

# Community Overview

The Syracuse/Wawasee area is a growing small town with new industry, retail and service businesses opening regularly. It has also been a destination for visitors for generations due to the breathtaking Lake Wawasee, the largest natural lake in Indiana. With access to Syracuse Lake there are more than 3,500 acres of water for year round recreation.

## History

The first inhabitants of the Syracuse/Wawasee area were Native Americans. They were called the Miami and were split into two groups led by Chief Flat Belly and his brother Chief Wauweeaskee (namesake of Lake Wawasee). After an 1826 treaty the Miami left the area and Syracuse's first two white settlers, Samuel Crosson and Henry Ward built a dam on Turkey Creek and then set up a grist mill on Syracuse Lake. By 1830 a small general store/trading post was built in Syracuse and in 1837 Crosson and Ward completed the town's plat of 101 lots. In 1873 the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad announced plans to pass through the Syracuse Area. The railroad caused an incredible increase in new businesses and population.

## Syracuse Today

Gorgeous trees can be seen everywhere you look, even painted on one of the town's water towers. Syracuse is proud to be a Tree City USA (a very difficult distinction to be named) and continues to work hard to keep the title. Uptown Syracuse has changed very little over the last 100 years. Brick buildings line Main St. and are home to a variety of businesses. Something is always happening on Main St. The retail stores, many of which focus on art, along with the restaurants and the movie theatre look like a page out of a history book.

The Syracuse Area has a lot to offer people of all ages including many childcare options and a Youth Center. A modern nursing home and activities are available for senior citizens. There are also 6 banks in town, including Crossroads Bank, Key Bank, Farmers State Bank, Mutual Federal Savings Bank, Fort Financial Credit Union and Lake City Bank. More than half of the town's 25 restaurants are locally owned and there are 7 fast food restaurants. Family activities abound in Syracuse thanks to our lakes, golf courses, parks and a variety of other activities.

Oakwood Retreat and Conference Center is an attractive destination for conferences and retreats. This 42-acre facility has a panoramic view of Lake Wawasee, four star quality inn, superb restaurant and a variety of unique meeting spaces for large or small groups.

Syracuse is also home to a diverse group of industries including boat manufacturing, circuit board manufacturing, rubber production, RV manufacturing, plastic production, horse trailers, printing, research and development of engines, metal fabrication, and modular home manufacturing. As well as agricultural industries including agricultural and poultry production and livestock supplement production.

## Service Organizations

Service organizations in Syracuse include the Syracuse Rotary, Wawasee Kiwanis, Syracuse Lions, Knight of Columbus, Eagles, American Legion and VFW Post 1342.

# Hotels and Conference Centers

Visitors to Syracuse enjoy staying at one of our two hotels, three Bed and Breakfasts or five camps.

## Oakwood Retreat and Conference Center

[www.oakwoodfoundation.org](http://www.oakwoodfoundation.org)

A 42 acre facility on the shore of Lake Wawasee. The Oakwood facilities are popular for business and church retreats with 30,000 square feet of flexible meeting space for groups. Also, the 8 cabins that can house 12 people each and the Kimmel Retreat House that accommodates 25 are perfect for groups. The Inn itself has 77 rooms and suites and is ideal for groups or individuals. Casual, yet elegant dining can be found in the Oakwood Restaurant which is attached to the Inn and offers panoramic views of Lake Wawasee.

## Brook Pointe Inn

[www.brookpointeinn.com](http://www.brookpointeinn.com)

A family owned and operated, 30 unit, inn. The relaxed setting, impeccable service and fine amenities are appreciated by both leisure and business travelers. A gorgeous screened in porch overlooks 20 acres of meadow and wooded areas. Choose a rocker and let the world go by or head outside to enjoy nature on the walking paths. The year-round indoor heated pool is also very popular as is the unique gift shop. An 875 square foot conference room with available food service draws many meetings and retreats.

## Bed and Breakfasts

Enjoyed by individual visitors and groups, all of the local Bed and Breakfasts have unique characteristics such as an indoor pool, in home theater, children's areas, lush gardens, a sauna and complimentary dining. The three Bed and Breakfasts have a total of 10 rooms to choose from

- Anchor Inn [www.bbonline.com/in/anchorinn](http://www.bbonline.com/in/anchorinn)
- Ngiapwe Bed and Breakfast [www.howdoyousaythat.net](http://www.howdoyousaythat.net)
- Bittersweet Cottage B & B [www.bbonline.com/in/amishcountry/syracuse.html](http://www.bbonline.com/in/amishcountry/syracuse.html)

## Camps and Camp Grounds

- Quaker Haven Camp 574-834-4193
- Cottonwood Camp 574-457-4389
- Camp Crosley 574-834-2331
- Rustic Root 260-856-4476
- Tippecanoe Camp 574-834-4184

# **Business Incentives**

## **State Tax Credits**

- Property Tax Abatement ([www.kdi-in.com/taxes/taxabatment.html](http://www.kdi-in.com/taxes/taxabatment.html))
- Tax Increment Financing ([www.kdi-in.com](http://www.kdi-in.com) or [www.edcec.com](http://www.edcec.com))
- County Economic Development Income Tax Revenue ([www.kdi-in.com](http://www.kdi-in.com) or [www.edcec.com](http://www.edcec.com))
- Economic Development for a Growing Economy ([www.in.gov/iedc/196.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/196.htm))
- Venture Capital Investment Tax Credit ([www.in.gov/iedc/204.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/204.htm))
- Hoosier Business Investment Tax Credit ([www.in.gov/iedc/200.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/200.htm))
- Headquarters Relocations Tax Credit ([www.in.gov/iedc/198.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/198.htm))

## **Grants**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research and Technology Fund ([www.21fund.org](http://www.21fund.org))
- Training Acceleration Grant ([www.in.gov/iedc/grants.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/grants.htm))
- Industrial Development Grant Fund ([www.in.gov/iedc/157.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/157.htm))

## **Loans**

- Loan Guaranty Program ([www.in.gov/iedc/174.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/174.htm))
- Industrial Revenue Bonds ([www.in.gov/iedc/177.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/177.htm))
- Capital Access Program ([www.in.gov/iedc/171.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/171.htm))

## **Training**

- Skills Enhancement Fund ([www.in.gov/iedc/209.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/209.htm))
- Technology Enhancement Certification for Hoosiers ([www.in.gov/iedc/211.htm](http://www.in.gov/iedc/211.htm))

## **Technical Assistance**

- Technical Assistance Program ([engineering.purdue.edu/TAP](http://engineering.purdue.edu/TAP))
- Clean Manufacturing Technology and Safe Materials Institute ([www.ecn.purdue.edu/CMTI](http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/CMTI))

## **Town Incentives (Contact the Syracuse Town Manager for more information)**

- Tax Abatements are available
- Commercial Building Rehabilitation Loan Program
- Small Business Loan Program for fixed assets (Kosciusko Development Revolving Loan Program)

# Area Statistics

## Public Safety

Number of Police Dept  
Number of Fire Dept Employees  
Fire Department Rating:

9 full time/4 reserves  
7 full time/33 volunteers  
9

[www.syracusepd.org](http://www.syracusepd.org)  
[www.syracusefd.org](http://www.syracusefd.org)

## Area Cities

<u>Location</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Distance to Syracuse</u>	
		<u>Roadway</u>	<u>As the Crow Flies</u>
Chicago	2,833,321	141 miles	102 miles
Detroit	871,121	214 miles	152 miles
Indianapolis	785,597	166 miles	114 miles
South Bend	104,905	46 miles	31 miles
Fort Wayne	248,637	49 miles	40 miles
Goshen	31,882	15 miles	12 miles
Warsaw	13,082	20 miles	14 miles
Elkhart	52,748	31 miles	21 miles
Mishawaka	48,912	38 miles	26 miles

## Climate in Kosciusko County

Coldest Month/avg temp.  
Warmest Month/avg temp.  
Annual Rain

January/23.4 degrees  
July/ 72.5 degrees  
35 inches

# Economic Development

Syracuse is centrally located between Chicago, Detroit, Toledo and Indianapolis. Syracuse provides an environment where business can flourish with an outstanding quality of life. An abundance of natural resources, unique real estate properties and an affordable and dependable work force fosters the best in business development and family living.

The Town of Syracuse owns 60 acres of land in Benton Township for the specific purpose of promoting development and redevelopment within the Town's area of urban influence.

## **Population/Workforce**

▪ Workforce in Kosciusko and surrounding counties	240,879
▪ Workforce in Kosciusko County	40,529
▪ Township Population	8,924
▪ County Population	76,541
▪ Median age or Age Composition*	38.5
▪ Number of Households*	3,856
▪ Median Household Income*	\$46,532
▪ Per Capita Income*	\$24,244
▪ Percentage of Families below poverty level*	2.9%

\* information is from the 2000 Census and refers to the 46567 zip code area.

# Recreation

## Parks

[www.syracuseparks.org](http://www.syracuseparks.org)

- In addition to recreational opportunities, Syracuse maintains a very fine system of parks enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. The recently Constructed Community Center is a hub of activity for the whole family. It is located adjacent to Lakeside Park which is the largest of the town parks. It includes a large beach, restrooms, gazebo, skate park, playground and shelter. Three other parks are spread throughout town. They are home to a beach, playground, Veterans Memorial Clock, pavilions, fishing piers and a boat launch.

## Trails

- Members of the Syracuse Community are actively working on the Syracuse-Wawasee Trails project. The master plan calls for over 30 miles of trails and sidewalks to be created. The trails are wide and perfect for jogging, walking , bicycling and skating. While most of the trails that have been completed are within the town of Syracuse, the plans will extend around both Syracuse and Wawasee Lakes.

## Fish and Wildlife Area

[www.in.gov/dnr](http://www.in.gov/dnr)

- The Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area has 3,546 acres of land with 650 acres of lakes. It is perfect for bird watching, hiking, hunting and fishing.

## Wawasee and Syracuse Lakes

- Lake Wawasee is the largest natural lake in Indiana. With access to Syracuse Lake, there are more than 3,500 acres of water for year-round recreation including swimming, fishing, boating, skiing and relaxing. In the winter the lakes are great for skating, ice fishing, skiing and snowmobile riding. Once on the lakes, visitors and residents are thrilled to find that there is no speed limit on either lake and no time regulations during daylight hours for skiing or jet skis. Fishing tournaments are extremely popular on both lakes. Syracuse and Wawasee Lakes are two of over 100 lakes in Kosciusko County.

## Golf Courses

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Private/Public</u>	<u># of Holes</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Website/ phone</u>
Maxwelton Golf Course	Public	18	0.8 mi	maxweltongolf.com
South Shore Golf Course	Public	18	4 mi	golftheshore.com
Wawasee Golf Club	Public	9	5 mi	574-457-0224
Big Boulder Golf Course	Public	9 (Par 3)	6 mi	574-658-4927
Tippecanoe Country Club	Private	18	7 mi	tippylakecc.com
Timber Ridge Golf Course	Public	18	9.4 mi	trgolfclub.com
Indian Hills Golf Course	Public	9 (Par 3)	14 mi	574-453-3912

## Municipal Pier

- The newly redone Municipal Pier is a public pier at the North West corner of Syracuse Lake. Boaters can dock at the pier to visit the beach, community center or Main St. The pier is at the eastern end of Main St. allowing an easy walk to restaurants, the movie theater and shopping.

# Education and Childcare

The Wawasee community school district is comprised of the communities of Milford, North Webster and Syracuse, Indiana. The mission of the school corporation is to develop the academic, social and artistic skills of students so they will be productive, responsible citizens. This mission is taken to heart and can be seen in the accomplishments of the students.

The Wawasee School district is a part of the Wawasee Area Career and Technical Cooperative. The goal of this cooperative is to give high school students the chance to acquire experience in a career area, enabling them to make informed decisions about postsecondary education and/or employment. Programs such as this help students bridge the gap between high school and the “real world.”

The opportunity to offer internships to high school students is a great benefit to business in the Syracuse community.

## Wawasee Community School Corporation Statistics

Enrollment	3,434
Expenditure Per Pupil	\$9,700
SAT Average Score	1016
Graduation Rate	84%

## Educational Attainment in the Syracuse Area (population over 25 years)

High School graduate or higher	87%
Bachelor’s degree of higher	17.9%

## Childcare Options

Natural Wonders Preschool	574-457-3391	<a href="http://www.naturalwonderspreschool.com">www.naturalwonderspreschool.com</a>
Lakeland Community Learning Center	574-457-4983	
Lakeland Youth Center	574-457-3055	<a href="http://www.lakelandyouthcenter.com">www.lakelandyouthcenter.com</a>
Little Lambs Day Care	574-457-3689	

## Higher Learning (within 50 miles of Syracuse)

- University of Notre Dame
- Indiana University-Purdue University
- Indiana University South Bend
- Ivy Tech Community College: Northeast
- Ivy Tech Community College: North Central
- Indiana Institute of Technology
- Bethel College
- Southwestern Michigan College
- University of St. Francis
- Andrews University
- Saint Mary's College
- Grace College
- Tri-State University
- Manchester College
- Huntington University
- Goshen College
- Glen Oaks Community College
- Brown Mackie College: Fort Wayne
- Ancilla College
- Indiana Business College: Fort Wayne
- Holy Cross College
- Taylor University: Fort Wayne
- ITT Technical Institute: Fort Wayne
- International Business College
- Brown Mackie College: South Bend

# Transportation

- **Trains**

CSX railroad tracks run west and east through the town of Syracuse.  
Amtrak trains are available from South Bend and Elkhart to bring visitors to Chicago.

- **Airports**

Distance from Syracuse

Goshen Municipal Airport	8 mi
Nappanee Municipal Airport	11 mi
Warsaw Municipal Airport	16 mi
South Bend Regional Airport	51 mi
Fort Wayne International Airport	62 mi
Gary Chicago International Airport	113 mi
Chicago Midway International Airport	144 mi
Indianapolis International Airport	146 mi
Chicago O'Hare International Airport	155 mi
Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport	196 mi

- **Highways**

Distance from Syracuse

US 6	2 mi
US 33	5 mi
US 30	18 mi
US 20	20 mi
Interstate 80/90	27 mi
Interstate 69	38 mi

# Utilities

- **Water**

Water is supplied by the Town of Syracuse and comes from (3) wells. The water has a capacity of 2.3 gallons per day with a usage range of 350,000 to 700,000 million gallons daily. The Town has above ground storage tanks which hold (1) million gallons.

[www.syracusein.org](http://www.syracusein.org)

- **Sewer**

The Town of Syracuse provides primary and secondary treatment. Present capacity is 1.05 million gallons per day, present normal flow is 500,000 gallons per day.

[www.syracusein.org](http://www.syracusein.org)

- **Natural Gas/Electric**

(NIPSCO) Northern Indiana Public Service Company is an investor owned company and furnishes electricity and natural gas to the greater Syracuse area.

[www.nipsco.com](http://www.nipsco.com)

1-800-262-6477

(NREMC) Northern Rural Electric Membership Corporation is a consumer owned corporation that also provides service to the Syracuse area.

[www.unitedremc.com](http://www.unitedremc.com)

1-800-542-6339

- **Telephone**

Embarq provides telephone service in the greater Syracuse area, including high speed (DSL) internet and bundled packages.

[www.embarq.com](http://www.embarq.com)

1-866-380-9990

U4 provides telephone service in the greater in the greater Syracuse area, including internet access nationwide.

[www.u4corp.com](http://www.u4corp.com)

1-877-562-2584

- **Cable**

Mediacom (Comcast) provides broadband internet, digital cable TV and digital phone service to the Syracuse area.

[www.mediacomcc.com](http://www.mediacomcc.com)

1-866-755-2225

# Contacts

For Additional Information on the Syracuse Area, contact:

- Town of Syracuse 574-457-3348 [www.syracusein.org](http://www.syracusein.org)  
hdejulia@syracusein.org
- Syracuse-Wawasee Chamber of Commerce 574-457-5637 [www.swchamber.com](http://www.swchamber.com)  
info@swchamber.com

For Additional Information Regarding State or Local Development Incentives and Programs, contact:

- Kosciusko Development Inc. 1800-776-6311 [www.kdi-in.com](http://www.kdi-in.com)
- Economic Development Corp of Elkhart County 574-535-1002 [www.edcec.com](http://www.edcec.com)