

Heritage

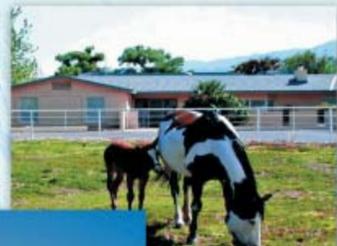
Education

Recreation Leisure

Lifestyle

City of Safford

A Great Place To Live, Work and Visit!



The Gila Valley was pioneered by a group of Mexican immigrants who settled in the area of San Jose in the early 1870s. In January 1874, Joshua Eaton Bailey and a group of farmers from the vicinity of Gila Bend arrived in Safford to establish ranches and farms to supply the nearby military posts of Camp Thomas, Ft. Grant and Ft. Bowie as well as the new copper and silver mines at Clifton and Globe. Bailey named the little community he founded after the third territorial governor of Arizona, Anson P. K. Safford. The town's first school was built by William Kirkland in 1875 at the site of the present post office. The Town of Safford was incorporated Oct. 10, 1901, and became the Graham County seat in 1915. In December 1922, the Graham County Guardian newspaper reported that Safford was a "progressive town in a valley of contented people." Although much has changed over the past decades, the Guardian's description remains accurate to the present day.

Educational needs in Safford are met by the Safford Unified School District, Eastern Arizona College and Northern Arizona University. The School District is locally controlled by an elected governing board of five members who establish policies for the management of the schools. They employ a staff of 193 certificated employees plus 174 support personnel and 13 administrators. Eastern Arizona College is a public, coeducational community college located next door to Safford in the town of Thatcher. The college offers various associate degrees and certificates in college-level and vocational courses throughout the year at various campus locations. The main campus in Thatcher covers 62 acres. Chartered in 1888, EAC has a distinguished history as Arizona's oldest community college. It also is a center for diverse cultural experiences such as concerts, plays, guest speakers, as well as summer arts and crafts programs. Northern Arizona University operates an extension at EAC that offers programs at the Bachelors and Masters levels.

There are a wide variety of recreational and leisure-time opportunities in the region. Safford has a number of parks and its own 18-hole municipal golf course. Every year the area attracts a myriad of visitors including hikers, photographers, birders, campers, hunters and fishermen, off-road vehicle enthusiasts, horseback riders, and countless other outdoor fans. Star gazers are another group of visitors unique to the Safford area because nearby Mt. Graham, a haven for hikers, picnickers and outdoor enthusiasts, is the site of the Large Binocular Telescope (LBT), the world's largest land-based telescope. On the same site are the radio telescopes of the Vatican and the Mt. Graham International Observatory. Safford's unique Discovery Park is the home of the 20-inch telescope of the Gov Aker Observatory and a world-class astronomy museum as well as other educational exhibits and a space simulator ride. Outdoor attractions include the Gila Box National Conservation Area, a unique wild and scenic area located approximately 10 miles east of Safford. Thousands of visitors each year enjoy the many natural hot springs in the Safford area.

Safford offers "Life the Way it Ought to Be." It's a great place to relocate or start a business, earn a living, raise a family, enjoy living in harmony with nature and, ultimately, to retire. There are year-round recreational opportunities in the city and throughout the surrounding region. Located two or three hours by highway from Arizona's major metropolitan areas, the community offers a slower-paced, rural lifestyle with all of the conveniences of a modern community. An excellent K-12 local school system combined with a unique community college as well as degree offerings from one of Arizona's major universities provide for intellectual and cultural needs. A modern healthcare facility provides for all medical needs. Housing is available in all styles and remains affordable. With all of the commercial and industrial development taking place in the region, there are a plethora of employment opportunities. The cost of living compares very favorably with other communities in Arizona and the retail and service businesses provide for all the needs of local residents. With all of these attributes, it is no wonder that Safford has been named an "All American City" finalist twice in recent years.

Come Grow With Us!

SAFFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1-800-527-1103

www.saffordeconomicdevelopment.com

1-800-527-1103 • www.saffordeconomicdevelopment.com

P. O. Box 272, Safford Arizona 85548

SAFFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



Transportation

Technology

City of Safford Trade Area

Business

Industry

Healthcare



Safford is connected to the world by highway, rail and air. The city is located at the intersection of two U.S. highways – 70 and 191 – which link the community to Arizona's two major metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Tucson. Highway 191 connects with Interstate 10 about 35 miles south and continues to the major Mexican ports of entry at Agua Prieta and Nogales. U.S. 70 is a direct route into New Mexico – about 50 miles east. The Safford Regional Airport is equipped with a 6,015-foot-long, 100-foot-wide primary runway (12-30) with a single wheel capacity of 33,000 pounds and instrument rated approaches. The crosswind runway (8-26) is 4,800 feet long, 75 feet wide and rated for 23,000 pounds single wheel capacity. The airport is 124 nautical miles southeast of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and 74 nautical miles northeast of Tucson International Airport. Some of the aviation services available at the airport include fuel, aircraft painting and interiors, avionics installation and service, airframe and powerplant maintenance, major repairs, aircraft rental and charter service. The airport is located adjacent to the industrial airpark. Transcontinental rail routes are accessed by a spur line operated by the Arizona Eastern Railroad.

From the Large Binocular Telescope atop Mt. Graham to the depths of the earth at the open-pit Morenci copper mine, business and industry in the Safford region have access to and utilize the latest technology. Electricity, natural gas, water and sewer services are provided by the City of Safford Utilities. Qwest Communications provides telephone and internet service and has fiber optics available in the area. Valley Telecom has an underground fiber optic network installed throughout the City of Safford and running from Tucson to El Paso. The system has the capability of speeds between DS1 and OC192 to transport voice, video and data. The firm also can provide high speed DSL and fiber optic to residential customers.

The Safford area is the retail trade, service, financial and governmental center for a regional population of more than 65,000 people living and working in Graham and Greenlee Counties, eastern Gila County, northern Cochise County, the San Carlos Apache Reservation, and communities in southwestern New Mexico. There is substantial employment in a wide variety of retail and service businesses, light manufacturing, mining and agriculture. Founded as an agricultural community, cattle ranching and cotton and alfalfa crops continue to play an important role in the Safford economy. Major public sector employers include the Graham County courts and administrative operations, the City of Safford, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Safford School District, two state prisons and one federal prison. Local employment and businesses receive a significant boost from the Phelps Dodge Morenci, Inc. copper operation in neighboring Greenlee County. It utilizes local retail and service businesses and makes a significant contribution to community service programs. Phelps Dodge is developing another copper mining project that will be located eight miles north of Safford with a potential employment of 400 full-time hourly and salaried employees once the project is fully operational.

The Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center is a 59-bed acute care facility located in Safford. It is a community owned, non-profit medical center committed to promoting health throughout the Gila Valley in partnership with the many dedicated medical professionals serving the region. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology and staffed by compassionate professionals, the Medical Center offers a full range of primary and specialty healthcare services including Emergency Services, an Intensive Care Unit, Med/Surg Inpatient, Obstetrics, Respiratory Therapy, Modern Laboratory, Medical Oncology, Medical Imaging, Surgery Inpatient and Outpatient Services, an Ambulatory Clinic, Home Health and Hospice, Sleep Lab, Stress Tests, Rehabilitation/Wellness and Community Health. A new Cancer Center was opened at the facility in May 2006. The Medical Center also offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for anyone wishing to make a difference in another's life and in their own. Volunteers range from working adults, homemakers and retirees to college and high school students.