

CITY OF BIXBY

*P.O. BOX 70
116 W. Needles
BIXBY, OK 74008
(918) 366-4430
(918) 366-6373 FAX*

Dear Friend:

Welcome to the City of Bixby! Whether you are a new or longtime resident, someone who will soon be visiting our community, or are currently considering relocating your family or business here, you will find Bixby very hospitable and a terrific place in which to live, work, and play, and to grow a family or business. We hope you will find this website a helpful tool for learning more about Bixby and for conducting your personal business with the City as a citizen and utility customer. For whatever information you require which do not find either here, or via one of the many convenient links to other websites, you are welcome to contact our offices so we may assist you further.

Having been founded in the early 1900's alongside the Arkansas River, south of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Bixby soon became known as a place where you could grow almost anything, and was eventually dubbed "the Garden Spot of Oklahoma". In more recent decades, Bixby has become known more so as THE choice within Northeast Oklahoma of places to live and grow a family or business and prosper in a hassle-free, safe, comfortable lifestyle which is the envy of many other communities. In fact, Bixby boasts some of the highest growth rates and most positive demographics to be found in Oklahoma, including having the highest Per Capita Income and highest median home values in the Tulsa Metro Region, as well as the second highest percentage of residents holding B.S. degrees or higher.

Bixby was one of the fastest growing cities in Oklahoma this past decade, having grown by 57%. At just under 21,000 people in the 2010 Census, Bixby is now the 20th largest city in the state, up from 32nd a decade ago. And while some Tulsa metro area communities are approaching "built-out" status, Bixby has plenty of remaining land within its fence line to accommodate both additional residential growth and significant commercial development, including along the Arkansas River.

Despite this growth, Bixby has retained a friendly, small town feel, with beautiful neighborhoods, bountiful churches, active civic clubs, several regionally-famous farmers markets, and numerous high quality community amenities. Bixby is also the safest community in Oklahoma for communities its size. For these and many other reasons, CNN Money.com recognized Bixby in 2009 as one of its Best Places to Live in America, designating it one of America's best small towns. Citizens have regularly supported City-sponsored infrastructure projects designed to maintain and improve city streets, public safety and parks within the community.

Commercial developers have praised the City of Bixby for being "business friendly" and easy to work with, citing the personal attention and access to city staff, and the pro-active, aggressive economic development strategies pursued by its City Council and officials. One of Bixby's unique attributes is its status as a river city, the community being united north and south by the Arkansas River, with shoreline development opportunities yet to be harvested.

Bixby is known for having a stable, progressive, accessible government. Rated "AA" by national rating agency Standard & Poor's, only one city in the state has a better bond rating than Bixby. Bixby is also known for its active participation in the diversified Tulsa regional economy and labor market, which is recognized nationally for its performance. Bixby is well connected to the state and regional economy via an excellent set of state highways and is less than a thirty minute drive to Tulsa International Airport and downtown Tulsa.

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The single most important factor behind most people's choice of Bixby is to enable their children to attend Bixby's award-winning public schools system, which is widely regarded as one of the best in the state, and also one of the fastest growing. The school system is considered by many to be large enough to provide for a very rich, diverse academic curriculum and extensive and stimulating extra-curricular programs, but still small enough to allow kids to become engaged in their schools and not feel lost or overwhelmed by the large numbers found in some school districts. To help keep up with the growth and to provide for the best learning environments possible, voters have approved by overwhelming majorities multi-year bond issues for the construction and renovation of school buildings, with several new campuses now under construction.

Once they have completed high school, Bixby's residents are eligible to participate in Tulsa Community College's "Tulsa Achieves", free college tuition program. Bixby is located close to numerous higher education facilities within the region, including having recently become home to Southern Nazarene University's new Northeast Oklahoma branch campus.

Bixby has a dynamic Chamber of Commerce which has experienced a very high growth rate. Last year, it was recognized as one of the top 10 chambers its size in the nation.

Bixby's new 100 acre Bentley youth sports park, which was recognized for top design in the state by the Oklahoma Recreation Parks Society and best splash pad design by Aquatics Intl. magazine, regularly draws visitors from many miles away to its sports tournaments and connects to an extensive trails system. The park is currently being expanded to add more practice space for youth sports and \$4.9 million in additional facilities and amenities as called for in the park's master plan.

The 4,500 seat Spirit Bank Event Center regularly hosts world-class entertainment and numerous events which attract visitors from throughout the region. A new 92 room Holiday Inn Express hotel opened last year, it being the second hotel to open in recent years, and a new \$20 million Class "A" 248 unit apartment complex, Encore on Memorial, has now begun leasing. New restaurants are continually being drawn to Bixby to feed the growing population. Likewise, a new Reasor's grocery store currently being constructed in north Bixby will be the finest in this successful regional grocer's chain, further expanding the choices available to residents.

We know you have many choices of places to live and locate a business. We recommend and invite you to do yourself, your family, and your employees a favor. Come see why so many others have already decided to make Bixby their home, after themselves researching and concluding Bixby to be THE choice of communities in Northeast Oklahoma. Simply put, life's better here. Come be a part of it!

Sincerely,

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Doug Enevoldsen
City Manager
City of Bixby