioners of Cleveland County contracted with Hazard Mitigation Specialists, L.L.C., a hazard mitigation consulting firm, to help Cleveland County, the political jurisdictions, and public schools with this plan.

The following jurisdictions have had or currently have Capital Improvement project funding, the authority to levy taxes for specific purposes, charge fees for municipal services such as water, and sewer, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and various grants through the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB).

## **Purposes of the Plan**

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Cleveland County, located in central Oklahoma, experiences frequent natural hazards that cause damage to property and has the potential to adversely affect local citizens.

This Plan provides a framework on which to base comprehensive mitigation planning throughout the County. Hazard identification is the process that determines which hazards may threaten Cleveland County and its jurisdictions. Hazard Mitigation is the process of eliminating or



reducing the effects of natural disasters that may affect Cleveland County in the future largely driven by what has happened during the past five years.

This plan not only provides the framework and guidance for an all-hazard approach to mitigation, it identifies hazard mitigation goals, recommended actions and initiatives that will reduce or prevent injury and damage from natural hazards. This plan points out hazard problems and measures to be implemented or continued, to alleviate the suffering and damage caused by disasters within Cleveland County.

## **Scope**

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The scope of the Cleveland County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is county-wide. This plan is all-inclusive of natural hazards that may threaten Cleveland County residents or visitors. The following jurisdictions are included in the Cleveland County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan: **Cleveland County and the unincorporated communities; the incorporated Cities of Lexington, Moore, Noble, Norman and the Towns of Etowah and Slaughterville. Added to the 2011 updated plan are the Lexington Public School District; Little Axe Public School District; Moore Public School District; Noble Public School District; Norman Public School District; Robin Hill Public School District. Additionally the Moore Norman Technology Center and the University of Oklahoma have joined as participants in the Cleveland County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.** It should be noted that part of Oklahoma City's city limits extend over into northern and western Cleveland County but are not covered in this plan. That area is part of the Oklahoma City hazard mitigation plan.

To be as effective and complete as possible, the Plan has also incorporated appropriate information from the State of Oklahoma Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA in 2011. The resources of the state through the Oklahoma Climatological Survey and Oklahoma Geological Survey were found to exceed local jurisdiction resources so they were also used.

With the benefit of this Plan, the county intends to lessen its vulnerability to disasters caused by natural hazards. These actions will shape the community into a more resilient framework, able to recuperate more quickly and easily when damage does occur.

## **Community Mitigation Planning Goals**

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In order to minimize the destruction and devastation resulting from disasters, Cleveland County has developed this Hazard Mitigation Plan to guide all levels of government, business, and the public. In addition to the general oversight of Pre-Disaster Mitigation that will be provided by Cleveland County Emergency Management and the County Commissioners, the Cleveland County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team (CCHMPT) will play a key role relative to general oversight, reviewing goals, objectives, and developing Pre-Disaster Mitigation implementation plans. The strategy of Cleveland County is to utilize the mitigation programs of the Federal Government to minimize the loss of life and property to the citizens of the county. Each natural hazard that is identified to apply to any portion of the county will be addressed and eliminated where possible through the implementation of the HMGP, PDM, SRL, FMA and RFC programs and grants. Additionally other grants from other sources will be utilized where possible to provide the best mitigation program possible. The approach of the strategy will be all-hazard as they relate to the county, with a specific focus on prioritizing and mitigating those hazards. This plan is intended to promote increased coordination among local officials and agencies from all levels of government and to integrate hazard mitigation management capabilities and programs. The primary goals and objectives of the Cleveland County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan are to:

**Goal 1: Protect lives and property.**

**Goal 2: To improve or enhance emergency services.**

**Goal 3: To prevent or reduce the effects of natural hazards/disasters.**

**Goal 4: To identify and protect critical facilities in Cleveland County.**

**Goal 5: To develop or improve structures to become a more disaster resistant county.**

**Goal 6: To provide more public awareness of the natural disaster threat.**

## **Plan Point of Contact**

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**Primary:**

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Telephone: 405-366-0200



## **Existing Plans, Programs and Capabilities**

There are various local, state, and federal agency operational plans, along with private organizations discussed in the Cleveland County Hazard Mitigation Plan, which coordinate or interact with the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Below are the current plans the team will review and integrate, where appropriate actions and changes into the Cleveland County Hazard Mitigation Plan:

### **PLANS**

#### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS (CIP)**

Capital Improvement Plans help government determine priorities of the jurisdiction and determine possible funding resources. As the county and municipal Capital Improvement Plans for the communities listed are revised, an evaluation of mitigation actions identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be conducted to determine what should be included in the Capital Improvement Plan. A review will also be done during the annual Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Noble does not currently have a plan; however, officials anticipate developing a plan in the next two years.

- Lexington
- Norman
- Norman Public Schools

#### **COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLANS**

Comprehensive plans are general plans concerning the goals and objectives of the community in the vision, policies and strategies of the future. The Norman plan primarily encompasses land use planning and development. The plan in Noble does not address hazards or mitigation at this time.

- Lexington Public Schools
- Little Axe Public Schools
- Noble
- Noble Public Schools
- Moore
- Moore Public Schools (Crisis Management Plan)
- Norman
- Norman Public Schools
- Robin Hill Public Schools
- University of Oklahoma

#### **COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN**

Helps a community clarify and refine its priorities for the protection of life, property, and critical infrastructure in the wildland–urban interface. It also can lead community members through valuable discussions regarding management options and implications for the surrounding watershed: Lexington

**CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (COOP)**

The Basic Plan describes the actions that will be taken to implement a viable COOP capability within 12 hours of an event and to sustain that capability for up to 30 days. The Basic Plan can be implemented during duty and non-duty hours, both with and without warning.

Cleveland County. (Does not currently include mitigation)  
University of Oklahoma

**DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

A Debris Management Plan is a proactive approach to coordinating and managing debris removal operations as part of the overall emergency management planning efforts. Plan includes specifying debris dump sites or disposal methods, contractor research and consulting as well as determining debris collection policies and procedures.

Moore  
Norman

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

A comprehensive policy statement that summarizes the major economic issues affecting the community; establishes the community's goals for employment expansion, community development and economic strength; and identifies the means by which the community can actively reach these goals.

Lexington  
Norman

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP)**

The Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) coordinates responsibilities to designated departments, agencies, and volunteers in the event of a disaster. This plan provides information on the location of warning sirens and community shelters. It directs departments, agencies and volunteers in the procedures to best provide guidance, relief, and assistance to citizens from the effects of a disaster. This plan is written expressly for the welfare and safety of the people of Cleveland County. Most EOP's do not presently include mitigation projects nor be used to implement mitigation action projects

Cleveland County  
Lexington  
Lexington Public Schools  
Little Axe Public Schools (includes school vehicle)  
Moore  
Moore Public Schools  
Noble  
Noble Public Schools  
Norman  
Norman Public Schools  
Robin Hill Public Schools  
Slaughterville  
University of Oklahoma



### **STANDARD OPERATING PLANS (SOP)**

Each major department has a written operating guide that outlines day to day operations. The County Highway Districts, the Emergency Management and Sheriff's Departments have the most concentrated SOP's due to the nature of their operations. The departmental SOP's outline the operations and who is responsible for the various tasks during day to day operations. Each department affected by the Hazard Mitigation Plan will incorporate the goals and projects into their Standard Operation Plans in order to better carry out the goals established in the HM Plan.

Cleveland County  
Lexington  
Moore  
Noble  
Norman

### **STORM WATER MASTER PLAN**

The Storm Water Master Plan includes recommendations, new flood plain mapping, capital improvement projects, proposed water quality enhancements, drainage easement issues, and financing options. These plans generally include flood and flashflood hazards.

Noble  
Norman (Storm Water Phase II requirements; a Trails/Greenway Master Plan)  
Moore

### **TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Transportation planning is involved with the evaluation, assessment, design and siting of transport facilities (generally streets, highways, bike lanes and public transport lines).

Little Axe Public Schools  
Norman (under development)  
University of Oklahoma

## **BUILDING CODES/PERMITTING/INSPECTION**

**BUILDING CODES**– Lexington (2009-International); Little Axe Public Schools; Noble (2009-IRC, 2009 IBC); Moore (International 2009); Norman (2006 and 2009 International); State adopted International Building Codes adopted by the local governmental entity, establishing minimum requirements that must be met in the construction and maintenance of buildings. Schools abide by city and state building requirements.

**Effectiveness:** Noble – 6  
Norman – 4  
University of Oklahoma

### **COUNTY RESOLUTIONS**

Codes and resolutions (counties in Oklahoma do not have ordinances) of the listed communities will be updated as appropriate; when policies and codes are changed, they will be reviewed for changes to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Cleveland County

**FIRE DEPARTMENT ISO RATINGS:**

Cleveland County - 9  
Lexington – 4  
Moore - 3  
Noble - 4  
Norman – 3 Urban; 9 Rural  
Slaughterville – 7

**SITE PLAN REVIEW REQUIREMENTS**

Lexington  
Moore  
Noble  
Norman  
Slaughterville

**LAND USE PLANNING AND ORDINANCES:**

Designation of allowable land use and intensities for a local jurisdiction. Noble maintains strict enforcement. Floodplain related are effective in reducing hazard impact of flooding.

**ZONING ORDINANCE** – Lexington; Moore; Noble; Norman; Slaughterville

**SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE** – Lexington; Moore; Noble; Norman; Slaughterville

**FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE** – Cleveland County; Lexington; Moore; Noble; Norman; Slaughterville

**FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS** – Cleveland County; Lexington; Moore; Noble; Norman; Slaughterville

**ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR OPEN SPACE AND PUBLIC RECREATION** – Moore; Norman;

**ADMINISTRATION**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Responsible for considering and investigating any subject matter relating to the development and improvement of the community and make recommendations to the governing body concerning those developments and improvements. Planning Commission members investigate and report on developments such as new streets, new structures (such as buildings, statues, memorials, parks, and bridges), and land (parcels, plats and re-plats). Members are also responsible for holding public hearings on any proposed changes in zoning.

Lexington  
Little Axe Public Schools; (city, county, school)  
Moore  
Noble  
Norman  
Slaughterville

**MITIGATION PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Has regular representation on Cleveland County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Cleveland County  
Etowah



Lexington  
Lexington Public Schools  
Little Axe Public Schools;  
Moore  
Moore Public Schools  
Noble  
Noble Public Schools  
Norman  
Norman Public Schools  
Slaughterville  
University of Oklahoma

**MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS**

Maintenance programs exist in each of the listed communities responsible for maintaining municipal and county properties and functions through specialized employees and departments. Maintenance occurs on an as needed basis.

Cleveland County  
Lexington  
Lexington Public Schools  
Little Axe Public Schools;  
Moore  
Moore Public Schools (buildings and grounds)  
Noble  
Noble Public Schools  
Norman  
University of Oklahoma

**MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

Local jurisdiction department personnel and equipment are protected in "requested" assistance situations through State Statute 63 O.S. Section 683. In addition, jurisdictional fire departments often have local Mutual Aid Agreements between specific jurisdictions.

Cleveland County  
Lexington  
Little Axe Public Schools;  
Moore  
Noble  
Norman  
Slaughterville (Fire Departments, County Commissioners, US Army)  
University of Oklahoma

**STAFF**

The staffing in all participating jurisdictions is currently adequate and has been adequately trained to handle their responsibilities and enforcement as it applies to current regulations. They are also adequately trained and continue training in their fields of experience for hazard events that may affect their jurisdiction and are able to provide counsel and supervision of those potential projects to mitigate those hazards. They are also planning to enforce and to continue monitor the current regulations listed and keep them all updated as they relates to hazard mitigation.

Adequate to enforce regulations, generally trained on hazards and mitigation, coordination is effective

**CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL (FT)**– Lexington; Moore; Noble; Norman; Slaughterville  
**FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR (FT)** – Cleveland County; Lexington; Moore; Noble; Norman; Slaughterville  
**EMERGENCY MANAGER (FT)**– Cleveland County; Lexington, Moore; Noble; Norman; Slaughterville; University of Oklahoma

**COMMUNITY PLANNER (FT)** – Lexington; Moore; Noble; Norman;  
**CIVIL ENGINEER (FT)** – Lexington; Moore (PT); Noble (PT); Norman; University of Oklahoma  
**GIS COORDINATOR (FT)** – Moore; Norman; University of Oklahoma  
**CODE ENFORCEMENT** - Slaughterville  
**OTHER** – Moore Public Schools (Safety Director; 11 School Resource Officers)

## **TECHNICAL**

**Warning systems** – Lexington (outdoor public address); Lexington Public Schools (internal); Little Axe Public Schools (operated by City of Norman); Moore (dense outdoor warning system-mass notification – social media outlets); Noble (5 warning sirens); Norman (68 warning sirens-67 with voice capability); Noble Public Schools (internal); Norman Public Schools (internal); Moore Public Schools (mass calling/texting/email system; many campuses have Moore outdoor warning sirens located on them/tone alert radios; all Moore schools have NOAA weather radios); Robin Hill Public Schools; University of Oklahoma  
**HAZARD DATA AND INFORMATION** – Moore (mapping); Moore Public Schools (Info for Gun Free School Act and campus surveys); Norman;  
**GRANT WRITING** – Cleveland County; Lexington; Moore; Moore Public Schools; Noble; Norman; Norman Public Schools; Robin Hill Public Schools; Slaughterville; University of Oklahoma  
**HAZARDOUS ANALYSIS** - University of Oklahoma  
**OTHER** – Moore (WebEOC)

## **FINANCIAL**

Funding resource has been used in the past and could be used in the future unless noted below.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDING** – Lexington; Lexington Public Schools; Moore; Moore Public Schools; Noble (not used); Noble Public Schools; Norman (floodway land acquisition); Norman Public Schools; Robin Hill Public Schools  
**AUTHORITY TO LEVY TAXES FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES** – Cleveland County; Etowah (not used); Lexington; Moore (new Public Safety Center and 3 Fire Stations); Moore Public Schools; Noble (requires citizen approval); Norman; Slaughterville (limited)  
**FEES FOR WATER, SEWER, GAS OR ELECTRIC SERVICES** – Lexington, Moore (gas/electric only); Noble; Norman;  
**IMPACT FEES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT** – Moore (not used); Noble; Norman;  
**STORM WATER UTILITY FEES** – Noble (not used);

**INCUR DEBT THROUGH GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND/OR SPECIAL TAX BONDS** – Cleveland County (jail); Lexington Public Schools; Little Axe Public Schools; Moore (assist in Public Service expansions); Moore Public Schools; Noble; Noble Public Schools; Norman; Norman Public Schools; Robin Hill Public Schools; Slaughterville

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS** – Lexington; Moore (rebuilding water infrastructure critical for fire response); Noble; Norman;

**FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAMS** – Cleveland County; Lexington; Moore (FEMA); Moore Public Schools (Homeland Security grants for school safety); Noble; Norman; Norman Public Schools; Robin Hill Public Schools; Slaughterville (Fire Act Grants)

**STATE FUNDING PROGRAMS** – Cleveland County; Lexington; Moore Public Schools (schools safety programs); Noble; Norman; Norman Public Schools; Robin Hill Public Schools; Slaughterville (REAP)

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

The public and school programs on safety through Fire Prevention, Home security, and generally the more common natural and technological hazards that might affect the community. Partnership initiatives addressing disaster related issues. Could help implement future mitigation activities.

**LOCAL CITIZEN GROUPS OR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOCUSED ON ENVIRONMENTAL, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS POPULATIONS, ETC.** – Moore (EM Volunteers); Norman (Emergency Response Volunteers); Norman Public Schools; Robin Hill Public Schools University of Oklahoma

**ONGOING PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS** – Lexington, Lexington Public Schools; Little Axe Public Schools (Professional Days Training); Moore (EM, Fire, Police safety); Moore Public Schools (when requested by school staff); Noble (includes stormwater pollution awareness); Lexington Public Schools; Noble Public Schools; Norman; Norman Public Schools; Robin Hill Public Schools; Slaughterville (Fire Department); University of Oklahoma

**NATURAL DISASTER OR SAFETY SCHOOL PROGRAMS** – Lexington; Lexington Public Schools; Little Axe Public Schools (Professional Days Training); Moore Public Schools (Fire/Intruder/severe weather exercises on all campuses); Noble Public Schools; Norman (Police Adopt a school program); Norman Public Schools; Robin Hill Public Schools;

**Storm Ready Certification** – Moore; Norman; University of Oklahoma

**FIREWISE COMMUNITY CERTIFICATION** – Norman (Ready Set Go program);

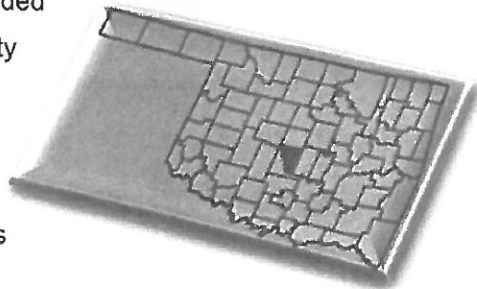
**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS** –

Lexington- (Hamm Trucking and public schools).

Norman- (Community Outreach and Preparedness)

## **Community Profile - Cleveland County**

Located in central Oklahoma, Cleveland County is bounded by Oklahoma County on the north; Pottawatomie County on the east; McClain County on the south and west; and Canadian County to the northwest. The South Canadian River defines the southern boundary of Cleveland County. The county lies in the Red Bed Plains





physiographic region except for the southern corner, which is situated in the Sandstone Hills. The county's total land and water area of 558.34 square miles is drained by the Little River and the Canadian River. The County is named for former President Grover Cleveland.

### **History of Cleveland County**

Spanish and French explorers and traders were the first Europeans in present Oklahoma, because Spain and France were vying for control of North America between Canada and Mexico. In 1740 French Canadian traders and brothers Pierre Antoine and Paul Mallet traveled east along the Canadian River on their return trip from New Mexico while searching for a trade route to connect Santa Fe with Missouri and New Orleans. After the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, including present Oklahoma, between the 1820s and 1850s American explorers, traders, and military passed through the region. Those who followed the Canadian River across present Cleveland County included the Long-Bell Expedition, the Dodge-Leavenworth Expedition, Nathan Boone, and Josiah Gregg. In 1835 near present Lexington Maj. Richard Mason negotiated peace between the Plains tribes, the Osage, and the Five Civilized Nations at Camp Mason or New Camp Holmes. The site was abandoned in August 1835.

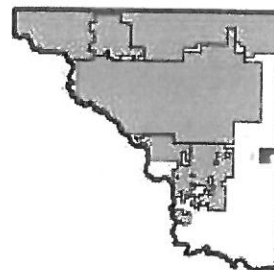
In 1818 the Quapaw ceded the area south of the Arkansas and Canadian rivers in present Oklahoma. During the late 1820s and the 1830s the Creek and Seminole were removed from the southeastern part of the United States to the ceded area. In 1856 an agreement between the two tribes created a Seminole Nation with separate land for them west of the Creek Nation. During the Civil War the Seminole and Creek supported the Confederacy and as a result lost land in the Reconstruction Treaty of 1866. This left an area that became known as the Unassigned Lands, which would be opened to non-Indian settlers on April 22, 1889. Prior to that the Kansas Southern Railway (sold to Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway on February 15, 1899) constructed a line from the Kansas-Oklahoma border to Purcell located in McClain County. Cleveland County's principal towns were founded along this railroad line.

After the passage of the Organic Act on May 2, 1890, Cleveland County was organized as County Three. Norman was selected as the county seat. In 1891, following the Sac and Fox Opening, a strip of land six miles wide and thirty-one miles long was added to the eastern part of Cleveland County. For a short time Cleveland County was also known as Little River County. At an election on August 5, 1890, the majority of the voters selected Cleveland (in honor of President Grover Cleveland) over the other choice of Lincoln. Initially, county officials rented space until 1893, when they moved to a two-story, brick building. That building burned in February 1904, and a new courthouse was completed in 1906. The present courthouse was constructed in 1939 and has had additions built in 1979 and 1980.

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## **Community Profile - Town of Etowah**

Etowah is located on Etowah Road eleven miles east of Noble. Oklahoma Historian George Shirk noted that the town name was derived from a Cherokee settlement in Georgia. In the nineteenth century the area where the town developed stood in the Unassigned Lands. This region opened to general settlement with



the 1889 Land Run. The rural community of Etowah soon emerged on the road connecting Purcell to Tecumseh.

### **History of Town of Etowah**

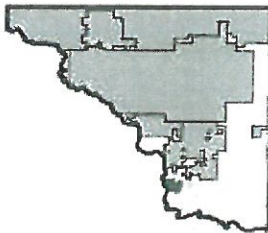
In 1894 the U.S. Post Office Department designated an Etowah post office. In 1898 the town had one business, and a general merchandise store. In 1899 the local school had forty students. In 1907 the community lost its post office, when the area received free rural delivery from the Noble office. By 1911 Etowah had two general stores, a blacksmith, and a cotton oil mill. For most of the twentieth century it remained a small, dispersed rural community. In the 1930s the village initiated a homecoming or town reunion, which continued into the twenty-first century.

In 1967 residents petitioned the Cleveland County commissioners to incorporate. The commissioners approved and ordered an election, which never occurred. Community leaders formed a municipal government and operated as a town, but the incorporation was not officially finalized. In 1983 the town trustees enacted zoning ordinances that led to a number of residents questioning the legal status of Etowah. That year a district judge ruled the town incorporated, citing that it operated as a municipality for almost twenty years without being questioned.

## **Community Profile - City of Lexington**



**Lexington:** Lexington lies two and one-half miles from the Canadian River on State Highway 39.



### **History of Lexington**

In 1835, north of the present town, Maj. Richard B. Mason established Camp Holmes, where many of the Plains Indian tribes and members of the Five Civilized Tribes, along with the Osage, signed the Treaty of Camp Holmes on August 25, 1835.

Subsequently, a trading post was built at the site, called Camp Mason. The area stood within the Unassigned Lands prior to its opening with the Land Run of 1889. Several entrepreneurs planned Lexington prior to the run, filing the necessary legal papers on the eventful day. The town name emanates from Lexington, Kentucky.

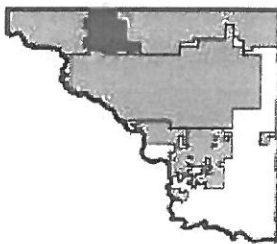
The U.S. Post Office Department designated a Lexington post office on February 21, 1890. The community could not support its municipal government and assessed a high tax on liquor sales, which caused infighting and a loss of incorporation. After a compromise, the town reincorporated in 1892. Saloons dominated the town's business landscape from its founding until 1907 statehood, when intoxicating liquor was prohibited. The village stood as a "whiskey town" on the border of Indian Territory.

In 1898 five saloons, seven general stores, eight doctors, a veterinarian, a broom factory, three blacksmiths, a harness and saddle maker, a hotel, a newspaper, and other retail outlets served the town. Surrounding fruit orchards benefitted the local economy. The Glenwood Fruit Farm

soon became the eminent producer. Cotton and corn were also early agricultural mainstays. By 1908 the community supported two banks.

During World War II the U.S. Navy constructed a gunnery school east of Lexington. After the war the state acquired the campus and located an annex to the Central State Mental Hospital (later Griffin Memorial Hospital) there. In 1971 the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health closed the facility and gave the land to the Department of Corrections. A minimum-security prison, named the Regional Treatment Center, opened soon after. In 1976 the state began construction on the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center (LARC). The center processes all prisoners sentenced to Oklahoma's prison system. It also houses medium and minimum-security facilities. In 1978 the Regional Treatment Center, which was separate from the LARC, became the Joseph Harp Correctional Center, a medium security prison.

## Community Profile - City of Moore



Moore is surrounded on three sides by Oklahoma City and on the fourth by Norman. Moore is on State Highway 37, with Interstate 35 and U.S. Highway 77 running through its city limits.

### History of Moore

In 1886-87 the Southern Kansas Railway (a working subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway which bought it outright in 1899) laid track through the area, positioned in the Unassigned Lands prior to the Land Run of 1889. At the present townsite the railway located a watering stop, which they named Verbeck. Reportedly, railroad employee Al Moore lived in a boxcar there, accounting for the later name. The community received a postal designation in May 1889.

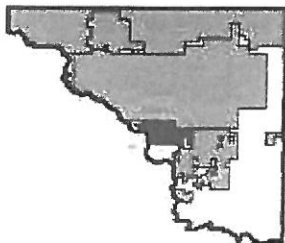
When it incorporated in 1893, the town had a hotel, a livery, three general merchandise stores, a saloon, a restaurant, a lumber company, a carriage, plow, and wagon works, and a grocery. Two doctors served the village. In 1894 the Cleveland County Courier began operation. In 1910 the Oklahoma Railway Company constructed an interurban line from Oklahoma City to Moore. By 1911 a bank, a blacksmith, a milling and Grain Company, a cotton oil company, a livery, a hardware store, a drugstore, two doctors, a creamery, and four general stores served the community.

Moore remained rural, benefitting area ranchers and farmers through the mid-twentieth century. By 1946 the community maintained a bank, a cotton gin, a grain elevator, a lumber company, and several retail outlets. Between 1960, when the population was 1,783, and 1970, with a population of 18,761, the town was one of Oklahoma's fastest growing cities. This growth led to expansion of city services and an inflow of retail and manufacturing businesses. In 1963 a second bank received its charter. In 1971 the Moore Municipal Hospital opened. The town called itself the "minute city" because of its proximity to Midwest City's Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City's General Motors Assembly Plant and Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, and Norman's York International Plant and the University of Oklahoma. These employment hubs attracted a large number of residents. At the beginning of the twenty-first century the public school system (with over two thousand employees), Convergys Corporation, Wal-Mart, Cendant Corporation, and Vaughn Foods were the leading employers.

The town's residents and visitors now enjoy numerous amenities, including a library, eight city parks, a community center, a community pool, several golf courses, and four hotels. In 2005, the Moore Medical Center, a forty-five-bed hospital opened replacing the old hospital, which closed in 1993.



## Community Profile - City of Noble



**Noble:** Noble is positioned on U.S. Highway 77 near the east bank of the Canadian River approximately six miles south of Norman.

### **History of Noble**

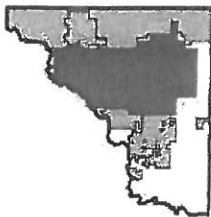
Prior to the Land Run of 1889, the area stood in the Unassigned Lands. Albert Rennie planned the town, claiming the 160-acre town site during the run and convincing the Southern Kansas Railway (sold to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway in 1899), to locate a station there. Rennie named the town Noble to honor U.S. Secretary of the Interior John W. Noble. The community had hoped to gain the county seat, but the Norman town site attracted more businesses. In July 1889 the Post Office Department designated a Noble post office. In January 1891 the town site was surveyed and platted.

By August 1890 the town had a lumber company, a butcher, a livery, a grocer, two blacksmiths, a druggist, a hardware store, a hotel, two general stores, three doctors, and a newspaper, the *Noble Democrat*. Soon after the village was established, a cotton gin served the area farmers. In 1898 the Oklahoma College Experiment Station built and installed a cattle-dipping vat at the town to bathe cattle entering Oklahoma Territory. This helped prevent the spread of Texas fever. In 1898 Canadian River Bridge Company built a suspension bridge over the South Canadian River. The flooding river destroyed the bridge in 1903 or 1904. In 1902 the bank received its charter, and by 1911 a jeweler and a feed mill also served the town.

By 1946 the bank had successfully survived the Great Depression, and several retail outlets, a feed mill, the nursery, and the Smith Brothers Road Contractors, established in 1918, operated in the town. The town, with 2,241 residents in 1970, became a "bedroom" community for Norman and Oklahoma City. More businesses emerged. In 1979 Award Design Medals, Inc., opened and was the largest employer for several years. The company manufactured specialty belt buckles (often for the rodeo circuits), medallions, and figurines before closing in 2001. In 1970 the Brockhaus Nursery purchased Garee's Noble Nursery. In the 1980s Noble continued to prosper, adding seven businesses in 1982. In 1992 the Thunder Valley Raceway Park opened, providing drag racing entertainment.

In 1984 Gov. George Nigh designated Noble the "Rose Rock Capital." Rose rock (barite rosette) is a rare rock that can be found in central Oklahoma, Kansas, California, and Egypt. Annually in May Noble hosts the Rose Rock Festival, and in 1986 a rose rock museum was established.

## Community Profile - City of Norman



**Norman:** Norman is located approximately nineteen miles south of the State Capital located in Oklahoma City. Its north boundary is shared by Oklahoma City and Moore. State Highway 9, U.S. Highway 77, and Interstate 35 run through the community. In the 1990s Norman became Oklahoma's third largest city, behind Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

## History of Norman

The town name honors Abner E. Norman, who led a team appointed to survey the Unassigned Lands between 1870 and 1873. His group camped where the town is now situated, and the words "Norman's Camp" were burned into a tree. In 1886-87 the Southern Kansas Railway (a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway) laid tracks through the area and established station grounds at the present townsite.

As the 1889 Land Run approached, entrepreneurs formed the Norman Townsite Company to organize the town. The group had developed a plat before the event, but used the survey prepared by the railroad company. By 1890 the population stood at 787, and the burgeoning town held doctors, lawyers, hotels, and all the amenities and retail outlets of a community that size, including a cotton gin. In 1890 High Gate College opened, offering grammar, high school, and college classes. In December 1890 the Territorial Legislature passed an act to locate the University of Oklahoma (OU) at Norman. In 1892 OU held its first classes in rented downtown buildings. In 1893 workers completed the first university building, which fire later destroyed. In 1894 High Gate closed, and its college students transferred to OU. A private sanitarium company purchased the college building, and it evolved into the Oklahoma State Asylum in 1915 (later Griffin Memorial Hospital).

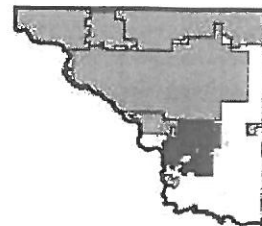
The business community boomed. By 1902 the downtown district contained two banks, two hotels, and a flour mill, among other businesses. In 1913 the Oklahoma Railway Company extended their interurban that ran from Oklahoma City to Moore, south to Norman. By the 1920s the OU campus spread over 267 acres and had added several new structures, including Memorial Stadium. The sanitarium and university helped the community weather the Great Depression. In 1939 the Cleveland County courthouse replaced a 1906 government building.

World War II brought more changes to the city. In 1941 OU, with help from Norman officials, established Max Westheimer Field, a university airstrip, and the next year offered to lease it to the U.S. Navy as a training facility. During the war the airfield became the Naval Flight Training Center, known as north base, and the navy established the Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC), known as south base, south of the OU campus. A naval hospital was also established. The north base trained nearly nine thousand men, with the south base training thousands more. In 1946 the navy donated the bases to the university, but in 1952, with the advent of the Korean War, the military utilized the bases in a smaller capacity until 1959. The addition of the government buildings and land helped OU handle the large enrollment increase of the post-World War II era. This also allowed the city to develop, and the 1950 population stood at 27,006.

Norman's proximity and easy access to Oklahoma City contributed to it being a "bedroom" community for employees who worked outside Norman proper. In the 1960s the city, through annexations, expanded to 174 square miles, incorporating a large land area in the Lake Thunderbird vicinity. In 1984 the community supported sixty-three manufacturing establishments, which employed 2,562.

## **Community Profile - Town of Slaughterville**

**Slaughterville:** Slaughterville lies along State Highway 77, five miles south of Noble. The name honors Jim Slaughter, who operated an area store.



## **History of Slaughterville**

The Land Run of 1889 opened the region to its first general settlement. Before then the present townsite was in the Unassigned Lands. In 1889 settlers erected the first of three buildings, which housed the Shiloh Methodist Church, one-half mile north of present Slaughterville. Through most of the twentieth century the town existed as a dispersed rural district, with a service station/dry goods store on U.S. Highway 77 serving farmers and ranchers.

In 1970 the crossroads town incorporated to stave off perceived annexation threats from Norman, Noble, and Lexington. Soon, a fire department organized. The original town limits, approximately twenty-seven square miles in the 1970s, decreased in 1985, when the town's trustees de-annexed nearly 40 percent of the land. By 2000 the town area had increased to 38.108 square miles. A majority of the residents commuted to larger towns to work. The children attended school at either Lexington or Noble.

## **Population**

**Cleveland County** - At 1907 statehood Cleveland County had a population of 18,460. Growth was slow during the next two decades with 18,843 and 19,389 reported in 1910 and 1920, respectively. Numbers have continually increased from 24,948 in 1930. The federal census indicated 41,443 in 1950. By 1980 the numbers almost doubled at 81,839. In 2000 Cleveland County had 208,016 residents. The 2010 census shows the county census at 255,755. Cleveland County is a prosperous, growing county and is anticipated to continue this growth.

**Etowah** - In 1911 Etowah's estimated population stood at seventy-five residents, in 1980 the population was twenty-eight, and it added five residents in 1990. The 2000 population stood at 122, with most workers commuting to larger cities. The 2010 census showed the population to be 92 residents.

**Lexington** - In 1890 Lexington's population stood at 223, and it increased to 861 in 1900. The population was 950 in 1920 and 836 in 1930. In 1950 Lexington had 1,176 residents. That number climbed from 1,516 in 1970 to 1,731 in 1980. In 2000 the town had 2,086 residents. In 2010 the census counts for Lexington was at 2152.

**Moore** - At 1907 statehood Cleveland County had a population of 18,460. The 2010 census shows the county census at 255,755. Communities in Cleveland County constitute the largest segment of the population in the county. Moore's 1900 the population stood at 129, climbing to 225 in 1910. In 1930 the population was 538, but declined to 499 in 1940 as did many of the other communities in pre- WWII Oklahoma. By 1950 the Moore population was only 942. By 1980 however the population had mushroomed to 35,063, and it has continued to grow, standing at 40,318 in 1990 and 41,138 in the 2000 census. The 2010 census shows the population of Moore had grown to 55,081.

**Noble** - In 1900 the population stood at 349, climbing to 403 in 1910. In 1920 the population was 497, which declined to 463 in 1930, but rebounded to 536 in 1940. The population began a steady ascent, reaching 724 in 1950 and 995 in 1960. As the 1970s approached the population boomed. The 1980 population stood at 3,497 and climbed to 4,710 in 1990. In 2000 the community's population stood at 5,260 growing to 6,481 citizens.



**Norman** - By 1900 Norman's population had climbed to 2,225. . In 1910 there were 3,724 residents, and the number climbed to 5,004 in 1920. Throughout the 1920's the population continued to rise, reaching 9,603 in 1930 and 11,429 in 1940. The population increased from 33,412 in 1960 to 52,117 in 1970. The population stood at 68,020 in 1980 and climbed to 80,071 in 1990. By 2000 the population stood at 95,694. The 2010 Census showed Norman's population had grown to 110,925.

**Slaughterville** - There were 1,953 residents in 1980 and 1,843 in 1990. In 2000, the population stood at 3,609 and the 2010 census showed the population of 4,137.

## **Government**

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### **COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**Cleveland County** government generally performs state mandated duties which include assessment of property, record keeping (e.g., property and vital statistics). Other major programs performed by the county are the maintenance of rural roads, administration of elections, county law enforcement/jail administration, judicial functions, and relief for the poor. Today counties are also rapidly moving into other public services such as undertaking programs relating to child welfare, consumer protection, economic development, employment training, planning and zoning, and water quality, to name a few.

Counties are a subdivision of state government. The powers it exercises are primarily delegated by the State as a quasi-municipal corporation. Cleveland County, like most counties, considers the construction and maintenance of county roads one of their primary programs.

Each County is divided into three districts, as equal in population as possible and numbered 1, 2, and 3 respectively. One Commissioner is elected from each district. District boundaries are set every 10 years following the federal census. Oklahoma County Commissioners are required to fulfill the needs of their district with taxpayer funds provided, each year, in a Highway Cash Account and a Highway Levy Account. A County Commissioner is a Constitutional Officer, who must fulfill his or her Constitutional and Statutory duties.

All of the county officials are elected to staggered four year terms except for the Election Board Secretary who is appointed by the local state senator. Counties are made up of the following elected officials:

- District 1, 2, and 3 County Commissioners
- County Clerk - Functions as the custodian of records for the county, acts as registrar of deeds, and acts as the county's purchasing agent.
- County Court Clerk - Maintains all proceedings of the Court of Record in the county.

- County Assessor - Have the duty and responsibility to determine the true worth of real and personal property for the purpose of taxation.
- County Treasurer - Acts as the tax collector and banker for the county.
- County Sheriff - Preserves the peace and protects life and property and suppress' all unlawful disturbances.

## Oklahoma Statutes Citationized

### Title 19. Counties and County Officers

#### Chapter 1 - Status and Power of Counties

#### Section 3 - County's Powers Exercised by Board of Commissioners - Certain Contracts Void by Individual Commissioner

Cite as: O.S. §. \_\_\_

The powers of a county as a body politic and corporate shall be exercised by its board of county commissioners.

It is hereby declared to be contrary to law, and against public policy, for any individual county commissioner, or commissioners, when not acting as a board, to enter into any contract, or to attempt to enter into any contract, as to any of the following matters:

- (a) Any purchase of equipment, machinery, supplies or materials of any kind for any county or any commissioner's district, or districts, thereof;
- (b) Any contract or agreement relating to or for the leasing or rental of any equipment, machinery, supplies or materials for any county or any commissioner's district, or districts, thereof;
- (c) To do or transact any business relating to such county, or any commissioner's district, or districts thereof, or to make any contract or agreement of any kind relating to the business of such county, or any commissioner's district, or districts thereof;

And none of such acts or attempted contracts as above set forth, done or attempted to be done, by an individual county commissioner or commissioners, when not acting as a board, shall ever be subject to ratification by the board of county commissioners, but shall be illegal, unlawful and wholly void.

Provided that nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting or preventing the chairman of the board of county commissioners from performing such duty or duties as he may be required by law to perform as chairman of such board, but only after the board, by a majority vote thereof, shall have authorized and directed such performance by said chairman.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

A **municipality** is used to mean the governing body of a municipality. A municipality is a general-purpose administrative subdivision, as opposed to a special-purpose district. In Oklahoma there are several forms of government within municipal government. The forms of government for each jurisdiction are identified following:

Under Oklahoma law, municipalities are divided into two categories: cities, defined as having more than 1,000 residents, and towns, with under 1,000 residents. Both have legislative, judicial, and public power within their boundaries, but cities can choose between a mayor-council, council-manager, or strong mayor form of government, while towns operate through an elected officer system.

### Oklahoma Statutes Citationized

#### Title 11. Cities and Towns

#### Chapter 1 - Oklahoma Municipal Code

#### Article I - General Provisions and Definitions

1. "Charter municipality" or "Municipality governed by charter" means any municipality which has adopted a charter in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and laws of Oklahoma and at the time of adoption of the charter had a population of two thousand (2,000) or more. Once a municipal charter has been adopted and approved, it becomes the organic law of the municipality in all matters pertaining to the local government of the municipality and prevails over state law on matters relating to purely municipal concerns;

2. "City" means a municipality which has incorporated as a city in accordance with the laws of this state;

13. "Town" means a municipality which has incorporated as a town in accordance with the laws of Oklahoma.

#### **Section 22-101 - Corporate Powers of Municipalities**

*All incorporated municipalities shall be bodies corporate and politic, and shall have the powers to:*

1. Sue and be sued;
2. Purchase and hold real and personal property for the use of the municipality;
3. Sell and convey any real or personal property owned by the municipality and make orders respecting the same as may be conducive to the best interests of the municipality;
4. Make all contracts and do all other acts in relation to the property and affairs of the municipality, necessary to the good government of the municipality, and to the exercise of its corporate and administrative powers; and
5. Exercise such other powers as are or may be conferred by law.



## Statutory Town Board of Trustees

### **Oklahoma Statutes Citationized**

#### **Title 11. Cities and Towns**

#### **Chapter 1 - Oklahoma Municipal Code**

#### **Article XII - Statutory Town Board of Trustees Form of Government**

#### **Section 12-102 - Governing Body - Board of Trustees**

The town board of trustees shall consist of either three (3) or five (5) trustees who shall be nominated from wards or at large and elected at large. The governing body may submit to the voters the question of whether the town board shall consist of either three (3) or five (5) trustees. If approved, the election of trustees to fill any new positions shall take place at the time set by the town board but no later than the next regular municipal election. The terms of the new trustees shall be staggered as provided for in Sections 16-205 and 16-206 of this title.

#### **The Town of Etowah**

#### **The Town of Slaughterville**

Towns governed under the statutory town board of trustees form have all the powers, functions, rights, privileges, franchises and immunities granted, or which may be granted, to towns. Such powers shall be exercised as provided by law applicable to towns under the town board of trustees form, or if the manner is not thus prescribed, then in such manner as the board of trustees may prescribe. Slaughterville has an Administrator/Town Clerk who works under the direction of the Board of Trustees and is responsible for the daily operation of the Town. The Administrator also works closely with citizens and other agencies to see that ordinances and services are properly administered.

## **Statutory Council-Manager**

### **Oklahoma Statutes Citationized**

#### **Title 11. Cities and Towns**

#### **Chapter 1 - Oklahoma Municipal Code**

#### **Article X - Council-Manager Form of City Government**

#### **Section 10-101 - Statutory Council-Manager Form of Government**

The form of government provided by Sections 11-10-101 through 11-10-121 of this title shall be known as the statutory council-manager form of city government. Cities governed under the statutory council-manager form shall have all the powers, functions, rights, privileges, franchises and immunities granted, or which may be granted, to cities. Such powers shall be exercised as provided by law applicable to cities under the statutory council-manager form, or if the manner is not thus prescribed, then in such manner as the council may prescribe.

The City of Lexington  
The City of Moore

The City of Noble  
The City of Norman

In a Council-Manager form of government the City Council consists of a Mayor, who is elected at-large, with an appropriate number of elected council members, to serve the political wards (districts) in the City. He has no regular administrative duties other than in signing written obligations of the City as the Council may require.

The City Manager is the chief executive administrative officer for the community and is appointed by and reports directly to the City Council. The City Manager supervises all of the city's departments, prepares the annual budget, and performs such activities as directed by the council. Lastly, the city manager has the power to appoint, and when necessary for the good of the service, remove, demote, lay off or suspend all heads of administrative departments and other administrative officers and employees of the city except as otherwise provided by law.

## **Climate**

Cleveland County is part of the Central Great Plains in the far western regions of the county and transitions to Crosstimbers over most of the county. Average annual precipitation ranges from about 36 inches in western Cleveland County to nearly 40 inches in the east. May and September are the wettest months, on average, but much of the spring through fall receives sufficient rainfall. Nearly every winter has at least one inch of snow, with one year in three having ten or more inches.

Temperatures average near 61 degrees, with a slight increase from north to south. Temperatures range from an average daytime high of 94 degrees in July to an average low of 28 degrees in January. Cleveland County averages a growing season of 209 days, but plants that can withstand short periods of colder temperatures may have an additional three to six weeks.

Winds from the south to southeast are quite dominant, averaging near ten miles-per-hour. Relative humidity, on average, ranges from 45% to 88% during the day. During the year, humidity is highest in May and lowest in August. Winter months tend to be cloudier than summer months. The percentage of possible sunshine ranges from an average of about 55% in winter to nearly 80% in summer.

Thunderstorms occur on about 49 days each year, predominantly in the spring and summer. During the period 1950 - 2011, Cleveland County recorded 65 tornadoes. On occasion, hurricanes affect Cleveland County. As they move onto land they weaken and become Tropical Storms. As they move further inland, they tend to lose strength and move slower, resulting in unusually large quantities of rain over the area. With Cleveland County's relatively flat topography, these storms still create a significant flooding threat.

## **Economics and Transportation**

Cleveland County is the eighth largest Oklahoma County in area; it has the third largest population and two of the state's seven largest cities, Norman and Moore. Additional agriculture, manufacturing and other industries have boosted the economy since the early 1900's. Moore Medical Center, Norman Regional Hospital, Griffin Memorial Hospital, and Oklahoma Veterans Center offer numerous health care jobs. Major employers within the county include York International, U.S. Postal Training Center, Wal-Mart Stores, Sysco Food Services, Hitachi Computer Products, Saxon Publishers, Lowes Home Improvement, Home Depot Home Improvement, and Yamanouchi Pharma Technologies.

Motorists and commercial transports have use of two Interstate highways and three state highways to get to their destinations all over the country as well as numerous miles of county roads.

### **Major highways**

-  Interstate 35
-  Interstate 44/U.S. Highway 62
-  State Highway 9
-  State Highway 37
-  State Highway 39

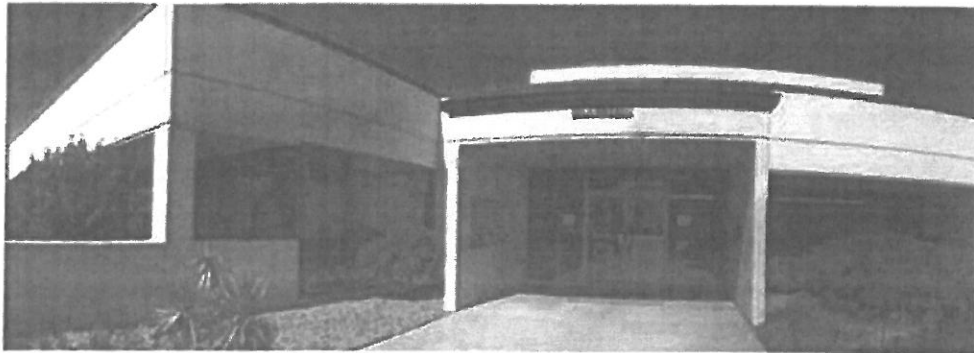
Interstate 35 traverses Cleveland County and offers easy access and a convenient transportation corridor to the junction of I-40 and I-44, just to the north. Cleveland County offers a diverse mix of industry, including agribusiness, the equine industry, energy, manufacturing and distribution, research and development and retail trade and tourism. Education and research opportunities abound at the University of Oklahoma campus (enrollment 20,000) and over a dozen colleges and universities that are within a 45 minute drive.



Inter-city passenger train service is available via Amtrak at Norman's Depot. Amtrak's Heartland Flyer provides daily round trip service to downtown Oklahoma City and Fort Worth, Texas.

Moore-Norman Technology Center provides the nation's premier business and industry training program. The towns in the county provide a business friendly atmosphere designed to encourage economic development.

**Lexington** is home to two correctional centers; the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center, and the Joseph Harp Correctional Center.

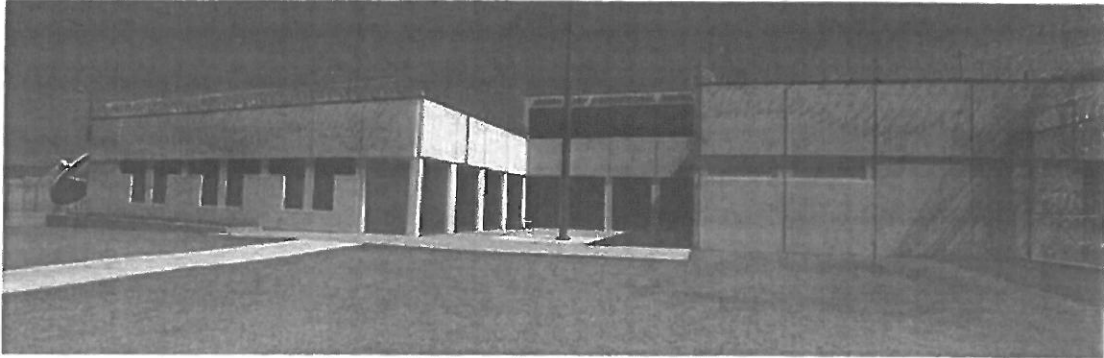


**Lexington Assessment and Reception Center**

The Lexington Assessment and Reception Center complex is composed of three units:

1. The Lexington Assessment and Reception Center is a special purpose maximum security unit that receives persons sentenced to prison by the courts. During the reception period of approximately ten to thirty days staff determine which DOC facility assignment is most appropriate for each inmate. Security and operations support is provided by the prison, with additional staff working in classification and health services supplied by the Operations division. The additional staffing is listed above, with the prison staffing listed separately under the correctional center side. The reception process operates under the direction of the administrator of Population Management.
2. The Lexington Correctional Center is a medium security prison. Its count and funding is listed separately and it is administered by the warden of the facility.
3. The Rex Thompson Minimum Security Unit staffing and budget are included under the correctional center side, with a separate table to show the inmate profile at the unit. This unit is also administered by the warden.

Lexington is also home to the Joseph Harp Correctional Center.



**Joseph Harp Correctional Center**

Joseph Harp Correctional Center is named in honor and memory of Warden Joseph Harp who served as warden at the Oklahoma State Reformatory from 1949 to 1969. Warden Joseph Harp was clearly an innovative leader and professional in the field of corrections.

Under Warden Harp, Oklahoma State Reformatory was the first institution to establish a fully accredited academic High School behind prison walls. Warden Harp recognized that one of the greatest needs that many inmates of his time (as well as today) had was a high school education. As early as 1950, Warden Harp proposed in a legislative report the need for: a Department of Corrections; a merit system of employment; a statewide probation system staffed with competent officers who would make pre-sentence investigations; a reception center for all felons coming into the prison system; and a full time pardon and parole board.

In **Moore**, the seventh largest city in Oklahoma, new industrial prospects appear frequently, significant commercial growth is occurring along the Interstate 35 corridor, and the new residential developments include larger, executive-type housing and gated communities. With this growth the city is hard at work improving our public safety departments with the temporary half-cent public safety sales tax approved by voters in 2006. The funds from the public safety tax are being used to purchase new equipment for our fire and police, as well as the construction of new fire stations and a new Police/Emergency Management Center in Old Town. Moore is also constructing several street projects approved by voters in November 2008.

Norman, the third largest city in Oklahoma is home to the Norman Regional Hospital, Griffin Memorial Hospital, and Oklahoma Veterans Center. Other major employers in Norman include York International, U.S. Postal Training Center, Sysco Food Services, Hitachi Computer Products, Saxon Publishers, and Yamanouchi Pharma Technologies.

Norman is served locally by Max Westheimer Airport, a general aviation airport run by the University of Oklahoma. The airport is one of only two airports in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area designated as a reliever airport to Will Rogers World Airport. Max Westheimer Airport is capable of handling aircraft up through and including executive class jet aircraft.

The Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART), operated by the University of Oklahoma, provides bus service throughout the 191-square-mile (490 km<sup>2</sup>) Norman area. Metro Transit maintains a fleet of buses and trolleys serving the greater Oklahoma City area, including Will Rogers World Airport.



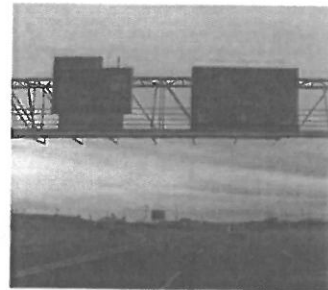
In 2008, CART became the 39th public transportation system in the United States to be featured on Google Transit, a website that allows transportation users to electronically plan their travel routes. In 2010, CART buses were modified to include a GPS tracking system that allows riders to see the location of buses and their predicted arrival times via the CART and Google websites. CART buses transport more than 1.3 million travelers annually.

Inter-city passenger train service is available via Amtrak at Norman's Depot. Amtrak's *Heartland Flyer* provides daily round trip service to downtown Oklahoma City and Fort Worth, Texas.



Although Norman currently has no light rail or commuter rail service, there is growing interest in incorporating such services into the city's future transportation plans.

The predominant form of transportation in Norman is roads and highways with 80.0% of all residents driving alone to work, 9.0% carpooling, and just 1.3% taking public transportation. As of 2007, Interstate 35 alone was handling over 99,000 vehicles per day. Other major highways include U.S. Highway 77, which serves more than 25,000 vehicles per day and State Highway 9, a portion of which serves 28,000 vehicles per day. Highway 9 is a major east-west highway in Oklahoma. Spanning across the central part of the state, SH-9 begins at the Texas state line near Madge, OK and ends at the Arkansas state line near Fort Smith, Arkansas. At 348.1 miles (560.2 km), SH-9 is Oklahoma's second-longest state highway (second to State Highway 3). The Norman area is also served by State Highway 77H.





## **Academia**

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Early settlers focused on establishing educational facilities. Residents could receive higher education in Norman at High Gate College, opened in 1890, and the University of Oklahoma, opened in 1892. In Noble the Noble Academy operated from 1891 to 1895. In 1908 Cleveland County children were served by eighty-six common schools and two high schools. Among African American schools were the Stella School District, West Point School District, and Norris School District in the northeastern corner of the county. At least three schools for African Americans, Banner School District, Rose Hill School District, and McIntosh School District, existed east of Lexington. By 1930 the county had sixty-four one- and two-room school houses, and Norman, Moore, Noble, and Lexington had high schools. The private, nonprofit Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, located in Moore, opened in the late 1960s. Since 1972, the Moore-Norman Technology Center has offered programs in business administration, computer technology, and health careers.

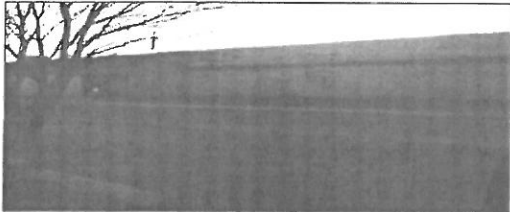
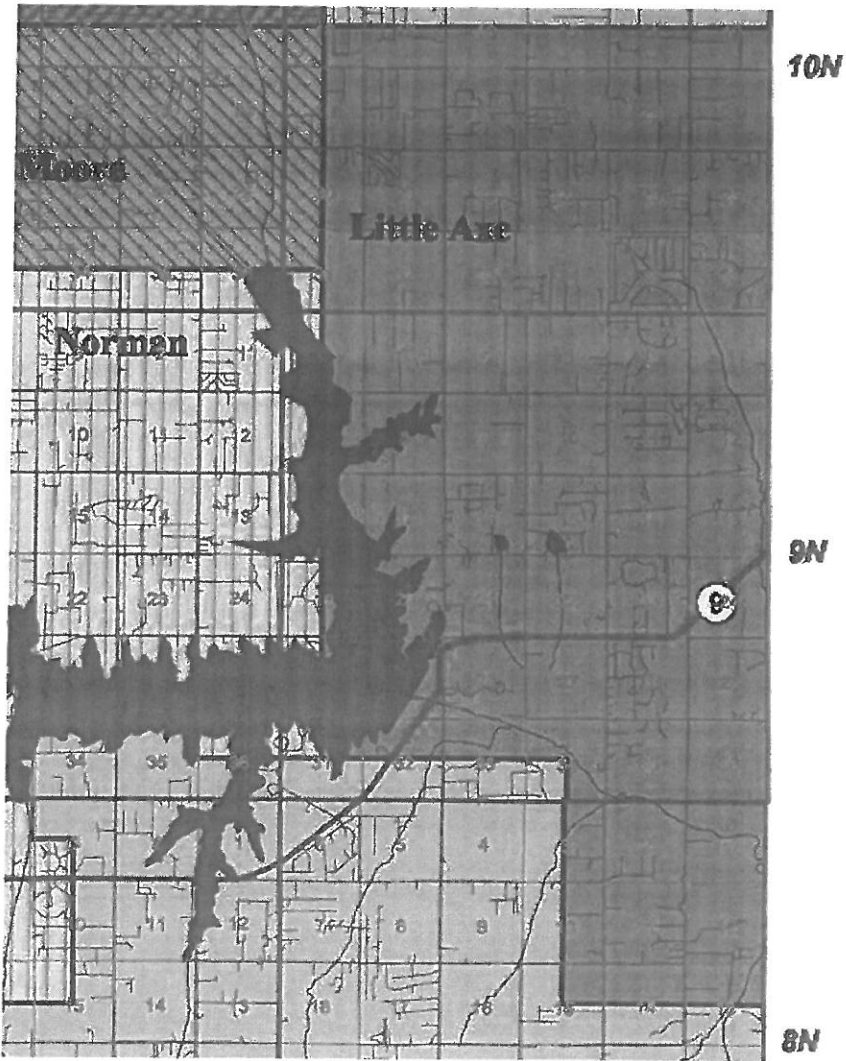
At the turn of the twenty-first century, Cleveland County had six public school districts: Lexington; Little Axe; Moore; Noble; Norman and Robin Hill. Education and research opportunities abound at the University of Oklahoma campus (enrollment 20,000) and over a dozen colleges and universities that are within a 45 minute drive of Norman.

Moore-Norman Technology Center provides the nation's premier business and industry training program. The towns in the county provide a business friendly atmosphere designed to encourage economic development.

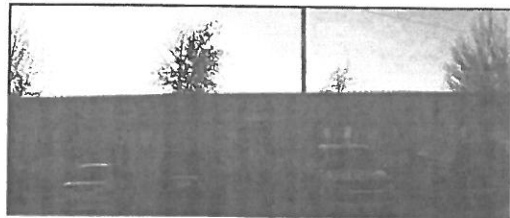
Little Axe Public Schools and Robin Hill Public Schools are rural school districts in **Cleveland County**.

## **Little Axe Public School District**

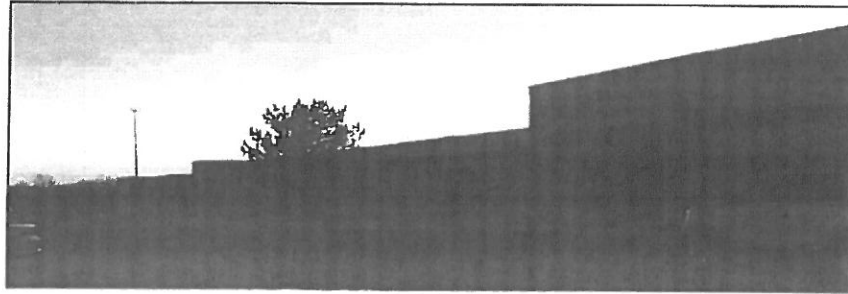
**Little Axe Public School District** serves students in northeastern Cleveland County with a total district enrollment of 1223 (latest available). It is bounded by Moore, Norman, McLoud and Noble School Districts.



**Little Axe Elementary**  
Enrollment - 602 Grades Pre-K – 5



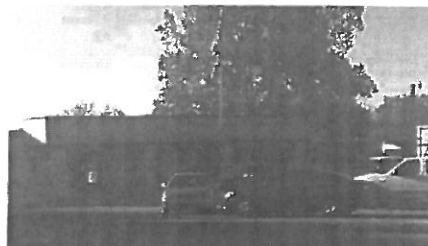
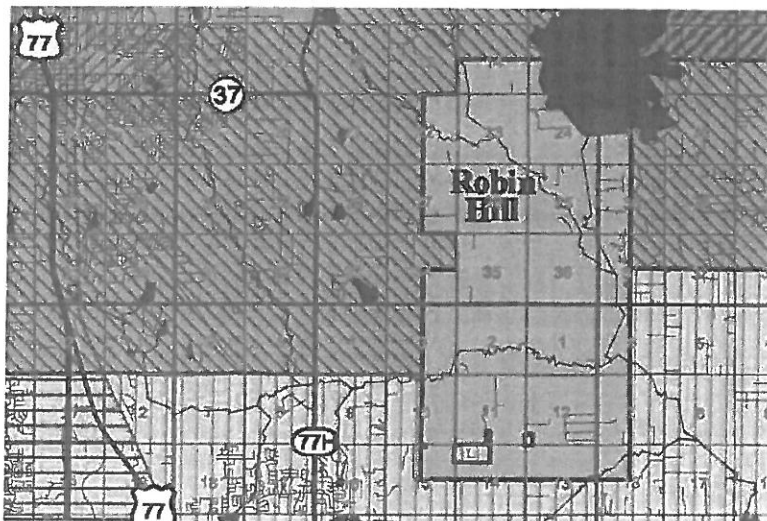
**Little Axe Middle School**  
Enrollment - 245 Grades 6-8



**Little Axe High School**  
Enrollment 368 Grades 9-12

## **Robin Hill Public School District**

**Robin Hill Public School District** – Robin Hill Public School District serves students in central Cleveland County in grades Pre-K – 8 with a total enrollment of 222. It is bounded by the Moore and Norman School Districts.



**Robin Hill Elementary School**  
Enrollment 222 Grades Pre-K – 8



**Lexington Public School District**



**#1 – Lexington Elementary/Junior High**



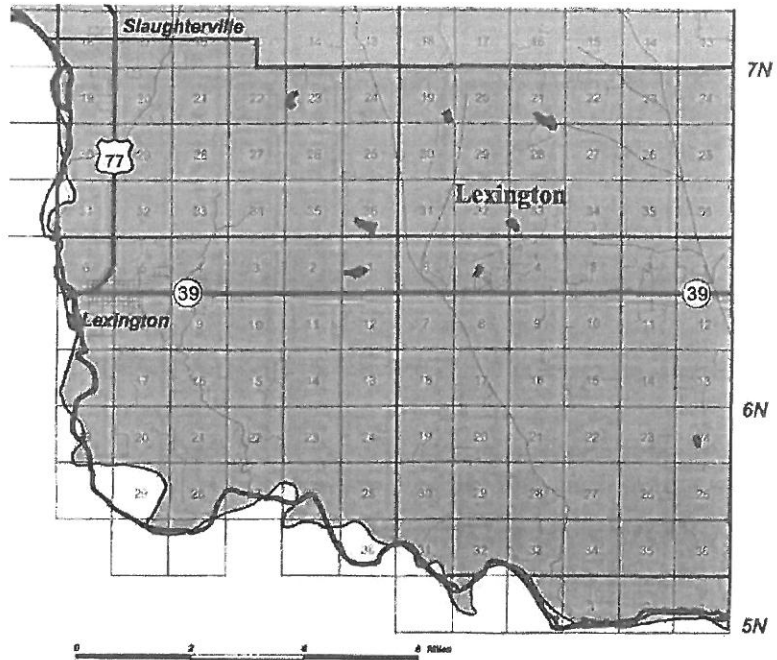
**#2 – Lexington High School**



**#3 – Aerial view of both Lexington Public Schools**

**Lexington Public School**

**District** – serves students in the southern part of Cleveland County in grades Pre-K through 12 with a total enrollment of 1,069 students.

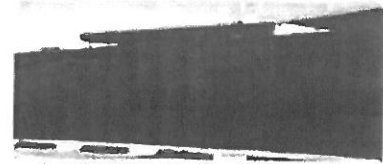




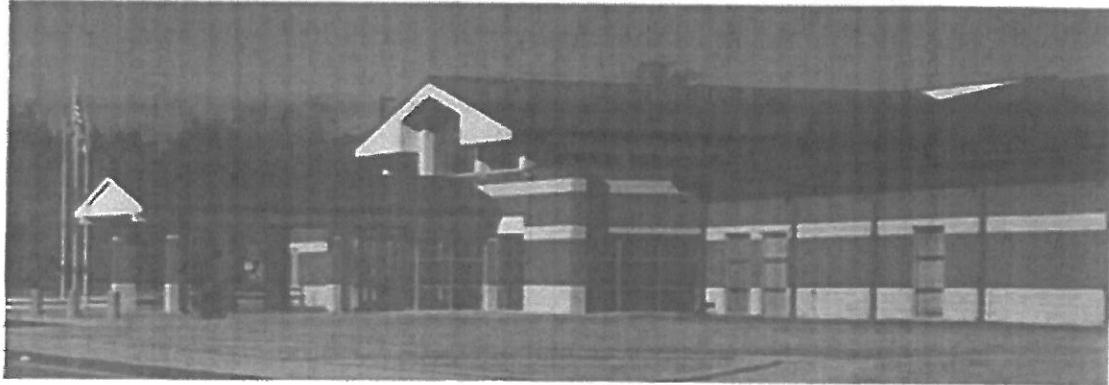
**Lexington Elementary School**  
Enrollment 476 – Grade Pre-K – 5



**Lexington Intermediate School**  
Enrollment 165 grades 5-6



**Lexington Junior High School**  
Enrollment 209 in grades 7-9

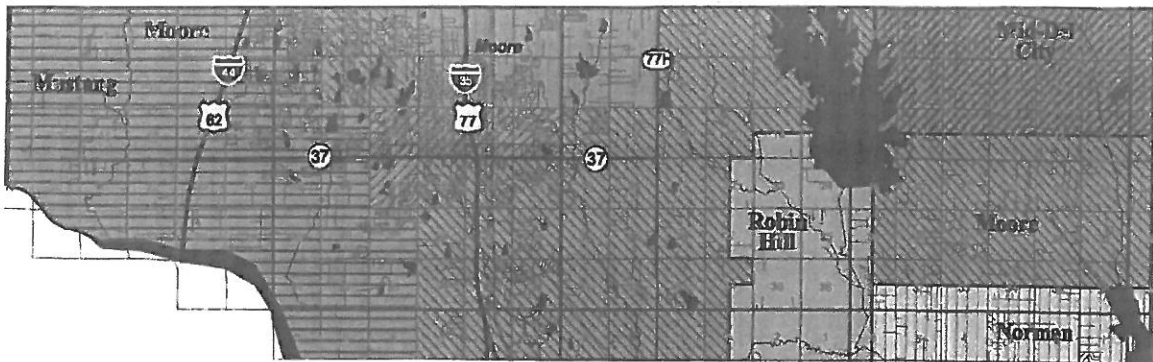


**Lexington High School**  
Enrollment 205 grades 10-12

## MOORE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MOORE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT** – Moore Public School District serves students in northern Cleveland County in grades Pre-K – 12 with a total enrollment of 22,226. Moore Public School District is the third largest in the State of Oklahoma.

The Moore Public School District incorporates much of northern Cleveland County offering pre-K through 12th grade in the suburban areas of Moore and south Oklahoma City. With a student population of over 23,000, the system is the third largest in the state. The staff of some 2,500 employees includes about 1,400 certified personnel who have an average of 13 years of experience and more than 500 advanced degrees.



**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Moore Public Schools has 23 elementary schools, grades kindergarten through sixth. Approximately 11,000 students are enrolled in elementary schools. A four-year-old pilot program is offered at 15 elementary schools.

The elementary curriculum emphasizes academic, social and communication skills and is designed to allow students to progress at a developmentally appropriate pace. Each elementary school has a media center staffed with a full-time media specialist, a counselor, and music and physical education classes taught by certified instructors.

**NOTE: During a tornado on May 20, 2013, Plaza Towers Elementary School and Briarwood Elementary School were destroyed. School was still in session and at Plaza Towers Elementary School seven students were fatalities when interior wall collapsed on them. Highland East Jr. High School and the District Administration Building also received heavy damage. All schools started school on schedule in September although some were in temporary facilities. School rebuilding has also begun.**



**Apple Creek Elementary**



**Briarwood Elementary**



**Broadmoore Elementary**



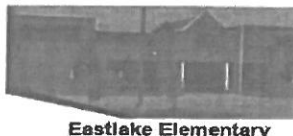
**Bryant Elementary**



**Central Elementary**



**Earlywine Elementary**



**Eastlake Elementary**



**Fisher Elementary**



**Fairview Elementary**



**Heritage Trails Elementary**



**Houchin Elementary**



**Kelley Elementary**





**Kingsgate Elementary**



**Northmoor Elementary**



**Oakridge Elementary**



**Plaza Towers Elementary**



**Red Oak Elementary**



**Santa Fe Elementary**



**Sky Ranch Elementary**



**Sooner Elementary**



**Southgate-Rippetoe Elementary**



**Wayland Bonds Elementary**



**Winding Creek Elementary**

### **JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

Moore Public Schools has five junior high schools, grades seven and eight. Approximately 4,700 students are enrolled in junior high. The junior high schools provide a challenging and caring school climate that seeks to develop strong academic foundations, discover special interests, and provide activities for personal and social growth.

Moore's junior high school curriculum bridges the gap between elementary and high school focusing on basic skills, decision-making, critical thinking and exploration of elective subjects. It allows students to learn to organize their world and make progress toward personal independence.



**Brink Jr. High**  
Enrollment 876 Grades 6-8



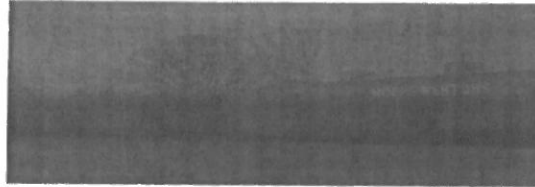
**Central Jr. High**  
Enrollment 553 Grades 6-8



**Highland East Jr. High**  
Enrollment 673 Grades 6-8



**Highland West Jr. High**  
Enrollment 608 Grades 6-8



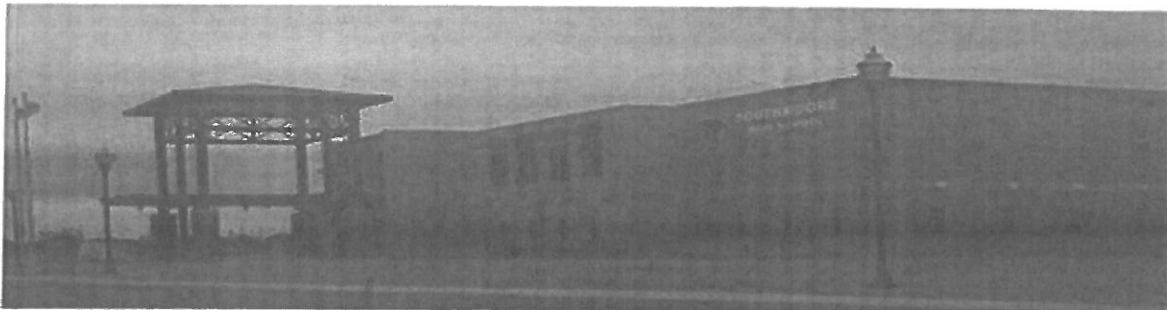
**Moore West Jr. High**  
Enrollment 658 Grades 6-8

### **HIGH SCHOOLS**

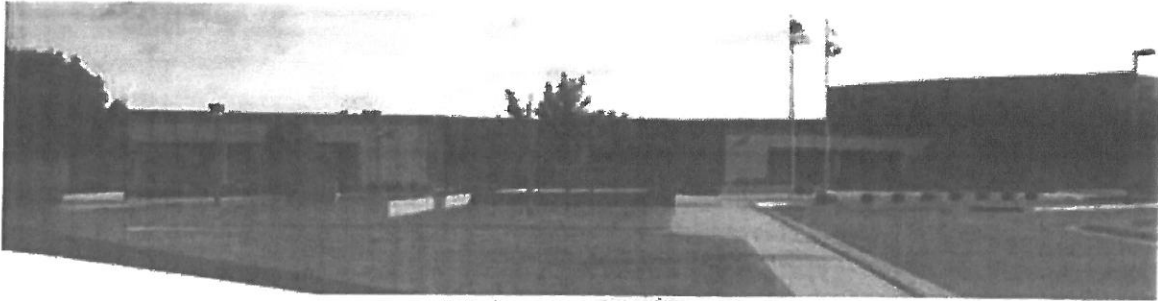
Each day approximately 5,900 students attending Moore, Southmoore and Westmoore High Schools participate in quality academic and extracurricular activities, while experiencing a strong tradition of learning excellence. A tradition strengthened through strong collaboration among faculty, parents and students. In addition to core curriculum courses, a wide variety of offerings include: AP courses, electives and career/technology programs. The curriculum is aligned to college entrance exams and requirements.



**Moore High School**  
Enrollment 2165 Grades 9-12



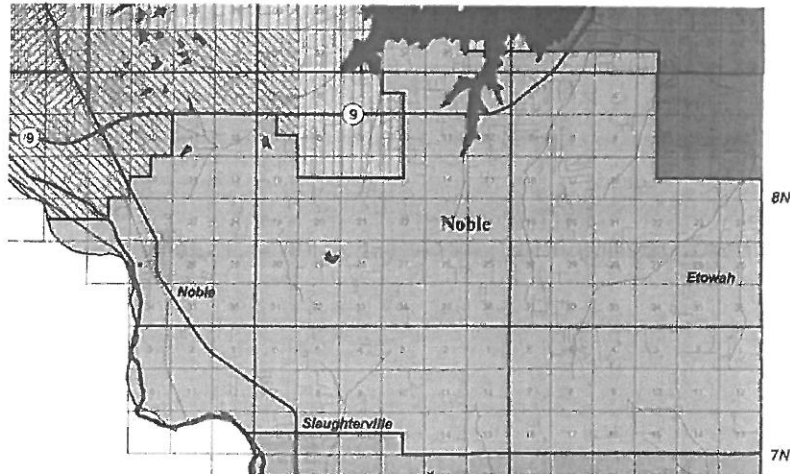
**Southmoore High School**  
Enrollment 1983 Grades 9-12



**Westmoore High School**  
Enrollment 1950 Grades 9-12

## Noble Public School District

Noble Public School District serves students in south-central Cleveland County in grades Pre-K through 12 with a total enrollment of 2,999 students.



### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



**Katherine Daily Elementary School**  
Enrollment 602 Grades Pre-K-1



**John Hubbard Elementary School**  
Enrollment 445 Grades 2-3

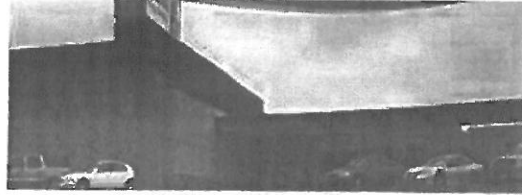


**Pioneer Inter Elementary School**  
Enrollment 665 Grades 4-5

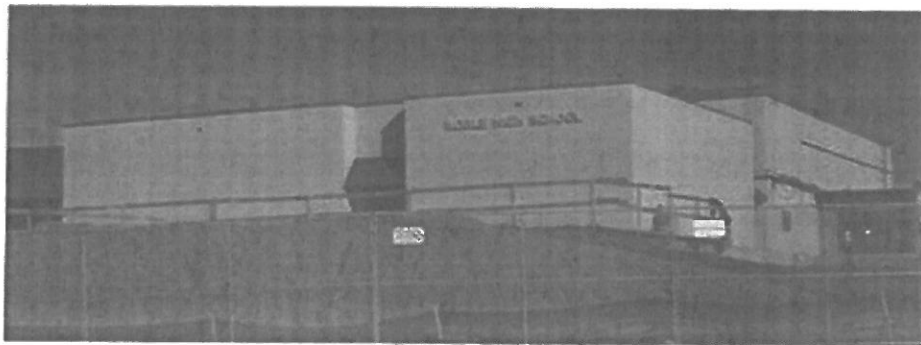


**Pioneer Intermediate School**  
Enrollment 667 Grades 6-8

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS



**Curtis Inge Middle School**  
Enrollment 667 Grades 6-8



**Noble High School**  
Enrollment 816 Grades 9-12

## Norman Public School District

The Norman Public School District serves students Pre K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade who live in the central part of Cleveland County.





## Elementary Schools



**Adams Elementary**  
Enrollment – 491 Grades Pre K – 5



**Cleveland Elementary**  
Enrollment – 525 Grades Pre K – 5



**Eisenhower Elementary**  
Enrollment – 560 Grades Pre K – 5



**Jackson Elementary**  
Enrollment – 500 Grades Pre K – 5



**Jefferson Elementary**  
Enrollment – 393 Grades Pre K – 5



**Kennedy Elementary**  
Enrollment – 585 Grades Pre K – 5



**Lakeview Elementary**  
Enrollment – 251 Grades Pre K – 5



**Lincoln Elementary**  
Enrollment – 307 Grades Pre K – 5



**Madison Elementary**  
Enrollment – 587 Grades Pre K – 5



**McKinley Elementary**  
Enrollment – 303 Grades Pre K – 5



**Monroe Elementary**  
Enrollment – 387 Grades Pre K – 5



**Roosevelt Elementary**  
Enrollment – 685 Grades Pre K – 5



**Truman Elementary**  
Enrollment – 394 Grades 3 – 5



**Washington Elementary**  
Enrollment – 666 Grades Pre K – 5



**Wilson Elementary**  
Enrollment – 254 Grades Pre K – 5

**Middle Schools**



**Alcott Middle School**  
Enrollment 618 Grades 6-8



**Irving Middle School**  
Enrollment 775 Grades 6-8

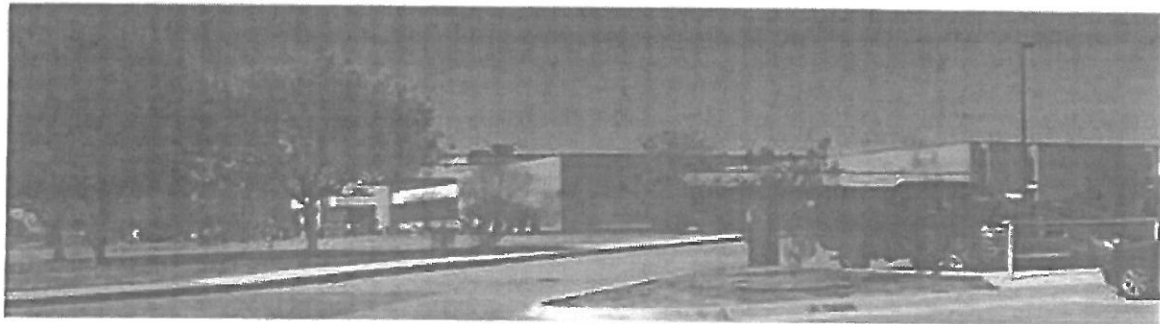


**Longfellow Middle School**  
Enrollment 521 Grades 6-8



**Whittier Middle School**  
Enrollment 1074 Grades 6-8

**High Schools**

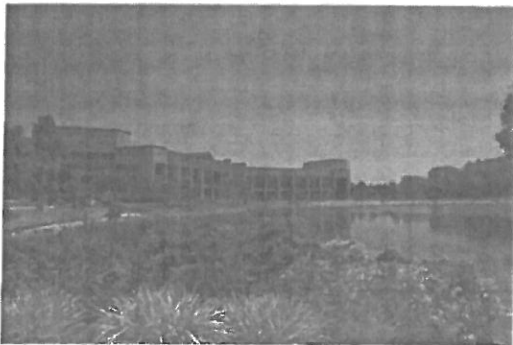
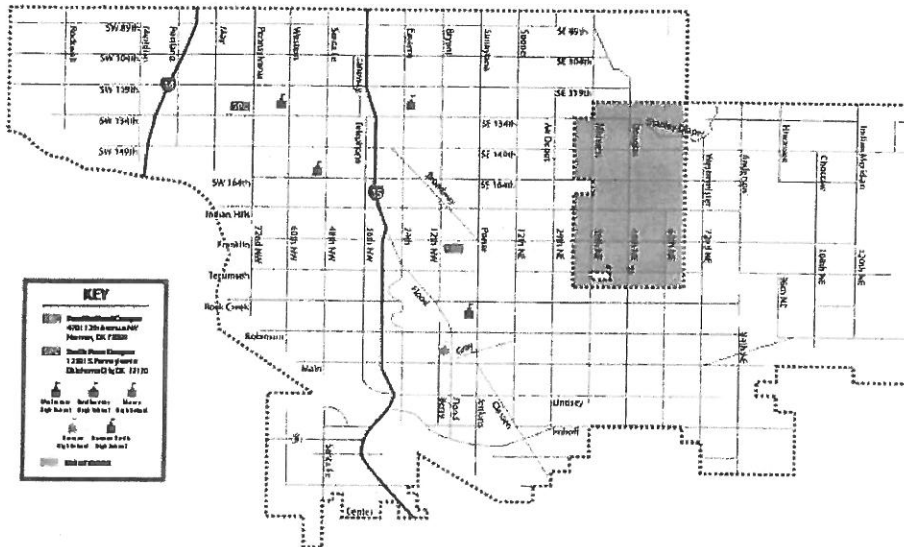


**Norman High School**  
Enrollment 1680 Grades 9-12



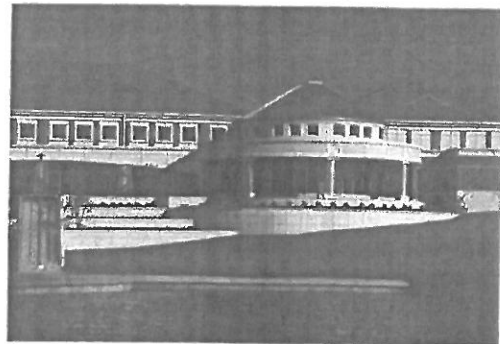
**Norman North High School**  
Enrollment 2113 Grades 9-12

## Moore-Norman Technology Center



**Franklin Road Campus**

Moore-Norman Technology Center assists high school students and adults to map out a plan to a brighter, more prosperous future. GCTC offers full-time training programs and short-term classes designed to help students develop skills.



**South Penn Campus**

Moore Norman Technology Center (MNTC) was established in 1972. MNTC has gained a reputation for excellence, and is viewed as one of the nation's premiere educational and training institutions. Moore Norman Technology Center is one of 29 career and technical education options within Oklahoma's CareerTech System, and the district encompasses the communities of Norman, Moore and south Oklahoma City. They provide high school and adult students a quality and affordable career and technical

education. They also provide professional assistance to businesses in order to help them achieve their business goals.

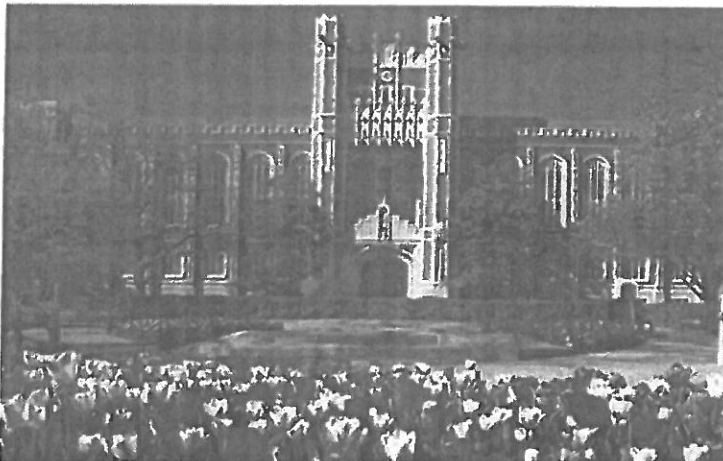
Each year, MNTC serves more than 40,000 adults through conference facilities and continuing education classes, and, provides hundreds of businesses training designed to increase their profitability and enhance their organizational performance.

MNTC also serves over 1,100 secondary and post-secondary students enrolled in nearly 80 career majors, many of which are nationally accredited. Through participation in Cooperative Alliance Agreements with OCCC, OSU-OKC and Rose State, most career major students can earn college credit while enrolled at MNTC.

Additionally, MNTC offers a range of unique community outreach programs and services: Career Awareness Night, CareerQuest, Summer Youth Academy, and the business incubator. MNTC is a multiple recipient of the Gold Star School Award, is ISO registered, and was awarded the Oklahoma Quality Award at the Achievement Level in 2007.

District population is 232,942 based on 2010 census data. School districts served include Moore and Norman.

## University of Oklahoma



Founded in 1890, it existed in Oklahoma Territory near Indian Territory for 17 years before the two became the state of Oklahoma. As of 2007 the university had 29,931 students enrolled, most located at its main campus in Norman. Employing nearly 3,000 faculty members, the school offers 152 baccalaureate programs, 160 master's programs, 75 doctorate programs, and 20

majors at the first professional level. David Boren, a former U.S. Senator and Oklahoma Governor, has served as President of the University of Oklahoma since 1994.

Attracting top students from across the nation and more than 100 countries around the world, OU provides a major university experience in a private college atmosphere. OU is number one in the nation in



the number of National Merit Scholars enrolled among public universities and is in the top ten of public universities in the nation in the graduation of Rhodes Scholars.

	Enrollments		Percent Change
	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	
<b>OU Headcount by Campus</b>			
<small>Campus Enrollments represent all students attending classes on each campus. Students may be enrolled on multiple campuses.</small>			
Norman On-Campus Enrollment	23,850	24,144	1.2%
OU Outreach Programs			
Liberal Studies Total Enrollment	1,648	1,719	4.3%
Academic Programs Enrollment	528	1,146	116.6%
Advanced Programs Enrollment	1,354	1,326	-2.1%
Health Sciences Center On-Campus Enrollment	2,728	2,763	1.3%
Health Sciences Center Off-Campus Enrollment	214	193	-9.8%
OU-Tulsa Enrollment in Norman Campus Programs	675	741	9.8%
OU-Tulsa Enrollment in Health Sciences Center Programs	682	648	-4.8%
OU-Tulsa Enrollment in Liberal Studies	48	47	2.2%

The OU Honors College is one of the largest honors programs among public universities in the United States, matching the University's best and brightest students with faculty in classrooms of 19 or fewer students. OU is one of the few public universities in the nation to cap the class size of first-year English composition courses at no more than 19. OU offers students the opportunity to study abroad in over 100 cities and 50 countries, including our signature program in Arezzo, Italy. The number of endowed faculty professorships and chaired positions has increased from less than 100 15 years ago to more than 560 today. This enables OU to keep and attract faculty researchers of national and international stature.



The University of Oklahoma Department of Athletics promotes excellence in athletics without compromising excellence in academics or integrity in its commitment to rules or conduct. Student-athletes are encouraged by the coaching and administrative staff to maintain a balance between athletics, academics, and the social aspects of college.

The OU Athletics Department sponsors 21 varsity sports with more than 600 student-athletes and is completely self-supporting.

## Climate

Cleveland County is part of the Central Great Plains in the far western regions of the county and transitions to Crosstimbers over most of the county. Average annual precipitation ranges from about 36 inches in western Cleveland County to nearly 40 inches in the east. May and September are the wettest months, on average, but much of the spring through fall receives sufficient rainfall. Nearly every winter has at least one inch of snow, with one year in three having ten or more inches.

Temperatures average near 61 degrees, with a slight increase from north to south. Temperatures range from an average daytime high of 94 degrees in July to an average low of 28 degrees in January. Cleveland County averages a growing season of 209 days, but plants that can withstand short periods of colder temperatures may have an additional three to six weeks.

Winds from the south to southeast are quite dominant, averaging near ten miles-per-hour. Relative humidity, on average, ranges from 45% to 88% during the day. During the year, humidity is highest in May and lowest in August. Winter months tend to be cloudier than summer months. The percentage of possible sunshine ranges from an average of about 55% in winter to nearly 80% in summer.

Thunderstorms occur on about 49 days each year, predominantly in the spring and summer. During the period 1950 - 2011, Cleveland County recorded 65 tornadoes. On occasion, hurricanes affect Cleveland County. As they move onto land they weaken and become Tropical Storms. As they move further inland, they tend to lose strength and move slower, resulting in unusually large quantities of rain over the area. With Cleveland County's relatively flat topography, these storms still create a significant flooding threat.

## References

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Wikipedia.com  
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US Department of Agriculture  
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture  
Oklahoma Department of Education